

Part of the Plympton Learning Community

Life Long Learning

NEWSLETTER #2

Term 2 2020



From the Principal

Dear Families,

It is wonderful to have the confidence of our school community with 98% of our students back. Students and staff are enjoying the ‘normality’ of being back and whilst we are still unable to go swimming and enjoy all the activities we did off site, staff have creatively found ways to provide alternative fun and engaging learning opportunities. The ‘home schooling’ day at school was a huge success where lots of staff and students dressed in pyjamas. Last week the Middle Years and Senior Years sub schools ran a Maths week theme which culminated in a dress up day on Friday. I think the dress up prize goes to Zac in S2 for his Nutty professor / Einstein dress up, closely followed by SSOs Rachael, dressed as a rubrics cube, Taylor as a dice and Gosia with her homemade hat of numbers. The week was filled with STEM experiments, problem solving activities and Brad is still counting the number of freckles on his donuts. Thankyou to our SSO, Olivia and Lobethal bakery for reinforcing the concept of a circle. Photos and further information on both events in this newsletter.

Errington has shown how learning can be fun and this continued on our PFD. A crazy hair / hat day started the day with a little fun.



Special Dates of Interest

8th June	Public Holiday
3rd July	Last day of Term 2 Finish at 2pm.
20th July	School Returns

During our PFD SSOs engaged in training on AAC / communication, which is one of our school priorities. The focus was on how we can differentiate activities to suit the characteristics and communication methods of different students. This training was facilitated by our teacher Kaitlyn Hawking and AAC focus SSO Zoe O’Mahoney. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Well done to Kaitlyn, Zoe and the SSOs who participated with much enthusiasm. Teacher’s reviewed and further developed curriculum scope and sequences. These will enable a coordinated approach to teaching and learning of a balanced curriculum.

COVID 19 related

Swimming is still on hold as only one person per lane is allowed. Student excursions are able to commence where venues are open and in areas we are able to adhere to the social distancing from other groups. When excursions do recommence, staff will adhere to the increased hygiene practices to ensure safety for all. Kindergym remains closed. As it has done globally, COVID 19 has absorbed all our waking and working hours. The incredibly low cases of COVID 19 in SA has meant our staff and families have had increased confidence returning back to school.

Listening to my interstate peers, our Department for Education (DfE) has in my opinion done remarkably well to support schools and school leaders in managing this crisis. Some actions from DfE have been:

- Increase cleaning with an extra 10 hours per day for special schools. This allows for day time cleaning as well as after school.
- Increase cleaning in transport
- Regular communication
- 4 PFD in last week of term 1, this was a welcome relief as it provided breathing space for schools to prepare for remote learning.
- Increasing PPE, central office personal checking in on schools.
- Electronic thermometers delivered to schools, special schools given a priority.

At a school level we have adhered to all the recommendations from the DfE, who is in direct consultation with SA Health. Further to previous updates we have:

- Begun to reinstate some therapist and visitors consulting with staff on site for our vulnerable and ‘at risk’ students
- Regular connection with all students learning from home
- All visitors complete a site entry form
- Parent face to face meetings reinstated however in the meeting room only. DfE have not lifted the recommendation of parents not being in the school area.

Community connections

Last term we had donations of Easter eggs from Coles and Rotary, West Torrens. Easter Bunny was well received by all the students, some did comment that this year's bunny had a funny Manchester accent. We had so many left over eggs, our Easter bunny donated them to the staff of Murray Mudge, Uniting Communities, a nursing home that our Choir often performs at. The senior manager sent us a letter of thanks.

Our relationship with Kickstart and Ian Steel has progressed. We now have 2 drop off days of goods, Monday and Friday, our families are now getting more grocery / products than ever. To thank Kickstart for we recently had a whole staff collection of children's socks and underwear, these we handed over to Ian Steel at Kickstart for kids last week. He really appreciated us giving back and many staff have asked if we can do this again, throughout the year.

The catch cry 'We are all in this together' was a living and breathing reality. There has not been a time that I have been prouder to be a public servant, to be in public education, to be a South Australian and to be part of the extraordinary resilient and compassionate staff of Errington

We congratulate our 3 Flinders University pre service teachers on their successful placement this term. Craig Lancaster (M2), Nicole Dibell (J2) and Kirsty Evans (M3) are completing their final weeks. The staff in their classes have had nothing but positive comments about them, the students have enjoyed their lessons. We thank them for all their energy, contributions and wish them well in gaining employment next year.



Niki Takos
Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Niki Takos', written over a light grey background.

