



EDITHVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

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Term 1—Week 1

31 January 2020

Working Together, Aspiring Higher, Connecting with our Community & Doing the Right Thing

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT Mr James Whitla

I acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which we meet and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging.

Welcome back to school and Happy 2020 to all ☺

I hope that the summer break has been a relaxing and enjoyable one and that time spent with friends and family was all you hoped it would be. I hope that the bushfire emergencies did not impact too greatly and that you, like all of our staff, are looking forward to a terrific year at Edithvale Primary.

On Thursday we welcomed 74 new Prep students and during January we had a few new families enrol with us- bringing our student numbers to 410.

We also welcome 3 new staff members Belinda Ahern (Year 4), Lisa Haines (Year 5/6) and Craig Heywood (Year 1) to our school and welcome back Claire Leach (nee Goudey) in a Middle School support role.

Our STEM building works have been completed, with the exception of a couple of minor details, and the old Art room and containers have been demolished in preparation for our new Art facility (due to be functional by May). This is certainly an exciting time for us and we are keen to share these facilities with our community once they are complete. School assemblies (which will commence on Friday February 7) will, in time, be held in our new STEM centre.

For some families, the start of the school year brings with it unwanted financial pressures. I urge you to please touch base with us so that we can assist in this space. We are fortunate to have a devoted benefactor who is keen to help ensure our students and families are given every opportunity to participate in the great learning programs that are on offer at Edithvale primary. A limited amount of money has been set aside to assist with books, clothes and excursions for those struggling to make ends meet.

I know that the emerging outbreak of novel coronavirus may be a concern for our staff, parents and students.

The Commonwealth Government has advised that the risk to the Australian public remains low, the Department is committed to providing us with the most up-to-date information and advice about this outbreak, based on the most current Commonwealth and State Government advice.

The links below contain information and advice on how our system is dealing with this virus.

[Information is available for parents and families at your school](#) The Department of Health and Human Services has developed an "Information for the Education Sector - Novel Coronavirus" webpage to support us in these uncertain times. The Chief Health Officer's current advice is that staff and students do not need to be isolated at home if they have recently travelled in other parts of China or other countries and are not showing any symptoms of the virus.

The recommendation is that parents/guardians/carers of students should ensure that any returning student is isolated at home and should not attend school for 14 days:

- following exposure to any confirmed novel coronavirus case; or
- after leaving Hubei Province.

For further information please refer to the DHHS hotline 1300 651 160



Student accident insurance, ambulance cover arrangements & private property brought to school

Schools have been asked to remind their communities that the Department does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Please note that:

- parents or guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance or transport as well as any other transport costs; and
- parents or guardians can purchase insurance policies from commercial insurers and it is the responsibility of parents or guardians to look into their preferred options in this regard.

The Department cannot provide advice to parents or guardians on the purchase of individual student accident policy or ambulance cover.

Private property brought to school by students, staff or visitors is not insured and the Department does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises.

As the Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property, students and staff should be discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

Emergency Safety Drills - During the term we will be conducting a number of Lock Down and Evacuation drills as part of our Emergency Management Plan - in line with DET guidelines. We will provide plenty of notice when these will be occurring to ensure students are fully aware of what they will be asked to do in a safe and supported manner. The first of these, a LOCK DOWN DRILL, will be held on Friday February 14.

SUNSMART - We are a Sunsmart School! Despite our unpredictable and extreme weather conditions, the UV levels are still high so please remember to use sun protection each day during the sun protection times - not just on hot or sunny days. Hats are required to be worn outside throughout Term 1 and the beginning of Term 2.

Information for families is available from <http://www.sunsmart.com.au/communities/parents>

Canteen - The Canteen will re-open for counter sales and lunch orders on Monday 10 February 2020. Orders can be placed via QKR or money can be sent to school in a lunch bag big enough to hold the order. This order can then be placed in the Canteen lunch tub in your child's classroom. A reminder that the Canteen is not open on a Wednesday.

Personal mobile phone use - In accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, students are not allowed to use personal mobile phones at Edithvale Primary School while on school premises and during school hours, including lunchtime and recess, unless an exception has been granted.

Enforcement - Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Edithvale Primary school may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies including *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and *Code of Conduct*

Annual privacy reminder - Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the

[Schools' Privacy Policy](#)

Please take time to remind yourself of the DET school's collection statement, found on our website <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/schoolsprivacypolicy.aspx>

Student Free days in 2020

Friday 13 March	Mathematics with George Booker- open to other schools
Friday 31 July	Literacy with Kathy Harrison- creating a strong Literacy base
Friday 18 December	Professional Learning Communities and data

Victorian Term Dates for 2020

Term 1: Tuesday 28 January (teachers), Wednesday 29 January (students, Ex Foundation) – Friday 27 March

Term 2: Tuesday 14 April - Friday 26 June

Term 3: Monday 13 July - Friday 18 September

Term 4: Monday 5 October - Friday 18 December

