

Appin Park News

LEARNING
FOR LIVING
I SHOW RESPECT
I AM RESPONSIBLE
I CARE

26th March 2020

Hello Everyone,

Tomorrow afternoon sees the official end of term 1. How things have changed since I sat down to write my first newsletter only 8 weeks ago. While the last 2-3 weeks of term have been challenging and unpredictable the beginning of term presents a different story. My transition into the role of principal has been relatively smooth due to the support of all school staff, our families and the dedicated APPA and School Council teams. I thank you all for your ongoing support.

This term has seen the welcoming of 2020 Foundation students who have settled into school life with confidence and positive attitudes. Staff continued to develop our work around the reading improvement plan and School Wide Positive Behaviours, embedding our school goals of respect, responsibility and caring. Students have attended a successful 3/4 camp, engaged in Science, Italian, PE and Art lessons. Student leadership teams have been elected, and are beginning to develop leadership skills. Work on the school oval continues and the schematic design phase of the new building works is complete. We have completed AGMs for both School Council and APPA and thank those parents for their ongoing support to the continued improvements to our school through fundraising, policy development and community engagement.

Sadly, we will farewell Bron Wright this week. As mentioned in a previous newsletter Bron is taking up the acting assistant principal role at Wangaratta High School. In a short time, Bron has had a big impact on the development of our whole school reading plan and shared her wealth of resources and knowledge. We wish Bron well as she takes on a new challenge.

Next term presents with some unknowns due to COVID-19. I would like to thank everyone for being flexible and reading our latest notes around the changes to schooling. It has been a challenge keeping up with all the latest developments. At this stage, plans for remote and flexible learning are in place for the beginning of term 2, Wednesday 15th April. I will send out an email with details via Compass, explaining what this will look like on the Thursday 9th April. We shall endeavour to keep you informed via Compass and Facebook and you are most welcome to email or call the office if you have any concerns. If the phone goes unanswered, please leave a message, as we will be checking in most days.

Thank you for your support, kindness and understanding during these challenging times. While holidays will look a bit different for us all this Easter, I hope that you are able to find a place outside in the sunshine each day, read a book, talk to your children and look after yourselves and your families.

Please find below responses to some commonly asked questions at this time:

Are we definitely moving to Remote and Flexible Learning?

No. Our staff have busily been preparing for the possible transition to remote and flexible learning by redesigning learning programs and preparing hardcopy learning packs, however it is not a certainty at this stage. I will be advised on whether the transition to flexible and remote learning will proceed on the first student day of Term 2 (Wednesday 15 April) closer to that date and will keep families informed.

Do we need to buy stationary and books now?

No. If a transition to remote and flexible learning does eventuate, you do not need to purchase stationary and/or resources as everything you will need will be provided. Most students took home some workbooks and pencil cases on Monday before beginning holidays.

What would remote and flexible learning look like?

Hard copy packs of learning plans and materials have been developed by staff and will be available for collection on designated days (to be communicated), should we move to remote and flexible learning. Alternatively, you may opt for these plans and resources to be emailed however you would require access to a printer.

Do we need to have a computer/mobile device for remote and flexible learning?

No. Remote learning is different to online learning. We would prefer our students were not using devices for several hours each day, so will be providing hard copy learning packs. Over time we will provide additional online interactive learning sites that may be used, but this is optional.

How can we protect ourselves against Coronavirus?

As previously communicated, good hygiene practices are the most effective method of minimising the spread of Coronavirus. On the next page is advice on ways to protect yourself and your family.

When would we need to notify the school if a member of our family has a confirmed case of Coronavirus?

Please notify me (Fiona) **immediately** via carson.fiona.f@edumail.vic.gov.au if your child or anyone in your family:

- is a confirmed case of COVID-19

- has had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

'Close contact' is defined by DHHS as someone who has had at least 15 minutes of face-to-face contact with a confirmed case, or shared a closed space with someone for more than two hours with a confirmed case.

Fiona Carson - Principal



Reduce your risk of coronavirus

- **WASH** your hands often with soap and running water, for at least 20 seconds. Dry with paper towel or hand dryer.
- **TRY** not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- **COVER** your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow.
- **STAY** at home if you feel sick. If you take medication make sure you have enough.
- **PHONE** your doctor or the hotline – **1800 675 398** – if you need medical attention. They will tell you what to do.
- **CONTINUE** healthy habits: exercise, drink water, get plenty of sleep.
- **WEARING** a face mask is not necessary if you are well.
- **BUY** an alcohol-based hand sanitiser with over 60% alcohol.



Find out more

www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

If you are concerned, call the

Coronavirus hotline 1800 675 398 (24 hours)

Please keep Triple Zero (000) for emergencies only

To receive this publication in an accessible format email COVID-19@dhhs.vic.gov.au
Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.
© State of Victoria, March 2020. (20 01628_v1)

