



DIARY DATES

APRIL

WEDNESDAYS ARE NUDE FOOD DAYS

**WEDNESDAY IS SCHOOL BANKING
DAY**

DUE BY DATES:

**COPIES OF ALL NEWSLETTERS, FORMS
AND NOTICES ARE AVAILABLE ON
OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE.**

Principal's Report

This Week's Newsletter

I thought it might be helpful this week to focus on the way the current COVID-19 crisis is affecting our school community. It might come across as more serious than our normal 'Buzz' and I hope you find this puts some things into perspective.

Our Sincere Thanks

Firstly, I want to make an important acknowledgement to our parents and carers. We know that every family faces similar challenges when it comes to learning at home, even if we all have a different set of circumstances. It's very hard to juggle working from home whilst also trying to support a child in learning, so if you are feeling a little exhausted, then this is understandable. We often talk about schools being most successful when teachers and parents build a strong partnership, and the current circumstances has brought this into sharp focus. In order for our teaching and support staff to successfully help students learn at home we need our parents and carers to be our partners in supporting each child to navigate and understand the learning tasks. This supporting role continues to be absolutely vital, and without it many students would have simply not been able to participate as well as they have. In short, we need you as much as you need us, and we are partners together in this challenging time.

So from us to you....We think what you are doing as parents is incredible! Stop for a moment and think about it. You have been put in a position that none of us ever expected, and yet you are working so hard to make a go of it every day. Your children continue to learn and grow, despite everything. Don't underestimate the importance of every small thing you are doing, it's making a difference, and in the long term we will hopefully be able to look back and see this.

On behalf of all of our teaching and support staff I would like to say a heartfelt thanks to all of our parents and carers for all the support, encouragement, help and time you have put into remote learning at home. We appreciate it more than you may realise, and hope that you find comfort in knowing how valued your contribution has been and continues to be in helping your child with learning at home. It's certainly going to be a moment in time we won't forget.

Enrolment for 2021



Normally, Term 2 would be a busy time for enrolment. Tours would be happening for new families, and schools being chosen. In this regard we need your help on two fronts. Firstly, any existing APPS families can let us know if you have a child starting school in 2021. Give Meredith or Jackie and call on 9544 1553 so we can add them to our list. And also, if you have friends or know parents looking for a school tell them to get in touch. We are happy to answer any questions on the phone, and get the process of school choice going again. Unfortunately, the Open Morning originally organised for this Saturday 2nd May has been postponed for now. We would appreciate any help in building future enrolment.

THANKS



Managing a Difficult Time Together

This past week we met with some representatives of our School Council and Parents and Friends, in order to get feedback about learning from home from a parental perspective. This was an important opportunity to hear directly from parents about their experience at home.

After reflecting on this feedback we want you to know that if things are not going as you hoped, then this is OK. It's OK if students just complete what they can, and if that means just one activity, then it's not a problem. We don't want you as parents to be stressed and under pressure any more than necessary. If you and your children need a day off please have one! It's hard for everyone, and the one thing we have hopefully learnt is to be kind to ourselves and have realistic expectations.

For the record, we want everyone to know that you don't need to explain or make apologies if learning at home is not going to plan. *'Do what you can, when you can, and know that it enough for us.'*

When will Schools Return?

At this stage I have not been provided with any updates by the Department of Education regarding return to school dates or how it might work. As you know there are a lot of mixed messages in the media which unfortunately is causing some confusion. This is not helped by the fact that our Federal and State governments are also providing contrasting opinions regarding the best way forward.

Education is a State responsibility, and in this matter, it is up to the Chief Health Officer of Victoria and the State Minister for Education to make this call. They are the decision makers for Victoria and have a heavy burden when it comes to schools, as it involves nearly a million students. Any return to school will come with the inevitable contact between students, staff and parents, and logically this needs to be managed carefully. We know that many parents are concerned about the length of time students are learning from home, however the current advice of the Chief Health Officer remains the same, and is unlikely to change before the 11th May. This week the Victorian Government has announced a massive COVID-19 testing program over the next 2 weeks, and will then use this information to make a decision based on the data.

I remain hopeful that our students and staff will be able to return to school as soon as possible, even if in a modified arrangement. Despite what is sometimes implied in the media, principals and teachers have little or no input into this decision. If the Government decides to transition students back to schools, teachers will be expected to return to work in the same way as we were asked to work from home.

