



PRINCIPAL REPORT – WEEK 1 TERM 2 2020

Although I'm roughly a fraction under halfway through my career, due to the impact COVID-19 is having on our society, I am pretty sure I'm not going to experience education like this ever again. What a bizarre month or two we've had! Coming into the end of our first week of Term 2, it has been heart-warming to see many of our RIPPER values on display throughout the entire school community. Now more than ever our Resilience, Independence, Persistence, Pride, Empathy, and Respect will help us get through the next 10 weeks, and who knows, maybe potentially into Term 3.

Given our transition into a remote environment this term, there will obviously be no hard copy printed editions of our newsletter. If you would like to be emailed a digital copy, please let us know on traralgon.south.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au so we can add you to our distribution list. As per previous arrangements, we will continue to place a copy on our website, as well as posting a link on our Facebook page.

To support the transition to remote and flexible learning, at the time of writing I have received requests for the temporary loan of 22 laptops and 5 internet connections. I have fed this information back to the Department of Education and Training (DET), and once the finer details are confirmed, we will loan out these resources to meet these requests. This will support our students and families to be connected on a consistent learning platform. As I am sure you can appreciate, our work demands have taken an abrupt right turn, and whilst we will always support every family in every way possible, teaching some students via Class Dojo, some via hard copy packs, and others via email, for example, is not a sustainable and viable learning model for all stakeholders. Should you need any support, please let us know and we will do whatever we can to assist. For now, however, I have been quite deliberate in my request our staff individually connect with everyone in their class this week. I will always advocate for the importance of strong learning outcomes, but I am a firm believer that this cannot be achieved without strong relationships and human connections as a foundation.

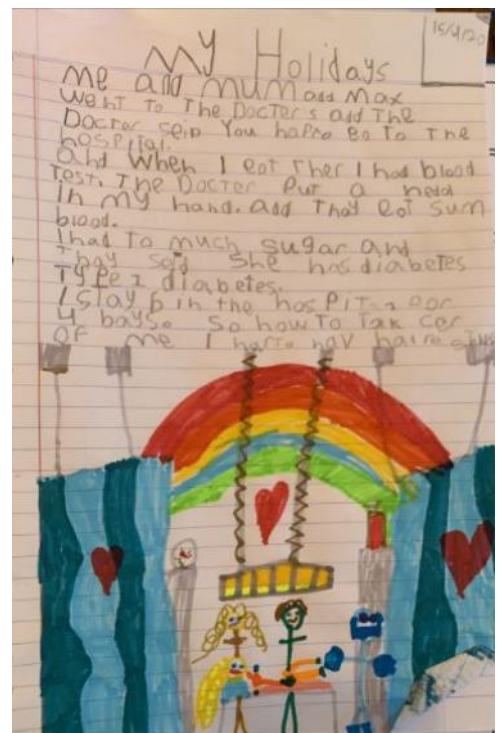
By a different way of introduction, I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Victoria Fox to our teaching team for the remainder of this year. Mrs Fox has attached a letter of introduction to our newsletter this week, and I am sure our school community will make her feel welcome, albeit remotely! We look forward to having her as a part of our team.

You may notice this week that our newsletter might look a little bare – this is in part because we have only just started the term, but also because our students are all learning in their own homes. It would be fabulous if you could provide photos, stories and other remote learning experiences that we can share with the wider school community, as I am sure students would love to see what their classmates are doing. In the previous 24 hours we have arranged for our Year 6s to have a contactless collection of their polo shirts and jackets, so in the absence of a school environment for them to proudly show these off, hopefully we can share some photos of students wearing these at home in future newsletters. Below are some photos that have been sent through that we would like to use to start us off.

I would also like to share our school mobile phone number (0491 059 128), as there may be times throughout the term where there is no one on-site given the COVID-19 restrictions also apply to school staff. Please save this number so it is convenient for you to access should you need it.



Cooper and Alice Johnson, in school uniform and hard at work on their first day of remote learning (15 April 2020).



Alice Cameron's holiday recount – what an adventure for Alice!

Take care,
Joel Blythman

Public Service Announcement

Parents: What we are being asked to do is not humanly possible. There is a reason we are either a working parent, a stay-at-home parent, or a part-time working parent.

Working, parenting, and teaching are three different jobs that cannot be done at the same time.

It's not hard because you are doing it wrong. It's hard because it's too much. Do the best you can.

When you have to pick, because at some point you will, choose connection. Pick playing a game over arguing about an academic assignment. Pick teaching your child to do laundry rather than feeling frustrated that they aren't helping. Pick laughing, and snuggling, and reminding them that they are safe.

