

Edition 4 – Friday 8th May 2020

Principal's Report

We are into our fourth week of remote home learning and so much has been achieved so far. We have not got to this stage without the dedication of teachers, tremendous support of parents and most importantly the resilience and positive mindset of our students. So what have we achieved:-

- Navigated, trialed and implemented the Seesaw platform across P-4
- Implemented Google Meet across the school so students can connect with each other.
- Parents rescheduled their work hours to support the learning at home
- Prepared weekly Home Learning Schedules and sent to parents prior to the days learning
- Checklists of equipment required for Specialist sessions
- Modified the delivery of the learning reflecting parent feedback
- Prepared weekly home learning newsletters answering parents questions, wonderings and concerns
- Developed greater interaction within the student learning platform such as voice overs, videos, links and constant feedback to the student throughout the day.
- Sourced staffing and timetabled staff to supervise onsite students
- Loaned 69 computers to support the learning
- Produced staff video to the whole school
- Purchased on line platforms such as Raz-Literacy to support children's learning
- Prepared Onsite Learning space and staffing

Det News

Unfortunately I have no further news from DET regarding any direction for schools regarding reporting for semester one and when student will be returning to school. We will have to be patient and continue doing the great work that we are all doing.

Buildings and Grounds:

While the children are not onsite we have been able to complete many of our building and grounds projects. These projects include:-

- Replacing rotten wood on entry steps to classrooms and repainting
- Building a sandpit at the end of the Library
- Removal of the bleachers and laying synthetic turf
- Fencing the perimeter of the school
- Occupancy certificate for the Student Inclusion Lounge
- Sourcing resources for the Student Inclusion Lounge
- Continuing to work on the defects of the stadium which has been a very slow process
- Whole school asbestos audit
- Pruning trees
- Weeding garden beds
- Removing outdoor shades outside of 6B room
- Purchased and mounted a defibulator in First aid room
- Removed wall between 5A and 6C
- Installed 3 air conditioners (5/6 office area, 3B and 2A)
- Audit EXIT lighting throughout the school
- Sourced Kingston Council to replace drainage pits on the easement near oval
- Repainted and decorated school foyer entrance

**SOME OF THE
INCREDIBLE
PROJECTS
COMPLETED AND
READY FOR THE KIDS
TO ENJOY WHEN THEY
RETURN**



**Bleachers out.....
Beautiful soft
synthetic turf in**



As you can see a lot has been happening with the most visual impact being the fencing and bleachers. The installation of the synthetic turf where the bleachers were, provides a space for students to sit with their friends on the bench seats that were purchased with fundraising monies last year.

The new fencing will not only ensure the safety of our students but also eliminate inappropriate activities occurring on weekends. We have moved the bike shed to Robert St as suggested by the Kingston Council Road Safety audit which was conducted last year. Students will enter a side gate located on the oval side of the carpark. Parents during school hours will only be able to access the school grounds through the office entrance.

We recognize the importance that the wider community has access to the school grounds before and after school. Will Radas will be opening up gates on Mc Swain and Robert Street near the stadium, at 6:00am and closing these at 6:30pm (8:00pm daylight saving) each day. I hope that the wider community will use the grounds correctly and take pride in keeping them litter free, as lately, Mel, Will and I have had to remove dog business regularly from the oval and playground areas which is disappointing.

Pippa Update

Pippa is missing not having all the children around as she regularly places her paws on the windowsill in my office to see if any students are out on the basketball court. However, she is enjoying greeting the onsite students each day at the office as they sanitise ready to commence the days learning. Pippa had an x-ray yesterday to see if her lungs are clear but sadly this has not happened. She has to have another course of antibiotics for 2 weeks followed by another x-ray. Fingers crossed we get the all clear. Whilst Pippa seems her normal happy self we have to be careful she doesn't develop pneumonia. It will be at least another month before we will consider trying the dental procedure again.



**PIPPA RESTING HER
BODY AND TAKING
ADVANTAGE OF A
PEACEFUL HALLWAY**

**PIPPA DESPERATELY
WAITING FOR THE KIDS
TO COME BACK**



Parktone Primary School Annual Report

The 2019 Parktone Annual Report has been uploaded onto our school website for your viewing. [Click here](#) to view.

