

Wednesday 9th December 2020

Week 9 Term 4

Changes for 2021

Next year brings some changes in our teaching staff as we farewell some valued staff members, several of whom were foundation staff when we opened in 2017. It is always hard to say good bye to colleagues who have worked tirelessly for our school who we have come to love and admire. However, I have tried very hard to create a staff culture where we strive for professional growth and an eagerness to seek new opportunities as they arise. Sadly, this means we lose some valuable people and I know you will join with me in wishing them every success as they further their career in other schools.

Jamie Gardiner has accepted a position at Coastal Lakes Secondary College. Jamie has brought an energy and passion for improving our students' outcomes in Health and Physical Education. And what a super job he has done! He has connected with students, staff and parents and will be forever missed. It is hard to imagine the Garden without Mr G!

Margaret Connor has been appointed to North Cottesloe Primary School which is much closer to her home. If your child has been taught by Margaret you will know she is simply an

exemplary teacher who achieves outstanding student outcomes. Her experience, her wisdom, her knowledge and her gentle and nurturing ways will be forever remembered.

Emma McKay is returning home to her family and friends in New Zealand but we are struggling to imagine life in The Garden without her. Emma teaches from the heart and is a gifted teacher who gives generously to her class and her colleagues. She has greatly impacted the lives of all those she has taught and we wish her every happiness in the next season of her life.

Rochelle Taylor has taken a twelve month appointment at Beaconsfield Primary School for family reasons. As a foundation staff member with a wealth of teaching experience and a very practical and positive approach Rochelle will be greatly missed. Rochelle has taken on many leadership positions in addition to her classroom teacher role and we do hope we see her back with us in The Garden in 2022.

Starr Jamieson will be returning to River Gums Primary school after capably filling the role of Science teacher in the second half of this year. We thank her sincerely for her commitment to our school and to our highly valued specialist Science program.

2020 Music Concert

May I acknowledge and thank our Music teacher Mrs Kate Graham for preparing our students so well for last Monday's Music Concert. What a joy to see our music students perform for their parents. Their performances were outstanding and a reflection of the excellent teaching and guidance they receive from Mrs Graham and our instrumental teachers. It is also a reflection of their hard work. Our music students will perform for us at our Awards Assemblies tomorrow.



Awards Assemblies Tomorrow

Tomorrow we will be holding our awards assembly for students from Pre-primary to Year 5. Due to COVID restrictions we are splitting the awards into two separate assemblies.

8.50 am start for students in Sandpiper, Goshawk and Whistler blocks. P - 2

The second is for students in Cockatoo and Swallow blocks and commences at 9:45am.

A full program for both assemblies is attached to this newsletter.

You will be asked to use the Safe WA app to keep records of adult attendees (those over 16 years old). You will need to have the app installed on

your phone and then scan the QR code at the entry points to the covered assembly area. The app is at www.wa.gov.au/safewa

Christmas Concert PP – Year 6 Monday 14th December

The children are looking forward to performing their Christmas carols for you on Monday evening. It will be wonderful to come together as a school community for this special end of year event. Parents we draw your attention to the following information in relation to Monday's concert.

- We ask parents to dress their children in Christmas colours.
- This will be an outside event to allow more parents and family members to attend. Parents please bring a rug or folding chair as their will be limited space on the grass.
- Parents are welcome to bring a picnic tea to eat while they are watching the concert.
- The concert will commence at 5pm. Students to be in their classrooms by 4.45 pm.
- Students are not to be dropped off and must have a parent present on the night.
- Gates will not open until 4.30 pm.
- The children will perform in front of the flag poles outside the covered assembly area.
- Students will be released from their classrooms at the conclusion of the concert. Students will not be dismissed before the end of the concert.

Graduation Assembly

Wednesday 16th December

Graduation Assembly: this is only for parents and family members of our graduating students. This commences at 8.40 am.

End of Year Fun Day

Thursday 17th December

'End of Year Fun Day' on school grounds. This is for students only. Thank you to the P & C for donating the Bouncy Castles. Monday Wednesday Kindy group will have their 'Fun Day' on Wednesday 16th December.

News from our P & C



May I extend my appreciation to Michaela Toia and her executive team on an outstanding year of fundraising for our school. Despite the limitations of COVID Michaela has brought the parent community together and contributed a great deal for our school. We thank them for monies raised and also for building such positive P & C culture in our school.

Board Meeting

Last week our final Board meeting for 2020 was cancelled due to illness and we will meet tomorrow night. May I take this opportunity to sincerely thank Kat Lothian who has been our Board Chair in 2020 and a valued parent member

of our Board for three years. Kat's term ends this year and Kat will no longer be able to be a parent representative on our Board as her second child Maisie graduates from our school on Wednesday. As Principal the support of the Board Chair is so very important for an effective Board. Kat is an intelligent and capable woman who has given freely of her time, energy, knowledge and experience to support the governance of our school. She will be sadly missed.

However, I am delighted to inform the community that Gillian Clifford has been elected by the Board to fill the role of Board Chair in 2021. This is a photo of the first community planning meeting I held at Baldyvis PS in 2016 and Gillian was a member of that group of parents who were committed to helping me open our new school. This demonstrates Gillian's long term commitment to our school.



I thank Gillian for her willingness to take on this extra responsibility in 2021. Gillian will support me and the other Board members as our school is reviewed in Week 2 of term next year. Thank you Gillian.

Reports will be sent out on Monday 14th December

Your child's end of semester report will be sent home via Connect next Monday 14th December.

It has been a delight for my staff and I to see most of our students making excellent progress. Parents please remember a C grade reflects achievement at the expected level and should be celebrated. There should be no surprises in your child's report, however, should you have any queries in relation to your child's report please contact your child's teacher to arrange a time to discuss.

You will notice your teacher has commented when attendance is below 90%. This is because every day does matter when it comes to your child's schooling.

If your child is attending only 90% of the time then by the time they finish school in Year 12 they have missed over a year at school. Have a look at the chart attached which clearly shows the impact of poor attendance over time. Parents please reflect on your child's attendance and consider how their attendance could be disadvantaging them for the future. We look forward to seeing improved attendance in 2021.

I look forward to seeing you at our final school events for 2020 and thank you sincerely for keeping in touch with our Garden News.

Jayne Ebsworthy
Principal