



Issue 10–23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2020

## PRINCIPAL REPORT

Hello everyone,

Welcome to our first newsletter for Term 2. Firstly, everyone needs to pause and give themselves a collective pat on the back – parents, students and teachers. What has been achieved in such a short time frame is significant and something we should all be proud of. Yes, there have been challenges and the reality is there will be more to come, but through a team approach I am confident we can overcome whatever remote learning throws at us!



In the first two weeks of the term we have all experienced a steep learning curve in something very new. In just days our children are becoming highly competent in the Office 365 environment. They are communicating in written chats and video meetings, accessing and creating files, learning through interactive websites and establishing routines in the home. Our teachers have learnt new ways to share content with their children such as utilising live polls and they are connecting in real time through personal, small group and whole class conferences. To stop and reflect on what is happening is quite surreal. If at the start of the year you'd suggested we would be operating the way we are it would have been hard to believe. For those students not accessing the learning online, they are completing the offline learning packs which were distributed at the end of last term. Teachers are endeavouring to regularly connect with each and every child in their class, no matter what mode of learning they are accessing.

Among our successes, we know there have been challenges. When you opt to use a platform such as Microsoft 365, you don't anticipate that the technology will encounter the problems that have arisen. We have managed to create connections directly to Microsoft Australia and we're in constant communication with them regarding the technical issues being experienced by many schools. While the Teams application is proving a wonderful cornerstone for our learning program, the Class Notebook section where we had planned for students to complete learning has been plagued with connectivity issues. The issue related to server capacity and the OneNote program. Microsoft have improved it significantly over the past few days and the worst appears to be behind us. The term 'unprecedented' is certainly getting a work out in everything you read these days, but in this case it fits the circumstance perfectly. The demand on cloud computing, particularly from education has never been at this level and ultimately, things have required upgrades to cope. These challenges call on us to be resilient and hold to a positive mindset. It is early days and our hard work and commitment to a fully featured platform will bring real positives throughout the remainder of the term.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following children a very Happy Birthday!

**16th April**  
Samantha 00S  
Angus 06S

**17th April**  
Paige 01F

**18th April**  
Tygue 02M

**20th April**  
Nevaeh 02S  
Taylor 03W

**21st April**  
Noah 03C

**24th April**  
Lujayn 00S  
Salah 00S  
Addie 02F

**27th April**  
Elayah 03M  
Chelsea 06M

**29th April**  
Elliot 00S



Technology hire has commenced this week with nearly 100 laptop / iPad devices being loaned across our community. We actually raised this suggestion with DET in Term 1 and I was very pleased to see it enacted as state policy. Our requests for internet support have been lodged and I am hopeful to be able to distribute dongles or SIM cards to those families soon.

In closing I want to acknowledge two specific groups in our community. Firstly, to our parents who have been a wonderful support to our school – thank you. Your efforts in creating a learning environment in the home and encouraging your child to continue their education while at a distance from WPS has been immense. We fully empathise with how hard it is to balance at home work with supporting a young child to learn – many of our staff are juggling the same challenge. With adversity comes opportunity and there is a real prospect for us to combine in partnership, not just now but into the future when addressing each students learning goals. Secondly, our amazing staff have been nothing short of sensational. I couldn't be prouder of the way they have embraced the challenges of the past month with optimism, enthusiasm and vigour. Behind the scenes our staff have been developing instructional videos, connecting over video chats and meeting outside scheduled times. Their commitment comes back to a strong moral purpose and vision. At Whittlesea Primary School the student is at the centre of everything we do. Everyone is learning and for some the curve is steeper than others, but with patience and respect we can come together to achieve great things.

Until next week,

Ty Hoggins  
Principal

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL REPORT

Hello everyone,

Welcome back to a very different Term 2. I have been so pleased to see so much great learning happening at home. Microsoft Teams is a hive of activity; classroom meetings with teachers and students, teachers using the chat and whiteboard functions to support student learning and students uploading their learning...we are all going to be technical gurus by the end of this term.



Our teachers are also working hard to connect with those families learning without technology, to ensure all of our families continue to feel connected. I have been dividing my time between school and home; on the days I am at school, I spend most of my time in Foundation, supporting students to complete their learning. On the other days, I am working from home and supporting my three girls with their learning. Despite the technical hiccups, you are all doing a great job to troubleshoot and help each other succeed. I have no doubt that by the end of this remote learning period we will all be resilient problem solvers, which I might add, is a great life skill to have.