The *Annual Report to the school community* (Annual Report) is an important opportunity for principals and school councils to share the year's achievements and progress with the school community. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the school's performance and understand where and how school improvement efforts have impacted student outcomes.

The preparation and publication of an Annual Report is a legislative and regulatory requirement for all government schools under the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* and the *National Education Agreement 2008*. It reflects the Education State's commitment to building pride and excellence in our government schools through transparent communication with school communities.

Information presented in the Annual Report details the school's performance over the past year and shows trends across the four years, where data is available, in three student outcome areas:

- achievement
- engagement
- wellbeing

The school's academic achievements are demonstrated through teacher judgments of expected student achievement against the Victorian Curriculum F-10 in English and Mathematics, NAPLAN and VCE data. These show the school's academic achievements compared to the performance of other schools.

Student Attitudes to School survey results reflect students' connectedness to their education and the school's commitment to providing a safe and challenging learning environment. Attendance data demonstrates student engagement.

Parent and staff survey results reflect the community's satisfaction with the quality of schooling and acceptance of the school's vision and values.

If you are wanting to discuss the annual report please feel to contact me

Keeping Fit During Isolation

With the winter months upon us and spending many hours in front of a device can have an impact on our body and mental wellbeing so it is important that we keep active.

Daily physical activity boosts physical and mental health and improves wellbeing. It also helps with concentration, retaining information and solving problems. That is why the Department is supporting Victorian schools to provide daily physical activity for their students during remote learning.

A range of engaging, interesting and educative physical activity resources have been collated for teachers, parents and students. These resources aim to support students to stay active, connected to sport and involved in physical education whilst they are at home. For further information please see the [FUSE Learning from Home Platform](#).

Resources include a four-week online football program called *Kick it with Victory*, developed by Melbourne Victory Football Club, in collaboration with the Department and School Sport Victoria. This free resource is available for teachers to use in their teaching plans or for parents to pass on to children to keep them active while learning from home.

The program continues the Department's ongoing successful relationship developing and delivering educational outcomes with Melbourne Victory Football Club.

About the program

Kick it with Victory features guest videos from Melbourne Victory men's and women's players and coaches, and daily training videos for beginner, intermediate and advanced levels.

The program aims to achieve physical education and health and wellbeing outcomes for students, and covers topics such as:

- keeping students active during remote learning
- encouraging participation in sport
- building resilience

Week 1 videos are now available, with further videos to be uploaded on a weekly basis. To access the resource, visit [Kick it with Victory](#).

Curriculum Day

On 27th April we were supposed to have our second Restorative Practice Curriculum Day with Adam Voigts however this has been postponed to 19th August. Last year's parent night was a huge success and Adam was also going to have a parent night on the 2nd June but this has been postponed until 7pm on the 19th August. Please place this date in your in diary. Adam has sent through this wonderful article below. I hope you enjoy reading it.

You're forgiven

It's possible that it was actually a bit of fun for you ... while it lasted.

There were videos played in the media of teachers dancing for students, of online mental health programs, of parents completing hands-on maths sessions with their kids.

There was love out there for our teachers. But, I've seen a shift in the last few days. I've seen criticism rise from parents to teachers. I've seen vitriol directed from politicians to school leaders. I've seen kids, including my own, growing a little less enthused by the latest online lesson and the undoubted ineffectiveness of teaching music online.

Music isn't something you really learn online because it's something you feel. A lot of learning is like that.

Nothing's quite right. Everything is just a little bit skewwhiff.

And it doesn't matter. If I was the Education Minister (and to be clear, my aspiration for that mantle is less than zero!), I wouldn't pit our educators and parents against each other right now.

I'd just forgive them.

I'd forgive every government School Principal who is so desperately stretched in catering for disadvantaged kids whose entire wellbeing is underpinned by the connection and purpose that your school provides.

I'd forgive every independent School Principal for any guilt or embarrassment at being unfairly painted as a grubby money-grabber in times when all you seek is to be generous to others.

I'd forgive every teacher in all of their schools for any frustration at being attacked for simply following orders about when students should return

I'd forgive every educator who has run a failed or dodgy Zoom lesson. I'd forgive them if they forgot, momentarily, that education is more than uploading worksheets to Moodle or completing workbooks.

I'd forgive every parent who found it hard to manage remote learning lessons while cooking dinner and worrying about elderly family members themselves.

