

Principal's Report

Welcome back from Easter break and holidays. I hope everyone had a nice time. Although very quiet and nothing like how you would usually spend your holidays, it's great to know that everyone is safe. My family and I managed to sneak away for a camping trip. Before anyone gets outraged, it was on my block of land which is about 200 metres from where I currently live. So I didn't go anywhere that exciting. It was just a chance to set up our camping trailer and have a night cuddled up with my kids playing games and solving puzzles. Thank you to those who are doing the right thing by the community and staying at home.



Remote learning:

Well done everyone, we have come out the other end of our first week of Remote Learning! I know the process hasn't been perfect but I am happy and so proud of everyone for doing the best that they can. It's possibly been a big adjustment and families may feel a little overwhelmed with all the information coming through. I am investigating lots of options for staying connected during this time and am looking at creating a college social media account to help do this. I will share the information with you, if I create one.

Priorities:

My number one concern during this time is the health and well-being of my students and staff. I know I have repeatedly said 'don't put too much pressure on yourself' but I mean it. We don't expect you to be teachers. Your role during the Remote Learning phase is to support and supervise. If you can help with the work that is a bonus! Keep your child feeling happy and safe. Although many may like to argue the point, the way to keep school aged children feeling safe, is to try to maintain routine such as education. Now whilst school looks very different to what it did last term, it will still be good for their mental health for students to continue to engage in learning. It helps to maintain that feeling of normality.

Why is the State Government making such a fuss about staying home form school?

There has been so many opinions out there about should students go to school. Whilst I won't agree either way I will give you somethings to consider. Our school only has 76 students and 20 staff here during the school week. But those students and staff come from all over the Western District. Students live closer as they are in the school zone, staff however, they are a different story. We have staff coming from Ballarat, Geelong, Warrnambool, Camperdown, Lismore, Mortlake, Terang, and Ombersley (near Winchelsea). Should someone bring the virus into the school on a day we are fully staffed, we could potentially take the virus back to 8 different locations. Limiting the traffic into and out of the school significantly reduces the risk of spread. Keep reminding yourself that you're not stuck at home. You are safe at home!

Applications for students to be on site:

If you would like to apply to have your child on site for the day, please be sure to stick to the timelines for applications. All applications must be done formally in writing and these must be received by Thursday 3pm the week before you would like the students to attend. Families will be notified by 4pm Friday as to the outcome of their application and if it has been successful or not. I know many people will be upset if they are denied, but keep in mind that we are going through this process to help with a pandemic not just to make your life hard. Every family will need to go through the same process each week. By following the process, I can ensure that I have enough staff onsite to provide adequate supervision. Also I don't want to have more staff here than is needed as it is not necessary to put anyone at risk.

Continued.....

Attendance:

I'm already going to start talking about attendance for when school comes back. As soon as school resumes in it's normal capacity, we will have a huge focus on attendance. It will be crucial to try to fill any gaps that have been created during the Remote Learning phase and students will need to be at school to do this. I'm hoping that by the end of Remote Learning, families will really value the role that school and teachers play in their children's development and lives in general.

Remote Learning tips:

1. Set up a learning space, away from distractions like the TV
2. Encourage students to work on their favourite subjects or simpler tasks when you are busy or not able to supervise.
3. Make the day work for you. You don't need to stick to a 9am-3.20pm day. Supervise your kids at the kitchen table while you cook dinner.
4. Don't hesitate to ask a silly question. Staff are happy to help.
5. If your child is stressed out because they are stuck or don't know what to do, let them have a break or switch to another task.

Building works:

The project that never seems to stop, was coming towards it's end, but now I've added to it. We are going to be taking advantage of the Remote Learning situation and will be removing the damaged ceiling in the primary corridor. This would have caused significant disruptions to staff and students but will be minimal with reduced numbers of people on site. However when the students return, whenever that is, the school will be looking much better as the VCE room, Year 11/12 common room, Year 9/10 breakout room, junior and senior school toilets, canteen decking and high rise windows, as well as the new ceiling and painting in the corridor will hopefully all be finished. Also the secondary staff will be very happy about having their office space spruced up as well. Whilst I did have to sacrifice getting a canteen upgrade in the works in order for the ceiling to be fixed, it's much better to do the work on the corridor. We hope to look at the canteen re-vamped later in the year.

The school is very lonely without smiling faces and the noise of laughter, the staff miss the students being around. You can see from the photo that Mr Dally was trying to improvise some company with students not being around (I think some of the teachers might be going a little stir crazy!). Your kids are a huge part of our lives and we are working our hardest to ensure that we are providing them with genuine learning opportunities during this phase. This is very hard for us all and we are all having to learn fast. We would love to see photos of the kids at home learning, so that we don't feel quite so much as though we are missing out on watching them grow during this time. If you would like to share any photos with us that we could put in next week's newsletter, that would be amazing!



If you would like to, don't hesitate to contact me to talk through any concerns that you might have.

Talk to you next week!

Caitlyn Fitzgerald - Principal

Student Banking in Term 2

Message from Commonwealth Bank

The health, safety and wellbeing of our communities and our people remains our highest priority. Due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding coronavirus, the School Banking program will remain on hold. We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed with any updates including how we will be managing Dollarmite tokens for students.

In the meantime, here are some handy online resources for parents who wish to maintain momentum with their child's financial education:

[Start Smart](#): these resources have been created to improve children's money management skills, and is aligned to the Australian Curriculum and the National Consumer Financial Literacy Framework.

[The Beanstalk](#): offers videos and fun activities for children to learn about money.



Remote Learning

Good Job!



Maddison & Caitlyn Mulraney



William Webster

Calendar of Events - Term 2 - 2020

Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
20th April Student work due	27th April Student work due	4th May Student work due	11th May Student work due	18th May Student work due	25th May Student work due
21st April	28th April	5th May	12th May	19th May	26th May
22nd April Safe Use of Alcohol and Road Safe Road Safety Seminar - Year 11 & 12 Cancelled	29th April	6th May Year 7 & 10 Immunisations Cancelled	13th May	20th May	27th May
23rd April	30th April	7th May	14th May	21st May	28th May
24th April Mid West Division Athletics Brauerander Park Warrnambool - Cancelled	1st May	8th May	15th May	22nd May	29th May