



SCHOOL UPDATE

8th September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

The term is fast coming to a close. This year has certainly been one for us all to remember. As you would be aware the Premier has made recent announcements regarding the COVID restrictions and how this will impact the education sector.

There has been a lot of discussion with the school from parents about the 2020 academic year and the amount of school missed for face to face teaching. I understand the concerns raised with missing the social interactions with peers, the potential lack of growth through online teaching, connection and activity completion issues and the concerns around their child repeating in 2021. This has certainly also been a topic of deep conversation across all schools of late.

In terms of providing an answer it is not possible of me to do so. I do not think that an answer will be available for quite some time and the school will need to carefully consider each student case by case. It is important to note that the Minister of Education James Merlino said on Sunday that research has shown it is best for students to progress with their age cohort than to repeat.

What we do know works is the strength in a positive working relationship between teacher and home. The two systems working side by side to deepen and support student development with a targeted approach works. Targeted interventions with personalised learning outcomes assist students to build capacity. I ask all parents to be on board with the school, support your teachers, support your students.

Our teachers are very capable experts in their field. In any one grade there could be 3-5 years different in learning capability. Teachers all work their hardest to ensure each child is catered for and each child's needs are being met. This happens every year. When students return in term 4 our teachers will be supporting them along the journey every step of the way.

I empathise with parents who are having daily challenges with their children at home juggling work, on line learning, anxiety concerns and the daily management of the household. This is a very tough time for all of us. I also understand the desire for parents to return their children to school even now. Whilst this is idealistic it is not realistic. The school continues to work with families where we can to support you however the school is not able to allow an influx of students to return to school during the current restrictions.

Recently the school has had the support of Sharon, an outside counsellor, who has continued to attempt to contact identified families in need of support. What is disappointing is that after continued efforts and calls, parents are not willing to engage for the benefit of their children. I continue to remind parents that we are here to support you if you let us.

Parents experiencing difficulties and in need of support should email me and I will do my best to arrange support.

Regards,

Ross Carlson
Acting Principal