I'd forgive them all anxiety about, and ask for forgiveness myself, that they've been left as amateur epidemiologists scrambling to make their own assessments about how safe classrooms are to learn in and how safe schools are to work in.

I'd also apologise for making it worse.

Personally, I'm sorry that this has been such a tough time for you all. I see you all.

I want you all to know that the work you've done has been valuable, honourable, visible and worthwhile.

You amaze me.

*Warm regards,
Adam Voigts*



2021 Enrolments

We would appreciate our Parktone community spreading the enrolment word to our wider community of kinder friends and neighbours as our normal communications are difficult at this time. We still need to manage staffing though for 2021 so please help us if you can. All enrolment information can be found on our school website.



2021 TRANSITION PROGRAM

For bookings please call 9580 1207

Below are the transition sessions on offer for both enrolled students and those considering enrolment in 2021. These colours indicate the suggested participation for each session.

Optional

Encouraged

Strongly Encouraged

Date	TIME	SESSION
Wednesday 12 th August	9:30am- 10:30am	<u>Open Orientation Session- for all enrolled students and those considering enrolment in 2021</u> Students will spend the hour exploring the Prep classroom and participating in guided activities. A morning tea for parents/caregivers will be provided in the staffroom.
Wednesday 9 th September	9:30am- 10:30am	<u>Open Orientation Session- for all enrolled students and those considering enrolment in 2021</u> Students will spend the hour exploring the Prep classroom and participating in guided activities. A morning tea for parents/caregivers will be provided in the staffroom.
Wednesday 21 st October	9:30am- 11:30am	<u>Transition Session for Enrolled Students- Meet the Specialist Teachers</u> Students will spend the hour meeting the Specialist Teachers (Art, STEAM, PE, Japanese) and participating in guided activities under the supervision of the Prep Teachers. These sessions are reserved for confirmed enrolments only. Parents will say goodbye to their children at 9:30am and collect them at the conclusion of the session.
Wednesday 11 th November	9:30am- 11:30am	<u>Transition Session for Enrolled Students- Literacy & Numeracy Based Activities</u> 2020 teachers and students will build relationships in preparation for the new year. These sessions are reserved for confirmed enrolments only. Parents will say goodbye to their children at 9:30am and collect them at the conclusion of the session.
Wednesday 25 th November	9:30am- 12:30pm	<u>Transition Session for Enrolled Students- Half Day Program</u> Today the children will experience the routine of a school day with their 2021 class and teacher. Please pack a snack, drink bottle and hat.
Wednesday 25 th November	7:00pm- 8:00pm	<u>2020 Prep Parents Information Night</u>

Mother's Day

Finally we wish all our mums a lovely day on Sunday. It will be a different one this year not being able to celebrate with our extended families face to face. I'm sure there will be many virtual hugs on the day. Enjoy your special day mums, step mums, foster mums and grandmothers.

Dedicated to all Mothers.

She is a Mother.

She works 24 hours a day

She is an alarm clock,

a cook, a maid, a teacher

a nanny, a nurse, a driver

a handyman, a body guard

a photographer, a counselor

a comforter, an ATM.



She doesn't get holidays,
sick leave, days off or over time pay.

She works through day and night
she gets paid in hugs and kisses



HOW
DID
YOU
LIGHT
UP THE
DAWN?



Online Protocols For Students:

- Use your laptop/ iPad/desktop computer
- Please do not use your personal phone.
- Dress Code - appropriate casual clothing.
- Try to sit at a desk or table as you would in class.
- Make sure there is nothing in view behind you that may be distracting to others.
- Minimise noise in the room you are using.
- Lesson content is to be used for educational purposes only, and Parktone policies regarding behaviour and use of digital devices etc will apply to all video conferencing lessons.
- Please contact your teacher via Seesaw or Google Classroom if you have any questions or concerns about your lessons.
- Do your best to complete your assigned work
- Be as close as you can to your wifi for better connection.
- Contact with peers during home learning can also distract from productive activity; conversation is not always collaboration
- The amount of parent and teacher support will be limited.
- Contact with teachers via email and Compass will be different to face-to-face, class discussion
- Online learning will take longer for students to complete
- Please check-in on your child's online learning – teachers will be communicating the day/week learning to students and parents/carers via Seesaw and Google Classroom.
- Please be kind to yourself, your children and our teachers as we are all learning to navigate this online learning and the virtual classroom

