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Principal's News

Tuesday 7 April 2020

Here we are in the final week of Term 1, 2020. What a term it has been. I can only sit in admiration of our resilient students, teachers and community after all that has been thrown at us this year.

It has been fantastic to see the enthusiasm on the students' faces and the wonderful work that has passed my desk since day one back at school. Over the last week I have had the opportunity to drop in on some of the online learning sessions and I have been so pleased to see the engagement of both the children learning from home as well as those that have been at school. It is a credit to our students that they have been so adaptable over this time.

I also need to recognise the flexibility of our community, becoming home tutors and continuing the wonderful learning that our teachers have provided. We are very grateful for your patience, perseverance and support. You are near the end of term, so enjoy the last few days leading into a well-deserved break. To help mark the end of the term we will be uploading an assembly on Thursday afternoon around 2pm which will include a little special something from the teachers for the students. We will send out a push notification with a link to it for you.

Looking towards next term, the federal government indicated last week that the current level of social distancing restrictions will be enforced for 90 days. That would take our current *new normal* of learning from home well into Term 2. We are currently planning for learning from home to be happening from the first half of Term 2. For all our classes, learning will cease this Thursday and recommence on Tuesday 28 April. Kinder to Year 2 will have learning packs for next term ready to pick up from this Wednesday. Please check your classroom Blogs and Google classrooms for information on when and where they are available.

It is important that over the holidays you give yourselves and your children as much of a break as possible. I know in this era of social distancing that takes on a whole new look, but putting the technology away and staying clear of the google classroom will be an important step in helping everyone to be fresh for learning in Term 2.

Finally, our thoughts are with our families who are under enormous stress due to the economic ramifications associated with the bushfires and now COVID-19. As mentioned earlier this year, we will not be requesting the payment of voluntary school contributions or technology contributions this year. We are still planning for our excursions to take place in term 4 and will have more information early Term 2 about them.

Monitoring children online

One way we are all trying to stay connected while following the social distancing regulations is to use social media apps like Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. It is important that parents monitor their child's use of social media during this time to keep them safe. One good way of doing this is to ensure you have reviewed the settings on these applications. Many of these apps often roll out updates that set things to their default settings which may not be the security level you would like...

It is a good rule to also insist that the children be in the room with you whenever they are on any communication or social media apps. That way you can monitor what is going on and be there to support them if any inappropriate contact is made.

Some great resources for supporting your children around online can be found on the **esafety Commissioner** webpage (<https://www.esafety.gov.au/>). On it you will find information, games to teach safety and hints for parents, kids, young people and more.

Take care, stay safe and have a restful break.

Matthew Rose
Principal

Upcoming events:

- Thu 9 Apr - Last Day of Term 1 - Mufti Day
- Mon 27 Apr - Staff Development Day
- Tue 28 Apr - Learning from Home resumes

Community News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Due to the current [COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declared in NSW](#), **Broulee Vacation Care Service** will be **closed** for the April 2020 School Holidays.

Whilst we are still operating **After School Care** until the end of this term, as we have had no students attend we ask that you advise us in the morning if you plan to send your child.

Thank you for your assistance as we navigate this new way of working together. Understandably, in the current extraordinary situation, the children's health & safety as well as our staff is our priority.

We will continue to follow government advice and provide updates on our operations with the view to reopen **TERM 2 After School Care**.

Stay well & safe over the Easter & holiday break.

Lakshman, Jennine and team