



## **PRINCIPAL REPORT – WEEK 8 TERM 1 2020**

What an interesting week or two it has been! Given the current state of affairs in the wider community and as heavily reported by the media, it probably makes sense for me to begin my weekly report with a focus on the coronavirus. At present, there are no known cases of coronavirus at our school, though despite this, there are daily updates from the Department of Education and Training (DET) containing advice that we are required to follow. This advice relates to measures designed to protect our students from coronavirus and supporting broader efforts to slow its spread, with the most recent example of this impact relating to the postponement of our District Athletics Sports Carnival yesterday. This current advice *may* also impact on our upcoming Parent/Teacher interviews scheduled for Thursday 16 April. For now though, *we will continue to plan on the assumption they will go ahead*, as so much can change between now and then. Information surrounding the booking arrangements are presented elsewhere in this newsletter.

A letter was also sent home with every child on Friday 13 March regarding coronavirus, with the information within still current at the time of writing this report. Spare copies are available from our General Office if you need. All staff at Traralgon South Primary School will continue to do our absolute best for your children and their learning, with school operating as normal for the foreseeable future. Please also see a letter attached to this newsletter from Victoria's Chief Health Officer regarding school closures, and how this is looking increasingly unlikely in the short to medium term.

Held last week, our House Athletics Sports Carnival provided a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a school community, and with this being my first carnival since arriving at our school, it was great to witness every one of our RIPPER values frequently demonstrated by our students. Congratulations to Cook (Yellow) house on winning the days events, with a special mention to Mrs Travers for organising this on behalf of our school.

There are several staffing updates that I would also like to share with the school community. Firstly, as many of you may already know, Mrs Dinelli plans to finish at the end of the first week of Term 2 (April 17) to begin her maternity leave. We recently completed a process of advertising and interviewing for her replacement, and pleasingly, there was a lot of interest and a strong field of candidates. Mr Rilen was successful in his application, which is a fantastic result for the Year 5/6 cohort, though this does cause a domino effect in two other grades. This subsequent replacement should be finalised by the end of this week, allowing enough time and opportunity for an induction and handover for the successful candidate in the final week of Term 1. Additional to this, Bianca Van Der Velden has been successful in her application for a teacher aide position at Bell Primary School in Preston, beginning this week. This is an amazing opportunity for Bianca, and we wish her all the very best. Her work with many of our students in the previous 2 ½ years has been valued and for this we are grateful.

Finally, I thought it pertinent to inform the school community of the outcome of our School Council election of office bearers, conducted at our AGM on Monday 16 March. I would like to congratulate the following in their appointment to their respective positions and I look forward to working alongside you, in partnership with our wider School Council, throughout 2020.

President:	Duncan McAllister
Vice-President	Leanne Kamphuis
Treasurer:	Jade Rohde
Secretary:	Renee Paulet

Take care,

Joel Blythman

## DATES TO REMEMBER

20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Fri	Bulb Drive Orders Due In
24 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Tue	School Photos
27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Fri	Last Day of Term 1 - <b>Early Dismissal - 1:30pm</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Tue	First Day Term 2
		Parent/Teacher Interview Bookings Close - 3:30pm
16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Thu	Parent/Teacher Interviews 1:00pm - 6:00pm

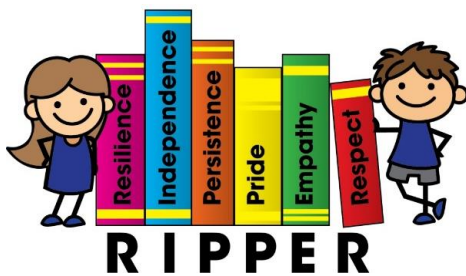
### CANCELLATION OF FUNDRAISING MORNING TEA

Given the current situation in supermarkets at present, we have been given no guarantees by their staff that any products we would like to order for our Hot Cross Bun morning tea on Friday 27 March will be available. It makes sense that rather than increasing the demand on their stores for a non-essential event, or some students having their orders filled and others not, we will cancel this.

Orders and money that have already been submitted have been returned to families yesterday, so please speak to your child(ren) to make sure it gets back to your pockets!

We hope you can understand our rationale for this decision and we thank you for your ongoing support through some interesting times!

### RIPPER Student Awards - Week Ending 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020



Prep/1	Levi Howard-Harrison	For always displaying the RIPPER values during learning time.
1/2	Braxton Kemmink	For his clever thinking and hard work in Maths.
2/3	Errol Faul	For showing persistence in his explanation report about water.
3/4	Milla Phelan	For consistently showing respect while listening to others.
School Captains Award	Lucas Nicholls	For being inclusive and resilient.

