



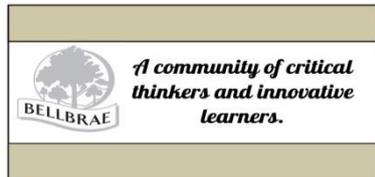
Thursday 13th August, 2020

**BELLBRAE PRIMARY
SCHOOL NEWS**

Phone 5261 2660 Fax 5261 6177

E-mail: bellbrae.ps@education.vic.gov.au

www.bellbraeps.vic.edu.au



Issue 23

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Thank you to all the parents who participated in our first ever online parent/teacher interviews on Monday. This opportunity formed part of our reporting process and offered valuable insights into your child's progress from two different perspectives. Please remember that our staff are always willing to discuss both your child's welfare and learning, and are still contactable during the remote learning period. Please ensure all students access the daily explicit teaching videos and interact in the Google Meets sessions in order to stay engaged and connected with their peers and teacher.

New building update – Currently the Capital Works Project has been sent out to tender. The Victorian School Building Authority suggests that they are still on track to start the work at the beginning of October. This will be in two stages so that teaching and learning is not disrupted during the building period. We are also considering a number of options to ensure play spaces are safe and adequate during construction. We'll keep you updated on developments and the School Council is also involved to ensure 'parent voice' during the process.

Enrolments - Just a reminder that if you have any younger children who will be starting school next year to please submit enrolment forms as soon as you are able. Also, if you are aware of any other families considering enrolling, please encourage them to contact the school and I can happily meet with them.

Supervision of students onsite – Please bear in mind that there are very strict conditions governing which students may be onsite. Essentially there are only three circumstances that allow students to attend school during remote learning: 1) Children whose parents cannot work from home, irrespective of the type of work you do from home, what it might involve, and applies to both parents. ie. If one parent has to work away from home and the other parent can work from home, the children cannot be supervised onsite. 2) Vulnerable children. 3) Any child with a disability. If you submit a request for supervision it needs to be submitted by the Thursday of the week before the supervision is required, and must include evidence to support your request.

Remote Learning Advice - A recent article written by Jill Fitzsimons, who is director of Professional Learning and Partnerships, offered advice on key questions from parents with students returning to home schooling. Below is some advice that may support some of our Bellbrae Families:

What should I do if one of my kids is distracting the other?

Kids being kids, this will happen at some stage. Try to get on the front foot in a positive way by having a family meeting. In this meeting, everyone can discuss what is and isn't OK during home learning, including the consequences for anyone who doesn't follow through with what they agreed to. Kids love suggesting consequences! Ensuring everyone has a say helps because students really respond when their point of view is taken into account. Providing students with lots of specific positive feedback in relation to the agreed family home learning 'rules' goes a long way too.

Is it ok for my kids to do their home schooling in their bedrooms?

Ideally students should do their home schooling outside of their bedrooms. If this isn't possible, it's important for students to blur the background if they are on camera. This message will be reinforced by schools. It's about having a balance between school (their work space) and home (their bedroom) but also about keeping themselves safe online. If they are studying independently in their bedrooms, encourage them to have plenty of time outside or to break things up by studying in other areas of the house (when they can). It's amazing how productive you can be when you mix up where you are working and 'hot desk'.

What should I do if both my kids need my help at the same time?

I'd have a quick chat to them about what they need help with. One question could be really quick, the other might take some time. I'd also ask them both if there's something they could go on with while you help the other. Again, positive affirmations are key here too. I'd thank your other child for being patient and for going on with something while they waited.

My daughter is worried she won't get through all her scheduled tasks in the day, she is quite anxious about it. What should I tell her?

This will be her first week of home learning for a while so it's OK to feel a little anxious. This week will give her a good idea of what to expect in terms of workload. It will also provide her with a chance to reflect on how she went (and felt) this week.

I'd encourage her to tap into what she already knows about she does when she is really using her time well and is focused. This might involve having her phone off, working in 40 minute bursts (then having a break) and writing down questions she is stuck on to ask a teacher or peer about later (rather than spending too long on one question).

If she's really anxious, she could email her teachers or use time provided within or outside of lessons to ask questions of the teacher/review her work. Teachers want students to feel calm and confident so keeping in touch with them is always okay. Anxiety is usually alleviated by lots of encouragement and affirmation, too. She could list all of the things that went well during the week and you could add your observations to her reflections.

You can focus on what was achieved but also the process she followed and character strengths she demonstrated.

My kids are easily distracted. Should I offer rewards or other incentives to stay focused?

Kids do love working towards a goal. These can take lots of forms, including positive feedback. Getting everyone involved in a family discussion about how you (or they) might reward themselves for achieving particular goals is definitely a great idea and sharpens focus. This could be as simple as choosing the family meal or dessert, getting to play a favourite game etc.

Have a great weekend ahead, and thank you for all your efforts as parents in making remote learning a success. We understand how difficult it must be to juggle family commitments, your own work, and supervision of your child's schooling, but it won't be forever! Please contact us if you require any support and you only need to cover what you can. If your family cannot get through all the learning activities, simply try your best the next day, and so on. With regards to physical activity, encourage your kids to be active, but not to hang out in big groups of people. Although junior sport has been cancelled and the surf forecast seems bleak, there are many other ways to be active. Be creative and keep your eyes on our remote website for Blue Earth ideas and other fun ways to keep fit. We certainly don't expect you to come out of lockdown as fit and fast as Kathy Freeman, or with a physique like Arnold Schwarzenegger McCoombe, but at least relatively fit and healthy!

Principal, Adrian Waters

EVENTS TO COME.....

AUGUST	
SEPTEMBER	
Friday 18 th	Term 3 Finishes
OCTOBER	
Monday 5 th	Term 4 Begins
Sat 17 – Fri 23 rd	Book Week ‘Curious Creatures’
Friday 23rd	Whole School Photos (Note another new date!!)
Mon 26 th – Wed 28 th	Year 4 Urban Camp - TBC
Thurs 29 th – Fri 30 th	Year 2 Camp to Burnside Camp Anglesea - TBC
NOVEMBER	
Monday 2nd	Curriculum Day – Pupil Free Day
Tuesday 3rd	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday – No School
Mon 5 th Oct – Fri 27 th Nov	Foundation – Year 4 Gymnastic 8 week Program -TBC
Wed 25 th – Fri 27 th	Year 5 Sovereign Hill Camp -TBC
DECEMBER	
Friday 18 th	Term 4 Finishes - 1.40 pm



Birthd**ay** Celebrations

This week

10 th August	Georgia Smedley & Sascha Buckland
13 th August	Alex Baulch & Nina Kellett
14 th August	Audrey Newbould
16 th August	James Lloyd & Layla Selleck

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