



# DUNKELD CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

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

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## Newsletter No. 19 – Wednesday 9 December 2020

### DECEMBER 2020

- Wednesday 9 Year 6 Graduation. Picnic in the Dunkeld Park for Grade 6 students and their parents followed by an official ceremony at the Dunkeld Community Centre.  
Year 5 Day Trip to Grampians Retreat.  
**MARC Library – last visit for 2020.**
- Thursday 10 Year 6 Grampians Retreat Camp.  
SAKG Kitchen and Garden Clean-Up Day.
- Friday 11 Year 6 Grampians Retreat Camp.
- Monday 14 Year 3 Day Trip to Grampians Retreat.
- Tuesday 15 Christmas Activities Day.  
Students and staff are encouraged to come dressed in Christmas spirit - Santa hat, tinsel etc.
- Wednesday 16 Year 4 Day Trip to Grampians Retreat.  
School Reports to be sent home.
- Thursday 17 Art/Craft Activity Classes.  
Mystery Gifts
- Friday 18 **Last day of Term 4 – early dismissal at 2.30pm.** School Buses will also run one hour earlier.

### JANUARY 2021

- Tuesday 26 Australia Day Public Holiday.
- Wednesday 27 **PUPIL FREE DAY.** Staff commence for Term 1.
- Thursday 28 Student Assessment Day. Book requisites available for payment and collection between 9.00am-3.30pm.
- Friday 29 Student Assessment Day. Book requisites available for payment and collection between 9.00am-3.30pm.

### FEBRUARY 2021

- Monday 1 **All students commence Term 1.** First whole school day for students.
- Wednesday 3 Prep students do not attend school today.
- Monday 8 School Swimming Program commences at the Dunkeld Swimming Pool.
- Friday 19 House Swimming Sports at the Dunkeld Swimming Pool.
- Friday 26 SGSSA District Swimming at the Penshurst Swimming Pool.

### MARCH 2021

- Friday 5 First SAKG Kitchen and Garden Classes for 2021.
- Monday 8 **Labour Day Public Holiday.**
- Friday 12 Division Swimming at Aquazone Swimming Pool in Warrnambool.
- Friday 19 Regional Swimming Championships at Horsham Memorial Swimming Pool.
- Wednesday 24 SGSSA District Athletics at Pedrina Park Hamilton.

### APRIL 2021

- Thursday 1 **Last Day of Term 1 2021.**
- Friday 2 GOOD FRIDAY.

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

With this being the final School Newsletter for the year, I would like to take the time to reflect on what has been a surreal year, to say the least.

We began 2020 full of excitement and anticipation for the year ahead. Staff had been busy in Term 4 of 2019 preparing for our School Review, targeting areas for growth in our school. We were ready to move forward and continue to build on the things we do at our wonderful school. Our Review was a very positive experience, from which we took many things and were ready to begin implementation of programs and procedures. Staff collaboration and support of one another was at an all-time high!

We had news that our school would be receiving funding for a new building as part of an asbestos removal from schools program. This meant demolition of part of our school and required careful planning. To lose any part of our school and the history it holds was significant. Yet a brand new building that will provide ample opportunities for students was exciting. The planning began and decisions were made for our hall to be demolished and replaced with a new hall and library space. This would all happen in Term 4!

Then COVID-19 hit and the new world of 'Remote Learning!' As a group of teachers with (dare I say it) over 100 years of teaching experience among us, this was brand new, daunting territory. How can we possibly do what we do every day, through a computer screen? How will our students cope with this? The questions and bewilderment continued, but as all dedicated teachers do, we ran with it and so did our students! Our laptops and iPads became our new best friends (and worst enemies at times), we knuckled down and quickly learnt how we could best

teach and learn in the home environment. We attempted to reassure students and their families that we would get through this together and do the best we can. Truth be told, we had no idea if what we were planning would work, but we did know we would do everything in our power to try.

There were obviously hiccups along the way and continued re-direction and staff and students became more familiar and confident with processes. We somewhat got into a groove with this new way of teaching and learning. We returned to school for a short while, before reverting back home again for round 2! The rollercoaster ride continued! It would be fair to say some loved Remote Learning and some loathed it.

