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Term 1, Week 2

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Welcome back to 2020!

Students and staff have had a great start to the year.

Over the holidays we have had a fire in the playground. It has caused some damage but luckily our buildings were not affected. Some trees need to be cut down and fencing replaced. The playground equipment will not be replaced as our \$200,000 playground upgrade will be commencing later this term.

Thank you to our parents Lilian Gascoigne and Michael Dabboussi who came to help put the fire out. Also our neighbours in Mary Street and Ms Kennedy, Mr Richardson and Mrs Mavlian who came to help put the fire out as well. The fire brigade said that everyone's fast thinking and actions really made a huge difference. Thank you.



Staff and classes

Unfortunately it will be necessary to alter the structure of grades 3 and 4 ensure primary students are more equally organised.

This ensures that students benefit from smaller class sizes and that teachers workloads are more fairly distributed as well.

Parents and carers of students in composite classes do not need to be worried. Teachers design and plan the learning for students based on student assessments. Students in the same grade have a wide range of abilities so a teacher does not program one type of learning to fit a particular grade.

Here is the organisation of classes and teaching staff for 2020:

| Teaching Staff | Class / Role | Days per week |
|--------------------|---|---------------|
| Anne Davis | Principal | 5 |
| Sophie Roberts | Deputy Principal & Instructional Leader | 5 |
| Mel Kennedy | Assistant Principal & 1K | 5 |
| Kerrie-Anne Sardis | KS | 5 |
| Libby Cooney | 2C | 5 |
| Mark Richardson | 3/4R | 5 |
| Billy Eliaali | 4/5E | 5 |
| Tim Shaw | 5/6S | 5 |
| Di Lister | RFF | Tue - Wed |
| Lisa Pappas | RFF | Mon - Tues |
| Sue McCarthy | EaLD | Mon - Thur |
| Julie Mavlian | LaST | Mon - Thurs |

| | | |
|-----------------|------------|------------|
| Julie Vertsonis | Pre-School | Mon - Wed |
| Anne Fulham | Pre-School | Thur - Fri |

Updated PBL

We have updated our PBL expectations after evaluating the improvements from 2020. Our values are: WORK HARD, BE KIND and PLAY FAIR. We have 5 expectations:

- Follow instructions
- Don't use words to hurt others
- Be safe
- Be a learner
- Care for yourself, others and resources.

We have made some changes to assemblies, how we support students with poor behaviour choices and how we recognise students meeting and exceeding our expectations. We will send out a separate information booklet to our families about these changes.

School Programs

Seed Harvest Spoon will be on Thursdays – this term students K-6 will participate in environmental education programs run by our teachers with Nathalie from Seed Harvest Spoon. Preschool will participate from Term 2.

The Song Room will take place on Tuesdays and students from Yr1-6 this term. Preschool and Kindy will be involved from next term. We are part of their Deadly Arts program, which is an Indigenous Arts program designed to engage and educate Indigenous and non-Indigenous students about local Aboriginal stories and culture and to encourage the wider community to connect back to the cultural richness of our First Australians by promoting a sense of pride and understanding. Shannon is a hip hop artist and MC who is also a visual and digital artist. We are looking forward to working with Shannon this term and The Song Room for the next 3 years!

Gymnastics is happening on Thursdays this term – please return your permission note for students in P-6 to participate. There is no charge for this program thanks to the Sport In Schools Grants Program.

Speech and occupational therapy starts next week. You will find notes for these programs in the note pack which will come out shortly. These programs had a big impact on students and teachers last year and we are excited to continue with our partnership this year. We are also hoping to fund a psychologist (in addition to our new school counsellor – who starts next week) to provide additional support to students and to work with groups of students in targeted programs.

Got It! Program got underway today with a parent session on emotions coaching. 30 parents came – a great turn out! A flyer was given out about how we can help children with their emotions and behaviour. The social and emotional learning programs for students K-6 have started for our students and

there is more teacher training next week in emotions coaching. If parents of students in K-6 need help completing the screening forms, please contact any member of staff or myself about this.



Breakfast Club is on tomorrow from 8.30am. Our parent volunteers will be serving fruit, yoghurt and toast tomorrow morning. Come down and grab some breakfast and catch up with teachers and other school families.

Top Blokes is a mentoring program for senior primary boy students which aims to develop students' skills in critical areas of resilience, empathy, respect, decision making and risk taking. This program started last week with our Yr 6 boys.

