

Welcome to Week 1 Term 3 2020 Wednesday 22nd July 2020

There were smiles all round yesterday morning as the children returned to school. They were excited to see their friends and their teachers. I am delighted with our school culture and it is a joy for me to witness the positive relationships that exist between students, and between students and staff. I have every confidence this term will be another happy term of learning and growing in The Garden.

Our School Tree

This is the tree that has pride of place on my wall in my office. Mr Batt, Mrs Stewart and I were each given a 'tree' at the end of the first term in our foundation year, 2017. The tree has the finger print of every foundation student and staff member. This was a gift to us from the staff and students.



At the end of last term we made a decision to replicate this tree with our current school population. As we have just released our second Business Plan (see attached) we have decided to

create a new tree every three years when we release a new Business Plan.

Our new framed school tree will be hung in our school library for all our students to enjoy.

I would like to acknowledge Mrs Harmse who was responsible for making this project happen. Mrs Harmse is very creative, and did a super job of organising and co ordinating this very special whole school art project.



Keeping our School and Community Safe

Due to the current COVID situation in Victoria and NSW and the desire of us all to keep our state and our 'Garden' COVID free, I have made the decision to keep parent access to the school the same as it was last term. This means parents of K and PP students are to drop off and pick up at the classroom door and Years 1 – 6 parents are to drop off at the gate in the morning and pick up from the gate or the classroom door in the afternoon. Your support in minimising the number of people in the school and classrooms is appreciated and valued by all.

You may also like to know we still have the extra cleaners in our school and our school is sparkling clean ensuring your children are working in a very clean learning environment. Please remember to

reinforce washing hands at home and never send a sick, coughing, sneezing and sniffing child to school.

Assemblies Moving Forward

Community assemblies will remain digital assemblies as we could not meet the COVID requirements for a whole school community assembly. I hope you are enjoying these assemblies as much as your children are. Our first community assembly is next week Thursday 30th July and I will send you the link on that day via Connect.

We are going to commence some small 'in school' faction assemblies by dividing the school into groups. This will allow Mr Batt, Mrs Stewart and myself to meet with groups of students 'in person' to reinforce our school rules and GROW ethos, and acknowledge and celebrate their wonderful work.

Parent Teacher Interviews



Thanks for making a time to meet with your child's classroom teacher to follow up on their school report sent out in Week 10 of last term. I know the teachers value this time with you greatly and I encourage you to make sure you have a time booked. Students who have Mum, Dad and their teacher 'on the same page' have a much better chance of thriving and doing well at school.

Enrolments for 2021

Kindergarten enrolments for 2021 close this Friday 24th July, so please spread the word and encourage anyone you know with a child due to

start Kindergarten in 2021 to return their enrolment forms to the front office. Pre-primary enrolments are also due now.

If you know of people building and moving into our catchment area, please ask them to phone the school. It would be very helpful to know if people plan to enrol next year.

Also if you know your family will be leaving 'The Garden' then please let us know to assist our 2021 planning.

Coming up this term!

We have lots of wonderful learning experiences coming up this term. I Dance commences next Monday. Most people have paid through our Term 3 Package, however there are a few people who have chosen not to pay this way. Therefore these families need to return their form and their money by Friday at the latest. I Dance is a very important part of our Physical Education and Arts curriculum and we don't want anyone to miss out on the fun and learning of I Dance.

Thank you to everyone who paid via the package. We had an excellent response and we will try and do this again in the future.

Do you speak another language?

Our school will be celebrating Languages Week in Week 8 Term 3 and Frau Merta our wonderful German teacher would love to hear from families who speak another language. Please read the attached note and return the note if your children can speak another language.

Voluntary Contributions We have a winner!

Congratulations to the Campbell-Roberts family who paid their voluntary contributions by the end of last term and have won a family movie pass. 141 other families have paid their voluntary contributions and we are so very grateful. The Campbell Roberts family chose the family movie pass as their prize, so we still have the reserved car bay near Admin Block to give away. So if you can pay by the end of this term we will put everyone who has paid throughout the year into the draw for the car bay. If you are in the financial position to do so, please help us provide more resources to support your child's learning.

News from our P & C



The next meeting is Wednesday 29th July at 5 pm.
See you there!

Our Beautiful Garden!



Our gardens are thriving and looking so beautiful thanks to the hard work of our students, Mrs Ferguson and our Languages Assistant Clara Puhl. We have extended our garden into Whistler Block and our Year 2 children now have some beautiful orange trees in their courtyard. We are very proud of our 'German in the Garden' Program and thank Mrs Ferguson and Miss Puhl for their commitment to the program, and their passion for sharing their love of gardening and the German language with our students.



Footy Focus and After School Netball

Netball for Years 4 – 6 starts TOMORROW Thursday 23rd July after school and Footy Focus for Years 4 – 6 commences next Tuesday at 28th July. Thank you to our wonderful staff who are willing to give up their time before and after school.

Science News

This term some of our students will be creating Science toys out of some repurposed materials. We would greatly appreciate your help in collecting some required items. These can be dropped off by students to the Science room. The items we are seeking include:

- Old CDs and DVDs
- Rinsed Pop Top bottle tops
- Rinsed shampoo and conditioner bottles with straw sized openings.



Be proud of your children!

I have the privilege of being in your children's classrooms most days and I would like you to know how well they are doing. Their progress is exciting to see, and they are learning to live out our GROW ethos. Please encourage them by acknowledging and talking about their achievements. Let them know you're very proud of them and keen to hear about what they are doing at school. You are the most important people in your children's lives and they love to spend time with you. I am well aware how busy your lives are as you balance work and family, but I can assure you, quality uninterrupted time with your children, is an investment in their future, and your ongoing relationship. They will grow up so quickly, so treasure these years where they want to be with you and talk with you.

Jayne

Jayne Ebsworthy
Principal