On Monday this week we awarded our first Star of The Week for this term and we will continue to do this every Friday morning for the remainder of the term. It was lovely to join in on a few class meetings across the week and see so many students ready for learning.

On Saturday we will all commemorate Anzac Day by staying at home. It will be a very different Anzac Day to what we are normally used to. Some of you would normally attend the Dawn Service at the Shrine of Remembrance, others would join the Anzac Day march in the Whittlesea township, while others might be at home or at the MCG watching the Collingwood Vs. Essendon match. While traditional ANZAC Day services and events might be cancelled this year, there are still plenty of ways you can get involved and remember.

Here are some ideas:

- [Driveways at Dawn](#): The RSL have asked we remember our soldiers by standing for a minute of silence with a lit candle in our driveways at dawn 5:30am-6:00am, while [The Last Post](#) is played.
- [Make your own poppy](#): The poppy as a symbol of Remembrance Day began with the observations of brigade surgeon Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae as to how these graceful flowers grew wild upon the ground broken by battle.
- [Live stream the Dawn Service](#): View the live stream of the National Commemorative Service from the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.
- [Make Anzac Day Biscuits](#): Get the kids in the kitchen and cook up a batch of delicious biscuits
- [Veterans of Whittlesea](#): Upload a photograph of a veteran whose story is linked to or has special meaning to your family.

In closing for this week, thank you to all of our parents and carers for supporting your children through their first week of remote learning. We appreciate the time and effort you are putting into helping your children succeed and do their best while they are learning at home.

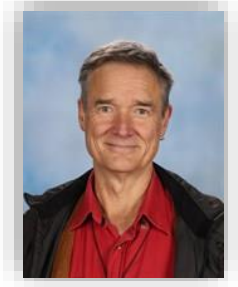
Best wishes for a wonderful weekend with your family. Lest We Forget.

Rae Gittos  
Assistant Principal



## Spanish Flu in Whittlesea (1919 poem)

I have deviated from my school history series to double back to 1919 to share two shortened excerpts from poems written by "Kookaburra", writing for the *Eltham and Whittlesea Shires Advertiser*, for both Fridays 21 and 28 February 1919. Kookaburra has been dubbed the Poet Laureate of the local area until retiring in 1931. His/her real name is not given.



### THE FLU

'Tis here, 'tis here, and most severe, at last it has got through;  
What young and old alike do fear, the dreaded Spanish flu.

It needed no great influence to reach Australia's shores;  
But with its foreign impudence, it came, and here it scores.

You must be inoculated, and although it is a task,  
Where a crowd is congregated, you're supposed to wear a mask.

Although doctors seem to differ, if they're really any good;  
Some do recommend our sniffer, oil distilled from native wood.

### THE TAIL OF "THE FLU."

Now I'll tell you in conclusion, and I'm sure 'twill cause surprise,  
That this "flu," by its intrusion, is a blessing in disguise.

It shows us that there really are things we can do without;  
As races and the drinking bar, and giddy ballroom rout.

We have been told that we must save for rainy days to come;  
So 'tis a chance that all should crave, who'll need a tidy sum.

So if 'tis sent by Providence to teach us better ways;  
Then let us act with common sense, and shun the picture plays.

Back to history next issue.

