

29/04/2022

Dear families,

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

It has been wonderful to see the many smiling faces as we visit students and meet families at the start and end of the school days. This term will be very busy and long. It is important students are at school every day unless unwell to get the maximum benefit of school learning time.

COVID measures have been updated. Parents would be aware that mandatory wearing of masks does not apply however students and staff can wear a mask if they wish. Rapid Antigen Testing will still need to take place for the first half of the term – we still recommend a Monday and Thursday morning for students. If you need tests, please see the office. There have been significant changes to the isolation rules which will enable students to still attend school if someone at home is isolating. Please ensure you are aware of the changes.

As per the newsletter, the BER has been fully repainted over the holiday period and lots of external building works have been completed on the school roof. Students are encouraged to take care when in the BER as to not damage the new paintwork. As the year progresses we will look at further projects around the school to update all facilities for students.

ROAD SAFETY

It is important to remember that the roads are very busy at the start and end of the day so parents need to consider their driving habits. Double parking and calling students across the road when the crossing is less than 10 metres away is highly irresponsible and dangerous. Driving up onto the nature strip or footpath rather than reverse parking it also highly dangerous and we ask you to please rethink this behaviour.

TERM EVENTS

Next week students in Prep-Year 3 will have their eyes screened next week as part of an initiative to support students in schools by the Department and State Schools relief. This is being conducted on-site and offered free of charge. If students need glasses a free pair will be selected by the student and provided to the school for them to take home. We really look forward to giving students the resources they need to support them in their learning.

Next Thursday 5th May, a selected number of students will attend Cross Country to be held at Casey Fields. We wish these students all the very best and appreciate their efforts to showcase our school.

In week 3 and 4, prep students will have the opportunity to visit Bunjil place and the Melbourne Arts Centre for two live performances. These opportunities are fantastic and will not be available at these prices again so we ask parents to all take up this opportunity.

Students in years 1-4 will also have the chance this term to attend the Melbourne Arts Centre for a live performance of The Selfish Giant. Again, this opportunity will not present itself at this price again and is a wonderful experience for students. With more than 175 students encouraged to attend we do ask that parents also attend to support us. If you are interested in coming along for the day please see the Office.

Tuesday 14th June is a pupil free day. No students will attend that day as teachers plan for the needs of curriculum, look at new assessments and plan post COVID for school management. Please ensure arrangements have been made for your child/ren that day.

ENROLMENTS

From **Monday 2nd May** enrolments for 2023 will open. Families with a new prep student starting in 2023 are encouraged to complete the online enrolment form as soon as possible to help us plan for numbers. Staffing changes will need to take place, and this can only occur with accurate numbers. Parents are reminded they need to provide a copy of the child's birth certificate and immunisation certificate as a requirement for enrolment.

EXCURSION NOTICES

Parents are reminded to return the excursion notices as soon as possible. Forms and payment for the Prep and Year 1-2 students are due back by next Thursday 5th May. Forms and payments for students in years 3-4 and 5-6 are due back Thursday 12th May.

These excursions form part of our curriculum and extend opportunities for students they would not normally participate in during the school year. In particular the cost of the camps is incredibly small given the experiences and memories students will create. Traditionally a three-day camp costs in excess of \$300 and we have offered it for \$40. A four-day camp is over \$500 and it has been offered for \$60.

With the changes to the employment agreement it is highly unlikely that camps will be offered beyond this year due to the significant increase in costs. This year may be the last chance for your child to attend a camp at Primary School and it would be a shame if they missed out. Payment plans are available – please see Marcela in the office.

ONLINE CONCERNS

As we start back in term 2 we have received a number of complaints by parents about online behaviour of students during the holidays. This news is really disappointing. Online bullying and nasty/inappropriate comments do not show our value of respect for ourselves or others.

The view of the school is that online behaviour is the same as if the behaviour was conducted here at school as often the online discussions and emotional damage flows into the school day. Consequences will apply here at school for students who are not demonstrating respect online and we ask all parents to be vigilant of what their children are doing at home.

TUTOR PROGRAM

This term students in years 1-2 and 5-6 will be further supported in their literacy skills through the tutor program. Ms Rattigan will continue to oversee the program and will be supported by Mrs Ballard, Mrs Aziz and Miss Baxter. Student letters will be sent home once names are confirmed. It is important that students are in full attendance at school to benefit most from the program.

AFTER SCHOOL READING PROGRAM

This term we will also start our reading support program to be held on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3:30pm to 4:00pm. Letters have been sent home to selected students. The program runs for four weeks and all students need to be at school each day in order to attend.

Mrs Ballard and Mrs Shields will be working with students to further develop reading skills to support independent ability.

The school looks forward to great work this term.

Ross Carlson
Principal