Dear Parents and Caregivers,

On the weekend, I watched the movie ‘The Bucket List’ and loved it. Of course Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman got to travel the world to tick off their list and no expense was spared. However there were a couple of lines that stuck in my mind that went like this:

*Ancient Egyptians believed that upon death they would be asked two questions and their answers would determine if they would continue their journey into the afterlife. The first question was, “Did you find joy?” The second was, “Did you bring joy to others?”*

My thoughts are money can’t buy joy. I also think as parents and teachers we can answer honestly answer YES to both questions.

Question 1 ‘Did you find joy?’
Kids bring us so much joy, it’s in the funny things they do, the faces they pull, the delight they express when they learn something new and how special they make us feel. TICK

Question 2 ‘Did you bring joy to others?’
We bring our kids joy when we: celebrate their achievements and uniqueness; make them feel loved; help them to master new skills and learn about friendship. TICK

Now if we were ancient Egyptians....
So what’s my point? At AVPS we want school to be a joyful experience for our children. We want our children to feel joy and bring joy to others. Please work with us to make this happen. You are very welcome to share your thoughts, tell us what we are doing well and where we can do better.

**NAPLAN**

NAPLAN testing is now over for another year. The results will be available to parents towards the end of Term 3. We will also hold a community information session to share our results with you, as these results will help inform our future directions.

I wish to extend a huge thank you to Stacey Parker for organising our NAPLAN breakfasts. The children loved arriving to school to hot chocolate and warm toast. We also extend our thanks to Wangi Bakery and our local ‘milko’ for donating the bread and milk.
Stacey is also keen to extend the canteen hours to include a breakfast shift on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. At this point we are just exploring our options but if you are able to help out for a half an hour in the mornings, could you please speak to Stacey.

**COMMUNITY BREAKFAST**
We have our Community Breakfast this Friday morning under the COLA from 8.00am. Please come along. This is a great opportunity for us to build on our home/school relationships and community friendships. Please return your breakfast order by Wednesday (tomorrow) morning so we have numbers for catering. We are looking forward to seeing you.

**LATE ARRIVALS AT SCHOOL**
Please make sure that if your child is arriving late to school that you accompany them to the office when they sign in. When a child signs in without a parent we have to record the partial absence as ‘unjustified’.

**SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**
We are exploring the option of changing the venue for our school athletics carnival to the Wangi Athletics Oval. Please read the attached note and if you are able to support us, by assisting on the day return the section to school. You don’t need to be an expert, just a helper. We will confirm what we are doing once we have this feedback.

**NATIONAL SORRY DAY & NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK**
National Sorry Day is today, 26 May and National Reconciliation Week is from 27 May to 3 June. We will take this opportunity to work with children in their classrooms to recognise the significance of these events. National Sorry Day acknowledges and raises awareness of the history and continued effect of the forced removal of Indigenous Australians from their families. Reconciliation Week is focusing on how Australians can better recognise each other and recognise the contributions, cultures and histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. A powerful resource to help build our understanding is www.stolengenerationtestimonies.com. One of the testimonies is from a Newcastle woman, Donna Meehan, and is a very moving story.

**PERMISSION NOTES**
Thank you to all parents who have returned the ‘Permission to Publish’ and ‘Band aid, Stingoes and Ointment’ permission note. If you have not done so, it is not too late. If we don’t receive your reply we will assume, permission is not granted. If you have indicated that your child needs a special type of band aid, please send a few to school in a plastic zip lock bag labelled with your child’s name.

**BOOK CLUB NEWS**
New brochures have been sent home, all orders and payments are due back by June 8. Please make sure that your child’s name and class are on each order it makes it very difficult matching orders to students if this process is not completed. Parents are able to place their orders online or drop off your orders into the school office.

**Tania Griffen**
Book Club Coordinator

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1st Rathmines Scout is holding a Garage Sale on Saturday 20th June.

Time: 8am to 2pm. The Scouts are looking for anyone to bring their boat or canoe down to sell for a small fee.

If you are interested in using this service please contact Grace Curry on 0439 914 813 for more information.