



DUNKELD CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

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

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Newsletter No. 9 – Wednesday 24 June 2020

JUNE 2020

- Wednesday 24 MARC Library.
- Thursday 25 SAKG Garden classes.
SAKG Kitchen class – Year 3 students in the Kitchen with Mrs Gerring.
- Friday 26 **Pyjama Day** – students to bring a gold coin donation to support homeless youth.
Last Day of Term 2. Early dismissal at 2.30pm. School buses will also run one hour earlier accordingly.

JULY 2020

- Monday 13 First day of Term 3.
- Tuesday 14 Policy Sub-Committee Meeting commencing at 5.15pm.
Facilities Sub-Committee Meeting commencing at 6.15pm.
- Wednesday 15 MARC Library.
- Wednesday 15 MARC Library.
- Tuesday 28 School Council Meeting commencing at 7.30pm.
- Wednesday 29 MARC Library.
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AUGUST 2020

- Monday 3 **Pupil Free Day.** No students required at school today.

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

End of Term

It has been lovely to have our students back with us over the past month. I think all teachers would most definitely agree that we love having our students here every day, watching them learn, grow and develop their individual uniqueness. The classrooms have been a hive of activity, noise and happiness. Friendships have been reunited and children are continuing to navigate social and play situations and the best way of handling themselves and communicating with others again. These are often the things we take for granted, but when one is taken away from the social world for an extended time, then thrown back into big group situations, this can be a daunting and uncertain experience. We commend our students on the many hurdles they have had, and are continuing to overcome this term. We are here to support and guide you all the way. You are inspiring young people.

Recently, we have seen restrictions tighten again as numbers of COVID-19 rise in Victoria. I urge all our families to stay safe over the holiday period. Keeping your family safe, keeps our families and our school safe. Please remain vigilant in all you do and we look forward to returning to a hopefully settled Term 3. There will continue to be strict cleaning and hygiene measures in place next term. It is a good idea to do your own screening at home before sending your children to school also, checking they are feeling 100%. Unfortunately, we will see students have to stay home for longer than normal periods of time when ill, due to strict regulations on attendance at schools, however this is for the safety of the entire school and all our families.

This has been the most interesting term of schooling we have seen! It has certainly been a long and tedious time, so we bid farewell to Term 2 and welcome a well-earned rest for all – staff, students and their families. It's time to switch off for a couple of weeks and renew that energy. Enjoy your holidays!

Permanent Modular Building

Planning is well underway for the addition of a new modular building at our school. This is a Department of Education and Training (DET) initiative which our school was targeted for. It involves the process of asbestos removal in the eaves and demolition of part of the original school building. As a 'like for like' project, we then receive a new modular building, replacing what has been demolished. Many discussions have been held over the demolition and the decision was made to replace our hall with the new building. However, we will be placing the new building on the old netball court, as a new and inviting entrance point to the school, where we will hold Assemblies, classes and gatherings. I believe it will be a great addition and improvement to our school. I look forward to sharing more information as it becomes available.

Pupil Free Day

We will be holding a Pupil Free Day on Monday 3 August to replace the missed Pupil Free Day in Term 2. We missed a planning day in Term 2 as it was focused heavily on Remote Learning, then a staged return to school. Although the original

intention was to not have any Pupil Free days in Term 3, we believe it is important for staff to come together for a day to set the direction for the remainder of the year and also to welcome our new staff members to school programs and initiatives.

Camps

With the uncertainty of COVID-19 and how long restrictions would extend for, staff made the decision to not hold any camps this year. Although the Department has just announced that School Camps can recommence, we are going to stick with our decision for a number of reasons, including the health and safety of all involved and reducing expenditure for families and the school when fundraising hasn't been feasible this year. In light of no camps however, we would like to hold some excursions and local fun activities when restrictions allow.

Resilience Project

Staff were originally booked in to attend The Resilience Project PD in Melbourne in May. This turned into three online sessions due to restrictions. The Resilience Project ties in well with our Play Is The Way Program, nurturing mindful, empathetic, resilient children and looking after our own personal mental health and wellbeing.

The Resilience Project focuses on three keys to resilience:

- **Gratitude:** If you are experiencing a feeling of gratitude, then it is impossible to have a negative emotion in that moment. Feelings of gratitude increase positive mental health.
- **Empathy/Kindness:** When you feel what someone else feels. Every time you do something kind for someone else, your brain releases oxytocin. Oxytocin leads to increased self-esteem / confidence, increased energy, increased levels of happiness and increased levels of positivity.
- **Mindfulness:** The ability to be calm, present in the moment, remain focused and engaged, have a raised self-awareness, increased appreciation of others and surroundings and become more connected.

Staff have been learning about the many strategies to finding a healthy life balance and looking after our and others mental health. We are looking forward to bringing some of these practices into our school in helping our students to be resilient young people now and into their future.

School Strategic Plan and Annual Implementation Plan

Following the School Review, we have been working on the new 2020 – 2023 School Strategic Plan (SSP). This follows on from the School Review process and their findings. New goals have been created for the next four years and these goals will guide the yearly Annual Implementation Plan (AIP).