From the Coordinator

SACE Term 2

Congratulations to our students that have been working towards the completion of learning outcomes and the production of evidence associated with their enrolments in the SACE modified certificate. Our year 12's have benefited from a life skills and transition focus that helps prepare them for their transition into post school option pathways.

I have been impressed by the resilience of our students to effectively continue to engage with their Learning Aims and SMARTAR goals associated with their subjects which has been enabled by the delivery skill, subject knowledge and ability of our staff to creatively and flexibly create cross curriculum learning opportunities and teachable moments throughout COVID 19. Our students have been consistently offered equitable and inclusive access and engagement, ensuring quality education and continuity in their learning journeys.

Thank you to all our families, guardians and carer's who are an integral part of ensuring the continued education of the students by sharing the task of educating our students. What a magnificent and dedicated learning community!

Transition Term 2

The question we all work towards finding interesting and enjoyable solutions to is... 'What does a week in the life of this young person look like?'

As we all know transition happens for all of our young people (and ourselves) all of the time, from moment to moment, place to place and one state of being to another. What a busy and exciting time for our students and families. Despite COVID 19, the process of preparing our students for their various transitions has continued with courage and integrity on the part of all concerned.

Our final year students and their families, guardians and carer's have been working hard with their teachers and providers to prepare them for their post school option pathways.

The transition teams (Students, Families, Teachers and SSO's, Service Providers, Support Coordinators and Therapists) for our Year 12 students have continued to meet online and now face to face, and share vital information. This has ensured the continuity and quality of the selection process of post school option pathways.

Post School option pathways range from Education, SLES, Micro enterprise, Supported Employment, Day Options – both individualized and group programs, Local Community Programs, Respite, Supported Living and ongoing Health and Wellbeing Appointments.... To name a few.

We have been supporting a number of families, across the school, to ensure that they have and are using their NDIS plans. Whatever point your young person/people are at in their school journey, please contact me if you wish to check in about the use and access to their NDIS plans.

Having met with all of our year 12 'transition teams', I invite all year 11 'transition teams' to take the opportunity to meet to discuss choices around post school options. Year 10 'transition teams' are also being contacted to ensure that they are on track and aware of what choices and options await them in the coming years.

Coordinator

Alistair Hodge

Art News



To celebrate Reconciliation Week art students created this piece of work. It was painted using sticks on paper bark cut into gum leaf shapes. The yellow leaves represent the sun, the green leaves represent flora and the blue leaves represent water. They have been placed on a back drop representing the Earth. The circular pattern represents unity between people.

Harmony week in Junior Classes

This year the Junior School students celebrated Harmony Day on Wednesday the 29th of March.

As in every year Harmony Day in our school is all about inclusiveness, respect and sense of belonging for everyone regardless of our cultural backgrounds.

We started Harmony Day with parachute games in the yard making sure that all students were working together as a team holding onto the handles, tossing the balloons up and down by moving the parachute in different ways. It was a fun gross motor activity!

In the classes the students participated in various activities to explore the concept of Harmony Day. They made and wore orange hats. Some of our students did a tremendous job by cooking orange pancakes for morning tea to all of their younger peers. The children worked together to create some Harmony Day art by printing their hands in orange colour around the image of Errington School. This art was displayed on the Junior school yard fence to remind us that we all belong. We also studied each other's hands and talked about the different sizes and colours of our hands. We came together to recognise that we are all different in some ways, but we are all equal and we all belong in our school community.

From Junior School Team



Primary School News

We have been very busy in the primary school settling into our classes and getting to know new friends. Learning to have a go, to try new things and to try again if at first you don't succeed is helping the students to develop resilience throughout the curriculum. Every day we practice our school values of being safe, responsible, respectful and resilient.

The Arts is an area where students can experiment, try new things and develop confidence in safe and fun learning environments. Visual Art is one of our favorite lessons across the sub-school and we have been using our creative skills and imaginations to make some stunning art works to brighten up our classrooms and corridors. Bright colours and lots of mixing and experimentation have been the order of the day. Sometimes creating can be a bit messy but we are all learning to tolerate different sensory experiences and materials. Part of the program includes looking after school equipment and managing our belongings so we are all learning to pack away and clean up when we have finished. Washing paint brushes can be fun too! All three classes have made birds to decorate the classrooms to fit in with our Australian bird class names. P1 created feathery kingfishers, P2 made elegant jabirus and P3 constructed cute kookaburras. Some other interesting paint effects and masterpieces have been created using marbles, salad spinners, squeegees, painting on bark and drizzling paint on terracotta pots. We hope you enjoy and notice some of our colourful art around the sub-school.

