



DUNKELD CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

We are a Child Safe School and we will protect all children at all times.

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Newsletter No. 11 – Wednesday 5 August 2020

AUGUST 2020

- **Wednesday 5** **Remote Learning recommences.**

FROM Mrs Dee-Anne Gerring, Acting Principal...

Remote Learning – Term 3

Well, what a difference two weeks can make in the year 2020! Last newsletter we were thankful to be learning at school and sending our well wishes and thoughts to Metro Melbourne Schools, families and friends. We are now in their position also, returning to Remote Learning. The news on Sunday was met with a sinking feeling of, 'not again'. It is the information we did not want to hear for our students' schooling and wellbeing, however, necessary for the health and safety of our family, friends, community and State. We therefore take a breath, lift our heads and 'go again'. We can do this. Remember to be kind to yourselves and your children. Do what works best for your family. Ask for support when you need it. Take time out each day, from work and learning. Enjoy being together. Stay calm. Stay safe.

I was sent the following quote yesterday, which is a stark reminder of how resilient our young people have become... "Everyone is applauding everyone but our children. These little heroes have stayed indoors more than they've ever known in their lives. Their whole worlds have literally been turned upside down and they don't know why. All these rules they've never known. Not being able to see family or give hugs. Vacations, sports and activities, play dates and school cancelled. Adults talking about others becoming unwell, news reporting death after death. Our poor children's minds must be racing. Every day their resilient little bodies get up and carry on despite all that's going on so here's to our little heroes: today, tomorrow, forever."

At a time when it would be easy to be upset and frustrated at the current situation, in the last two days, I have instead been grateful. I have been grateful for our wonderful students and the staff that care so deeply for them, their education and wellbeing. The school is in a craze of busy organisation in preparing for Round 2 of Remote Learning. Our staff haven't let it get them down. Rather, they have banded together, having countless conversations and team meetings on how we can build on what we did last time and how we can do this the best way possible, so it is beneficial, yet manageable for students and parents. Staff are supporting one another in preparing all the essential items your children will need to support them in their Remote Learning journey. I am proud and privileged to work with such a dedicated group of caring, compassionate and understanding professionals. How lucky our students are.

While I spoke of our learnings from our first experience of Remote Learning and that some students thrive while learning in their home environment, nothing can replace the benefits of social interaction. Now, being familiar with video conferencing tools, our Remote Learning program will see more class group interaction, which is a vital tool in keeping social connections going and morale raised. We also encourage families to organise video call catch ups for your children in small groups of friends using platforms you are comfortable with. 'Messenger for Kids' is a simple and safe way to do this, which includes parental controls.

Although most children will be learning from home, schools are to provide care for children of parents who cannot work from home and children who are vulnerable or disabled. We will therefore have a small number of students at school each day except Wednesday's, which is a wellbeing 'Specialist Day'. Only staff who will be providing onsite supervision will be able to work at school. All other staff will be working from home.

The continued health and safety rulings apply for staff and students who will be attending school. Staff are now wearing face

masks around the school, but are not required to wear them while teaching in class. They may wear them if they wish too. Children at Primary Schools are not required to wear masks, but may wish to do so.

The school has been following the Department of Education and Training (DET) advice that any student who is unwell **MUST STAY HOME**. If a child has a temperature, runny nose, sore throat, cough or headache, they must stay home. If a child presents to a staff member saying they are feeling unwell, a parent will be contacted to pick their child up.

Please seek medical advice if your child is unwell and they must remain at home until completely clear of all symptoms. For children who have a COVID-19 test, they must remain home until negative results have been received. However, if Rhinovirus is detected as positive in their test, they must still remain home until clear of all symptoms. Rhinovirus is also very contagious, and children should not be at school. We aim to keep all the children and staff at our school as healthy as possible, so therefore need everyone to work together to fight the cause. Thank you.



Let's keep working together, supporting one another and being kind to one another.

Thank you, Dee-Anne Gerring

SCHOOL COUNCIL

FIREWOOD FUNDRAISER

On Saturday 1 August and Sunday 2 August 2020 a number of school parents volunteered their time to assist the Facilities Sub-Committee in cutting and splitting a large number of logs from felled trees next to the large school oval. As well as being giving of their time, volunteers also came with their own personal chainsaws and splitters. Due to the nature of such work, School Council and the Facilities Sub-Committee would like to thank all volunteers for their generosity of time and equipment. The simple barbeque held at the end of the working bee was small thanks for your efforts and it was good to see a small number of our school community enjoying some time together in the sun, prior to lockdown.

As this was a fundraiser for the school, we are also happy to report that most of the split wood has been sold and will raise a total of approximately \$4,000.000.

