



# DUNKELD CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

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

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## Newsletter No. 5 – Wednesday 29 April 2020

### APRIL 2020

- Wednesday 29 Dunkeld Consolidated School Newsletter Issue 5.

### MAY 2020

- Tuesday 5 The Resilience Project Teachers Seminar - webinar.
- Wednesday 6 Dunkeld & District Community Newsletter Issue 6.
- Friday 8 Do It For Dolly Day: <https://dollysdream.org.au/>
- Sunday 10 Mother's Day.
- Tuesday 12 The Resilience Project Teachers Seminar - webinar.
- Wednesday 13 Dunkeld Consolidated School Newsletter Issue 6.
- Tuesday 19 The Resilience Project Teacher Seminar – webinar.
- Wednesday 20 Dunkeld & District Community Newsletter Issue 7
- Wednesday 27 Dunkeld Consolidated School Newsletter Issue 7.

### JUNE 2020

- Wednesday 3 Dunkeld & District Community Newsletter Issue 8.
- Wednesday 10 Dunkeld Consolidated School Newsletter Issue 8.
- Wednesday 17 Dunkeld & District Community Newsletter Issue 9.
- Friday 19 **Last Day of Term 2.**

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

Welcome to the new term in what is a very different look to schooling! Times have certainly changed since my last report! Our school has now moved to 'Remote Learning', where the Victorian State directive is that all students who can learn from home, must learn from home. This is understandably confusing somewhat, as each state is taking a different approach to Education. However, although it is a tough time for all, as we follow our Government and State directives, we are all doing our part to slow the spread of Covid-19.

Some may have noticed the school is still operational some days, as we also provide the opportunity for on-site provision for those families who are unable to work from home and who have no other care options. I thank all families for the lengths in which they have had to go to, to re-arrange their lives in order to help their children with their schooling from home.

Therefore, we have now entered a new and completely unprecedented era of teaching and learning. One which we never envisaged to happen and will, we hope, be a once in a lifetime occurrence. Our staff have put in countless hours to prepare for remote learning and they continue to give far beyond normal expectations to deliver a comprehensive online program to our families. I thank our staff and commend them on their collaboration, dedication and commitment to our children and school. You are all doing an unbelievable job.

I also applaud our students and parents for the way in which you have embraced online learning. We are doing our best to minimise the time spent on devices and will be constantly looking at ways to incorporate authentic learning away from a screen. We also don't want children slaving away all day, without taking time to just be kids. As expected we have had some minor hiccups and technical issues in getting started and will need to continually adjust programs to get to the right 'fit' for families and teachers. However, I believe we are off to a wonderful start under the circumstances. Every school's program will look different, according to their situation, so please avoid comparing school against school, as everyone is simply doing the best they can at this moment.

My message to parents last week was that we need you to support your children, but if things are becoming

stressful, just stop, take time out, adapt a task to suit your setting if you can, or ask for your teachers help. If all tasks don't get done, that does not matter. Your children need you to be their teaching support, but more importantly, they need you to be their parents. This is a time that it is more important than ever to look after our children's and our own mental health. These are extraordinary times, so schooling will be far from normal. Please, everyone, look after yourselves.

On an operational note, I would like to advise that the School Grounds are now closed to the public at all times, including weekends and after hours. Please pass this on to community members you have contact with. This is under Department of Education and Training Guidelines, where use of playground equipment and recreational activities are not to be taking place on school grounds. School buildings will only open during school hours for Remote Learning on-site access to specific personnel. Our playground equipment is unable to be used during school and after hours, under DET directives, due to not having fully enclosed, lockable gates. Thank you for your cooperation.

Further discussions and planning is now underway regarding the Permanent Modular School Building project that Dunkeld Consolidated School has been granted. Project completion is expected by end of 2020. We look forward to sharing information and planning in the coming months as they take shape.

Stay well. Stay safe. Stay home.

Thank you, Dee Gerring

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

The new School Council held their first meeting online via Webex on Tuesday 28 April. Congratulations are extended to the office bearers and we wish them well.

School Council welcomed new parent councillor, Richard McShane; re-elected parent councillors Mark Lazzari, Melissa Field and Simon Ross and re-elected DET councillor, Terrie Nicholson. Bev Hampton was co-opted to School Council as the P & F Association representative for a two-year term (ending March 2022) and Luke Balkin as a community member for the term ending March 2021.

