



## WATTLE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well this week has certainly thrown another challenge at us as a school community! Thank you to the many emails of support from families for our staff member who has coronavirus. Fortunately, the staff member is asymptomatic and is doing well. Anyone who was considered a close contact has already been contacted by the Department of Health and Human Services. All of the close contacts have returned a negative result, so that has been reassuring.

At this stage in writing, I have yet to hear from the Department of Education and Training as to whether staff and students (who require onsite attendance) are able to return to school on Monday. So please keep up to date with school communications: our website, Compass emails and Konnective messages.

Teachers have made a number of additions to their remote learning programs this term. Year 3 students have their tasks presented on Google drive similar to Year 4, 5 and 6. Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 classes have compiled impressive learning packs as well as utilising their online learning hub.

During term 2 our Year 6 ambassadors and Well-being Leaders surveyed all of our students, Foundation to Year 6 for feedback regarding their learning tasks. Students overwhelmingly stated they missed contact with their friends. So today all classes should hear from their class representatives about students sharing a virtual lunchtime with their class. The school is taking a staged response concerning the introduction of interactive sessions with students.

FlipGrid has been a huge success for all classes with most students and teachers creating videos to share. Class teachers and specialist teachers have been calling students regularly, speaking with them each week to check on not only their learning but also most importantly their health and well-being.

However, we are hoping that the stage of promoting virtual lunchtimes will be a welcome addition. Following this small group WebEx meetings with class teachers will also be introduced shortly. Although the return to face-to-face teaching is scheduled for August 20th, it is still very uncertain times. Hopefully the introduction of masks across the State of Victoria, and with people being vigilant about social distancing, and the washing of hands will see a reduction of coronavirus case numbers.

Therefore, it is important to search for a positive each and every day to share with your children.

Aeisha Gray (mother of Sara Year 2) has shared photos of their family experiences with tending our lambs. What joy it is to watch them frolic with their children. A special thank you to the Blundell and Gray families who have been the 'first cabs off the rack' to take on the responsibility of the lambs over the weekend and unexpectedly for the Gray family the whole week! Many thanks to the Baird family whose turn it is this week.

Amazingly this week, Perseverance, a robotic-wheeled vehicle designed to look for signs of past life on Mars, lifted off from Cape Canaveral in Florida on Thursday. The third and final mission to the red planet.

I am quite sure I won't see people choosing to travel to Mars as a destination in my life time but who knows what awaits our current children. The technological advances we have made since the first moon landing is incredible!

The sunshine is glorious today. It is uplifting to see so many of our students being physically active through the day on their bikes, scooters and walking.

Keep in contact and I do appreciate all your comments and phone calls providing feedback and suggestions.

*Warm Regards Gayle*



Our lambs- quickly growing into sheep!