



DIARY DATES

MAY

**Mon 25th – Curriculum Day
Student Free Day**

**Tues 26th – Prep – G2 students
return to school**

JUNE

**Mon 8th – Queens Birthday
Public Holiday**

**Tues 9th – G3-G6 Students return
to school**

WEDNESDAYS ARE NUDE FOOD DAYS

**WEDNESDAY IS SCHOOL BANKING
DAY – ON HOLD UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE**

DUE BY DATES:

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

Principal's Report

The Big Announcement

I expect there was a collective sigh of relief from many parents as the Minister for Education, Hon Mr James Merlino MP, announced that schools would start returning from Tuesday 26th May. After so much hard work supporting students in learning at home, it is great that we can start back on the road to our new 'normal.' Of course, it's not a return to the way things were only a few short months ago, but it is a start!



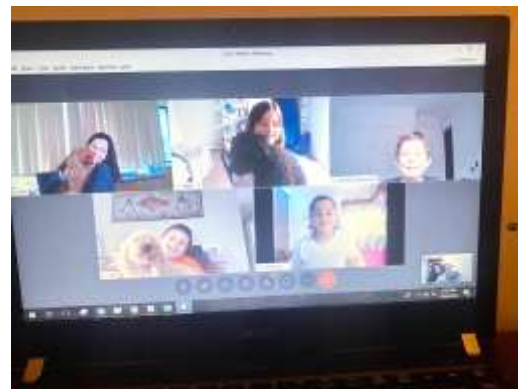
You will have received a letter yesterday confirming the initial details announced on Tuesday. Following that, the staff and I have been starting to work through our preparations for our Prep – Grade 2s. A survey was distributed today for all Prep – Grade 2 families and we would really appreciate it if everyone took the time to complete the survey ASAP.

Included in this newsletter are a list of FAQs we have developed to answer some of the questions you may have. We need to keep firmly in the back of our minds that we are actually still living in a State of Emergency. Whilst the risk of catching COVID-19 is now less likely, and the Chief Health Officer has declared that schools can resume, we need to apply our common sense to our return to school processes in the best interests of our whole school community. We will be keeping a tight control over health and hygiene practices, and following through on all of the new routines in place over the next few months.

We want to acknowledge that some parents might be feeling anxious about their child returning to school, and that's OK. We understand this feeling, which is a normal response when we are facing uncertainty. We hope that once parents see the new routines in place they will feel more comfortable.

Video Conferencing

The recent addition of video conferencing via WebEx has been a definite hit with our students, and lots of mums and dads too! There is no doubt that having a live face-to-face chat with the class teacher and some classmates is a great way to connect. After a few nervous moments our students have become more confident and talkative, sharing what is happening in their learning and life at home. Mrs Arvanitis sent me a great screen shot of one of her Grade 6s introducing their pets, and I can see the delight in this moment through the looks on their faces. Pictured to the right you can see the view from Mrs Arvo's computer at home, as she conferences with her class. Note the furry friends also happy to be involved.



The Uniform Shop

We are working on an arrangement for our uniform shop as we anticipate that families will need winter uniforms. Once we have a clear process in mind we will let everyone know.

Finding Value in Learning at Home

The following are some reflections that I have made in recent days, hope you can find some relevance to your own circumstance. It would be very fair to say that both our staff and students (and maybe even some mums and dads) have learnt a lot during this whole experience.

From a learning perspective our student's IT skills have been given a huge boost, and many would have never experienced online tools such as video conferencing. It has become somewhat evident that many of our students are not quite the 'digital natives' that the media would have us believe. Growing up in a world of technology does not make one technologically savvy. Certainly, when it comes to activities such as game play or social media, they have skills, but this does not necessarily translate to using it in learning. Out of necessity many students have now developed digital learning skills they may not otherwise have had the opportunity to. Our staff have also learnt a great deal, and can see great potential in using these tools as part of learning at school.

In learning at home, our students have also had to adapt to a different way of learning, being more self-directed and independent. Following instructions carefully has been vital and developing attention to detail also of great importance. There is no doubt that independence is one of those life skills that is highly valued and is increasingly drawn upon regularly as students progress through school.

Possibly even of greater value is the development of the kind of resilience that often only comes into focus in times of adversity. It is a life skill that we can try to teach, but there is no comparison to life experience. No one would wish it but our students are hopefully better for this experience, and will be able to reflect back on this with some pride.

Strengthened relationships also comes to mind. In a busy world, it is sometimes hard to slow down and enjoy some of the simpler things that comes from being together with family. I have read lots about this recently in newspapers, and I really hope this is something we will take as an important learning from this experience.

I'm not saying for one moment that any of this has been easy, but at least we can take something away from this experience that makes life better as we go forward.

Return to School FAQs

Now that we know the good news it's time to get into some of the actual details of what needs to happen so that all students, staff and parents are kept safe as we return to school. Understandably, as we move into the new COVID-normal, things will look and be very different from our normal school routines.

When do students return?

Prep to Grade 2s return in Stage 1 on Tuesday 26th May and Grade 3-6 return in stage 2 on Tuesday 9th June.

Are parents allowed on our school site?

The short answer is a respectful 'no.' The normal friendly and welcoming atmosphere at Amsleigh Park needs to be different for now. The Department of Education and Training (DET) have instructed schools to be extremely careful with this, and parents must drop off children without coming onto the main school site. Our staff will be there to welcome students and help get them to class as needed. A map with clear instructions will be provided next week.

What if I need to speak to my child's teacher?