Please find below a list of all Councillors and the office positions they hold (retiring members may seek re-election when their term of office ends):

1. **Parent Members - to retire in March 2021**
  - Rachel Blackwell
  - Anthony Graham
  - Brad Kyle
  - Jackie Mibus
2. **DET member – to retire in March 2021**
  - Anne Gilbert
3. **DET members – to retire in March 2022**
  - Terrie Nicholson - **SECRETARY**
  - *Vacancy*
4. **Community Member – to retire in March 2022**
  - Bev Hampton - Parents & Friends Association (co-opted member)
5. **Community Member – to retire in March 2021**
  - Luke Balkin - **PRESIDENT**
6. **Parent Members – to retire in March 2022**
  - Melissa Field - **TREASURER**
  - Mark Lazzari
  - Richard McShane – **VICE-PRESIDENT**
  - Simon Ross
7. **Executive Officer (Acting Principal)**
  - Dee-Anne Gerring

School Councils play a key role in Victorian government schools. Participating as a school council member is a rewarding and challenging experience. The School Council has a governance role and are here to support the Principal and teachers in a way that will allow the best learning environment for students at Dunkeld Consolidated School.

Items covered and approved during the meeting included:

- 2019 School Annual Report.
- Updated Assessment Policy.
- Creation of a Facebook page for the Dunkeld Consolidated School (the page will purely be used as a community information portal; the Facebook page will not be used to air concerns or complaints regarding school matters).
- Development of the old basketball court area.
- Development of a play/games area in the exterior space between the Memory Garden and the Kitchen.

## YEAR 3 REMOTE LEARNING SHOWCASE

While it may feel like the world has stopped, Year 3 would like to show you that their learning has continued on although somewhat differently.

Remote Learning for Term 2 has caused all Dunkeld Consolidated School teachers to embark on a huge learning curve to upskill ourselves to operate in this new teaching and learning context. We have been learning how to deliver curriculum lessons on Seesaw effectively, how to use Webex to conduct staff meetings and how to 'work/teach from home' in general. It has certainly been challenging but we have supported each other along the way and we are constantly adjusting and reviewing what we are doing to make it more user friendly from our side but also for our students and parents. We appreciate the support we are receiving from our school community!

Seesaw has been a fantastic vehicle for sending through daily lesson slides, for staying in touch with our students and parents via video messages and announcements, and giving feedback (commenting) on student work. I feel like I've been bombarding my Year 3 students with lots and lots of instructions and I am very proud of the way they have adjusted to this digital learning world so far. They are all superstar workers at home. It is lovely to see the work they are posting through Seesaw and the effort that is going into posting quality work. The Year 3 Seesaw blog became operational last week and now the students can actually see some of the work their classmates are posting. This is inspiring for individual learners but also gives them all an avenue to connect again as a class by giving each other compliments and constructive feedback. Keep up the great work, Year 3!

Regards, Mrs Anne Gilbert

## ART BY YIN



## P.E. BY LACHIE & MITCHELL

**PE: Cross Country Run  
15min 2.2km 21.4.20**



# EASTER RESPONSE FROM CLEMENTINE



## GARDENING WITH MAX



### Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program (SAKG)

#### *From the Kitchen ... AND From the Garden...*

Firstly we like to confirm that there is still a place for cooking and gardening in our remote learning.

Already, children have incorporated these subjects into their learning and personally I will be interested to see what my children get up to today, Wednesday specialist day. I know there has already been Anzac biscuits cooked at our house for school. I am still waiting for breakfast in bed though Clare ...

Our specialist Kitchen Garden teachers, Clare Kennedy and Lisa McIntyre, have been in contact with teachers and are coming up with more activities that can be undertaken at home. Apparently Lisa has a number of self-made videos for students to view once we have a method to upload them for families.

On behalf of the SAKG I would like to thank those who looked after the chooks on the school holidays and to the teachers, staff and students who now undertake this task when they are in attendance at school. I'm not sure if the chooks are lonely or enjoying the peace and quiet of a child-free school yard.

#### *From the Garden...*

Hi everyone! I hope you are all enjoying the time at home! I am missing you at school, but it will still all be there when we come back - there will be a lot of weeding to do when we start again!! In the meantime, our chooks are being well cared for.

I will make and send through some videos full of activities that you can all do at home. And I really understand now, how tricky it is to make a video! I think of you all producing your Gardening Dunkeld videos last year, and really admire and appreciate the work that you put into them ... so I am going to ask you to again to make another Gardening Dunkeld video! This can be done at home, and involve your family, pets and plants. It should be a great fun activity. But I will let you all know more about it next week.

In the meantime, please take time to get outside and enjoy this beautiful Autumn weather. Now is a great time to sow some seeds, create a compost heap, and look at the magnificent deciduous trees, with their leaves changing colour and then falling to the ground. I wonder why they do that?

I would also love you to start your own wildlife survey at your house. Go outside and see what you can find - bird, insect, animal. Perhaps you could take a photo of it, or just sit there with your paper and pencils, and draw what you see. Then label it with the date, and location - where you saw it. It does not matter if you don't know what it is, we can help identify it later, and then you can label it. Or you may have some books at home that will help you. Here is my find. You can put these drawings together, to create your own book. I am really looking forward to hearing about and seeing what you are all doing.

Lisa McIntyre



### ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION FOR 2020



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Bec Morgan, along with Seth, Ruby and Anieka on the arrival of their daughter and baby sister, Kaidence Eden-Reed.