After School Program starts next week for 7 weeks. Permission notes are due back this Friday. K-2 are being offered a games and sport program and Yr 3-6 will be participating in some trivia – a good way to build their general knowledge and team work and communication skills. Thanks to Mrs Sardis and Mr Richardson for volunteering their time.

Interest groups will commence later this term. Students are able to select from a range of programs led by teachers in a diverse range of areas, such as dance, drama, cooking, sewing, photography, art and so on. Feedback from students, staff and parents was very positive so we will continue this program one afternoon per week this year.

Please don't hesitate to catch me to discuss any matters about your children or our school. Appointments can be made at the office, you can telephone to speak to me or email me: anne.davis8@det.nsw.edu.au

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Welcome to all our new Preschool friends - what smiling happy faces we have seen this week!



OFFICE NEWS

WELCOME FROM YOUR OFFICE STAFF - Aimee, Trisha and Jill are here to help you with all your queries this year.

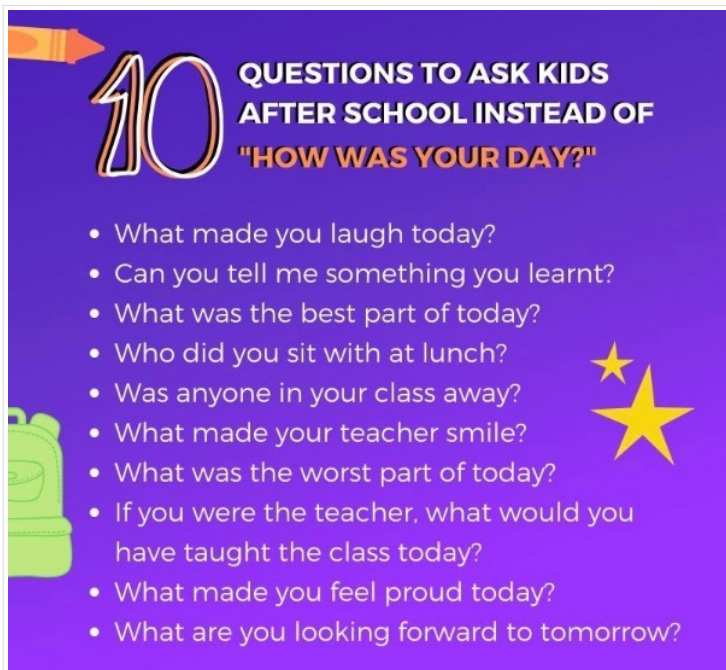
PAYMENTS and NOTES - All payments to the office need to be put into an envelope with the relevant permission note. We can only accept the correct money as we are unable to easily give change. The envelopes can be found in the foyer and when they are filled out they must be placed in the door to the office which is labeled 'Notes & Payments'.

If you want to pay for something via card, you need to do this through our School's website and the 'Make a Payment' tab at the top of the page.

LOST PROPERTY - there are containers in the office with lost property, don't forget to come and check them for your child's items. Make sure you label all school items with your child's name.

UPDATING YOUR DETAILS - Please see the office to update any details that may have changed, including Address, Phone numbers, Medical details etc. It is very important we have you up to date details in case of emergencies.

ABSENCES - If your child is going to be absent from school for the day, please notify the office via the SZapp. Once in the app you just select 'Absentee' in the bottom left and put your child's details in.



10 QUESTIONS TO ASK KIDS AFTER SCHOOL INSTEAD OF "HOW WAS YOUR DAY?"

- What made you laugh today?
- Can you tell me something you learnt?
- What was the best part of today?
- Who did you sit with at lunch?
- Was anyone in your class away?
- What made your teacher smile?
- What was the worst part of today?
- If you were the teacher, what would you have taught the class today?
- What made you feel proud today?
- What are you looking forward to tomorrow?

SZapp - NEWSLETTERS AND COMMUNICATION

Please make sure you download the SZapp from your App store so you can receive the Newsletter and other communication sent out by the school. This app also allows you to visit the school website, make payments and communicate absences with the school. The instructions are set out below and will also be sent home with students.

https://riverwoodps.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1061/how_to_install_szapp_pdn_30_10_19.pdf

HELPFUL INFORMATION

https://riverwoodps.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1052/parking_and_driving_offences_term_1_2020.pdf
https://riverwoodps.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1053/school_safety_brochure_primary_school.pdf
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