We understand this is important, and teachers will be contactable via email or phone. If the message is urgent please call the office, and the message will be passed on.

Can I go to the School Office?

Whilst we are in Stage 1 restrictions in Victoria, the office will not be accessible as it would normally be. There will be a small number of exceptions, for example, picking up a sick child.

Why is it only the Preps – Grade 2s?

As we start the process of returning to school, there is an ongoing need to do so with great care and caution. The staged approach might mean some juggling, but it does make sense to take it slow.

My child only has a little 'Sniffle' can they still come to school?

In the past children have sometimes attended school with a 'slight cold' or not feeling 100%. DET has provided clear advice to schools and the community. Any child or staff member who is ill, no matter how minor it seems, should not come to school until they are completely well. Parents should also seek medical advice as required. There is no room for any school to make exceptions about this; it's in everyone's best interests.

What happens if my child becomes unwell during the school day?

Just as per normal, any child who becomes unwell will be sent over to the sick bay, and parents contacted to pick up. If a child presents with a runny nose or cough (cold/flu symptoms), they will also be sent over the sick bay, and parents contacted for pick up.

THE AMSLEIGH BUZZ

Can children use the play equipment or share toys or sports equipment?

Yes, children will be able to access our adventure play equipment, but of course it will be important that they wash their hands after doing so. It's a similar story with sports equipment and other items used in play.

What steps will the school take to encourage 'hygiene' especially hand washing?

As we know hand washing is one of the single most important things we can do to prevent the spread of any virus, especially COVID-19. Students will be required to wash their hands at routine times every day including, when they first go to class, before eating, after recess and lunch playtimes and any other time we feel it is necessary. Parents can support this by reinforcing the proper '20 sec' approach to washing hands before kids return to school.

Will students also use hand Sanitiser?

Yes, we will also use hand sanitiser when hand washing is not possible. Each classroom will have it's own supply of sanitiser.

Can I keep my child at home even if their class has returned?

DET have made it clear that parents have the right to keep children at home if they want to. However, it will not be possible for the learning at home program to continue, as teachers will need to devote their time to planning and preparing for learning at school.

What if my child has a medical reason for not returning to school?

Please contact us if you believe this circumstance applies to you, so we can develop a plan for your child.

Can students use the drink taps (bubblers)?

This is a definite 'no' and all students will need to have a named drink bottle with them at school every day. They can take them into the yard at play time and have them in class.

Will we have Monday Assembly?

Unfortunately, having our normal Monday assembly is not possible under the current restrictions, and it may not be for some time. We are now looking at some alternatives including the use of live streaming into classrooms using some of our newly acquire skills. We'll let you know.

How about excursions and camps?

This is another one that will have to wait! We are trying to find alternatives, and if this becomes possible we will let you know. DET have currently informed us that we are not able to go on excursions or camps until further notice. Further clarification about the camping program that had been planned for Term 2 will be available soon, including any alternatives.

Until Next time,

Michael Cormick
Principal



From Miss Carr....



Year 6-7 Transition 2020-2021

An important reminder to our Year 6 families, that the 'Application for Year 7 Placement 2021' form, which all students, including those attending an independent school in 2021, must complete, is due back by **Friday 29th May**. Please ensure you have returned this form by the due date so your child's form may be sent to the relevant secondary school in a timely manner. Please email forms to carr.rebecca.r@edumail.vic.gov.au

If Year 6 families have any queries about this process, please contact me at school and I'll be happy to answer your questions.



THE AMSLEIGH BUZZ

ENVIRO UPDATE

Hi everyone, Finny here. Enviro Captain.

Hope everything is going smoothly for you and that you are staying well.

I wanted to say hi and remind you all that now is a really good time to teach your family about soft plastic recycling. With more people at home more soft plastics is being used ...remember to collect them all and get your parents to take them back to Coles or Woolworths each shop so they can be recycled.

If you need a reminder of what can and can't go in soft plastic recycling please go to this link <https://www.redcycle.net.au/what-to-redcycle> .

Remember it must be clean and dry before recycling otherwise the whole batch will end up in land fill!

Over the holidays I've been busy sewing...making tote bags for every classroom so we can collect and recycle soft plastics when we get back to school...I even made the bags from old APPS shirts that were going to be put in landfill!

Until next time, look after yourselves and look after the environment!

From
Finn

An important reminder....



**Now taking
Prep Enrolments for 2021**



**AMESLEIGH PARK
PRIMARY SCHOOL**
OUR BEST ALWAYS

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

OAKLEIGH EAST

APPS UNIFORM SHOP

Located in the Thelma Bailly Learning & Sporting Centre

OPENING HOURS - TERM 2 2020

**Look out for more information soon
about ordering school uniform.**

A copy of the approved uniform list is available on our website www.amsleigh.vic.edu.au

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

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>SIZES</u> | <u>PRICE</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 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...



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



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

Are you a parent of a child between 4 and 10 years old?



If you would like to learn skills to help manage your child's challenging behaviours, you are invited to a **FREE** parenting program

Online module, group and one-on-one programs available in 2020

Location of sessions: currently accessible via the internet for parents in Melbourne, Australia

TUNING IN TO KIDS may assist you to:

- help your child manage difficult feelings such as worry, sadness, frustration and anger
- build your connection with your child
- better understand what underpins challenging behaviours
- stay calm when dealing with tantrums
- help your child develop social skills and reduce aggression.

For further information contact

9371 0218

or BigTIK-admin@unimelb.edu.au



Programs are being run as part of a research study