

SCHOOL UPDATE

14th August 2020

Dear parents / carers,

'Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.'

Emilie Buchwald

DAILY READING

It's undeniable that a child's reading skills are important to their success in school, work, and life in general. Some of the top reasons for supporting your child to be an EFFECTIVE reader include

- Supported cognitive development
- Improved language skills
- Preparation for academic success
- Increased concentration and self-discipline
- Improved imagination and creative play
- Development of deeper relationships with parents and family members

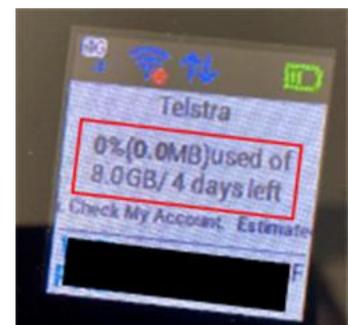
We encourage all students and families to spend time reading together. Family members should listen to children reading out loud and discuss the story as they read. Ask students questions about the story and engage with general discussion. This work will support both you and your child later in life when they can independently complete school tasks.

INTERNET DONGLES

An update has been provided to the school on the current dongles provided to families. Telstra will continue to support schools with providing students with internet during the Stage 4 COVID lockdown.

There are some minor changes to the use of the dongles as listed below

- an increased data limit of 8gb per month
 - once the threshold is reached the speed will reduce to 1.0mbs so please be mindful of your usage
 - a % of data used will now be displayed
 - at the end of the month the limit will automatically renew.
- There is no need to contact the school.



STUDENT LAPTOPS

There are still a large number of laptops available for students to use for remote learning. We have repeatedly advised that each student will be provided with a laptop as necessary to best support them. If you have multiple children at home and need additional devices PLEASE contact the office. For the continued learning of all students the school will support you with laptops.

PARENT OPINION SURVEY

The parent opinion survey will once again be administered online this year. The survey is expected to open in the coming weeks and will be available for parents to log in and complete.

The school is required to conduct a random sample of parents to participate. Details will be sent out shortly once information is provided to the school. All results of the survey are confidential.

STUDENT ATTITUDE TO SCHOOL SURVEY

This year the student attitude to school survey will take place remotely between **24th August and 18th September**. All students in **grade 4, 5 and 6** are invited to participate and it is strongly encouraged they do. The data from this survey enables the school to set targets to work towards for 2021 to better provide for your children. There are no identifying features on the survey, all students results are confidential.

A letter will be sent to all parents in grade 4-6 and there is an opt-out procedure to follow if you so wish. From my experience students receive a lot of satisfaction from participating knowing they are providing valuable information to assist the school community in the path for the following year. Their opinions affect their education next year.

PARENT DETAILS

During the COVID period it has become increasingly apparent that parents and families have not kept their details up to date here at the school. Whilst I understand that life can be very busy and things get overlooked it is vital the school has current details.

- Have you separated from your partner or remarried?
- Do you or an emergency contact have new phone numbers?
- Are you still living in the house you were in when you enrolled?
- Have you provided updated or new court orders / legal paperwork?

If these details are not updated please do not speak rudely to our staff. They are only working on the details that have been provided to us. If you need to update details please email the school requesting an updated details form.

NEW PREP ENROLMENTS

Recently the school moved to an online expression of interest process for 2021 enrolments for Prep. If you have a new prep student starting next year we ask all parents to complete the form on the school website. The dates for enrolment process are listed online and will be updated once we know more about the COVID restrictions. If you have a friend who wishes to enrol, ask them to complete the form online. Student placement is limited in 2021 so be quick.

STUDENT RESOURCE PACKS

Recently we advised parents that the school has developed a book/work pack for students. Staff have made a resource pack with books, pencils, pens etc for each student. EVERY student had a book pack created for them. So far we have had a large number of parents come and collect their pack however we are waiting for many other parents to collect theirs. These packs can be collected from the front office during school hours.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SESSIONS ★ ★

Starting next week our Education Support staff will be working with a number of students in small group and one-on-one sessions through webex. The purpose of these sessions will be to engage with students and complete their schoolwork with assistance.

The staff will connect with your children three times a week at the same time/day each week. This will create a consistent and structured approach and allow parents to best plan their days so that students are able to attend.

During these sessions the staff will work with your child to assist them in their reading, writing and numeracy skills. Parents are encouraged to attend and support their children as well. Staff will phone you to set up these sessions.

OVAL RE-DESIGN

I want to thank Mr Youngs and Mr Carr for helping me with an application recently to re-design the school oval. The Government are currently offering grants of up to \$500,000 to redevelop various school areas. It was agreed at school council that we would begin with the oval and the current options available include

- Installation of drainage and resurfacing with year round turf including irrigation systems
- Resurfacing with synthetic turf and incorporating athletics, cricket, soccer, football
- Replacing of the long jump pit
- Installation of seating and works around the perimeter including new fencing
- Upgrades to the basketball court adjacent to the oval and removal of the high fences

It is expected we will have an answer to our application by mid Term 4 this year and if successful the works will be completed in 2021. Fingers crossed for a successful application.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

I personally thank all the teachers and support staff for their work in the setting up and management of the interviews yesterday. It was pleasing to see that many of our parents participated for the benefit of their children. Likewise it was also very disappointing to see the number of families that did not engage. Staff work hard each day to ensure the education of your child is the best we can provide in the current climate. We continue to encourage parents to show an active interest in the next generation's education.

To those that did attend I thank you again. As caring and engaging parents your children will certainly benefit during the COVID year.



Thank You

Kind Regards,

Ross Carlson
Acting Principal