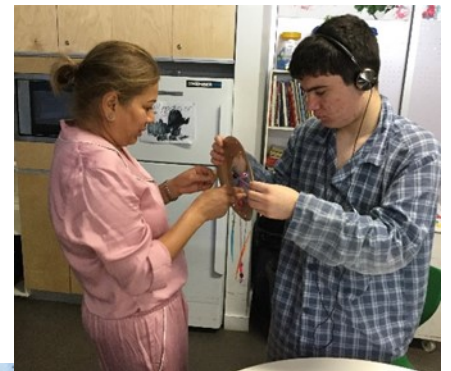
Nuala, Ruth, Jinder, Breanna & Tricia.



Middle and Senior School News

Pyjama Day

The Middle Years students enjoyed being able to join in with the fun of pyjama day. Some of us found wearing our pyjamas to school fun, others liked the home themed learning activities and many of us found the pizza, pancakes and popcorn delicious! It was very funny to see our educators wearing their pyjamas at school too.



Maths Week

In week 5, the Middle and Senior School students celebrated Maths with learning activities linked to the Australian Curriculum Mathematics Strands. Students enjoyed the opportunity to develop their learning in these fun and creative ways.

For colour, classes read *The Mixed-Up Chameleon* by Eric Carle and made different chameleons from a cut out around the school. Pattern and shape, we looked at shapes in nature, and used them in variety of different craft activities. Number, we celebrated PI by having pies and sausage rolls for lunch and listening to 'It's a long way to the shops, if you want a sausage roll'. Measurement was Whacky Races Day with prizes for who could do the best Haka. Who would've thought that statistics and probability could be linked to donuts? Well, at Errington we can make anything possible, even finding the most outlandish ways for a numeracy themed dress up!



Communication is the foundation of all learning and we are committed to providing communication opportunities and supports for students to experience success. Throughout the school day, students are given the opportunity to practice and be exposed to a range of communicative functions including refusing, requesting, making choices, requesting and directing attention, greetings and polite social forms, answering and asking questions as well as naming and commenting.

PE/Health/Fundraising News

Personal hygiene/health continues to be a focus with all students, not just in PE/Health lessons but also throughout the week in all classes. Thank you to all families who are reinforcing this at home. This semester we have had a whole school focus on washing hands and will continue to do so. Dental health and tooth brushing is an ongoing focus in all PE/Health lessons.

Healthy eating continues to be a focus and has been made possible through generous donations for a number of years now, from Voula Maragkos (Mia's mother) in S2 class. Voula owns Findon Fresh Fruit Barn and donates a large box of fruit every week, so that all classes have access to a healthy snack.

Ian Steel and Kickstartforkids have also been a major contributing factor in ensuring families get support in terms of breakfast products, if needed and there is also food in the school for students to access.

We are very grateful to Ian and his fantastic volunteers and for the extra produce he has been donating to school in this difficult time.

This term, staff had a collection of "Socks and Jocks" which Ian from Kickstartforkids then donates to students across the state, who are in need of these items. Many staff bought and donated items of underwear and in the coming semester we intend to repeat this appeal and offer the opportunity for our families to donate.



School News

Last Monday Richard Bekker (parent of Emily and William) donated an adapted bike for our students to enjoy at recess and lunchtimes. Richard is a strong supporter of our school and each year donates funds through his Pedal Prix fundraising. Thanks Richard and the Pedal Prix team.



Pictured here are Richard Bekker (Pedal Prix), Peter Wilson (chairperson school council), Beau, Lucas, Ben and Joel, 4 of our fantastic Senior students, who have been testing our newly donated bike.



Children with Special Needs

The Paediatric Dentist is a Specialist Children's Dental Practice. There are three specialist paediatric dentists on staff, Dr Sue, Dr Ninna and Dr Gabrielle. As well, our dental assistants who all are very experienced in helping the dentist when your child comes to visit us.

We know that caring for a child with autism or a physically/intellectually disabled child is hard work. Cleaning their teeth can be a nightmare! We can give you some tips and hints to make things easier for you.

Our surgeries are wheelchair/pusher friendly and there is plenty of space.

Extra time is allowed for your child's appointment so there is no rush and things are kept smooth and calm.

Often more frequent appointments are recommended so he/she can get used to the new environment and the new routine of coming to the dentist.

We encourage you to bring along any toys or devices that provide comfort for your daughter/son.

We will be adding a tour of the practice on the website so that your child can become familiar with the practice before their visit. Unfortunately, that isn't available yet but will be soon.

Please call us on 83771513 and talk to one of the staff about making an appointment or email/call me, Dr Sue, on hello @tpdentist.com.au/0414744031

Location: Unit 2,13-15 Finnis Street Marion SA 5043.

www.thepaediatricdentist.com.au

We look forward to seeing you soon