

SCHOOL UPDATE

12th March 2021

Dear parents/carers,

This week I attended the Principal Network meeting to reflect on the challenges that have faced all of our schools over the past 12 months. Our school has not been immune from issues facing our students, families and staff which has resulted in a lot of work needed across the network to support all areas of school management.

Moving forward there will be some significant changes occurring across all schools with the expectation that parents will become more involved in their child's classrooms and education as a whole. Numeracy will be a major focus across the primary sector to ensure they have the necessary skills and strategies to allow them to grow at Secondary College.

As the year progresses I will continue to update parents on the changes and how it affects our school. Please see below some pertinent reminders from this week.



ATTENDANCE

Student attendance continues to be a problem for many families. Today the data shows that a staggering 70 students (20% of the school population) have missed more than 10% of school this year. In order for students to achieve later in life they must attend school consistently and on time. I understand that at times our children are unwell and not able to attend, especially during these COVID times. Unfortunately many students in this group are not missing due to illness and it is disappointing. The students in our school are missing out on great learning opportunities due to parents choosing not to send them to school. We encourage parents to make contact with the classroom teacher if you are having difficulties so we can assist.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos have been booked for Tuesday 23 March. The school has been in regular contact with the photo company to follow up on parent information packs. These have inadvertently been lost by Australia Post. A new set of packs are being delivered by courier and will arrive on Monday.

The school will ensure packs are sent out the day they arrive at school.

We remind all families that the school uniform policy applies and all students will need to be in school uniform to have their photo taken. It would be appreciated if Grade 6 students wore their graduation shirt.

SCHOOL OH&S REVIEW

To continue the work with redeveloping the school for safety there will be an OH&S review conducted by an external agency. This will support us in identifying areas of concern and appropriate steps to put in place.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Interviews will be held on **Monday 29 March from 3:30pm – 7:30pm**. A parent information sheet will be emailed home to advise parents how to book an appointment online.

The school requires all students to attend the interview with a parent to enable the teacher to discuss important information, goals and any concern they have. These interviews are an important time to set goals for the student, home and school to create a clear pathway of learning and it is important parents attend.

If there are no available time slots we ask parents to make an alternate time with the class teacher.

CROSS COUNTRY TRY OUTS

Next **Thursday 18 March** the students in Grades 3-6 will be completing their cross country try outs. Mr Pearce is arranging the course with the classroom teachers and more information will come closer to the time.

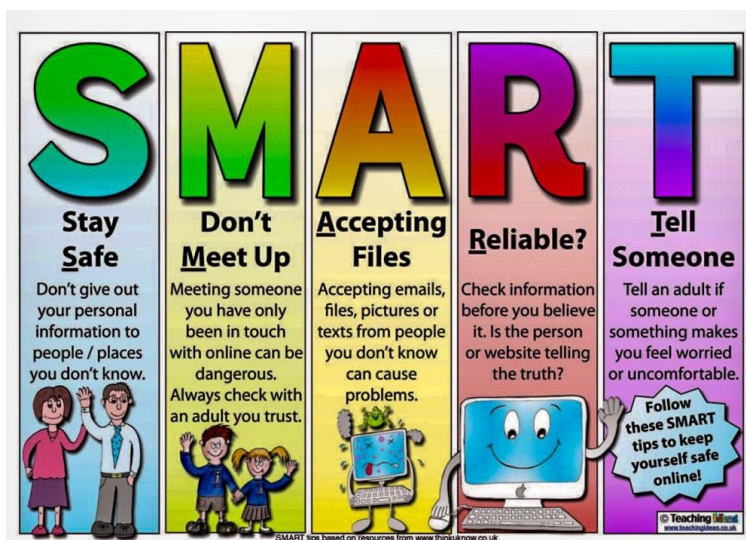
JUNIOR SPORTS DAY

The junior sports day for all students in Prep – Grade 2 will be held on **Friday 26 March**. Students will participate in a number of different sports sessions on the oval and we would love to see the parents attend to support them. Parents and family members will be permitted to attend the oval and support all students. We ask that if you are unwell you do not attend. Photos of your child are permitted to be taken and encouraged but for privacy issues please do not take photos of other students. A flyer with further information will be emailed out via the office.

ONLINE SAFETY

Students behaviour online has caused a great deal of stress for students, families and staff. Parents are encouraged to find out more information at <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents> in order to best support children online.

Online safety is still a major concern for the school and students/families need to be aware the school can respond with consequences for students who choose to be inappropriate online. In some instances the school will be referring the incident to the police for further investigation.



We encourage parents to actively talk with their children about safe interactions online and ensure they are able to come and talk to you when they have concerns. Parents are welcome to talk with us if you need support.

STUDENTS LEAVING SCHOOL

Recently it has come to our attention that students are leaving school after being dropped off in the mornings or not making it to school on time after leaving home with plenty of time. Some students have been located in the park next to the oval and unfortunately their behaviour is not positive.

Students and families are reminded that according to DET policy students are required to attend school on time and follow all school rules even on their way to and from school. Parents will be contacted as needed to discuss these concerns. Students who attend breakfast club must not leave school afterwards.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN assessments are fast approaching for our Grade 3 and 5 students. This testing will be conducted mostly online over a few days here at school.

Parents have contacted the school regarding these tests and some general information is listed below

What is NAPLAN?

NAPLAN is an annual assessment for students in year 3, 5, 7 and 9. The tests cover skills in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy. The assessments are undertaken every year in the second full week in May.

Will you help my child complete the test?

In short, no. The school cannot assist students unless there are very strict conditions and these need to be approved prior to the test day.

Students are expected to complete the assessments independently without any assistance. The tests are conducted according to a strict time frame which must be adhered to.

How do I prepare?

The school will support your child by providing some guidance towards completing the NAPLAN assessments. Whilst the tests are challenging and difficult to complete they are designed to test students' knowledge of the areas listed above and independent work is required.

To best prepare your child at home we encourage reading, writing and general number tasks that involve students reading the question and being able to justify their reasoning and answers.

Does my child have to participate?

No. Parents have the choice as to whether or not their child will participate. Regardless of what you may have heard, NAPLAN does not bear weight towards their secondary college placement or success here at school.

Parents should discuss the testing with their child and advise the school if you are choosing to withdraw your child. Some students will be exempt from NAPLAN. Teachers will contact these families to advise them.

If you are unsure I encourage you to speak with the class teacher who can provide some guidance.

When will I get results?

Student results normally arrive in late August of each year and are sent home with the student for parents to review. The school does not complete any marking of the tests ourselves.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast club runs each day from 8:15am to 8:45am. Students are encouraged to attend if they need any breakfast and they will then be supervised in the gym prior to 8:45am when teachers begin yard duty. We remind all students that they need to be following school rules and demonstrating respect at all times.

CURRICULUM DAYS

The school has applied to School Council to approve two dates for curriculum days in term 2. These days will allow staff an opportunity for professional development to occur. The first date will be focused on rewriting our school wellbeing and behaviour responses and how to best support students who have suffered trauma. The second day will focus on respectful relationships and the DET initiative all schools need to implement. Once school council reviews these dates we will inform parents so they can make arrangements.

Have a great weekend,

Ross Carlson
Principal