Video Conferencing Starts Next Week

I'm very pleased to report that we will be starting to provide live video conferences from the start of next week. We know that our students have been really missing the daily interactions with their teacher and friends, so we are hoping this will be a support and comfort to them at this time. All students will be invited to participate in one live video conference with their teacher and a small group of classmates. At this conference our students will have the opportunity to see and hear from other members of their class, and their class teacher. Initially, we have set aside time for one conference to touch base with all students next week, and then we will work out what is needed from there.

Planning for this has been underway for the past week, and a successful trial was conducted on Monday and Wednesday. Our chosen tool, WebEx, is the preferred video conferencing tool of the Department of Education and Training. It's easy to use this online platform to join in a live conference. We have put together a comprehensive set of instructions that parents can follow, but some may not need them, as it's fairly straight forward.

Each Friday our class teachers will post a schedule of the video conferences for the following week in the 'Stream' on Google Classrooms. The schedule will show the day and time that each child has been allocated to a conference. If this time is OK then just note it down. The teacher will provide a link to the conference on the day it is scheduled for. You click on the link and it will take you to WebEx, which is an online portal. If the time or day is **not** OK, please let the teacher know, and they will try and change it for you. You can message them via GC or use email. Our aim is that we have each child attend one video conference next week. In order to ensure our video conferencing adheres to the Child Safe Standards children should only participate when they are sitting in a common area of the home, and a parent or adult must be in the same area. Parents do not have to watch or listen, but we need this condition to be met by all participants. The teachers will check this at the start of the conference.

A set of ground rules has been established for video conferencing which are as follows:

WebEx ground rules.

1. Stay seated and focussed.
2. Be on time and ready to start 5 minutes before hand to allow for any technical difficulties.
3. Sit in a room where an adult is near and can listen in. Let family members know you are on a video call.
4. Turn on your video. Mute yourself until it's your turn.
5. Raise your hand if you would like to contribute or answer a question.



THE AMSLEIGH BUZZ

6. Be respectful at all times.
7. You can only send a message if it is for everyone.
8. No eating and drinking during a meeting (water is okay).
9. Remember, our best always!

We trust that offering video conferences adds another element of support for our students, and that they enjoy the opportunity.

Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF)

Any families who now hold a Health Care or Pensioner Card are entitled to claim the Camps, Sports and Excursions fund for their child/ren. There is more information contained in this Newsletter, and our business manager, Karen Hogan can assist. Contact the office who will put you in touch with Karen. Families should take advantage of this extra support, which provides \$125.00 as a contribution towards any of these programs.

And Finally...

Both Miss Carr and I sincerely hope that everyone is well. If you did not catch our video message earlier in the week then we want everyone to know that we feel very proud of all of our students, staff and parents/carers. If we have to be in this situation we are both so glad to be in it with you all. Amsleigh Park Primary School is a fantastic school community, and we are privileged to be part of it.

Until Next time,

Michael Cormick

Principal

PS: You might have noticed I'm having a little fun with Bitmojis this week. It's always nice to learn something new, even if it's not really that important!



From Meredith in the Office

We would like to remind you that school is open and we are still on the phone every day. The office is being staffed remotely, so when you call you will hear a recorded message. If you want to talk to Meredith you must press '2' and then wait to be connected. If Meredith calls you the number will **not** come up as the normal school phone number, so keep a look out for this if you are expecting a call.



Now taking Prep Enrolments for 2021



**FOR TOUR BOOKINGS OR AN ENROLMENT PACK
CONTACT US ON 9544 1553**

OAKLEIGH EAST

APPS UNIFORM SHOP

Located in the Thelma Baily Learning & Sporting Centre

OPENING HOURS – TERM 2 2020

MONDAY: Mornings 8:45am – 9:30am

TUESDAY: Afternoons 3:00PM – 3:45PM

WEDNESDAY: Mornings 8:45am – 9:30am

(Credit Card / Eftpos payments should be made at the General Office **prior** to collecting items)

A copy of the approved uniform list is available at the Uniform Shop, the General Office and on our website www.amsleigh.vic.edu.au

For any other queries, or to source second hand items, please visit the Uniform Shop during the above opening hours.

Thank you to the families who donate second hand uniforms to the school.

