

Appin Park News

LEARNING
FOR LIVING
I SHOW RESPECT
I AM RESPONSIBLE
I CARE

11th June 2020

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Compass

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July

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August

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Hello Everyone,

Welcome back!

It is so good to have everyone returned to school. The yard is full of students playing and enjoying being back together. Classrooms are also full of chatter as students adjust to the school day and the routines that come with it. We have been hearing many stories of how students have managed through the remote learning period. There have been stories of challenges faced but also many positive outcomes. Please let your child's classroom teacher know if you are noticing any changes in feelings towards school or the COVID situation. We are aware that some children have an increased level of anxiety at the moment and we do have resources to support them if needed. Even though children may have had no direct contact with COVID they have seen and heard a lot. The impact on normal daily lives and routines for adults and children has been significant. Over the next couple of weeks we hope to provide some insight into those experiences via the newsletter, as well as share feedback from the survey we put out last week. Thanks again to those who have already responded. The link will be open until the end of Friday.

Bus drive through

Due to the increased amount of traffic through our drive through area, we have been trying to get our bus travellers out a little before 3:15, so the shuttle can get to the High School on time for connecting buses. If the bus pulls up behind you please move through the drive through and come back around again. We also remind parents to remain in their car when picking up in the drive through. If your children are unable to get in the car themselves, it is safest to use the back car park for pick up. This also allows for a more efficient end of day for everyone involved.

School Gardens

Due to restrictions around social distancing for adults we are unable to have formal working bees. However, this has not stopped the weeds from growing and shrubs from needing pruning over the last couple of months. If your family is able to help in any way with an hour of gardening we'd greatly appreciate your support. Please contact us at the office and we can share a small garden project with you. Also if you have any old garden tools at home, that are in reasonable condition we could use them here at school. For example garden forks, rakes and spades.

Fiona Carson - Principal

New Government Initiative

The Victorian Government is providing free sanitary pads and tampons in every government school because being able to access sanitary products shouldn't be a barrier for girls to getting the most out of their education. This initiative aims to:

- Provide students with the confidence that sanitary items will be readily accessible at school;
- Relieve students of the stigma, anxiety and discomfort that can be associated with menstruation;
- Ease the cost of living for families.

Lack of easy access to sanitary items can negatively affect attitudes, behaviours and equal participation in sport and everyday school activities. By providing access to sanitary items, these barriers can be reduced.

The Government's initiative will ensure sanitary pads and tampons are available at school to help female students manage their periods with greater ease and less embarrassment and to normalise periods as a healthy part of growing up.

If you are looking for Information to help guide your conversations with your child, the following websites may be helpful:

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/pre-teens/development/periods-hygiene/periods>

<https://jeanhailes.org.au/health-a-z/periods>

<https://www.jeanhailes.org.au/resources/yarning-about-periods-menstrual-cycle>

This Week at Appin Park!



Check out our video on Facebook!

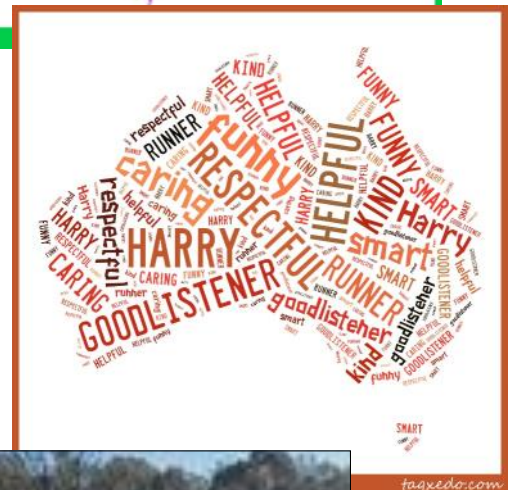


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Dear parents and carers,

Term 2 in 2020 has been like no other school term in Victoria's history, and so I am writing to thank you for your support.

As you know, this week Grade 3 to Year 10 students joined Prep to Grade 2, VCE and specialist school students in face to face learning. It is great to see our school communities come together again. In responding to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic over the past few months, the Department of Education and Training has asked a lot of our teachers and schools, and we have also required your support as parents and carers.

I want to acknowledge the extraordinary effort you have all made in working in partnership with your teachers and schools to support your children while they have been learning from home.

When I wrote to you a few months ago as we transitioned to remote and flexible learning, I acknowledged that it would be a challenging time for everyone, but that it was important to work closely together to provide the best possible support for students.

Many of you have since told me that there have been difficult, rewarding and challenging experiences during this unique and uncertain time that we have been through together. I thank you for your support, commitment, patience and perseverance.

But despite difficulties, I've been impressed to hear inspiring stories of education innovation. The innovative and creative approaches adopted during remote and flexible learning have been outstanding, and many schools will bring new approaches with them to on-site schooling.

Many school communities have forged even stronger relationships and partnerships - with families and teachers gaining a greater mutual appreciation of their shared contributions to school education. Our schools now have a range of precautionary measures to protect the health and safety of your children, your family, teachers and staff, and your local community.

I hope these measures, along with the knowledge that the Victorian Chief Health Officer and Victorian Government have approached the return to on-site schooling with the utmost precaution and careful planning, have helped ease any anxiety about the return to on-site schooling.

The changes at your school are consistent with health advice, including enhanced cleaning in schools and frequent handwashing. Your school has also asked you to practice physical distancing during drop-off and pick-up times.

Your children may be feeling anxious about returning to school. Reassure your child that it's safe for them to go back to school and reinforce what they've been practicing at home around hand hygiene public transport to keep them safe.

Please remember the health advice: if you or your child is unwell, please stay at home. This is vital to ensuring the effective management of the pandemic.

Information about how to speak to your child about coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found here:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/Pages/talkingtoyourchildaboutcoronavirus.aspx>

Visit the Department's website for the latest information about coronavirus (COVID-19) at:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/departments/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Thank you once again for working with your schools to support your children while they were learning at home and for your patience during the staged return to on-site schooling.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Atta

Secretary

Department of Education and Training





Appin Park Primary School

Enrolments for 2021
Foundation students
now being taken

*Please contact the office on 5722 1326
for more information or to book a tour*

We look forward to meeting you

Find us on Facebook, visit our website or send an email

<https://www.facebook.com/appinparkps/>

<http://www.appinparkps.vic.edu.au/>

appin.park.ps@education.vic.gov.au

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