



## Principal News – November 2020

### 2021 Tutoring program

In my last two newsletters, I mentioned that some parents have been feeling concerned about their child's progress during online and remote learning. I cautioned parents not to consider repeating a year of schooling as the evidence does not support this approach. The Department of Education has confirmed that we will be funded to provide some targeted learning opportunities for the students who have not made the expected progress academically and socially during 2020. We are currently identifying students in need and determining how we will deliver the tutoring required by these students to maximise their learning. Students across year levels and abilities who have not progressed to the expected level will be considered to receive extra support. We will keep families updated about what and how we will be providing the support for their children.

### La Gran Fiesta Siesta



We have such a talented and committed parent community and I am incredibly grateful for the energy, commitment, talents and ingenuity they bring to the school. I am impressed by the work of the fete committee, P&F, staff and in particular Emma Savage for pulling together our virtual fiesta. Who would have thought we could achieve \$40,000

without having the Fiesta? Furthermore, I am humbled by the generosity of the parents and sponsors who donated to the school. Thank you.

### Roof works on Brooke St

We are fortunate to have been provided with funding through the Victorian Schools Building Authority to have repairs and some new design work to repair the roof on the Brooke St site. We will have new guttering and down pipes, replacement of some roof sheets and eaves. The works will commence on Monday 9 November and is expected to be concluded by the end of the year. There will be some asbestos removal happening on the weekend of 14 November (TBC) under the strictest regulations. Our neighbours will be notified once the date is confirmed. We are hopeful that these works will remediate the ongoing leaks we have been experiencing for years.

### Redevelopment working party

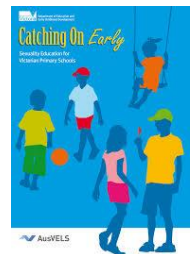
Our Redevelopment Working Party of School Council has been working so hard to advocate for funds for our school facilities. Thanks to the parents who took the time to write to Kat Theophanous expressing their concerns about the state of our school buildings, and also to the families who wrote a second follow up letter. This support has brought attention to Westgarth and has supported our applications for funding that we received for our roof works. I believe that without the work of the RDWP and the support behind the scenes by Kat Theophanous, we would not have the funds to complete the roof works. While securing funds for the full Masterplan is far from guaranteed, I think we are much closer to being noticed than ever before.

## Transitions

Our transition process has had to be modified due to the DET regulations in light of the COVID restrictions. This meant that we were unable to run school tours, and we were concerned that we wouldn't be able to host onsite prep orientation and year 6 graduation. We were very happy to hear that changes to the restrictions have enabled us to follow many of our normal transition processes. We will be able to have small groups of new preps visit the school to meet their teachers and some classmates. Details of this will be provided to 2021 prep families soon. Their orientation process will continue at the start of the 2021 year with a slightly more gradual approach to start the year. We are also pleased to hear that year 6 students will also have the opportunity to visit their new schools in small groups this year as well. Our year 2 to year 3 transition will commence as planned so that the students have supported time on the Clarke St site prior to the end of the year. Furthermore, we are excited to be able to host year 6 graduation. It will be a bit different to our usual offering but will have many of our usual features and some new additions.

## Sexuality Education Program

As most of you already know our school implements the DET sexuality education program as outlined in the Catching on Early program. This is implemented across all year levels each year. As we have been working remotely, we have held off implementing the program until we returned onsite. Your children may start asking questions or tell you about what they are learning. This link houses a PDF version of the program in case you would like to see what content will be covered at your child's year level. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher. <https://fusecontent.education.vic.gov.au/ee5cfd49-48e7-4698-a06d-37e2e21cbbd9/catching%20on%20early%202013.pdf>



## Lunchtime activities for year 5/6 students

Our year six sports captains are running a house team competition over the next few weeks to provide some structured activities for the year 5/6 students each day.

Monday - Skittles on back soccer pitch

Tuesday - Kickball on back soccer pitch

Wednesday - Soccer on back soccer pitch

Thursday - Number basketball on basketball court

Friday - Table tennis (Rushe) in the gym – starting Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November

Day (organising captains)	1 <sup>st</sup> half of lunch	2 <sup>nd</sup> half of lunch
Monday (Walker)	Rucker V Urquhart	Walker V Gerrard
Tuesday (Rucker)	Walker V Urquhart	Rucker V Gerrard
Wednesday (Urquhart)	Rucker V Walker	Urquhart V Gerrard
Thursday (Gerrard)	Rucker V Urquhart	Gerrard V Walker
Friday (Rushe)	Rucker V Gerrard	Walker V Urquhart

Students are welcome to wear their house colours on the day their team plays. We hope they make the most of this opportunity and enjoy the time playing together in a structured way.

Keep well and keep positive,

Jo Wheeler  
Principal