



Principal News – June 3, 2020

Return to school

The return to school for years Prep – 2 students and all staff was very smooth and we anticipate the same next week when the year 3 – 6 students return on Tuesday 9 June. Everyone was happy to see each other and get back to a relatively normal routine. The staggered starts and finishes, use of hand sanitiser and the extra daytime cleaning routine will continue until the end of term or until DET change their advice. We would like to remind parents that student who are presenting as unwell, are not to come to school. We will be in consultation with parents where the school is concerned about a child's presentation and where necessary the students will be sent home.

For parents/carers of year 3 – 6 students, the staggered starts are as follows:

Students with surnames starting with L – Z are to arrive at 8.45am. Students with surnames starting with A – K start at 9am. This keeps a steady flow of students and parents and prevents congestion at the school fence line and gates. The end of the day is as follows; if a parent is collecting students, students with surnames starting with L – Z are to be collected at 3.10pm, students with surnames starting with A – K at 3.30pm. Any students making their own way home and those attending OSHC will be dismissed at 3.30pm. Parent's collecting students are asked to collect them from the external classroom door and be proactive in making themselves seen by the teachers. We do not want parents gathering outside classrooms waiting for teachers to dismiss students as this creates physical distancing issues.

Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

A reminder that there is no school on the Queen's Birthday public holiday on Monday June 8.

Reports and Parent/Teacher interviews

This semester there will be a simplified report in line with the DET guidelines. In recognition that schools have adopted revised teaching and learning plans for Term 2, the reports will be modified accordingly. It has been difficult for teachers to have sufficient assessment evidence to accurately rate student achievement against a five-point scale therefore the reports will include:

- a description of the areas of the Victorian Curriculum F-10 taught
- a succinct descriptive assessment of student learning achievement, based on the Achievement Standards in the Victorian Curriculum F-10
- a comment on how the student has adjusted to the remote and flexible learning environment, with reference to the Personal and Social Capability curriculum.

Parent/Teacher interviews will also be delayed to provide time for students to settle into routine and to avoid having to take a pupil-free day when the students have just returned to school. These will occur on Wednesday 22 July. Booking and general information about these interviews will be sent out at the end of term. Please note there will be curriculum day care on this date. Parents will need to book their child in through the usual OHSC process.

Lollypop person Basting St

The school contacted the Darebin council about the lack of crossing supervision in Basting St. The council has informed us that the supervisor has elected not to work during the restrictions due to her age. The council have no plans to replace her for this term. We expressed our concerns with this decision and they agreed it was a priority and will consider how to cover the absence. This contradictory response doesn't

sound promising. Under the regulations school staff are not permitted to supervise crossings therefore if you or your children use this crossing, you will need to take precautions, reminding children that it is only a crossing if the flags are up and cars may not stop so they need to cross with care. Where possible try a different route. Parents could also contact the council to express their concerns.

2021 Prep Enrolments

If you have a child who is starting school next year, enrolment packs are now available in person at the office or email Nella for copy to be sent to you. Unfortunately, the Compass enrolment process does not link to the DET enrolment system at primary school level so we are still required to have a paper enrolment form. Nella can be contacted either by phone 94815577 or email Nella.Bordin@education.vic.gov.au. With the delays to starting the 2021 enrolment process we ask parents to action this quickly so we have an idea of our enrolment numbers for planning purposes.

Road Closure – Little Newmarket St

The builder working on the corner of Little Newmarket St and Brooke St has informed us they will be closing the road on Tuesday 9 June due to concreting. This is the first day of the full school returning onsite and is very inconvenient but unfortunately out of our control. They have promised flag men, but seeing the congestion over the past two weeks when we had no warning of closures, I am very concerned for the safety of our students. Please avoid driving down Brooke St on Tuesday 9 June. They said there will be another road closure in the future which we will inform you of once we have the date confirmed.

Child Safe

Westgarth Primary is committed to child safety. As a community we want children to be safe, happy and empowered. We support and respect all children, as well as our staff and volunteers. We are committed to the safety, participation and empowerment of all children. There is zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently with our robust policies and procedures. We meet our legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are worried about a child's safety, which we follow rigorously.

Westgarth Primary is committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early, and removing and reducing these risks. We have robust human resources and recruitment practices for all staff and volunteers. Our school is committed to regularly training and educating our staff and volunteers on child abuse risks. As a community we support and respect all children, as well as our staff and volunteers. We are committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, the cultural safety of children from a culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability. Westgarth Primary has specific policies, procedures and training in places that support our leadership team, staff and volunteers to achieve these commitments.

At Westgarth Primary:

- Everyone connected to our school can help children be safe.
- We have zero tolerance for any abuse of children.
- We already have policies and processes in place to protect the care, safety and welfare of children. These are being strengthened to ensure a zero tolerance approach to child abuse. As policies are ratified at school council, they will be made available to your through the newsletter and on our web page.
- Here is the link to our Child Safe Policy
https://www.wgps.vic.edu.au/uploaded_files/media/1576647387child_safe.pdf
- There will be clear boundaries about how adults in our school community may interact with the children here set out in our school's Child Safe Code of Conduct. This will be made available when school council ratifies it at school council



Thanks for the thanks! From the staff

The staff wanted to pass on their heartfelt gratitude to the parent body for their generosity in spirit and in kind. While this term has been difficult for all of us, an undeniable positive that has been the strong sense of community we have at Westgarth PS. Everyone has united in ensuring that our students continue to receive a quality education program while living through this world health crisis. How lucky we all are to have each other!

