



Killara Primary School

Our Best – Every Child, Every Day
Respect, Resilience & Accountability

Newsletter 12

May 7 2020

CALENDAR

8 June	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
26 June	Last Day Term 2

FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

PHOTO DELIVERY- THANK YOU

I would just like to acknowledge and thank our staff for going well above and beyond for our students and families by delivering school photos to homes this week. Thank you in particular to Andrea Heales in our office who took all of the photos home over one weekend to sort them into family groups ready for delivery. This is another example of how our staff are working hard to ensure that the impact that remote learning has on our students is minimised. Many of our staff appreciated the kind words and encouragement they received from our families when delivering the photos and all were very happy to see the smiling faces of our students.

YEAR 3/4 & 5/6 CAMP UPDATE

As some of you would be aware, we had originally booked for both our Year 3/4 and 5/6 students to attend their annual camp at the end of this term. Given the transition to remote learning, staff from both of these areas have worked hard with the camps to re-schedule these in Term 4 of this year. More information regarding this will be sent out to families in the near future, including the opportunity to arrange for payment plans, and the access to CSEF funds for those that are eligible, to ensure that all our students are able to attend camp.



SCHOOL CAPTAINS' CORNER

This week sees the introduction of a new feature in our weekly newsletter- the School Captains' Corner. This is a result of the initiative shown by both our school captains who wanted to be able to support their fellow students who are learning remotely. We are very proud of their proactive response in leading our students and look forward to reading their pieces.

CHOOSE KIND

We think it's pretty safe to say that for most of us the shine of remote learning from home has worn off. Trying to juggle supporting students and getting the adult work tasks completed is a roller coaster ride - sometimes it's a breeze and other days you just want the ride to be over. But this is one of those times, more than ever, that we need to remember the big

picture of why we are all in this situation- we are saving lives by reducing the spread of COVID-19.

One of the best books released in recent times, Wonder, has as its core message, a reminder for us to actively choose kind each day- to each other and to ourselves. When times get tough while self-isolating and supporting your children at home we want you to choose kind- for yourself, for your children and for our staff.

If you have a lot on from a work perspective that means supporting your child for the day with their learning puts you under too much pressure- choose kind for yourself by stepping away from the learning for a little while.

If your children are having one of those days where trying to get them to focus on learning is like getting blood from a stone- choose kind for them by giving them a break and try to come back to it later.

If you've had one of those days/weeks and you feel like the learning that is being sent home for your child to do is just not going to happen - choose kind for our staff by emailing them to let them know you've had a rough day/week and ask how you can work in partnership with them to make sure that those tasks that are most important are completed and which ones can potentially be left.

PARENT HOT TOPICS

Why are we the only school not having teachers teach lessons live via an online platform?



Firstly, we are not the only school in Sunbury not conducting live lessons through an online platform. We are aware that some schools, such as the Secondary Colleges are, however to our knowledge, no other primary school in Sunbury is. We know too that one school trialled it this past week, and have already abandoned it due to the issues that arose during the trial. What most schools, including ours, are doing is having teachers pre-record videos that are uploaded into the lesson to explain the lesson or a task.

The Department have been very clear to schools that we are not to use online chat programs and apps such as Zoom due to safety and privacy concerns. An example of this occurred in the US where a live zoom teaching session was interrupted by hackers and young students were exposed to explicit material. In response to this, the Department's direction to schools is that the only platforms suitable for use, other than those such as Compass and See Saw that schools were already using prior to the transition to remote learning, is WebEx and Google Classroom.

Our school was originally scheduled for a transition from its current emailing platform to a newer more efficient one in mid- April. This was originally paused when we transitioned to remote learning, however we have been advised that this will now take place in a few weeks. This transition also impacts our WebEx platform, a platform that we have been using at a staff but not student level.

At a bare minimum, under the Child Safe regulations for Primary aged students, if we were to facilitate live video lessons or chats with staff, parents would be required to be visible on the screen at all times. We have been very conscious of making sure that we provide a remote learning experience for our students that is as flexible for our families as possible. The move to this would lock families in for particular times each week at a time that suits the teachers and this may not work for you given your own work commitments.

All of these are reasons behind why our school has chosen to utilise pre-recorded videos rather than teach the students live online. However, one of the ways in which we have endeavoured to keep connections between our staff and students is through the weekly phone calls students are receiving from both their classroom and one of our specialist teachers.

**Best wishes,
Michelle and Sue**

CURRENT NEWS

SCHOOL CAPTAINS' CORNER

Hello Killara, it's Charleen D and Luke H-B your 2020 school captains. We have been given this space in the newsletter and we're calling it the School Captains' Corner. The corner full of optimism and sharing of our quirky experiences of home/school schooling!

If you're like us, missing your friends because you may not have seen them for a while, we have the solution. You may not be able to see them, but you sure can chat to them. That's what we have been doing. Talking about all the weird and wacky experiences we've had with home (and school) schooling. I know some of you have also been discussing your work and sharing ideas. There are many ways to communicate with friends and loved ones, you can call, facetime, even write to them. Writing may sound boring these days, but the thrill of waiting eagerly for the reply is a feeling you won't forget.

Please also know that your wonderful teachers are available to help in any way. If you have a question, about anything, you can always email them and they'll get back to you pretty quickly by email or phone. Talking to your teacher on the phone may be a bit weird, but it's okay when they are there to help you, and you really will get used to it.

If you would like to share your stories or photos, or even ask a question, we would love to hear from you, whether you are at home or at school, so please email

anything you have for our School Captains' Corner to Mrs Smith and she will send them on to us. Email her at: smith.robbyn.r3@edumail.vic.gov.au

We can't wait to tell you our home-schooling tales starting next week. Remember: Stay home, Stay safe and remember to wash your hands often. I'm sure the Killara family will be back at school before we know it. Your School Captains: Charleen D and Luke H-B

PREP ENROLMENTS 2021

If you have a child starting at Killara Primary School in 2021 and require an enrolment form they are now available via email.

Please provide a copy of birth and immunisation certificate upon enrolment. All enrolments should be made by no later than Monday 27 July to assist with our next year planning.

Email Andrea at heales.andrea.a@edumail.vic.gov.au for your enrolment form.

STUDENT POEMS

Sunshine
Warm,friendly
Smiling, beaming, shining
Brightening up your day
Daylight
By Amelie F

CATS

Kitty cats like mats.
All cats have dangerous claws.
love all cat species
By Laura

YUMMY

Dessert
Cold Creamy
Slurp, giggle, dribble
Cone with three scoops
Ice-cream
By Seth

THE BACKYARD SPECIES DISCOVERY PROJECT - EARTHWATCH

This project is NOW LIVE! Bush Blitz is launching an exciting online expedition that allows all Australians, including teachers and students, to help document Australia's biodiversity without leaving their backyard! Join this virtual project, engage with nature and learn valuable scientific skills; all while social distancing!

Participants upload their images into iNaturalist, an online citizen science program, before it then goes into the Atlas of Living Australia where it's used for research and conservation management. Visit <https://bit.ly/bbsds20> for more information about how to get involved.



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HOME LEARNING PHOTOS