If you are stressed, lower your expectations where you can and virtually reach out for social connection. We are in this together to stay well. That means mentally well, too.

Emily W. King, Ph.D.



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Dear parents and carers

The Victorian Government has advised new arrangements for school education for Term 2, 2020.

All children who can learn from home must learn from home.

This course of action has been determined to help slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), based on the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer.

Our schools have been re-oriented to support learning from home.

Principals and teachers have put in place plans to provide a learning from home program for all year levels. This includes provision by the Department of Education and Training through your school of laptops or tablets and network access, if required.

In order to protect the health and safety of your children, your family, your teachers and the whole community, it is important that you follow the Victorian Government's direction and keep your child learning at home this term.

On-site school attendance is available as a last resort where parents and carers are not able to put in place arrangements to supervise children at home. Your school will have provided you with further information about this.

Information for parents and carers to support you supervise your children at home can be found here: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your own circumstances, please talk to your school or phone the Department of Education and Training parents' and carers' hotline on 1800 338 663.

Thank you for your cooperation and your support for our teachers, schools and community.

Yours sincerely

Jenny Atta
Secretary
Department of Education and Training

Hi there, everyone!

I hope you are all doing well after your first day of learning at home! I know it has been a bit wobbly adjusting here at the Fox house ☺

I wanted to check in and introduce myself and my family to the community of Traralgon South Primary School. This year I am joining Mrs Phillips to teach Grade 3/4 on Mondays and Tuesdays, then I will be working with Miss Bone teaching Grade 2/3 on Fridays.

As we have all transitioned to remote and flexible learning, the staff at Traralgon South P.S have worked very hard to introduce and welcome me to the school in this difficult time. Because of this ground work I am sure that even though the school community has not had the chance to meet me in person, we will be able to connect through DOJO, Facebook and email. I am already receiving replies to DOJO's and emails from students and parents which is delightful.

To give you a little bit of background about me, I originally grew up in South Gippsland. Then my parents and siblings moved to Traralgon South, while my husband and I started our family in Hazelwood South. Our family of 5 now live in Boolarra and we have 3 daughters who are 6, 11 and 13. My eldest daughters went to playgroup in Traralgon South and we still have fond memories of our friendships and community connections to the town. But, enough about me!

What I thought most valuable to share with the school community currently is my most recent role as an ICT teacher. For the last 2 years at Churchill North Primary School I had been teaching digital technologies. Teaching this learning area of the curriculum involved me understanding and delivering targeted learning to students around how to stay safe online. My main focus was for students to support each other and always ask trusted adults for help if they felt unsure or unsafe while online. I thought I'd share the main resources that I used when teaching digital technologies that can also be used at home to support our students at this time.

This website is funded by the Australian Government. <https://www.esafety.gov.au>
I cannot recommend it highly enough.

My junior students particularly liked following the adventures of Hector in 'Hectors world'. There are many wonderful activities that go along with this program. New junior activities have been added recently.
<https://www.esafety.gov.au/educators/classroom-resources/hectors-world>



Senior primary students found themselves really engaged in a realistic interactive game called 'The lost summer'.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/educators/classroom-resources/lost-summer>



There are new sections on the website that give students and families current advice about staying safe online during the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/covid-19>

Aside from that, there are also some fantastic free educational websites that students enjoyed using in my ICT classes. These resources may be a fun way to support students transition to learning remotely by using online, interactive and educational websites that are fun.

<https://www.arcademics.com/>



<https://www.education.com/>



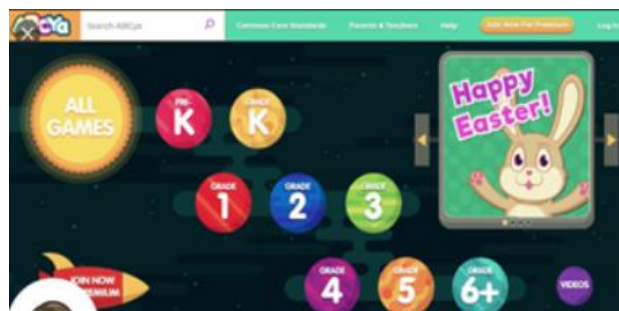
<https://www.typingclub.com/>



<https://www.spellingtraining.com/>



<https://www.abcya.com/>



These activity pages have a great amount of free content. I hope they are enjoyed by students. I wish everyone in the Traralgon South Primary School community a safe and happy start to the term!

Take care.

From Mrs Fox 😊.
