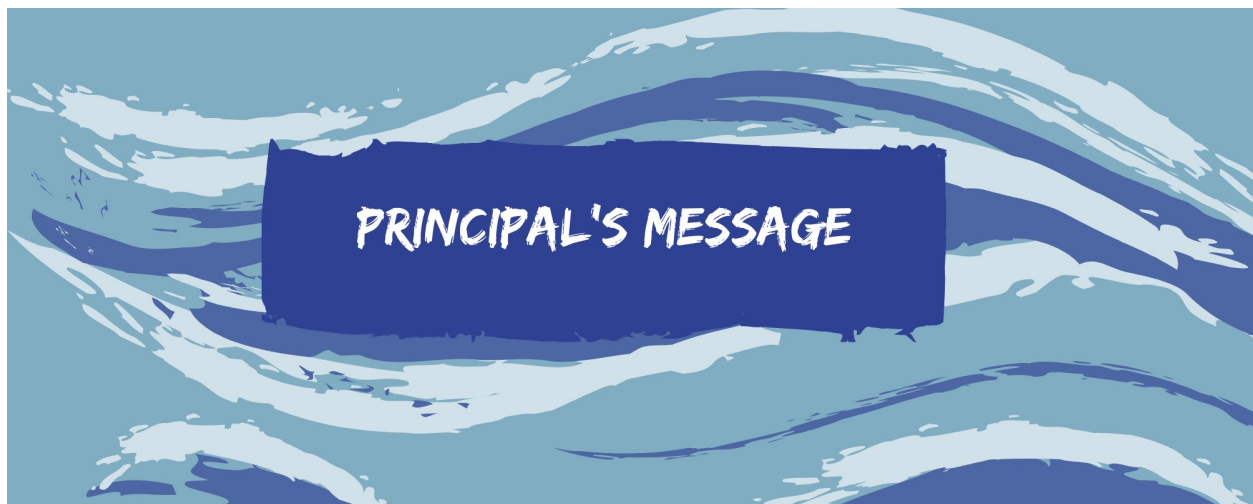




# Monday 16 November, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,



**WELCOME TO WEEK 6 OF TERM 4**

**COVID-19 UPDATE - 5 NOVEMBER 2020**

The Department of Education and NSW Health, have been working closely to ease restrictions for the remainder of Term 4. These updates are in relation to excursions and field trips, Kindergarten Orientation, Graduations, Farewells and Presentation Days. Whilst schools are exempt from some

requirements under the Public Health Order, including the 4 square metre rule on site, for the purposes of delivering educational services and the normal running of the school, we comply with the 4 square metre rule for adults and in accordance with the COVID plan of the venues we attend. Presentation Day 2020 and the Year 6 graduation ceremony will be held at school and the Year 6 Farewell will occur off site. Unfortunately for 2020 we will not be able to have parents present for these events to ensure we are able to meet the COVID-19 health order requirements.

### **MINIMISING RISK OF COVID-19 TRANSMISSION - STILL CURRENT**

- Schools should continue to exclude students and staff with mild cold and flu symptoms (such as sore throat, sneezing, coughing and/or temperature). These are mild symptoms of COVID-19 and those presenting these are asked to seek testing immediately. IT IS IMPORTANT that parents of symptomatic children provide evidence of a negative test result before their child's return to school.
- In the case of seasonal allergic rhinitis or other condition that presents similarly to COVID-19 and in the presence of continuing symptoms, the child will need a negative COVID-19 test result and a letter from their GP confirming that the child should be permitted to return to school. If the child's symptoms change from their usual symptoms, repeat COVID-19 testing should be performed.
- Non-essential adults should continue to be excluded from school unless involved directly in delivery of curriculum activities or health services. All teachers, coaches and volunteers should continue to ensure they maintain physical distancing during, before and after school or sporting activities.
- Good hand hygiene practices should continue to be supported along with the other measures outlined in the school and community COVID-19 Safety Plan.

### **P & C MEETING**

Last week we held our first P&C meeting via the Zoom platform, which meant we were able to conduct the meeting in a COVID safe manner through the use of technology. I would like to thank our P&C executive for their innovation in being able to come up with another way for our school and community to connect. We are planning to conduct another P&C meeting in this way on Tuesday 8th December. Please keep an eye on the P&C Facebook page closer to the date for details on how to join in.

### **STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM 2021**

A number of year 5 students nominated themselves for the student leadership team. I congratulate these students for considering the role and their willingness to contribute to school life. Following the nominations, our year 5 students voted to short list this group. The short-listed group has prepared their speeches which will be presented at school to the student body via video.

Students and teachers will vote this week and our 10 school leaders will be identified for 2021. Their roles will be announced at our Presentation ceremony in December. I congratulate all nominees for stepping outside of their comfort zone. I know that although there will be the inevitable

disappointment, our students will show their resilience by coping with this disappointment with the support of the school and their families.

We remind our students to focus on:

1. I stepped out of my comfort zone and had a go
2. I seem to be on the right track
3. I'll keep trying and use my strengths
4. This set back is short term and I will embrace other opportunities as they arise
5. I'm looking forward to ...

## **TRANSITION TO YEAR 7**

Our year 6 teachers are meeting with the year 7 advisors and counsellors to discuss the academic, social and emotional needs of all students going to various high schools. We also support students who will be attending private schools. These schools seek the completion of questionnaires from us to assist them in their planning for these students. Our students attend the open days and orientation days to each school prior.

