



Issue 21–23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2020

## PRINCIPAL TEAM REPORT

Hello everyone,

We've transitioned to remote learning once again and the students have made a great start to the term. Some of our new approaches for the term seem to be adding great value, particularly the use of 'Assignments'. Junior students are currently using this feature for specialist and inquiry programs, while our Year 3 to 6's are completing all learning this way. Assignments has greatly reduced some of the technical issues we were having. It is also making it clearer for students and their parents at home to access learning and the resources required. From our teacher's perspective it is making the task of reviewing learning and providing feedback much more efficient. Our teachers can see exactly what has and has not been submitted as complete and can provide specific feedback quickly and easily. We've been pleased to see almost all students either in Teams regularly for meetings or working on the alternate program which has been provided. As this period of remote learning may last for a series of weeks, it is important we stay focussed on progressing through the curriculum and improving our student's skills and knowledge.



Yesterday our teachers hosted their first 'Wonderful Wednesday' session at 2:20pm. The purpose for these fun meetings is to allow the children and teachers to remain connected and look out for each other's wellbeing. The students are working to a predictable schedule each day focused on the most important learning, so Wednesdays are a chance to run a quiz, read a story or play some type of game so we keep school fun. At times these sessions will be held as a class and at other times classes will combine as year levels.

This week our staff have adopted the wearing of face masks as mandated by law. The information from the Department of Education and Training has been clear that our staff require a mask at most times throughout the day. Times when they are not required include during direct instruction of children in a classroom as this was deemed impractical. Students are free to wear masks, but primary school students are exempt from the requirement to wear a mask during the day.

In other news, we're pleased to inform you that Block A, which currently houses two Year 6 classes and our Art room is currently undergoing a full plaster repair and repaint. This will revitalise these learning spaces, ready for the students return to onsite learning.

### OFFICE HOURS

Office opening hours  
8.30am – 4.00pm

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following children a very Happy Birthday!

**17<sup>th</sup> July**  
Jesse 02M  
Cameron 02S

**18<sup>th</sup> July**  
Chelsea 05R

**19<sup>th</sup> July**  
Ben 01F  
Indiana 02F

**20<sup>th</sup> July**  
Harrison 02S

**21<sup>st</sup> July**  
Willow 02M  
Indira 04P  
Joshua 05RM

**22<sup>nd</sup> July**  
Dakota 01D  
Hunter 04P

**23<sup>rd</sup> July**  
Jamison 01P  
Annie 02S



Across this term's newsletters you will find great information regarding mindfulness practices you can utilise at home. Our school has engaged with 'Smiling Minds' who have a terrific app available for your phone or tablet. We will be sharing information regarding mindfulness on a regular basis and we encourage you all to take note of the information. This week's article is titled 'Wellbeing Check'. We hope you find it informative and useful.

Until next week,

Ty Hoggins and Rae Gittos

Principal Team

## BOOK CLUB

SCHOLASTIC  **Book Club**

# BOOK CLUB IS COMING!

We're really excited to have **BOOK CLUB** running this term, but it will look a little different! It will be an **online catalogue** rather than the printed catalogues you're used to receiving.

To order from this issue go to:

[https://scholastic.com.au/media/5642/bc\\_520.pdf](https://scholastic.com.au/media/5642/bc_520.pdf)

Place your order on LOOP as normal and orders need to be in by 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020

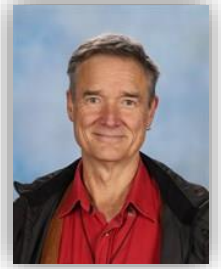
We will receive your order here to our school like normal. Once your order arrives, we will contact you to arrange for collection.



Even though this is a virtual catalogue, we will still receive 20% of your order value back in Scholastic Rewards to use to purchase additional books and resources for our school!

