

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – May 28th 2020

### Welcome Back

What a fabulous week we have had! It was wonderful to welcome our Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 students back to school on Tuesday morning.

There had been some talk in the media about how anxious children may be with the return to school after having spent so long at home, however our experience was of children who were incredibly happy and excited to see their friends and their teachers again. There were several students who found the initial separation from parents difficult, (maybe the parents found it difficult too?) but when checked on, had settled very well.

Our cleaning routines area a sight to behold with children lining up at the taps, teachers with soap dispensers and lots of hand-rubbing and soap suds! The routines are continued in class and I don't think the tables and chairs have ever been cleaner.

Thank you parents for the wonderful work you have done at home, and are continuing to do for the Year 3 to Year 6 students, with regard to WebEx meetings and home learning packs. We are really looking forward to seeing our Year 3 to Year 6 students in a little over a week from now.

Everyone in the school community – parents, students, teachers, aides and administration staff members have had an incredibly steep learning curve since the last week of Term 1. Whilst it was challenging for many of us, in the main we have all taken on these new measures very well and our students have reaped the rewards.

There are many wonderful innovations that have occurred in many schools as a result of remote learn and many amazingly, positive benefits for numerous students. We will be working hard at a school level and a Manningham/Monash network level to ensure these positives are maintained and built upon wherever possible.

### Teachers and Aides

I need to state publicly my admiration and respect for the work that our teachers and aides have performed and are continuing to do during this remote learning period – and now back again to face to face teaching. The amount of work going on behind the scenes to support the health and wellbeing of a number of our students and parents is staggering to see. We have truly dedicated staff at Birralee. To transition from face to face teaching at such very short notice was an incredibly challenging situation. Everyone at Birralee worked diligently to ensure that our students would be looked after and continue their

education during lock down. This was something that none of us trained for, none of us expected, but once the directive was given, our teachers and aides put their shoulders to the wheel and came up with a program that worked well.

I would like also to thank Assistant principals, Jacque Clement and Tanya Burton for the incredible work they have done during this lockdown period. I am extremely fortunate to have such supportive and highly competent people by my side. We could not have achieved so much without their direction support and advice.

### **Parking, Traffic and Student Safety**

It seems the weeks of no trouble with traffic are now at an end!

Please note that there are new parking restrictions on Wilsons Road with 'No Standing' at drop off and pick-up times on a substantial section on the northern side, near the school crossing. This will stop traffic being blocked and allow vehicles to move freely. Thank you to all the parents who are parking away from the school and are allowing their children to walk to school unaided – they are quite capable to do so. Of course we understand that some very young children may need an adult or older sibling with them so why not park at one of the Active Travel routes and walk with them?

We had reports this morning of students darting across Pettys Lane and Wilsons Road to get to the other side. Nobody should cross Wilsons Road anywhere except at the supervised crossing. Students who must cross Pettys lane should be supervised much more closely than they were this morning. Given what occurred this morning, there are a number who require adult supervision to cross.

Please remember that we need to be considerate of the local residents. Please don't block roads or park in driveways. We had some very angry residents in Pettys Lane this morning.

### **Arrival and Dismissal**

The reason we have staggered drop-off and pick-up times is to minimise the number of adults on site. This enables social distancing requirements to be met. Allowing your child to walk to school by themselves in the morning means fewer adults congregating. This is the preferred method of travel to school. A government directive is still in place to maintain a 1.5 metre distance between adults.

In the afternoons, please do not congregate on the footpath in the front of the school. We have designated Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 pick-up points for parents to stand inside the school grounds whilst maintaining the 1.5 metre distance from other adults. Rather than waiting on the footpath in front of school, please either wait some distance from the school for your child at an agreed location, or enter the school grounds and wait in the designated areas.

### **Punctuality**

There were too many children late for school this morning. Prep to Year 2 students are meant to be at school before 9:00am so they can begin at 9:00am. There was a very long stream of cars that arrived after 9:00am. If this was the case with your family, please ensure you leave home earlier in the morning.

## Leaving School Early

The only reason a child should leave early from school is for an appointment such as a specialist medical appointment, or as is the case for some students to attend a specialist therapist lesson.

There is an increasing request for children to leave early because extracurricular activities such as a swimming lesson, tennis lesson, dance class, extra tuition etc. have been scheduled too close to the end of school.

These lessons should be scheduled for a later time.

**Ashley Ryan**  
Principal

### Quote of the Week

*"Of course I can keep secrets. It's the people I tell them to that can't keep them".*

*Anthony Haden-Guest*

### Word of the Week

**Oxymoron** (noun) conjoined contradictory terms e.g. original copy, true myth, lead balloon, silent scream

*Achieving excellence together!*

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## Book Club

Book Club orders for this term can be placed online via the LOOP platform. Online orders can be placed at [scholastic.com.au/loop](https://www.scholastic.com.au/loop) or by using the LOOP app, which can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play.

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## School Banking

There will be no school banking for the remainder of term.

