

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – May 14th 2020

### Return to Face to Face Teaching and Learning

As you can imagine, since Tuesday's announcement that schools will resume face to face teaching, there has been a flurry of activity and many meetings at school and network level to prepare for the changes. Prep to Year 2 will begin on Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup>. The day before, Monday May 25<sup>th</sup> is a Curriculum Day for all staff so that we can prepare for face to face teaching and the many new practices we will need to implement. There will be no WebEx sessions for any student P-Year 6 on that day.

Year 3 to Year 6 students will begin face to face teaching on Tuesday June 9<sup>th</sup>. Monday June 8<sup>th</sup> is the Queen's birthday holiday.

This afternoon our Consultative Team will meet to look at the issue of staggered start and finish times as well as staggered recess and lunch times. These measures will have a direct impact on our timetables for specialist lessons and yard duty supervision. We hope to have a new timetable finalised soon. Once this has been finalised we will be able to inform parents of the staggered drop-off and pick-up times.

We are extremely fortunate to have strong support from our principal network and our region – many questions are being asked and whilst not all have been answered at this stage, it is pleasing that DET takes on board the many issues that are raised and in a remarkably short period of time solutions are offered to schools.

I understand that a number of parents have concerns about sending students back to school. Rest assured our amazing team of teachers, aides, office staff and assistant principals are taking the issue of student health, wellbeing and safety very seriously. There will be a number of changes in school practices once students return – hopefully these practices will help to allay the fears that parents may have. An indication of some changes we will introduce are:

- There will be separate start and finish times for Preps to Year 2s, and Year 3s to Year 6s there will also be separate recess and lunchtimes for Preps to Year 2s, and Year 3s to Year 6s. These practices will be in place to reduce the density of students in the school grounds at any one time.
- No parents will be allowed on site in the mornings, students will enter the school grounds through the gates by themselves and will go directly to their classrooms.
- At the end of the school day, Year 3 to Year 6 children will leave the school grounds by themselves (no parents to be on site for these students) at their designated finish time.

- Whilst we urge parents of Prep to Year 2 students to meet children off-site (as was the practice for some in Term 1) we understand that junior students may need to be met on the school grounds by a parent or carer (only 1 person). There will be separate pick-up areas designated for Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 parents. Adults will be expected to maintain social distancing measures. As soon as the child has been met, parents are to leave the school grounds with their child. No-one will be permitted to linger in the school grounds.
- There will be practices in place to allow for senior and junior students from the same family at drop-off and pick-up
- We met with our plumber today. All drinking taps will be removed and replaced with taps for hand washing. Students must have their own drink bottles clearly named. We are also increasing the number of hand washing taps by installing extra troughs around the school.
- Upon arrival at school, each child will wash their hands thoroughly under teacher supervision.
- Before entering the classroom, each child will have their temperature checked by their class teacher, using a contactless thermometer. The office will be notified if any child's temperature is at 38 degrees or above. The child will be isolated and parents phoned to pick up the child.
- Prior to the eating recess snacks, students will wipe down their table and chair, then wash their hands using soap and water- the same will happen prior to eating lunch.
- Before entering the classroom after recess and lunch or after returning from a specialist lesson, students will again wash their hands with soap and water.
- Specialist staff will be provided with cleaning materials to clean musical instruments, sports equipment etc., before each lesson.

As for the last few weeks of Term 1, we will still not be permitted to run camps, excursions, assemblies, concerts etc.

We are still working to plan and implement these and other measures. As soon as they are finalised we will let you know.

#### **Quote of the Week**

"Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start."

Nido Qubein

#### **Word of the Week**

Zenith (noun) 1. The time at which something is most powerful or successful.

2. (In astronomy) the point in the sky or celestial sphere directly above an observer.

---

## Library News - Term 2

---

Term 2 was supposed to have the always-exciting Book Fair in May, but as you know, most of us are not at school now and so it's been postponed until late July. Also, our usual Book Week in August has been postponed until October. I would hate to have Birralee miss out on these special events, so I will be making sure they do eventually happen!