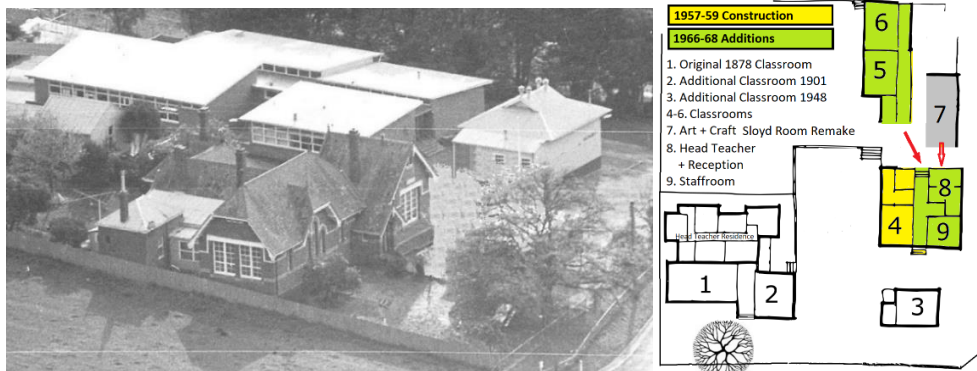
## SCHOOL CHAPLAIN REPORT

Peter Ackland - school chaplain



### School History 1966-1967

Firstly, I must make a correction relating to the “1959 building” that I wrote on last term. A more careful reading from the records reveals that the two classrooms (5&6) were added over 1967-69, and these rooms were connected by an undercover hallway, plus stairs, to what was built in 1959 (East Preston Constructions - \$10,733). The staffroom and administration office area could also have been added then. I now feel that the sloyd (art/craft) room which had to be moved had an “extensive renovation and re-lining by the School Committee” to become the art & craft room (7). I now understand the complex as separate buildings all joined by an undercover hallway. It is hard to be sure of all this as each was demolished to make room for the Early Learning Centre in 2010-11.



**Bernard J. Ryan (1966-1968)** took charge of the school in 1966. The Craft Room was painted. A tender of \$2299 had been accepted for a new toilets block (I’m not sure when this was started). The school attendance was 153 children with 7 teachers that year but enrolments jumped by 40 to 193 the next.



WHITTLESEA SCHOOL, GRADE 3 PUPILS, 1967  
*Back row* (from left): — Rogerson, D. Wilson, —, I. Gray, D. Beattie, P. Parish, R. Fitzgerald, S. Lorensini. *Third row*: J. Beattie, —, D. Robertson, —, D. King, S. Burgess, —, M. Quinton, A. Johnson, —. *Second row*: J. Schimleck, N. Welsh, D. Blandfort, —, Donnelly, J. Barrow, E. Miller, L. Fletcher, W. Andrew, D. Russell. *Front row*: — Cain, M. Witte, — Rogerson, F. Shaples, M. Robins, T. Naylor, R. (?) Hudson, C. Lokay, L. Karinikas, H. Clarkson. Mr Ivan Robertson is the teacher.



WHITTLESEA SCHOOL, GRADES 4 AND 5 PUPILS, 1967  
*Back row* (from left): A. Guthrie, J. Morris (?), T. Witte, G. Schramek, P. Cain, J. Stewart (?), R. Fitzgerald, A. Rogerson, P. Klein. *Third row*: D. Simpson, B. Murray, A. Quinton, S. Schimleck, T. Murphy, —, Shaples, R. Simpson, J. Moyle, R. van Lovolhizen, J. Rogerson. *Second row*: M. Donnelly, N. Bayliss, G. Eller, N. Andrew, J. Hannah, J. Naylor, G. Ferguson, B. Donnelly, D. Russell. *Front row*: J. Griffin, D. Parker, —, E. Balharrie, G. Andrews, D. Smith, L. McKenzie, —, W. Murray, L. Sunbloom. The teacher is Mrs Julie Westcott.

*Some of these 1967 faces may now be grandparents of our current students.  
 Zoom in to see them more clearly.*

In 1967, a feeling of inadequate space began to dominate discussion. The additional rooms (5&6) approved for construction were not yet built. Cr K. N. Balharrie, secretary of the Whittlesea School Committee wrote advocating a better school site adjacent to the south boundary of the township (McLennan’s land). This letter asked the Department to consider purchasing and building a totally new school and it caused progress on any building work to cease on the present location until a decision was made. The following year was going to be a pivotal one indeed.

