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Friday 17th April 2020

Term 2 week 1

Newsletter



Term 2 Week 1 Wrap

Thank you Thank you Thank you

If someone had told me that Victorian Schools would ever move to remote and flexible learning, I would have dismissed the notion as unthinkable. That was before COVID19!

As I write this, I am feeling so grateful. Firstly for the leadership of the Victorian Government and the can do attitude of the Department of Education and Training.

When the Premier Dan Andrews spoke about a million students and all the associated personnel involved in education moving about, it was clear that our hard work with social distancing to control the spreading of COVID 19 would be severely undermined.

Nothing about this is easy, but the goal of keeping people alive must be kept in mind.

To the PVPS community, especially our parents and carers at home, I am so thankful for the grace and generosity shown in undertaking this challenge. I will say it again; NOTHING is easy about what we are doing. Yet, I have found some moments of amazing community spirit, and loads of positive supportive feedback and comments towards the school, teachers and staff.

I have spent some time late at night exploring the class pages of Dojo. I was incredibly moved even in the first few days seeing students post pictures of their workspaces at home and videos from classroom teachers welcoming their students back to term 2. The connections were very real and I felt so proud and excited for how we are engaging in this truly historic event.

Some parents maybe anxious reading this, saying my child is not doing these things or I don't know about that. However, I want to emphasise and clearly communicate the first two and a half weeks is phase one – we deliberately have set out a smorgasbord of learning activities so students and parents/carers can establish the routines and how this is going to work in each individual home. So the message is breathe!!! Stay calm and don't let the pressure take over. The word flexible is deliberately used. Many parents and carers are working from home – we know you need to balance the peak times in your homes. THAT'S OKAY!!

The teachers and staff here at PVPS have been extraordinary. Their adaptability and commitment to their students in the face of this massive undertaking is something I am immensely proud of. I want to give a huge shout out to my two Assistant Principals, Lorraine Edwards who has devised and guided the phased remote learning program and Lisa Audino, who has had a very hands-on approach with the wellbeing and student engagement area. Lisa and Lorraine have been on the end of the phone night and day all last week as we moved into term 2. The administration staff; Mandy, Claire and Sharon have been in every day this week to provide support and reassurance to all our families and have provided relentless support to me in these crazy times.

SO I will repeat the words **grateful** and **thank you** because without everyone working together and supporting each other, this undertaking would not have been possible. So let's KEEP working together and learning together. We are ALL contributing to keeping our communities and loved ones staying safe and healthy during this COVID19 pandemic.



Daily Check Ins

Starting next week the teachers will post a good morning to their class early in the morning each day. Please reply by 12 noon at the latest. We would like each child to reply (comment) hello or I'm here. This will function as a roll call and an important connection for the students with their teachers.

Technical Support

I am aware there are technical issues and connection problems. As we move through phase one, we are working very hard to address questions and concerns. We have had a number of administration staff including technicians in this week and the emails and phones have run hot. Parents can email the technicians at support@pvps.vic.edu.au directly and these requests will be logged into the support ticketing system and dealt with in turn. Our technicians do not work every day but will endeavour to support the community in all ways possible. Do not come to the school for these matters. If the technicians need to work on the device they will set up an appointment.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to some of PVPS's budding artists, winning Colouring Competitions during the holidays!



Abigail in 3/4 S won Lizzie Blandthorn's Colouring Competition with a cash prize going directly to the artist 😊 and a bakery voucher to the family! Well done Abby!



Riley in 1M won the Nelson Alexander Colouring Competition with prizes including a Family Zoo Membership and \$1000 to the school. They loved Riley's comment "I love the zoo so much and I love you too". Well done Riley!



Stay safe everyone, and don't forget to wash those hands! 😊