Peter Ackland - school chaplain

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



# Star of the Week



Foundation V Vitale	Awarded to: <b>Wade Soldini</b> For: being enthusiastic during the first week of remote learning. Well done Wade :)
Foundation S Scoberg	Awarded to: <b>Elliot Powell</b> For: his outstanding start to remote learning! Keep up the amazing learning Elliot!
Foundation C Capito	Awarded to: <b>Ryan Parsonage</b> For doing his personal best in completing all his learning tasks to an exceptional standard.
Year 1P Perry	Awarded to: <b>Chaise Donahoo</b> For: always being willing to contribute to our online class meetings and sharing his thoughts.
Year 1D De Luca	Awarded to: <b>Lillian Ford</b> For: for creating a detailed local community out of LEGO (for inquiry) and giving a thorough explanation about each facility and its purpose.
Year 1FD Fontana/Dunstone	Awarded to: <b>Ben Fitzgerald</b> For: his amazing learning at home during the first week of Term 2.
Year 2F Fawcett	Awarded to: <b>Kenzie Sutherland</b> For: helping her classmates succeed when asking questions during the classroom meetings this week. Great work Kenzie!
Year 2S McCormick	Awarded to: <b>Elysha Verbeeten</b> For: consistently striving to do your best and produce quality learning! Well done Elysha! Keep it up!
Year 2M Merritt	Awarded to: <b>Dash Heal</b> For: trying his hardest and completing all learning tasks for week 1.
Year 3CP Cook/Pearce	Awarded to: <b>William Hocking</b> For: A fantastic effort on Reading Eggs, spending more than 5 hours completing his lessons. Well Done!
Year 3M Mason	Awarded to: <b>Mason Burgess</b> For: for his outstanding commitment to learning and always trying his best to complete set tasks
Year 3W Wright	Awarded to: <b>Olivia Tomarchio</b> For: for helping others succeed when using Teams
Year 4P Powell	Awarded to: <b>Indigo Wright</b> For: becoming an independent learner by navigating Teams and doing her best to complete her set learning tasks.
Year 4O Overton	Awarded to: <b>William Sorensen</b> For demonstrating fantastic writing skills when creating a fantastic persuasive plan! Amazing Work Will!
Year 4M Mondon	Awarded to: <b>Ethan Barclay</b> For: displaying resilience when completing his online learning. Great effort Ethan!
Year 5P Panahinejad	Awarded to: <b>Koby Cox</b> For: His excellent participation during remote learning and asking questions to extend his knowledge.
Year 5L Leslie	Awarded to: <b>Hunter Stephenson</b> For Excelling whilst learning challenging new Maths concepts

Year 5RM Reid/McAlley	Awarded to: <b>Shane Patton</b> For: showing appropriate 'netiquette' during class meetings by using correct grammar and being polite
Year 6G Gorski	Awarded to: <b>Willem Morrison</b> For: Completing and attempting 6 tasks in his remote learning and never giving up  Awarded to: <b>Lachlan Burton</b> For: completing his remote learning and submitting extra tasks  Awarded to: <b>Kip Grogan</b> For: Completing and attempting 7 tasks in his remote learning and winning the Rebus Challenge
Year 6M Maxfield	Awarded to: <b>Ari Smyth</b> For: making a great start to his remote learning by completing all set tasks.
Year 6S Smith	Awarded to: <b>Kiera Day</b> For: for excellent time management when completing remote learning.

## CSEF

### CSEF

If your circumstances have recently changed, provided one of the below conditions are satisfied, you may be eligible to claim CSEF (camps, sports, excursion fund.)

The amount payable is \$125 for Primary school students. This amount is paid to your child/rens school account and can be used for camps, sports and excursions.

1. a parent/carer (of the relevant student) who is:
  - on the first day of term one or the first day of term two an eligible beneficiary of either a Centrelink Health Care Card or a Pensioner Concession Card; or
  - an eligible beneficiary of a Veterans Affairs Gold Card;
  
2. a temporary foster carer;

If you feel you are now eligible please contact the office to complete an application, the parent/carer must submit an application to the school prior to the end of term 2.

## BOOK CLUB

# SCHOLASTIC Book Club

**Doing things differently does not change our goal, that goal is more important than ever!**

**For the first time in the history of Scholastic— we will have a **Virtual Book Club for Term 2****

Every child will still have the opportunity to access their Book Club catalogue.

The same carefully selected, best-value books will still be available, so the enjoyment Book Club is known for will not change!

---

The easiest way to place an order is through LOOP. Books will still be delivered to the school and parents will be contacted when they are able to come and collect them.

**Copy the link below to view the catalogue**  
<https://scholastic.com.au/book-club/virtual-catalogue-1/>

## SCHOOL BANKING

### Message from Commonwealth Bank

The health, safety and wellbeing of our communities and our people remains our highest priority. Due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding coronavirus, the School Banking program will remain on hold. We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed with any updates including how we will be managing Dollarmite tokens for students.

In the meantime, here are some handy online resources for parents who wish to maintain momentum with their child's financial education:

- [Start Smart](#): these resources have been created to improve children's money management skills, and is aligned to the Australian Curriculum and the National Consumer Financial Literacy Framework.
- [The Beanstalk](#): offers videos and fun activities for children to learn about money.

