**Derrinallum P-12 College**

**Community Newsletter**

**Edition 8**

**March 27th, 2020**

**Integrity, Teamwork, Support, Empathy, Respect**

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**Principal’s Report**

**February**

**Edition 1**

**Derrinallum P-12 College Community Newsletter March 27th, 2020**

**Ms Catherine West**

Dear families and community members

I would again like to thank our school community for being so reasonable and patient through the unfolding events. We appreciate that families had such a calm response to the State Government’s decision to start the holidays early, only giving you a day’s notice. I hope that everyone is doing all in their power to keep themselves and their families safe in this uncertain time.

At this stage we do not know if school will resume as normal at the beginning of Term 2 but what we do know is it is likely that it will be different to what we are used to. I do not enjoy that I have consistently been updating families with official communication, using a language that feels cold and not how I would normally address you. We have tried hard not to inundate you with information as there is so much available it gets confusing. However, I request that all families check their *Compass* accounts regularly for updates and if required we will send out text messages. Staff have been instructed to work from home so the phone may not be answered as the office might not be staffed. If you have concerns, you can email me and I will endeavour to get back to you as soon as I can. I can assure you that in the past four days, although we have not had students at school, the staff have been working exceptionally hard to prepare for the unknown. I am extremely proud of my staff and the efforts that they are going to try to minimise disruption to learning for our students. Many are going above and beyond to support students and their families in this uncertain time, in particular the year 11 and 12 teachers. Staff are planning for both online and hard copy work. So don’t fear if your child doesn’t have access to the internet. They will not miss out. Our students are resilient and we are sure that they will do well no matter what .

I would very much like to convey this message to you all. I am, as is the rest of the staff, still here for you. Whilst we are busy tying to prepare for an alternate learning environment ,we still want what is best for our students and their families. As events continue to unfold and our normal way of life changes, we are still understanding and supportive. There is no need for families to be carrying on as though there is no change to your child’s schooling. We understand that many families will be under the pressure to work from home with limited resources like computers and internet, some may have lost work and we certainly do not expect you to on top of that, be ‘teaching’ your children. In our planning we are trying to make the educational experience achievable for your family whilst encouraging growth from the student. Whilst it is likely that you won’t place the same emphasise on school if we move to remote learning, we still encourage learning to be a big part of your child’s day. How that looks like for individual families will differ and we understand that. I hope you keep in the back of your mind that education always has and always will play a huge part in your children’s lives. Whilst we might change our approach to it in the coming months, we won’t be slipping in our efforts to help shape your child’s future. Derrinallum College will still strive for excellence in teaching and learning.

Don’t put pressure on yourself to become a teacher overnight. We are still here. Reach out to us and encourage your child to do the same. I am looking into ways to ensure the students and community can still maintain the connection with the college. I’ll make sure you find out about how we do this.

Value this time and the ability to support your child even more than normal with their learning. Engage them in conversation, read with them, get them to teach you something. You can do things together like starting a veggie garden or building cubby houses, go for walks on the farm and explore your backyard. Although a little scary and uncertain- this could be an experience you never get to have again with your children. It’s family time like we haven’t experienced for a long time!

Lastly before I sign off I would like to thank all the wonderful people who have made contact with me after my dad died. The staff, families and many community members have sent me message, cards, flowers, emails and called. I appreciate you taking the time to do so even with everything crazy that is going on for you all. My dad had plans to be involved in the college on many levels and it’s disappointing he won’t get to be a part of all the great things that we are going to achieve.

Please keep yourself and your families safe and we’ll see you all very soon!

Caitlyn Fitzgerald- Principal

**Ms Catherine West**

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Students Of the Week

**Congratulations to the**

**Students of the Month of March**

**Calendar of Events - Term 2 - 2020**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week 1 | Week 2 | Week 3 | Week 4 | Week 5 |  |
| 13th April  Easter Monday Public holiday | 20th April | 27th April | 4th May | 11th May | 18th May |
| 14th April  First Day of Term 2 - Staff returnStudent Free Day | 21st April | 28th April | 5th May | 12th May | 19th May |
| 15th April  Students return | 22nd April  Safe Use of Alcohol and Road Safe Road Safety Seminar -  Year 11 & 12  **Cancellation possible** | 29th April | 6th May  Year 7 & 10  Immunisations  **Cancellation possible** | **13th May** | **20th May** |
| 16th April | 23rd April | 30th April | 7th May | **14th May** | **21st May** |
| 17th April | 24th April  Mid West Division  Athletics Brauerander Park Warrnambool -  **Cancellation possible** | 1st May | 8th May | 15th May | 22nd May |

Tarryn Docherty for being at school early and ready to learn.

Wednesday Smith for her great work in Sounds Right.

William Webster for writing interesting facts about octopuses.

**Tarryn Docherty Ned Uren**

**Primary Secondary**