At the School Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28 July, the following items of business included:

- Correspondence and photos sent to the Southern Grampians Shire Council regarding the drain and parking on Victoria Valley Road were tabled.
- A letter of resignation was received from Mr Anthony Graham and his service, dedication and support, during his four-year term as a school councillor, were acknowledged.
- School Plantation land will remain under the control of School Council until further investigations are made.
- Quotes for the bin and greenhouse fences were approved for the old basketball court redevelopment project.
- Quotes for the installation and supply of three reverse cycle air-conditioners for the Permanent Modular School Building were approved.
- Approval for the installation of an animal deterrent device (for the kangaroos) within the multi-purpose sports facility was approved, with no costs being incurred by the school.
- The School Annual Implementation Plan has been submitted to the Senior Education Improvement Leader (SEIL) for approval.
- First Aid Policy and amended Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy were approved.
- Acting Principal will apply for funding for an onsite drop-off – drive through and parking area under the DET's Minor Capital Works Fund.
- Working Bees to be held on Sunday 1 August 2020 and Sunday 30 August 2020, if permissible under COVID19 guidelines.

PUPIL FREE DAYS REMOTE LEARNING PREPARATION

While students stayed home all Dunkeld Consolidated School staff met and began preparing for Remote Learning Round 2. Sporting masks, great camaraderie and work ethic everyone buckled down and got to it. It was amazing to see how our teachers and support staff approached planning to remote learning and continued to be positive in what has been an acutely difficult teaching year.





From the Kitchen ... by Bev Hampton



On Thursday 30 July 2020 I was invited to run the SAKG Kitchen class while kitchen specialist Clare Kennedy is out of action. The Year 4/5 children and Miss Evans were very welcoming. Our day began with me showing the children different chopping techniques of potatoes, onions and garlic for a big pot of Cauliflower and Potato Soup.

The children then went to the garden to harvest their silverbeet, rainbow chard, spring onion and chives to make a Gozleme, a Turkish flat bread sandwich that they filled with the greens, feta and tasty cheese then fried off in a pan. I saw great knife skills with the children carefully chopping what they had chosen to go in their Gozleme. The children then chose ingredients from lemon, ginger and honey to put in their own cup with boiling water to make a drink.

With no SAKG friends in the kitchen at the moment we had to rotate our groups. The groups when not cooking coloured in placemats. Well done Year 4/5, you were all fantastic! Bev Hampton

From the Garden ... by Lisa McIntyre

Another beautiful day saw us sowing more seed in the greenhouse. This time it was to help the Dunkeld Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Group (DRASS) as they are doing a terrific job raising funds by growing plants. Our older students, as part of their Social Service studies, will learn all about their work, and the reason for it.

As always, we were busy as bees - and they were very busy too - within the borage flowers, and also the almonds - the first trees in our orchard to flower. The weather certainly has a "springish" feel to it!

Other tasks included fixing the wheelbarrow, carting mulch for our paths, mulching and weeding, making hoop covers for the beds, organising the compost heaps, planting plants grown in the greenhouse, and covering them - as they are pretty spoilt being in that glorious warm room, and tend to get a massive shock and a set-back, when planted out in the cold open garden!



As we are going back to remote learning, I will try and organise some more activities for you to do at home. I think one of them will be making another "Gardening Dunkeld" video - so put your thinking caps on and start planning! You may want to ask others in your house to be involved too...?!



CLASS CAPTAINS – TERM 3

Prior to going back to remote learning each class had appointed a class captain for the term. Each captain had just started to assist their teachers by carrying out some set tasks and also attending to any extra requests as required.

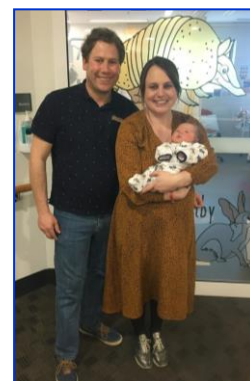
Congratulations to the following students:

Prep/Year 1	James Manolas
Year 1/2	Finn Parker
Year 3	Harry McShane
Year 4/5	Libby Herrmann
Year 5/6	Jemima Ross



CONGRATULATIONS!!

Staff, students and families would like to send their best wishes and congratulations to Jayne and Stuart Greig on the recent birth of their new baby boy, Liam Oliver.



COLLECTION OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR REMOTE LEARNING – FRIDAY 7 AUGUST 2020

A friendly reminder of procedures for collection of supplies for Remote Learning on Friday 7 August 2020:

- Families with last names beginning A – M, please arrive between 9.00am and 11.00am.
- Families with last names beginning N – Z, please arrive between 11.30am and 1.30pm.
- Parents/adults to park on Victoria Valley Road and children to walk into the school to their respective classroom to collect their supplies.
- Students to bring their school bag or a bag to put their belongings in.
- Parents will need to call into the school office if you are collecting a school-owned iPad for loan for your child/children during Remote Learning.