To be continued...

## WELLBEING CHECK

### MINDFUL MOMENTS

We can't control everything that happens, but we can change our experience of those things.

As we all move through these challenging times together, parents, carers and teachers have the added responsibility of supporting the young people in their care as they grapple with rapid change and uncertainty. Mindfulness is an active, practical and appropriate response to the sense of overwhelm many of us are currently feeling. Mindfulness has been practised for centuries and in many different cultures around the world. Academic research shows that when we pay attention to what is happening in the present moment, with openness and curiosity, and without judgement, we activate many wellbeing benefits including higher self awareness, higher emotional regulation and reduced stress. In addition to many other benefits, we can also improve our focus, concentration and creativity through regular mindfulness practice.

In the midst of a global pandemic, it can be a significant challenge to stay in the moment. Awareness of our thoughts and emotions, and how they are impacting our behaviour, is especially important at times like these. Developing the ability to observe our thoughts and emotions more objectively allows us to access a calmer and more mindful place.

Here is a link to a video that provides you with a more detailed guide on what mindfulness is and the benefits it has.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkzwIP-ZMPk&feature=youtu.be>

### Weekly Activities

Each week we will be providing you with an activity that you can do with your child/ren to help practice Mindfulness with the help of the Smiling Minds meditation program. The first activity or step to take is to download the free app where you can access a variety of meditations that you can practice with your child/ren. The suggested time spent practicing mindfulness is just 10 minutes per day so go ahead and give it a go, even just a little bit can go a long way!

Link to the free website/app: <https://www.smilingmind.com.au/smiling-mind-app>



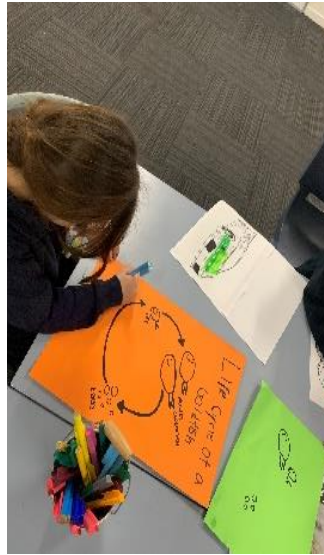
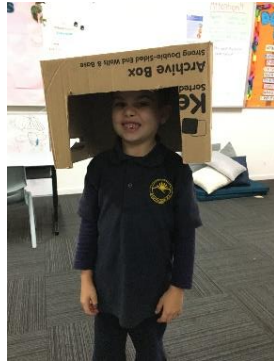


## TERM 2 AND HOLIDAY PROGRAM

This term we focused on different themes throughout our weeks, these included like Space week, Disney week, Autumn week, Under the sea week and the Queen of England week to celebrate the long weekend we had for her.



This term we also received a new pet, his name is Bubbles and he is a Goldfish. All the students came up with names for him and we all took a vote on what we should call him, and Bubbles came out as the winner. Every Friday a lucky student whose shown our rules and expectations and has followed our rules gets to take him home for an adventure over the weekend.



This winter school holidays we did the theme Space Explorers, where we focused on the earth, space and many other things. We had multiple activities which tested our brains and were super active and fun. We had incursions and big activities. Some of these activities included building an electric maze, create a solar system, making rice paper rolls and cookies. Our incursions included Science experiments (which was our favourite) and technology.

The return to term 3 has seen the return of lockdown and challenges for families and TheirCare.

Families took advantage of the end of Free childcare in our Holiday Program. We averaged over 100% of normal attendances and had a waiting list for some of our services. Our funding arrangements with the Commonwealth Government meant that we only received payment for about half of those children attending.

Unlike most providers, TheirCare chose to accept as many bookings as possible (at our cost) because we wanted children and families to have a bright spot in what has been a challenging time for everyone.

We hoped you enjoyed the efforts of our team to provide a sense of fun these holidays.