



Mount Warrigal Public School

Kindness - Safety - Respect - Fairness

A quality school developing the individual in a caring community

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Jodi Niedermayer
Principal

NEWSLETTER
18 November 2020
Term 4 Week 6 2020

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Community,

NAIDOC CELEBRATIONS

Last week, our school celebrated NAIDOC, a day where we recognise our rich Aboriginal history and culture. This year's theme, *Always Was, Always Will Be*, recognises that First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years. Thank you to Mr Mark Mongta for the smoking ceremony and fun cultural activities he led. The students always love the energy, humour and learning that Mark brings. Thanks to Vicki, Miss Alwert, Miss Tennille and the whole Aboriginal Education committee for their organisation. Thank you also to our P&C canteen volunteers for providing lunch to our students.

ASSEMBLY

Congratulations to Mrs Warne, Mrs McKay and the students in 5/6W for sharing 'A day in the life of 5/6W'. Seeing their love of learning together and all the fun they get up to while learning was a great insight into their classroom. This week we were lucky enough to also have the lovely students K/1 A and Miss Alwert share their learning video about Australian animals. This learning is supported by our Speech pathologist, Miss Jess and Mrs Pomery. Our school is lucky to have this additional support and it is certainly paying off in their learning. If you were unable to join our assembly, check out their videos on our school Facebook page.

Our next assembly will take place on Monday 30 November at 2.05pm via Zoom. This assembly will be dedicated to presenting the final Gold Badge awards for the year and will be our final 'regular' assembly for the year. We hope you can join us.

SAFETY MESSAGES

Thank you to all the parents who are effectively using the Kiss and Go zone by moving to the front of this space to drop off and collect their children and also not parking in this area for more than a couple of minutes.

A few important messages include:

- The laneway, that is entered from Hogarth Ave and runs behind the shops, is deceptively busy. We ask that parents are aware of the risks of crossing all roads, with particular focus on this laneway, and to be vigilant in supervising children while crossing all roads. If your children walk home independently, please speak with your children and remind them of these safety precautions.
- Our school is within a school zone (40km/h speed limit) and ask that everyone demonstrate extra diligence in following all road and parking rules. Our street can become quite busy and congested, making vision difficult.
- Several reports of dangerous driving when performing U-turns in the vicinity of the school (near Davies Street). It is encouraged that parents understand the road rules regarding U-turns and avoid this where possible. Instead, parents are encouraged to do a loop around the block or Davies Cres.
- Stopping on or near a crossing is unsafe for your children, as well as others attempting to cross. This includes the area directly before and after the crossing, which is sign posted 'No Stopping'. Your children who exit your car could potentially step into oncoming traffic and your vehicle can obstruct the view of other cars, again putting children at risk.
- Parking on the grass area on the corner of Jones Ave and Hogarth Ave (near the shops) is dangerous and illegal. Please park in designated parking areas. There is additional parking at the back of our school, with students able to exit the back gate onto Roycroft Ave.

Please follow all road rules and demonstrate caution. The safety of our children and community members is of the highest importance.

2020 KINDERGARTEN

Our final Kindergarten orientation session was today. However, if you have not enrolled your child, it's not too late! We are still accepting enrolments for students starting Kindergarten in 2021 and can offer your child an alternate orientation to our school. Please contact the school office ASAP.

PRESCHOOL ENROLMENTS

If you know of any children who will be starting school in 2022, please share the message that our preschool is not yet full for next year. Preschool enrolment forms can be downloaded using the link below, or by phoning the office so we can send you a copy. Our preschool is not only open to our local area but also surrounding areas. It is a high quality preschool setting, rated as 'Exceeding' National Quality Standards. The preschool is specifically for children to attend the year prior to Kindergarten.

STAFFING CHANGES

Mrs Kyriazis is required to take some leave, beginning on Tuesday 24 November. For the remainder of the year Miss Waples will take the 1/2K and has spent some time getting to know the students and liaising with Mrs Kyriazis. Ms Houston will also continue on leave for the remainder of this year. The students in 3-6H have had Mr Spicknall consistently teaching them and supporting them in their learning programs. Mr Spicknall will continue on the class while he can. We wish Ms Houston and Mrs Kyriazis well.

P&C MEETING

Our next P&C meeting will take place today, Wednesday 18 November from 4pm. The Zoom link will be shared on the Skoolbag app and Class Dojo. All regular and new parents and carers are more than welcome to attend.

The following P&C meeting on Wednesday 2 December will be our Annual General Meeting (AGM), where all Executive positions will be elected – President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. If you require any information about what these roles entail, information can be found on the P&C Federation website

<https://www.pandc.org.au/faqs/>

To be eligible to vote, you must be a financial member by paying a membership fee of 50c. This money can be sent to the office or canteen labelled with your name.

NEWSLETTERS AND COMMUNICATION

Don't forget, if you would like a paper copy of the newsletter, we are more than happy to send this home with your child. If so, please contact the school to have your name added to the distribution list.

2020 PRESENTATION ASSEMBLY

Our end of year presentation assembly will be held on Thursday 10th December. You are warmly invited to participate this end of year celebration assembly, however for most parents and carers this will be via Zoom. More details will be provided in the coming weeks.

TOILET UPGRADE

Last year our primary toilets, located under the big cola, were completely refurbished. This was an exciting and welcomed upgrade for our students. As you would be aware, this came at a significant cost supported by The Department of Education.