Eventually by Term 4, we saw a return to 'normal' schooling amidst an array of restrictions. We were just thrilled to have all staff and students back onsite and ready for a more settled end to the year. The school has endeavoured to make this time exciting and rewarding for our students with many planned activity days and excursions, focussed on wellbeing.

I'm sure many will be happy to see the end of 2020 and hope for a much improved 2021. I will openly say, I am one of those people. I look forward to having more time again for my young children, for getting more sleep, for turning the laptop off, for spending time with family and friends again, the list goes on. However, this year has not been wasted. Without it, we wouldn't have learnt the things we've learnt, built our strength and resilience more than we ever knew we could, been as supportive and caring towards others and developed our thinking skills near as much, if we had have been living our normal lives. I am thankful for some of the aspects that 2020 has brought about because I believe we have all grown and can be so proud of the adversities we have and are still overcoming.

Again, I thank and praise our staff, who have never worked harder than they have this year. In a profession that is difficult enough to 'do it all' at any time, this year has been hard. The support everyone has given one another is what got us all through. To our students – you are very inspirational young people. We are proud beyond words. Lastly to our parents and wider community, the support you have provided to your children and our staff is so greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Kind regards, Dee-Anne Gerring

### **School Operations**

With moving to a Covid normal Summer, we should see things return to relative normalcy to begin the 2021 school year. We look forward to welcoming our parent community back to the school and having some social events. I will provide information prior to the beginning of the school year for school operations.

### **Assessment Days**

The Dunkeld Consolidated School will be holding two Assessment days on Thursday 28 and Friday 29 January 2020. This will allow for one-on-one time for your child and teacher to get to know one another and to complete some Reading and Numeracy assessment. These assessments, along with mapping tools will allow teachers to pinpoint instructional levels for each child and allow an efficient beginning to the academic year. Students will be asked to attend for a one hour time frame on their allocated day. **Students are not required at school outside their allocated time.** Parents do not need to stay at school while your child has their assessments. **Students do not need to wear their school uniform on the Assessment Days.** We thank you for your cooperation with these days and appreciate your support.

**THE FIRST FULL DAY FOR ALL STUDENTS WILL BE MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2021.**

### **Step up Day**

Our whole school Step Up Orientation Day was held yesterday, Tuesday 8 December. All students moved to their class structures for 2021 for the day. We welcomed the Kinder students who will be in Grade Prep next year and a fun day was had by all. There were many happy smiles and excitement for the year ahead!

### **Graduation**

The Year 6 Graduation is being held tonight, Wednesday 9 December, with a picnic in the park followed by a formal ceremony at the Dunkeld Community Centre for students, parents, staff and special guests only. Arrangements had to be made when greater restrictions were still in place, hence limits on numbers. This will be a wonderful and special night for our outgoing Year 6 students.

### **School Photos**

With School Photos being on hold for the majority of the year, we were lucky to finally have approval to move forward. We were very fortunate to welcome Tracey Kruger to do our photographs this year. Tracey was wonderful to work with and took some lovely shots. We appreciate her availability at such short notice.

### **Camps and Excursions**

As part of our wellbeing focus for Term 4, once restrictions eased and operations guidance received, staff wished to provide opportunities for our students to partake in some camp / excursion fun. Year Prep-2 students had a local excursion last week down to Salt Creek and the Memorial Park. Each year level from Year 3-5 will have a day at Grampians Retreat over the next week, with Year 6 having an overnight camp. A great way to end the year

### **Permanent Modular Building**

Our new building is nearing completion with hand over due next week. I would like to thank Dylan Ayton and his team for their work and coordination of site works. It will be exciting to welcome the New Year with our building ready for use.

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE**

The School Council held its final meeting for 2020 on Tuesday 1 December. The following items of business included:

- Used Battery Fundraiser – Jason Linskens has kindly offered Kelly's Merchandise in Dunkeld, as an ongoing collection point for used batteries for the school's Battery Fundraiser.
- Thank you to Jo and Anthony Frost for supporting the Year 6 Art Project by painting the timber fence (in front of the greenhouse).
- A formal User Agreement for Community Use of school facilities, between the Dunkeld Consolidated School Council and the Grampians Cricket Club is required.
- Asbestos Removal and Permanent Modular School Building Program.
- Quotes approved under the Bushfire (Vegetation) Preparedness Program.
- Year 6 Graduation dinner, ceremony and catering approved for Wednesday 9 December 2020.

