

Teamwork, Respect, Integrity, Empathy, Support

Whole School Attendance For Term 4, Week 10: 89%



Assistant Principal's Report

Well, that's a wrap. Classes for 2020 have officially come to an end. Next week, we look forward to a relaxing week, where we will celebrate the end of the year with some fun activities as we farewell what I'm sure we will all agree has been a very long and tough year. But, we have made it through. There has been plenty going on at the College this week.

Primary Swimming:

What a success this has been, despite the long bus trips to and from Ballarat. The students have undertaken an intensive swimming program over the past 5 days and I'm sure they have all benefited from having experienced, qualified swim instructors teaching them. I was lucky enough to accompany the students yesterday and it was great to see all of them getting involved and trying their hardest to develop their swimming and water safety skills. These skills are vital in life and it was great that we had the opportunity to squeeze the program in at the end of the year. A massive thanks and well done to all the staff and students involved in making the program such a success. We will review the program's format leading into next year and make a decision whether to stay with what we did this year, or revert back to the traditional program once the Lismore pool re-opens.

Year 6 Graduation:

Our Year 6 students have spent today celebrating the end of their primary schooling, with a trip to Lorne to experience Live Wire Park. I'm sure this will have been a great adventure that presented many challenges. Tonight, they will attend their graduation dinner. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend as I have school commitment for my own children this evening, but I would like to congratulate our Year 6s on their graduation. I hope you all have a great night and are looking forward to starting secondary school next year.

Year 12 Graduation:

Last Friday, our Year 12s attended their graduation dinner, which was their last official school function. The night was fantastic. It was great to hear the students speak about their teachers and classes, as it was also great to hear the staff share some stories about each of our graduating students. I was particularly impressed with the way that everyone spoke, especially our Senior College Captain, Liam Maslin, who was Master of Ceremonies for the night. Speaking with students throughout the evening, it was pleasing to hear that some of them had already taken steps towards securing employment and further training for next year. I would like to wish our graduating Year 12s all the best for their futures, whatever they may be.

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Staffing:

We can now officially say that our staffing is complete for 2021. Last week, we interviewed to fill the 5/6 classroom teacher position that was made vacant with the plan to shuffle Miss Summerfield into the secondary section to take on a Literacy and Numeracy specialist role. We have appointed Miss Philippa Allen to the position. Miss Allen dropped in yesterday to spend some time with the other primary school teachers and she was super-excited to meet the primary students when they returned from swimming.

Reports:

Firstly, a massive thank-you to all teaching staff for their efforts in writing reports over the past four weeks. Report writing time is often very stressful, and that was definitely the case this year, with remote learning presenting many challenges with reporting. I would particularly like to thank Mr. Mansbridge, Miss Riley, Miss Green and Ms Fitzgerald for the extra effort that they put into supporting their colleagues throughout report writing.

Next week, reports will be distributed to families. We aim to send them out on Tuesday so that they arrive by the end of the week. With each report, families will receive a letter with information from the Department of Education regarding the structure of reports and the information contained within them.

Activities Week:

We had heaps of fun things planned for next week. On Monday, staff and students will travel to the Halls Gap Zoo and spend the day taking in the sights. I can highly recommend the meerkats (they're my favourite animal). Tuesday will be a day at Colac, where the F-4 students will see a movie, then head to Kids Kingdom, whilst 5-9 students will see a movie before heading to the Colac Indoor Centre. Wednesday will be spent at school. We will run some fun, relaxing activities for students and we will indulge in our Christmas lunch. Thursday will be the last day for students and they will travel to Warrnambool to spend the day enjoying the many attractions offered at Lake Pertobe. The flying foxes are my favourite thing to do at Lake Pertobe.

Thanks:

I was fortunate enough to accept the Acting Assistant Principal role at the end of last year and have been even more fortunate to have the role extended for 2021. I am very grateful to have this chance and I would like to thank Ms Fitzgerald for giving me the opportunity, as well as all the staff, students and families for their support throughout the year. I have really enjoyed my first year at Derrinallum P-12 College and I look forward to an even better year in 2021, with (hopefully) a complete year full of all the traditional fun we missed out on this year.

Attendance:

Congratulations to Eddie Gellie and Hunter Thompson who are the winners of the attendance draw. The two boys have won a uniform credit to the value of \$50 to use next year. The engagement learning team would like to commend the students across the school on their wonderful attendance since our return from remote learning.

As this will be my last newsletter article for the year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all families a happy and safe festive season. May your holidays be filled with sunshine, laughter, delicious food and great company. Have a great break and I will see you all in 2021.

Simon Brearley
Acting Assistant Principal



Commbank School Banking Program

From Term 1, 2021 the Victorian Government has ceased school banking programs in Victorian government schools. As a result, the CommBank School Banking program will no longer operate at our school after the end of this term. If you are unsure of other methods of depositing to your child's account, please feel free to contact the Bank's general enquiries hotline on 13 2221 or alternatively visit your local CommBank branch. If your child is eligible to receive a reward, please notify our School Banking Co-ordinator, Mrs Marks, prior to the 11th December 2020.

Transition Day

On Tuesday it was fabulous to see our 2021 Foundation students enjoy a whole day at school. They all arrived happy and enthusiastic on the bus and travelled home happy but tired on the bus. Actually, going home on the bus was an exciting event in itself! Throughout the day, they created a crafty Rudolph, had a mini spelling and reading session, participated in PE and Performing Arts and explored the playground and parts of the school they hadn't yet seen. All of them are happy to come back next year and begin their education journey with us. We look forward to 2021 and another exciting year. Liz Johnstone







Calendar of Events - Term 4 - 2020

Week 11	14th December Activity Week begins
	15th December
	16th December
	17th December Student last day for 2020. Last day of activity week.
	18th December

Calendar of Events - Term 1 2021

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
25th January School Office opens	1st February	8th February	15th February
26th January Public Holiday	2nd February	9th February	16th February
27th January Teaching Staff return	3rd February	10th February	17th February
28th January Primary Students Testing Day Year 11 & 12 students return	4th February	11th February	18th February
29th January All students return Primary Students Testing Day	5th February	12th February	19th February