SAY CHEESE!



## School Photos

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 9:00am

**Please ensure your child/children have their individual envelopes with them. These envelopes are not opened at school and are handed directly to the photographers, so no change can be given.**

**Family photo order envelopes are available from the office.**

## House Sports Reports by Grade 1/2



The whole school went to house sports yesterday. The whole school went to Traralgon. We did sprint in age groups individual. I got all 3s but on 2. Cook house won with 1510 points. I felt tired and happy because Yellow House won!  
By Liam Pass

Yesterday the whole school went to Traralgon for House sports. We did sprints and we did discus. The winners are Cook and red and then blue. It was exhausting!  
By Jordan Bantick

The whole school went to house sports in Traralgon. It was yesterday. We did sprints, kanga jump, discus, shot pot, long jump and relay. At the very end we noticed that the winners were yellow team but we tried our best. But at least we had fun. It was a great time.  
By Braxton Kemmink

Yesterday at Traralgon the whole school broke up into years for the sports. Year 7, year 8, year 9, 10, 11, and 12. The year 8 which I am in did this: long jump, kanga jump, sprints, discus, shot put, and a relay. Cook, which is yellow won. It was AMAZING!  
By Piper Rohde



### TRARALGON COLLEGE 2021 YEAR 7 INFORMATION EVENING

The information evening will be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April from 5:00pm to 6:30pm at the Traralgon College Junior Campus Digital Learning Hub. For any queries please call Traralgon College Junior Campus on (03) 5174 8733.

### TRARALGON DISTRICT NETBALL ASSOCIATION

Traralgon District Netball Association winter competition registration is now Open. CATS Netball club will be looking at putting in a U15 Mixed Netball team. If there is interest in forming an U11 or U13 Team then a Parent Coach and umpire is also required. Anyone interested in forming and Coaching an under 11 or 13 team please contact Karen Pettifer ASAP on 0417 318 538. Team registration is required to be submitted by **18<sup>th</sup> March**.



THE EASY WAY TO BOOK  
**SCHOOL  
INTERVIEWS**

18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents

Parent/Teacher interviews will be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April. Bookings must be finalised before 3:30pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April, when bookings for this event will close.

For parents who do not have internet access please contact the school office. Interviews are strictly 10 minutes and spaces are limited. If you require more time, please contact your teacher directly to make alternative arrangements.

Now you can book school interviews online. Go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and follow these simple instructions.

Simply enter the code and press "Go"



Enter your details



Select the teachers you wish to see



Select the appointment times that suit your family best



When you click **FINISH**, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically. If you do not receive your email immediately –

**check your junk mail folder AND make sure you have spelled your email address correctly**

You may change your bookings any time prior to the closing date of 14<sup>th</sup> April at 3:30pm, by re-visiting the [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address you used when you made your original booking.





## Department of Health and Human Services

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### STATEMENT ON SCHOOL CLOSURES IN VICTORIA

**Dr Brett Sutton** MBBS MPHTM FAFPHM FRSPH FACTM MFTM

Victorian Chief Health Officer

Victorian Chief Human Biosecurity Officer

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The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) met recently to consider the issue of school closures in relation to the community transmission of COVID-19.

The Committee's advice is that pre-emptive school closures are not likely to be proportionate or effective as a public health intervention to prevent community transmission of COVID-19 at this time.

As Victoria's Chief Health Officer and as a member of the AHPPC, I fully endorse this advice in relation to schools in Victoria.

There is currently limited information on the contribution of children to transmission of COVID-19. The WHO-China Joint Mission noted the primary role of household transmission and observed that children tended to be infected from adults.

Previous work suggests that the potential reduction in community transmission from pre-emptive school closures may be offset by the care arrangements that are in place for children who are not at school.

There is a particular risk associated with the fact that children may require care from vulnerable grandparents or may continue to associate (and transmit infection) outside of school settings.

Broadly, the health advice on school closures from previous respiratory epidemics shows the health costs are often underestimated and the benefits are overestimated.

This may be even more so in relation to COVID-19 as unlike influenza, the impact on otherwise healthy children has been minimal to date.

For pre-emptive school closures to be effective, prolonged closure is required and it would be unclear when they could be re-opened. If there were still a large pool of susceptible students when schools are re-opened, there would be likely to be re-emergence of transmission in the community.

School closures may still be considered late in the outbreak in anticipation of a peak in infection rates, for a shorter period of time. Short term reactive school closures may also be warranted to allow cleaning and contact tracing to occur.

Should evidence change in relation to school closures then my advice to the sector, in collaboration with AHPPC, would of course change also.