



PARKDALE
PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER

Focus

July 31st 2020

Remote Learning Version 2.0

During these unprecedented times we found ourselves in a challenging situation with a school closure. We understand that this was a concerning time and sincerely thank the community for your support and understanding. Having never navigated this situation it was a learning curve for all of us. Below is an outline of what occurs and the protocols schools need to follow.

As we experienced when a school is closed, this is generally on short notice, no one is allowed onsite for any reason, including all staff, students and OSHC.

COMPASS notifications and an SMS will be immediately sent out to ALL families. The timing of these might be less than ideal and in many cases this occurs late in the evening. The alerts are necessary to help keep our community informed and safe. It is vital parents monitor and read COMPASS alerts. In our situation this system was very successful.

Families of students registered for On-Site Supervision and care would need to make alternative arrangements for their child as no one is allowed onsite.

Camp Australia would not be operating and their communications team are notified and they also notify parents of children registered for the program.

Identified and reported cases of COVID-19 are lodged with the DET Emergency Management Team and DHHS staff and a Case Manager is allocated to each school. Once we have been contacted by our Case Manager, we will follow designated communication protocols and forward all necessary information to you as soon as possible.

Please understand we are bound by processes and protocols set by the DHHS and DET in this process and as such are only authorised to communicate authorised information.

Most schools will be closed for 72 hours, however it can take longer depending on how long it takes to complete the contact tracing.

Remote Learning operates and continues for the period of time the school is closed.

In an effort to keep our school and our community free of this virus we continue to practise appropriate social distancing and hygiene measures.

What has been happening in each year level?

The WebEx meetings have been highly successful. Children have been able to contact via the daily check in, literacy and maths groups and a range of other virtual meetings. It has been fantastic to see the vast majority of students participate in these and also see the new addition to families – namely the furry kind.

Together We Achieve

Mrs Richards's Story Reading Time for F-2 students has been well attended and the children have thoroughly enjoyed these sessions. Luckily Mrs Richards was a Foundation teacher for a long time so she has plenty of books to select from.

The Foundation students enjoyed Alphabet Day where they celebrated learning all of the letters of the alphabet. They had a special dress up WebEx where they came as their favourite Letterland character or something beginning with their favourite letter. Students spent the day completing a range of fun Alphabet activities!

The Grade 1 teachers have loved using WebEx to see the entire grade each morning. We have enjoyed how engaged, patient and enthusiastic the students have been during these sessions and it's been a great opportunity to continue building online connections. The Grade 1's are looking forward to their Inquiry topic and seeing all the wonderful Minibeasts the students can find.

The Grade 2's have written some fantastic responses to picture story books this week. Many students also had a go at developing their typing skills to publish their work. I know the Grade 2 teachers were very impressed with how reflective their students were with their last 'Wellbeing' activity. Students managed to express themselves so well when describing their strategies for 'bouncing back' during difficult times. The Grade 2 teachers look forward to seeing the children's responses to our 'Super 6 Values at Home' task.

This week the Grade 3 students have focused on multiplication for numeracy. Students were challenged to find a variety of an array examples from around the house and solved equations using some new strategies. Students have linked their writing to their Inquiry topic and learnt about how the Indigenous Australian's lived before settlement. They have also looked at the meaning of significant Australian symbols and shared symbols that represent our own identity. The first few weeks of Term 3 the students will share their thoughts and feelings by responding to a range of text types. The Grade 3 teachers cannot wait to hear what our students have to say!

The Grade 4 students have done an amazing job drafting, editing and publishing Haiku, Double Acrostic and 5 Senses poems. In Maths, students have been learning about measurement and have enjoyed displaying their work using Seesaw in unique ways. In the coming weeks, students will delve further into their Inquiry unit 'Our Island Home' and will explore a range of Geography concepts through comprehension tasks and explanation writing.

The Grade 5 and 6 students are becoming entrenched in persuasive writing and further developing their understanding of the DAFOREST persuasive techniques. They have begun looking at significant events that have shaped Australia's history, in particular 'The Gold Rush'. The Grade 5/6 teachers have been super impressed with the student's consistency and learning during their Maths WebEx conferences. Grade 6 students will begin their trip down memory lane as they begin writing their Foundation piece for their memory books.

The Specialists have enjoyed seeing the great enthusiasm students have shown when completing their activities and have especially enjoyed the amount of posts they've seen where everyone in the family was involved. They have loved seeing all the siblings help each other with their work too. They look forward to our 'Wellness Day' that is coming up on Friday 14th August where they have been planning some super fun 'ocean themed' activities for the whole school! Stay tuned for further details next week.

The PPS staff continue to work hard at providing a comprehensive Remote Learning program as well as planning some different events and activities. The teaching staff want to thank all students and parents for your continued support this Term. The teachers are so proud of their cohorts effort and attitude and they look forward to seeing what the students produce in the coming weeks.

Keep up the great work everyone.

Leanne Bradney
Principal