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## Birthday Treats

Please note that students are not allowed to share food. If you would like to send in a birthday treat to share with your child's class please ensure that it is pre-packaged. Cakes and cupcakes are not allowed. Please bear in mind that we do have students with severe allergies to nuts and other ingredients. Please check with your child's teacher for more information.

# National Reconciliation Week



27 MAY – 3 JUNE



**Together, we move toward a more just, equitable and reconciled nation.**

From Wednesday 27th May, we're celebrating National Reconciliation Week in OSHC. With dedicated games and activities, it's a fantastic opportunity to teach children all about the Traditional Owners of the Land that we live on. We'll celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and their culture and heritage.

The theme for 2020 is In This Together and now, more than ever, it's resonating in unforeseen ways. We will guide children to find the true meaning of reconciliation and show that we are all in this together.

With activities appropriate for all ages, here is what we have planned for National Reconciliation Week:

<b>Monday</b>	Constructing a Rainbow Snake, Making Musical Shakers, and developing a Quiz on Culture
<b>Tuesday</b>	Creating Uluru, Learning to play Keen-Tan' an Aboriginal Game, and Creating an Acknowledgement of the Country
<b>Wednesday</b>	Learning about the Historic Events within Australia, Creating Nature Jewellery, and Using Natural Materials in Craft
<b>Thursday</b>	Creating Australian Animals, Making Footprint Bookmarks, and Dot Painting of Australian Animals
<b>Friday</b>	Making a Recognition Wall, Creating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags, and Making Australian Animals out of Clay

**For OSHC drop off and pick up – we have a change in procedure due to COVID-19, when arrived at the school can you please walk to the basketball courts and call (0404 482 254), as at this current time families will need to wait outside and we need to ensure we have line of sight of yourself and your child. To ensure the safety of all children and educators, we will be signing the children in and out of the tablet.**

**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.

# Community News



POSITIVE PARENTING  
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1800 880 660

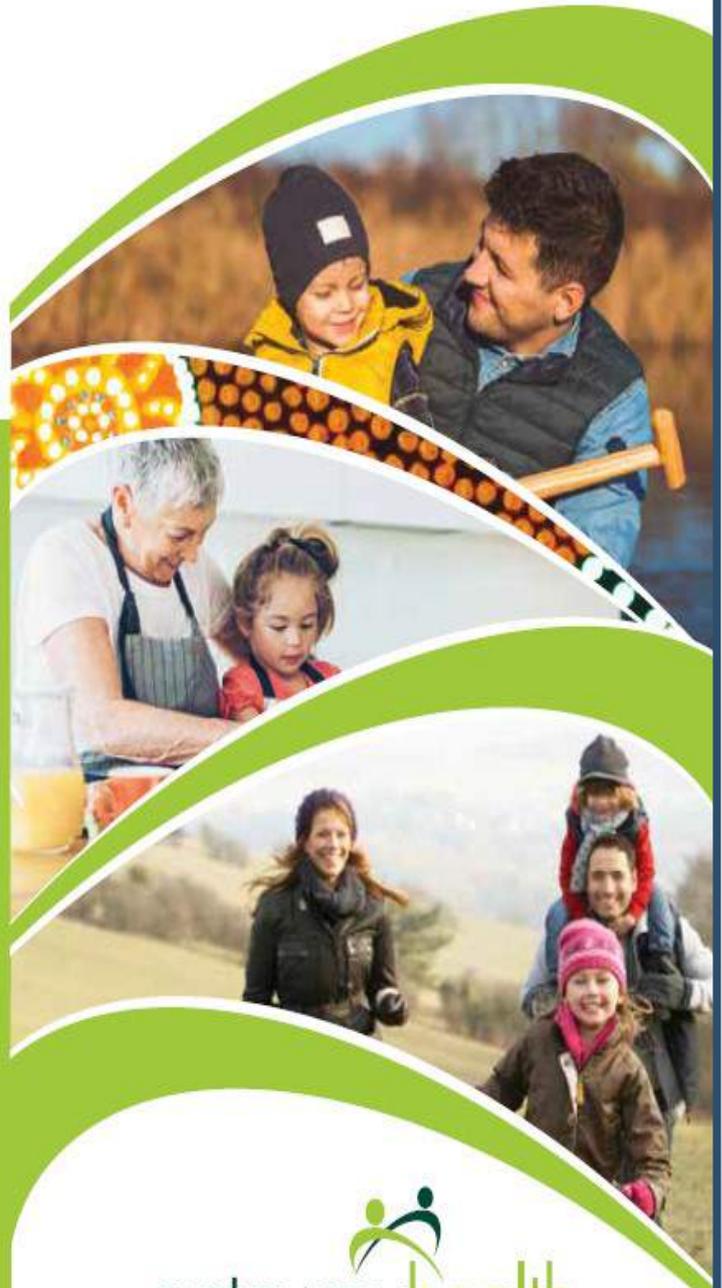


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the Positive Parenting Telephone  
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1800 880 660

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# Community News

## POSITIVE PARENTING TELEPHONE SERVICE

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FOR

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- 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.

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