It is greatly appreciated and enables us to supply good quality items for sale at reduced prices. **However, we currently have plenty of stock on hand, therefore cannot accept any more donations at this time.**

Libby Jumas
Uniform Shop Co-Ordinator



WINTER ITEMS

ITEM	SIZES	PRICE
Bomber Jacket	4 - 14	\$37.00 each (Size 16 \$42.00)
Long Sleeve Panelled Polo	4 - 16	\$28.00 each
Windcheater	6 - 14	\$24.00 each (Size 16 \$28.00)
Track Pant – Double Knee	4 - 14	\$23.50 each (Size 16 \$27.00)
Track Pants – Straight Leg	4 - 14	\$23.50 each (Size 16 \$27.00)
Girls Pants – Straight Leg	4 - 16	\$22.00 each
Slouch Hat	Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large	\$10.00 each

HOW TO DOWNLOAD THE FlexiBuzz APP



What is it and what do I need to know?

- FlexiBuzz is an easy to use messaging 'app' designed to enable Amsleigh Park PS to communicate directly with parents via their phones, tablets and computers.
- FlexiBuzz can be downloaded for **free** and is used to access newsletters, notices, calendar events and the latest news from around the school. Parents can also communicate student absences to the school through the app, request meetings or pass on information to teachers & Admin staff.
- FlexiBuzz is not social media, although it's based on similar technology.
- FlexiBuzz provides the option to receive push notifications when a new posting has been made.

To ensure the content posted to FlexiBuzz is kept within our school community, we have put a password on all Grade inboxes. This 'single' password will be commonly known and shared within our school community and will be required when you set up the app.

The password for all Grade level inboxes is: **APTb15** (it's case sensitive!)

We recommend all families, including future preps subscribe.

When you first download FlexiBuzz, select the inboxes you want to subscribe to by clicking on the ticks. You will then be prompted to enter the password, which is only required once. Following this you are ready to start receiving messages from the school.

Register for FlexiBuzz





Here's How...

Stay in touch with FlexiBuzz


STEP 01

Sign up for FlexiBuzz and then login

 Search "FlexiBuzz" in your app store.  Go to web.flexibuzz.com and click "Sign Up".


STEP 02

Connect to us

 Select the 'Search' icon and type in our name. Select us from the results.


STEP 03

Select your communication groups


 Click the 'Add' icon beside the communication groups that apply to you.

STEP 04

Get started

 Click the 'Home' icon to view our recent posts.

For further information or assistance please visit our website www.flexibuzz.com or email us via support@flexibuzz.com.



We trust you find FlexiBuzz to be a convenient and effective communication tool.

If you require any assistance in accessing FlexiBuzz please contact the General Office



CommonwealthBank

Student Banking

Every Wednesday

**Remember to place your deposit book
into the classroom banking satchel**

Message from Commonwealth Bank;

The School Banking program will remain on hold until the normal operating rhythm of schools resumes.

We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed with any updates including how we will be managing Dollarmite tokens for students.

In the meantime, here are some handy online resources for parents who wish to maintain momentum with their child's financial education:

- [Start Smart](#): these resources have been created to improve children's money management skills, and is aligned to the Australian Curriculum and the National Consumer Financial Literacy Framework.
- [The Beanstalk](#): offers videos and fun activities for children to learn about money.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the CSEF visit
www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

If you applied for the CSEF at your child's school in 2019, you do not need to complete an application form in 2020 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- new student enrolments; your child has started or changed schools in 2020 or you did not apply in 2019.
- changed family circumstances; such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2020.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.





Calm Parents Happy Kids

Learn How to Tame Your Temper for Better Behaved Kids

Do you want to:

- Understand what drives your parental anger?
- Find strategies to reduce your frustration?
- Reduce the friction in your home?
- Let go of your guilt and shame?
- Learn valuable behaviour management strategies for your children?
- Get your children to listen to you?

Come along to these 5 sessions and learn valuable lifelong strategies, whilst taking some time out for you!

When:

Wednesdays (5 evening sessions)
6th May to 3rd June 2020

Time:

7.00- 8.30 pm

Where:

Join us live via Zoom

Cost:

Free of charge. Bookings essential

Bookings:

Laurie on 0488 501 204 or
laurie.arrowsmith@anglicarevic.org.au

PARENTZONE



BOROONDARA
City of Harmony