So the library has been a VERY quiet place without the students, but it has been a good time to do some rearranging. Two new bookcases have arrived for our AR fiction collection, so I have started moving most of the AR fiction along. It's so great to have more shelf space! Also, there are 2 very large, rather purple (my favourite colour) bean bag-type cushions for everyone to try out when we return to school. I can't wait to see everyone's faces when they sink into these enormous cushions. I love them and could happily lie on one all day, reading of course. Take a look at the photos below.

I hope everyone is finding time to do some extra reading. It's one of the few good things about this quarantine time for me. I've gotten through quite a few novels and plan to read more. I hope you can find some good books at home or online, but if not, make sure you check out your local library online, bookstores online, reading apps and any websites suggested by your teachers. There's also the Book Club sales by Scholastic online. The school will still benefit from your purchases as usual, so I can then order more books for the library.

Looking forward to seeing you all back in the library soon!

**Cherie Hicks - Librarian.**



---

## OSHC Camp Australia

---

We thank you for all your continued support and patience through these challenging times. We understand Outside School Hours Care is vital for many parents that are not able to work from home, so that you can continue to provide essential work for the nation.

Our OSHC service is open and operating for those that need our care, and will provide your children with much-needed familiarity and continuity through our engaging programs that have an increased focus on hygiene and social distancing.

Having spent the day in a classroom, children need the opportunity and space to explore their own interests and unleash their imaginations – whether that be trying new sports, craft, cooking and much, much more.

**It's FREE to Register** (and if you want to use OSHC, you first need to register).

Register at [pp.campaustralia.com.au/account/login](https://pp.campaustralia.com.au/account/login). Once registered, it's easy to make and manage your bookings online via our Parent Portal.

**Visit our blog for helpful information and fun activities.**

New articles are added each week for parents and cover various topics to help families. This month we are focusing on all things COVID-19. We talk about how to adjust to the changes you've made in your household, including fun activity ideas to entertain your child at home. Visit the blog here: <https://campaustralia.com.au/blog>

Our Artists have been working hard at home. Here is a selection of art from the last few weeks. Enjoy!