It is perfectly normal for all people, no matter what their age, to feel anxious about change. The purpose of these programs are to show children what the change will look like in advance. Headache, tummy pain, sleeplessness is normal. This is a short-term occurrence and will pass for most students. A small number of children, will require further support to transition successfully. The school will work with these students, their parents and the high school to support the student.

## **REPORTING TO PARENTS**

Our teachers were given time away from their face to face teaching to reconnect with families and check in about wellbeing and learning at the end of last term. They are currently finalising data, cross checking syllabus outcomes and meeting with colleagues across the grade to ensure consistent expectations and preparing to write end of year reports.

Reports will be distributed to parents on Friday 11 December 2020. Parents who have questions about the reports may speak directly with the class teacher before the end of the year through the usual communication channels.

## **GENERAL ASSISTANT POSITION**

As many of you would know, we have been extremely fortunate over the past months/year to have been able to employ two General Assistants on a temporary basis whilst our substantive General Assistant (Wally) has been on leave. Wally has decided it is time to hang up the tools and move into

retirement, unfortunate for us our two temporary staff members (Yarris and Josh) are not able to continue in the role next year.

Under the Government Sector Employment act, we are required to advertise this position on the I Work for NSW website <https://iworkfor.nsw.gov.au> This position has gone live today.

If you know of anyone who may be looking for work as a General Assistant on a fulltime basis please alert them to this merit selection opportunity through the I work for NSW website.

### **KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS 2021**

Due now. Please complete an online enrolment form now or contact our school for further assistance. The Department of Education enrolment form can be found here:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/enrolment/primary-school-enrolment>

Further information can be found on our website:

<https://parramattw-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/about-our-school/enrolment.html>

### **PLANNING FOR 2021**

If you are planning on withdrawing your child/ren from the school at the end of this year, you must advise us in writing now. Also, please advise us in writing, if your child/ren will be late to start the new school year. It is a government requirement that we are informed of the school your children will be attending in the future.

Teunis Ploeg

**Principal**



## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL REPORT

### **SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST**

Selective High School Placement Applications have opened for Year 5 students wanting to apply for entry to Selective High Schools in 2022. All applications must be completed online before the closing date (today) Monday 16 November 2020. Only online applications will be accepted. Applications can be submitted at:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7>

All applicants will be required to sit the Selective High School Placement Test on 11 March, 2021. For more information regarding Selective High School Placement for 2022, please visit:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7/information-for-applicants>

### **WHY ATTENDANCE MATTERS**

This has been a very different year – however it remains important that children attend school everyday, unless they are sick or there are exceptional circumstances that families have made the school aware of.

Non-attendance has both an academic and a social impact. There's a well-documented correlation between absences and achievement, which demonstrates that every day matters.

Building and maintaining positive attendance patterns is a three way partnership between students, parents and schools, where all parties hold an important piece of the puzzle. Let's work together to ensure attendance at school is steady and make a positive difference to the learning outcomes for all our students.



# Why attendance matters



When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to:



Learn



Make friends



Build skills through fun

## Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

**1** day per fortnight = **4** weeks = Over **1** year missed

**1** day per week = **8** weeks = Over **2.5** years missed

What's coming up this week for kids...



#### **LIBRARY NEWS**

Book Club is due to Mrs Sell by Tuesday 27 November. Please use the order form provided and please put your name on the order. Mrs Sell has 1 order from Issue 6 that was not claimed and 1 order from Issue 7 that was not claimed. They both have no names.

Please start to return all books this week and next.

#### **STUDENT LEADER VOTING**

Students in Year 3 - 5 classes will have the opportunity to vote for School Leader positions 2021. This will take place in classes on Tuesday morning. We wish the Year 5 candidates the best of luck.

#### **OPPORTUNITY CLASS TEST - YEAR 4**

Year 4 students who have elected to sit the Opportunity Class test will undertake this exam on Wednesday morning at school. We wish these students the best of luck.







PARRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

# *Virtual Orientation Day!*

PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND FUTURE YEAR 7 STUDENTS  
ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN A VIRTUAL  
ORIENTATION DAY.

**FEATURES OF SESSION:**

- MEET YEAR 7 ADVISOR, DEPUTY PRINCIPAL AND PRINCIPAL
- TOUR THE SCHOOL - VIRTUALLY
- ASK ANY QUESTIONS

**WHEN:**

- 11:30AM ON DECEMBER 1, 2020

**HOW:**

- ZOOM LINK WILL BE PROVIDED BY EMAIL

IF YOU CAN'T MAKE THIS TIME, THE SESSION WILL BE RECORDED AND  
UPLOADED TO OUR GOOGLE SITE

DETAILS TO JOIN THE ZOOM SESSION WILL BE  
EMAILED OUT TO SCHOOLS AND PARENTS CLOSER  
TO THE DATE



# Got symptoms? Get tested.

**Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms should be tested.**

Symptoms include:



fever



cough



sore throat



difficulty breathing



loss of smell



loss of taste

**Other reported symptoms of COVID-19 include:**

fatigue, runny nose, muscle pain, joint pain, nausea/vomiting,  
diarrhoea, loss of appetite or other flu symptoms.



Testing is free, quick and easy  
[health.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus](https://health.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus)