



Dinjerra Messenger



Term 2 No. 05 Thursday 11th June 2020

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Principal's Report

Welcome back everyone; we've missed you! There is no doubt that Term 2, 2020 will become a standout in the history of education in Victoria as it was so different, so unexpected and to use that word that we all got sick of hearing, so unprecedented.

When we were told that students would be learning remotely from the start of Term 2, we knew that this was not going to be a simple task. Firstly, the teachers had never done this before and most certainly, the students had never learnt that way before.

We decided to not have the Prep-One's log on as that was going to be a bit difficult, especially for the Preppies who had only had one term of primary school learning. The teachers would provide learning packs that were at first home delivered and then were able to be collected from boxes at school.

A number of our families did not have a suitable device on which their children could learn and a number did not even have an internet provider. Although our teachers used computers every day, using software that allowed them to have their students log on and talk, and hopefully listen, was completely new. They would have to design their classes completely differently and pre-record things that would keep the students tuned in and engaged. There was no time to practice with the children as Term 1 ended early and once we knew that not all of the children had the capability to log on at home, practice was not going to be possible for them until the accessibility issues were dealt with.

A number of parents had not logged into Compass before the remote learning started and making sure that they knew not only how to but did so regularly was our next problem as Compass was going to be the method we would use to communicate with families about everything.

Then came the Department's decision to loan out the school's iPads and laptops. We thought that this would be simple but of course, it wasn't. The devices had been configured to only work at school but no one at school knew this. So with all the best intentions, we arranged for parents to come and collect devices only to have to return them almost straight away so that we could get them reconfigured to work at home. We only get 3 hours per week of ICT technical support so even getting them back at a time when the technician was available had its own issues.

Soon the teachers had a good handle on what they were doing and most of the students had also worked out the best ways of dealing with something completely different. Children who were not logging in or returning work packs had to be rung and problems sorted. It was a great team effort by the school, parents and students. Was it a success? Well, to the best of my knowledge, no one from our school community got sick and that was what the lockdown was all about. Did the children learn in at the same rate as before? Probably not in some cases; definitely yes in other cases. Now that we are back it is our job to ensure that those who have fallen behind catch up. What students did miss was their friends and playing. You could see it on their faces as they came back to school. They were so glad to be back and guess what, we're so glad to have them back!

Graeme Smith
Principal

A message from the Assistant Principal

Semester 1 in review

Wow! What a year we have had so far and we are only coming up to end of Term 2. We started the year with the excitement of starting the new school year in our brand new school buildings and were anticipating the excitement of Sports Carnival day when things took a drastic turn. In my 14 years of education I have never experienced a complete upheaval of the education system in such a short amount of time as we experienced as a result of Covid-19. I've experienced school closures due to snow days in London but there was no remote teaching provided on those days, just a lot of snowman building and snow fights in the park with the local neighbours.

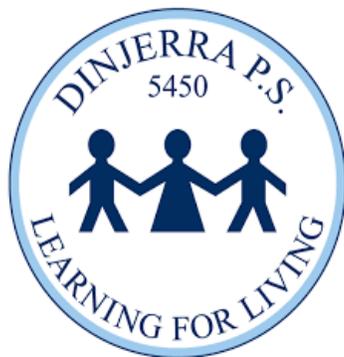
As for a virus impacting on the education of my students, I once had a year teaching a class of 30 grade 1 students where the Chicken Pox virus was infecting more and more children each day. By the Friday of that week I was left with 9 students to teach! So although I have experienced school closures and classroom virus pandemics never would I have thought that a global pandemic would close all schools and have students and teaching and learning remotely.

I would like to say a very big **THANK YOU** to all the teachers, support staff, students and parents/carers who really helped make our remote learning experience as much of a success as it could be. It certainly was not an easy task to take on for anyone. We all had to quickly learn to upskill our IT skills with the iPads and laptops. We all managed to overcome many obstacles and frustrations during our remote learning period. Many households were juggling working from home, younger or older siblings to manage and support, the restrictions of isolation, the frustrations of internet connections, the dwindling toilet paper supply, the unknown of the return to school and normality and the threat of the Covid-19 pandemic. As a school community you all showed a strong sense of resilience, flexibility and perseverance and that is something to be proud of as we return to face to face teaching at Dinjerra.

School Reports

As we move forward with a new normality our classroom teachers are busy completing their assessments and finalising their semester one reports. Due to the move to remote learning and the disruption at the end of Term 1, Dinjerra Primary School will not be including teacher judgements and a five-point scale in our semester one reports. We will report on progress at the end of the year.

2021 Enrolments



It's that time of the year for many kinder parents looking to enrol their child at their local school. If you know of a child or family that are looking to **enrol at Dinjerra for 2021**, now is the time to put the enrolments in. Places are filling up fast and we wouldn't want anyone to miss out!

Please contact the school for an enrolment application and leave your details at the office for an enrolment meeting.

School tours are currently not happening but will hopefully be able to take place in Term 3.

Catherine Robertson
Assistant Principal

Welcome back!

Mr. V and Ms. Seany are delighted to welcome back the Grade 2/3s for the remainder of Term Two. It has been a very challenging term for all of us, and we are so proud of how quickly the students in 2/3 have adapted to learning back in the classroom. The Grade Two students have done a wonderful job as leaders of the school over the past two weeks, and now it's time to settle in and accomplish as much learning as we can over the remaining few weeks of term. We would like to thank all the parents and carers for supporting our students through this incredibly challenging time.

Ms. Seany & Mr V.

Online Learning

Learning online was very nice. Books I have been reading are mostly history such as World War and Ancient stories. What I learned was how to do a summary and an information report. I'm safe and school is amazing. But right now, bad things are happening and outside in the world we have a virus, war, riots and stuff like that. Mr John is dealing with us if we can go out and see the Eureka Tower. We also have a new student. He is nine years old.
- **Jordan Tran, 4/5 C**

I have learnt lots of things during the whole virus thing. I have been at home and doing home schooling. Online school has been ok but what the people always wanted was to go on google meet for our video call. My first day at school was ok and I have been reading lots of books. - **Issabella, 4/5C**

At home I didn't do a lot, just some eating, learning, reading and baking. To me remote learning was stressful. At home, I did extra work with math, I think and I hope I am getting better. I hope I don't have to do it again EVER. I miss one on one interaction with my teachers and friends. - **Sarimah 5/6C**

I did miss school a bit but I felt more use to online school already. One of the reasons was because it felt easier for me.

Ceu Ceu 4/5C

Online school was so hard and real school is better.

Imran 4/5C

I have liked online school but it was more stressful. I haven't done anything cool or fun, only relaxing.

Andrew 5/6C

Remote learning was difficult, it was very stressful and there was too much work. I enjoyed listening to audio books and watching videos. I'm listening to Harry Potter at the moment.

Our baby birds hatched during that time, which was very exciting!

I enjoyed being at home with my family sometimes.

I worked hard to complete my Study ladder tasks and Miss Emily was very happy with me.

Leah 5/6C

Remote learning was really fun. I could be with my family and go to the toilet whenever I want. Remote learning was really easy too. I really liked to listen to the audio books and I didn't enjoy maths because there was too much work.

Jamie 5/6C

I enjoyed doing remote learning. I spent a lot of time with my family. I stayed home a lot. When I did remote learning, it was a little hard to catch up with the work.

Ann 5/6C

It has certainly been a difficult time learning at home but I enjoyed the warmth of my house. During the breaks I have learnt to make many desserts. I also have been spending some time drawing and painting. Although it was fun learning at home, I missed my friends and teachers, it felt very weird without them. My mum and I have also been doing some gardening. We grew some vegetables and plants. - **Alice 5/6C**

I enjoyed online learning and I'm happy to be back school.

Jayden 5/6C



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Dear parents and carers,

Term 2 in 2020 has been like no other school term in Victoria's history, and so I am writing to thank you for your support.

As you know, this week Grade 3 to Year 10 students joined Prep to Grade 2, VCE and specialist school students in face to face learning. It is great to see our school communities come together again.

In responding to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic over the past few months, the Department of Education and Training has asked a lot of our teachers and schools, and we have also required your support as parents and carers.

I want to acknowledge the extraordinary effort you have all made in working in partnership with your teachers and schools to support your children while they have been learning from home.

When I wrote to you a few months ago as we transitioned to remote and flexible learning, I acknowledged that it would be a challenging time for everyone, but that it was important to work closely together to provide the best possible support for students.

Many of you have since told me that there have been difficult, rewarding and challenging experiences during this unique and uncertain time that we have been through together. I thank you for your support, commitment, patience and perseverance.

But despite difficulties, I've been impressed to hear inspiring stories of education innovation. The innovative and creative approaches adopted during remote and flexible learning have been outstanding, and many schools will bring new approaches with them to on-site schooling.

Many school communities have forged even stronger relationships and partnerships — with families and teachers gaining a greater mutual appreciation of their shared contributions to school education. Our schools now have a range of precautionary measures to protect the health and safety of your children, your family, teachers and staff, and your local community.

I hope these measures, along with the knowledge that the Victorian Chief Health Officer and Victorian Government have approached the return to on-site schooling with the utmost precaution and careful planning, have helped ease any anxiety about the return to on-site schooling.

The changes at your school are consistent with health advice, including enhanced cleaning in schools and frequent handwashing. Your school has also asked you to practice physical distancing during drop-off and pick-up times.

Your children may be feeling anxious about returning to school. Reassure your child that it's safe for them to go back to school and reinforce what they've been practicing at home around hand hygiene and coughing and sneezing. Reassure them that extensive cleaning is being carried out in schools and public transport to keep them safe.

Please remember the health advice: if you or your child is unwell, please stay at home. This is vital to ensuring the effective management of the pandemic.

Information about how to speak to your child about coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found here:
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/Pages/talkingtoyourchildaboutcoronavirus.aspx>

Visit the Department's website for the latest information about coronavirus (COVID-19) at:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Thank you once again for working with your schools to support your children while they were learning at home and for your patience during the staged return to on-site schooling.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Atta', is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Jenny Atta
Secretary

Department of Education and Training

