



SUPPORT EACH OTHER



TRY YOUR BEST



ACT SAFELY



RESPECT

**Newsletter No.26
August 13th 2020**

2020 Dates to Remember

- ⇒
- ⇒ **Monday 16th November**
School photos

Restrictions on Parents/carers being permitted to come onto school grounds are still in place, and you are still requested to observe social distancing whilst waiting for your children out the front.

HEADLICE

Please check your child's hair as we have those little critters back in the school.



We are an
eSmart
School



We are moving forward with Production for 2020 and are thinking positively and crossing everything that we will be able to go ahead in term 4. Please have a look at the production page on the Remote Learning page to see the rehearsal schedule for our zoom rehearsals for those students with speaking parts. It has been lovely to catch up with students this week and see all of their hard work. The songs and lyrics have been uploaded and I am trying to get the dances up in the next week.

Rachel Olson

Learning Specialist

Grade 1 & 2 Teacher

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are nearly at the end of our first real week of Remote and Flexible Learning. We were hoping that this was all behind us towards the end of Term Two, but realise it's the right thing to do to 'flatten the curve' of this terrible virus.

I was really proud of the staff for swinging back into online learning mode so quickly and efficiently. We do have some students attending school for their learning, because their parents are both working and cannot be at home to supervise their children, but they are completing the same online tasks as everyone else.

REMOTE AND FLEXIBLE LEARNING

I just wanted to outline the online learning procedures again, to ensure everyone is on the same page.

- On Thursday afternoons workpacks are to be delivered back to school for correction. For students on the bus run, please leave the completed workpack out at your letterbox by 2:00 pm. Then on Mondays, the new workpack can be picked up from out the front of the school from 8:45 am, with those students on the bus run, having theirs delivered to their letterbox by 9:00 am.
- All students are to connect to their teacher's Zoom meeting on Tuesdays and Fridays. This is important, as it gives all students the chance to see their teacher and one another. It's also our way of checking online attendance (along with completed workpacks) so that the roll can be marked.
- Parents, it is your role to supervise your child's remote learning. I understand that the younger students will require greater assistance than the older ones will, but we ask you do your best, without stressing about it. Try to have them in a routine of being ready to start work at the same time each morning, with regular breaks for a snack and a free play. If your child is not engaging, give them some time out to have a play outside, before getting them to join in again. If you're having problems don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or me, to help you out.

PRINCIPALS' FORUM

On Wednesday morning I attended a 'virtual' Principals' Forum, where a number of issues around remote learning and student, staff and parent well-being were discussed. We listened to speakers from around the country (and even one from Montreal).

One of those speakers was **David Howes** (the Deputy Secretary of Education) who made a very pertinent comment. He said some parents and teachers were concerned that the students weren't making much progress during remote learning. But he felt most students were making great progress in their learning. ***They were learning to be independent and resilient and learning how to use technology in different ways, but most importantly, they were developing skills in managing their own learning.***

Following this address, we listened to **Michael Carr-Gregg** (a highly respected child psychologist). He said that sleep (7-8 hours each night) was vital for the health and well-being of students, as well as the parents.

He also said that we should focus on what we can control in this difficult time. Focusing on things that are out of our control only creates negative thoughts and adds to feelings of anxiety and stress. Think about your family and doing the right thing for them, because you do have control over that.

If you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to call me at school.

Regards,

Geoff Weppner.