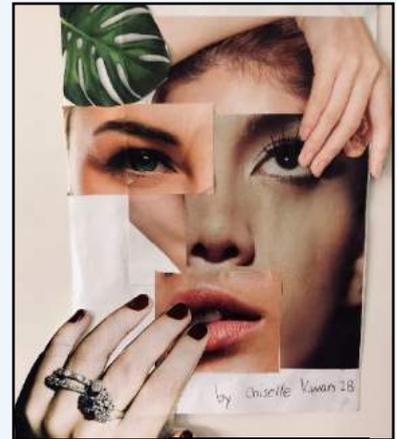
# Photomontage Artworks



Jared G 1BL



Chaysen 4S



Chiselle 2B



Janae\_4W

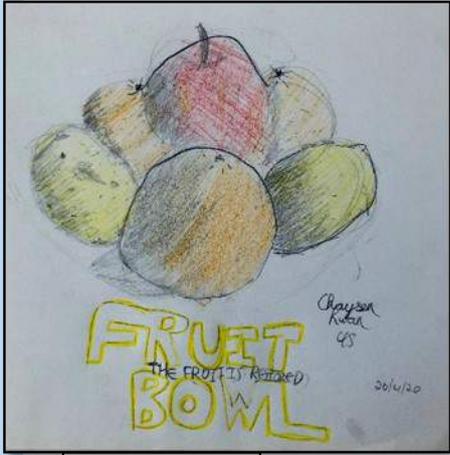


Dani 3Mc

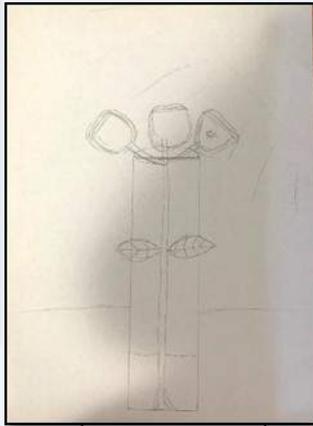


Imogen 5P

# Still Life Drawings



Chaysen 4S



Janae 4W



Chiselle 2B

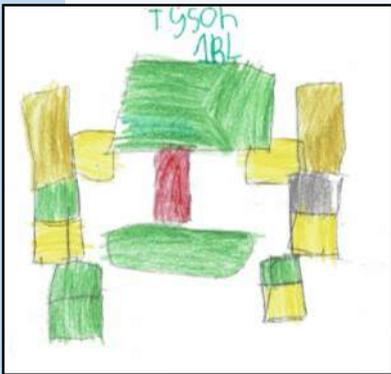


Blake 2N



Tyson 1BL

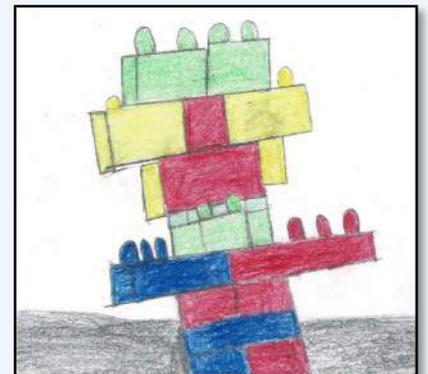
# Block Construction



Tyson 1BL



Sebastian 2L



Blake 2N

---

# Box Construction Houses and Skyscrapers

---

Visual Art Gallery



Jared 1BL



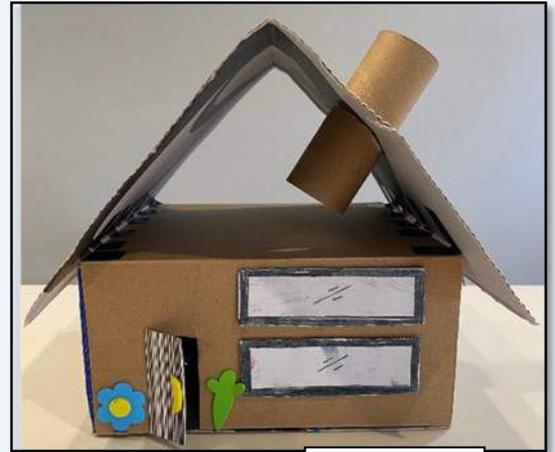
James 5K & Janae 4W



Caleb 2N



Blake 2N



Tyson 1BL

---

## ANZAC Day

---



Anthony 2N

# Community News

## **Michael Carr-Gregg - Free Online Seminars**

While the COVID-19 crisis has transformed the way we lead our lives almost overnight, Manningham's popular Parenting Seminar Series has quickly adapted, pivoting to online webinars to keep the wheels turning.

In recognising the effects continuous media coverage, home schooling and isolation are having on families, we've partnered with well-known child psychologist, Dr Michael Carr-Gregg, to present a series of webinars focusing on raising resilient children and supporting families during this pandemic.

### **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May – Raising Resilient Kids in the Coronavirus era 7-8pm**

Topics include managing home-schooling, self-care and dealing with uncertainties. This is a 45 minute webinar with 15 minutes for questions.

### **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May – Managing Year 11 and 12 in the face of uncertainty 7-8pm**

Year 11 and 12 students now face unprecedented disruption and uncertainty around the completion of the school year. With no firm decisions on how, when or if final exams will be held, many students are understandably anxious.

In this session, Dr Michael Carr-Gregg will provide practical tips on how parents and students can manage these challenging times.

This is a 45 minute webinar with 15 minutes for questions.

### **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Helping teachers manage their wellbeing in the Coronavirus era 7-8pm**

Before COVID-19 turned our lives upside down, more than half of Australian school teachers suffered from anxiety and almost one-fifth were depressed.

This seminar is targeted towards anyone, in particular teachers, who are feeling anxious during the pandemic. It will provide you with the skills, knowledge and strategies to manage your own wellbeing during this challenging time.

This is a 45 minute webinar with 15 minutes for questions.

**To register for these free webinars visit our website:**

<https://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/Parenting-Seminar-Series>



POSITIVE PARENTING  
TELEPHONE SERVICE  
1800 880 660

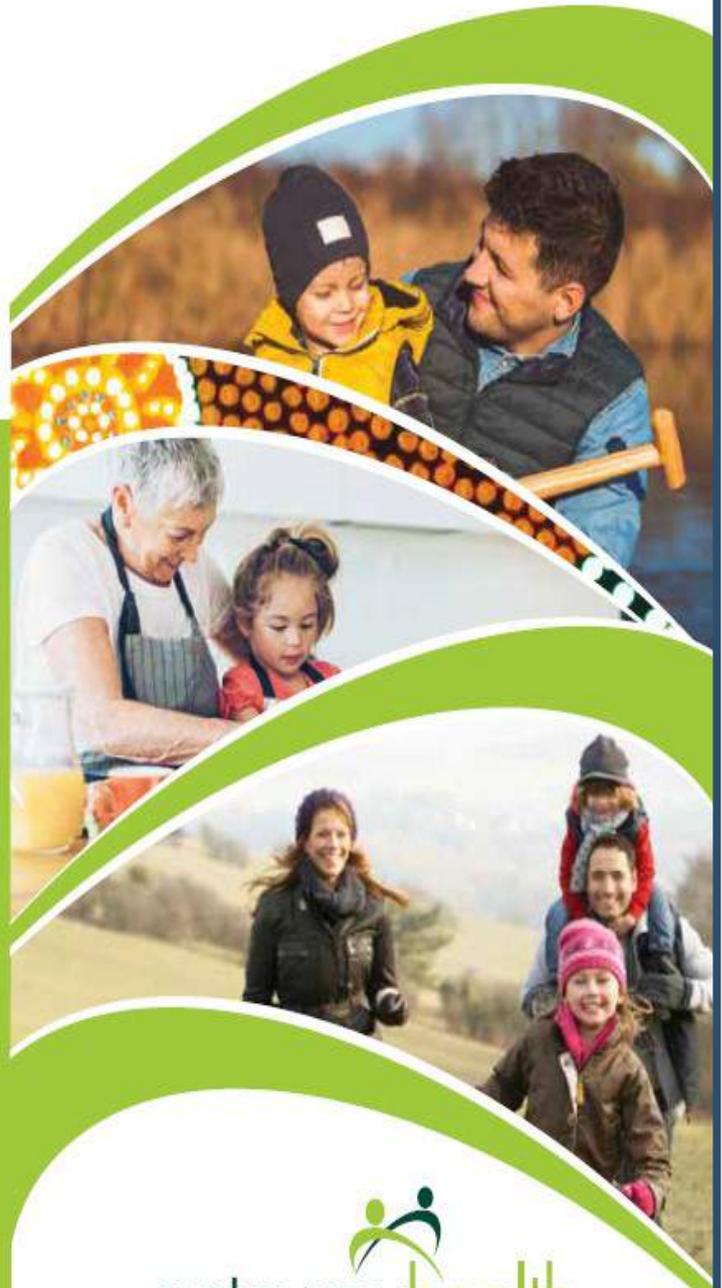


Gateway Health is proud to deliver  
the Positive Parenting Telephone  
Service across the state of Victoria.

Gateway Health is a not for profit  
Community Health Service

1800 880 660

E: [ppts@gatewayhealth.org.au](mailto:ppts@gatewayhealth.org.au)  
[www.gatewayhealth.org.au](http://www.gatewayhealth.org.au)



# POSITIVE PARENTING TELEPHONE SERVICE

## FREE

VICTORIA WIDE SERVICE  
FOR

- Parents
- Grandparents
- Carers

Caring for children aged 2 - 12 years

OUR FREE 6 TO 10  
WEEK PARENTING PROGRAM  
HELPS YOU TO:

- Have stronger more positive relationships with your children
- Set rules and limits
- Manage everyday behaviour problems
- Teach new skills



Participants complete a workbook or online modules which are supported by weekly 30 minute phone calls with a trained parenting educator.

All of this can be done from the comfort of your own home at a time that suits you



Enrol now and make a  
positive start to last a lifetime

Please call  
**1800 880 660**

Enrolments are taken all year round