Thank you, Dee-Anne Gerring

SCHOOL COUNCIL

At the School Council meeting held on Tuesday 23 June 2020, the following items of business included:

- Pupil Free Day approved for Monday 3 August 2020.
- School Strategic Plan for 2020 – 2023 was approved.
- Letter and photos have been forwarded to the Southern Grampians Shire Council regarding the drain and parking on Victoria Valley Road.
- Sympathy card and flowers forwarded to Mr and Mrs Pat Gleeson and family on the loss of their son.
- Permanent Modular School Building Program – planning is well underway for the addition of the new modular building. It has been confirmed that the modular building will be placed on the old netball court and the hall is to be demolished. Modscape is aiming to start the asbestos removal and demolition during the September school holidays.
- A working bee to be held in Term 3 (date to be advised) to remove any items from the hall that the school wishes to keep/salvage before demolition.
- Works have commenced on the redevelopment of the old basketball court with the fencing, asphalt and basketball ring removed from the front section.
- A zincalume fence will be erected (behind the bike shed) to house the rubbish bins.
- An 'Art Inspired' fence (wide timber pickets to be decorated by students) will be installed in front of the greenhouse.
- School Council Governance training and resources.
- Staff report on Remote Learning.
- School Council Meeting Calendar approved with Policy and Facilities Sub-Committees to hold their first meetings on Tuesday 14 July 2020.
- Staffing for Terms 3 and 4.
- School Camps will not be held this year but staff will look at the possibility of all classes having a turn at 'camping out' at the school during Term 4, with students participating in local activities.

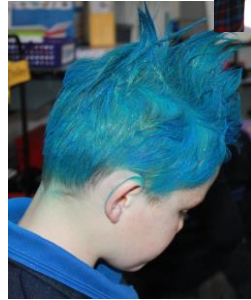
TERM 2 ACTIVITIES

It has been great to have all our students back at school to finish out the school term. This is how we like it.



FUNKY HAIR DAY – Friday 12 June 2020

Our Funky Hairy Day fundraiser for the Leukemia Foundation raised a total of \$202.00. This amount includes extra donations made by some community members. Thank you everyone for your efforts!



BUDDIES DAY - WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE 2020



One of the programs we run here at school is Buddies. Our senior students become mentors for our junior students and help them integrate into school. It was great that they were able to meet up again this term and read through the books that our Year 5/6 students made during isolation for their junior buddies.



**IN THE KITCHEN –
With no helpers all
jobs were done by students!**

Cooking was the best ever! We had fruit salad and mango banana smoothie. It took us from 11.30am to 1.30pm. We also made Ham and Cheese Pinwheels which were the best as in the middle was cheesy goodness. It was some sort of pizza, anyway, it was yum! We had separate tables for each station. It took twenty minutes for the Pinwheels to cook. That's all for now, bye. *By Seth Monaghan, Year 5.*



LAST BUT NOT LEAST – DON'T FORGET



- **PYJAMA DAY on Friday 26 June – the last day of Term 2 (early dismissal at 2.30pm):** Students and staff may wear their winter pj's to school, including dressing gowns and slippers and even bring their teddy bear (students may need some extra clothing underneath their pj's to keep warm). Please bring a **gold coin donation**, which will go to the Melbourne City Mission to support their youth homelessness projects.

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program (SAKG)



From the Garden...Lisa McIntyre

We've had a lovely few weeks with the children back in the garden. We've weeded and sown the paddock to peas and beans, sowed all kinds of seeds in the greenhouse, weeded out massive established plants in the garden beds, and drunk some very soothing herbal billy tea. Despite all the upheaval of the last few months, it is so great to have constants like the seasons, and with them, our gardens, just continuing to flow and grow. It is very calming to see that nature still exists and thrives, despite all that is going on.

We have a number of very calm, quiet, friendly chooks to give away. They are excellent companions, and great pest controllers! Please get in touch if you'd like to give one a home.

Have a wonderful holiday!

Lisa McIntyre

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ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION FOR 2020

LATE ARRIVAL and/or EARLY PICK UP

Due to COVID19 restrictions, procedures for students arriving late or being picked up early (for appointments etc) have changed slightly. **Parents will need to contact the office on 5577 2384 advising of late arrival and/or early pick-up.** School admin staff will meet late arrivals at the small pedestrian gate (on Victoria Valley Road) and walk with the student/s to their classroom. If a child is being picked up early, please phone the school office when you are parked on Victoria Valley Road and your child will be accompanied to the small pedestrian gate for collection.

If you have arranged an appointment for your child beforehand, please write a note in their diary informing the school, as per usual procedures.

The relevant Sign In/Sign Out form will be completed by school admin personnel on your behalf, which includes details for the late arrival or early collection.

HEADLICE

We have had an instance of head lice reported this week and seek your co-operation in an effort to contain the situation.

If you have detected head lice or eggs on your child's hair and it is very important for you to treat your child as soon as possible, using safe treatment practices.

It is very important for you to notify the Dunkeld Consolidated School and to advise when appropriate treatment has commenced.

Health regulations require that where a child has head lice, that child should not return to school until the day after appropriate treatment has started.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!