It is disappointing to report that, over the last few weeks, these toilets have been repeatedly and seriously misused and vandalised with toilet paper and water. This is impacting on other students, as well as our cleaners who work hard to keep this space clean. I ask that parents speak with their children personally and remind them of their responsibility in using these shared facilities safely and respectfully. Your support would be appreciated as monitoring this private space is challenging.

SOCIAL MEDIA

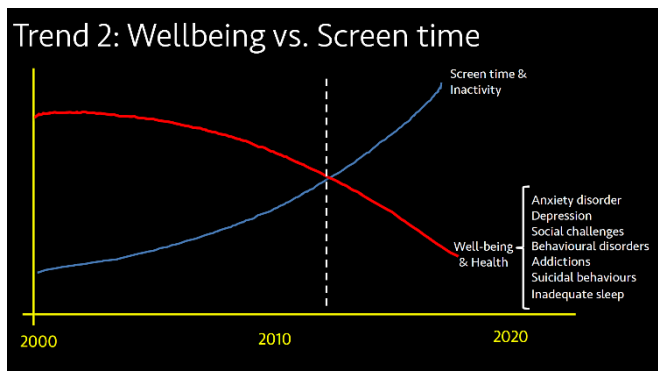
We understand that many Mount Warrigal students have an active social media account, such as Instagram, TikTok and Snapchat. The required age for children to hold an Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok account is 13. This age restriction is reflective of the developmental appropriateness for children. As we know, children are still learning to

interact, socialise and deal conflict in an appropriate and mature way face to face. Students who are developing social skills, can misuse online platforms and can display poor social skills and sometimes bullying behaviour.

Social media also poses an increased risk of being exposed to inappropriate or upsetting content (e.g. mean, aggressive, violent or sexual comments or images), sharing personal information with strangers (e.g. phone numbers, date of birth or location) and cyberbullying.

I recently had the privilege of listening to Pasi Sahlberg, an educational leader and Professor of Education Policy and research director at the Gonski Institute (University of New South Wales). Although it's clear there can be great benefits to social media and technology use, through his research there is a clear correlation between this increased screen time and a decline in wellbeing (see image).

Protecting children on social media can present many challenges for parents and can sometimes cause conflict, especially when your child believes they are the only person 'in the world' not on social media. Let me assure you, this is not the case, however we understand that peer pressure plays a significant role.



If you choose to allow your child to join social media or use any online applications, you will also want to protect their safety as well as help support and teach them by communicating some clear boundaries. These may include:

- Content — Images and videos that children are allowed or not allowed to see (e.g. prohibiting adult images or videos). Check your child's content restrictions on their device.
- Time — Windows of time when kids are allowed to use their devices (e.g. all devices away by 7pm), and limit of time online (e.g. 1 hour a day). You could even have a time of the evening when the internet/modem is turned off.
- Context — Places and situations where your children are not allowed to use devices (e.g. in the car, at family meals, before school).
- Supervision — Have children use devices in common spaces (e.g. in the kitchen, no devices in bedrooms) and monitor online activity (e.g. regularly review activity, know your child's passwords, etc.)
- Boundaries — Ensure your children know that use of devices is a privilege and not a right. They should know that if they choose not to follow the boundaries you have put in place, they may lose this privilege.

Unfortunately, due to social media use happening out of school hours and somewhat out of our control, it can be extremely challenging for the school to support. However, issues out of school often impact on children here at school. If your child is experiencing difficulty in this area, please speak with your child's classroom teacher, so we can support where possible. Our teachers teach ethical and appropriate use of ICT and we have had our Police Youth Liaison Officer present to our Stage 3 students about their responsibilities of online use and keeping safe. We will continue to support here at school.

LIBRARY BOOKS AND HOMEREADERS

We are coming to the end of the year and our school will be undertaking a library stock take. Students are required to return all books. Please have a good look at home for any lost books. If books cannot be found or have been damaged we ask that parents pay a fee of \$10 to contribute to the replacement of these books. Each book can be quite costly, often averaging between \$30-\$40, sometimes more. Each year our school needs to replace thousands of dollars' worth of books. By contributing \$10, you are not only helping to replace these books for other children to enjoy but also helping to teach our students to care for these resources. We thank you for your support.

2021 PLANNING

The time has come for our school to start considering class structures for 2021. This requires a clear understanding of the number of students anticipated. If you and your family will be relocating, or moving schools for 2021, please contact the office on 42 966 266 so it can be noted. It is crucial that we know this information, as it directly impacts

the number of classes we have and therefore the number of staff required. In addition, if you have any concerns about classes for 2021, please put these in writing and forward to myself. Class teachers can not be determined at this stage, due to the uncertainty of enrolments, however if your child experiences anxiety, we can put steps in place to support you and your child. Please speak with your child's current teacher.

Kind regards
Jodi Niedermayer
Principal

Dates for Your Calendar

18th November 2020	P&C Meeting 4pm via Zoom
30th November 2020	Whole School Assembly 2:05pm
2nd December 2020	P&C AGM Meeting
4th December 2020	Swimming Carnival
10th December 2020	Presentation Day / Year 6 Farewell
16th December 2020	Last Day of Term 4
29th January 2021	Students return to school

SCHOLASTIC

Book Club LOOP

for Parents

LOOP is the Scholastic Book Club
Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for parents.
To order and pay for Scholastic Book Club by credit card visit:
www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP

GET IT ON
Google play

Download on the
App Store

CANTEEN ORDERING AND UNIFORMS

Our canteen takes orders for lunch from 8.30am until 9.30am.

If you wish to purchase uniforms you can contact the school office before 11am.