Tips For Parents and Carers

- The normal requirements apply in relation to student attendance at classes
- Please read through the student protocols with your child, to ensure they understand the online learning.
- Please ensure that the children in your care are using their device in a suitable "public" area of your home. Teachers will not engage with your child if they are located in a private space (e.g. a bedroom) in line with Child Safe Standards.
- All students must be attired in appropriate casual clothing and all internet filtering, parent controls and privacy settings must be in place.
- Please understand that there are challenges to online learning and these things should be taken into consideration:
 - The individual student's ability to learn and work independently
 - The greater need for self-motivation
 - The requirement for students to ignore distractions, including from older/younger siblings and home environment

Privacy: Please also keep in mind that privacy relates to all our students and teachers. Please refrain from sharing any clips or images on any social media channels (including WhatsApp) which include images or comments of anyone other than you or your own child. This relates to intellectual property as well. Comments, videos and work samples should not be copied in any way.

Most Importantly:- Stay Healthy and Safe

Below is a list of symptoms that are associated with the virus to look out for should a member of your family become unwell. Many people who contract COVID-19 will suffer only mild symptoms. We do not wish to raise anxiety levels for anyone in our community but caution when children are unwell and displaying the symptoms below is paramount.

However early indications are that the elderly and people with pre-existing medical conditions are more at risk of experiencing severe symptoms.

The most common symptoms reported include:

- Fever
- Breathing difficulties such as breathlessness
- Cough

Repeated below are the recommendations for reducing risk of COVID-19:

- Wash hands often with soap and warm running water, for at least 20 seconds. Dry with paper towel or hand dryer
 - Try not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth
 - Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow
 - Isolate yourself at home if you feel sick. If you take medication ensure you have adequate supplies
-
- Phone your GP first if you need medical attention. They will tell you what to do.
 - Continue healthy habits: exercise, drink water, get plenty of sleep
 - Don't wear a face mask if you are well
 - Buy an alcohol-based hand sanitiser with over 60 per cent alcohol
 - Get the flu shot (available April)
 - Shaking hands is discouraged – elbow bumps better!

Guidelines can be found on the Victorian Government website

Remember:-

Coronavirus has been filling our newsfeeds and media broadcasts, but it's important to also focus on all of the great things that continue to happen all around us, including here at school.

MANAGING CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19) ANXIETY

For You

- Avoid excessive exposure to media coverage
- Connect through calls/text/internet
- Add extra time for daily stress relief
- Practice self-care
- Focus on your mental health

For Kids

- Reassure them that they're safe
- Let them talk about their worries
- Share your own coping skills
- Limit their news exposure
- Create a routine & structure

For Quarantine/Isolation

- Keep in contact with your loved ones via social media, texts, and phone calls
- Create a daily self-care routine
- Keep yourself busy: games, books, movies
- Focus on new relaxation techniques

BlessingManifesting



THE MUSIC ROOM

We bring **Music** to your Lounge **Room!**

ABOUT US

The Music Room is an **online** platform for music tuition, spreading the joy of learning music across Australia with our team of inspiring instructors weekly in the comfort of your own home!

Weekly live online classes are catered for group sessions which focus on engaging students in learning all elements in music from rhythm, instrument families, timbre, songwriting. You name it, we'll cover it!

Our **Private 1-1** weekly live classes are for individual instrument tuition, focussing on engaging each student on their chosen instrument.

FEATURED PACKAGES

5 X PRIVATE LESSONS

Weekly 30 minute one-on-one classes

*Instrument Required

\$190

- Keyboard
- Guitar
- Ukulele
- Drums
- Vocals
- Bass

....and more to come!

10 x GROUP LESSONS

Weekly 30 minute group classes

*No Instrument Required

\$150

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- 10 x weekly workshops from 3:45pm – 5:00pm (75 min)
- **After School Program:** **\$275** per term which includes a **FREE** robotics kit, which students keep; or
- **Bundle Package:** **Only \$299** to keep the fun going at home with CodeMonkey – the leading online coding platform for kids:


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+  **Junior Engineers**
~~\$-275~~ **\$239** after school program