- Approval for Assessment Days to be held on Thursday 28 and Friday 29 January 2021, with limited students in attendance.
- Two-week School Swimming Program approved for Monday 8 to Friday 19 February 2021.
- Acting Principal's Report included details on 2021 Staffing, School Operations, House Athletics Sports, Transition Programs (Kindergarten and Year 6 to Year 7), Permanent Modular School Building project and Staff, Student and Parent Opinion Surveys.



## PUBERTY EDUCATION SESSIONS

Thursday 26 November saw Year 5 and Year 6 students attend the Puberty Education sessions. Students were encouraged to answer questions on different topics even if they may have found the subject disconcerting or embarrassing. These subjects are taken by qualified Western District Health Staff sensitive to the age group of the children they are talking to. Students are encouraged to discuss with you what they learnt or to have the courage to ask a question to which they do not know the answer.

## DRESS TO IMPRESS



Friday 27 November 2020 saw students arrive at school dressed to impress. Girls in pretty dresses and some of the boys found a tie to wear (even if it was stolen from their father's wardrobe!) Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped the school raise \$189.40 to support children's cancer research.

## PREP, YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 – LOCAL EXCURSION

On Monday 30 November 2020 we went for a long walk. We walked around Dunkeld looking at some of the old signs and the art along the walking track. We stopped at the park for lunch. We sketched the Post Office. We got to have a play at the playground in the park. The weather was nice and sunny. We all had lots of fun.

*Lucy Rennie and Chloe Skermer*



## FUN FAIR FRIDAY



On Friday 4 December Year 6 organised a Fun Friday where we got in groups and did activities with that group. We rotated through all the activities until we did all of them, I had so much fun and I'm sure everyone else did too. Thank you to everyone who helped with the activities. *Phoebe Lazzari, Year 4*

## ATHLETICS AGE GROUP CHAMPIONS

While there was a bit of a wait for medals, we were finally able to announce the age champions from our school house athletics.

## Age Champions:

Congratulations to this year's House Athletics Age Group Champions:

- 6 Years: George Phillips and Xavier Macgugan (tie) and Nellie Wickens and Michaela Roache (tie)
- 7 Years: James Manolas and Isla Oldfield Mann
- 8 Years: Edward Alderman and Lucy Rennie
- 9 Years: Jack Oldfield Mann and Phoebe Lazzari
- 10 Years: Darcy Potter and Indi Mibus
- 11 Years: Sebastian Aarons and Grace Potter
- 12/13 Years: George Field and Lucy Fraser and Bonnie Jackson (tie)



## Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program (SAKG)

*Next year we look forward to seeing our students on a Friday rather than a Thursday*



### *From the Garden...by Lisa McIntyre*

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas, and a lovely Summer break!



### *From the Kitchen and Garden...*

The Kitchen has been a busy place during the last couple of weeks as our younger class groups got to experience some time in the kitchen with our kitchen specialist Clare Kennedy. On Friday 30 November 2020 our Preps showed their skills in the kitchen after collecting some ingredients from the garden. Here are some of their responses to the experience.

Bobby – I loved to cook in the kitchen with Clare and my friends. The food was yummy too.

Dempsey – I loved cooking with Clare it was great fun.

Jed – I liked cutting the bacon with the sharp knife.

Michaela – I liked making the smoothy.

Ruby – The smoothy tasted so good.

Ben – I love the bread stuff so much I had two pieces of it.

Sybil – It was fun and tasted yummy. Wish we could cook more at school.

George – I loved eating the bread and cooking with Clare.

Nellie – I got to cook with the Year Ones and it was great fun. My bread was yummy.



Our Year 6 students had their last day in the kitchen on Thursday 26 November 2020 preparing a beautiful thank you lunch for staff. We hope these students continue to add to their healthy cooking skills as they proceed to secondary school.



## NOTICE BOARD

### GRAMPIANS CRICKET CLUB – SAVE THE DATE

We would like to invite all our Puma Cubs to come and gain some cricket skills, while having lots of fun. Mini cricket games, skills based rotations and being active is the aim of the clinic. Plan is to run a program starting- Thursday 25 February 2021 at 3:45pm. Further details will be given as school commences in 2021.

## FORMS

Mystery Gift Flyer