

Principal's Report for the School Board
Week 2, Term 4, 2020

Evacuation Drill

This Wednesday 21st October, the company who oversees our risk management processes and procedures, Dynamiq, came out to do an audit on our school during a practice evacuation. It is essential at a school site especially with our extensive size, that we have opportunities throughout the year to practice with all our staff and students the different types of procedures we would be expected to follow in an emergency situation. Knowing what these procedures are and what our students and staff are required to do, ensures a calm and orderly process should we need to undertake a real evacuation. Teachers reassured all of our students prior to the event that this particular evacuation was only a drill and that completing this is an important safety measure for our school.

We did receive some very timely feedback on our process and we now know what needs to be taken into consideration before our next practice in 2021.

Swimming Lessons- Pre-Primary to Year 6

This term will be extra busy, with our swimming lessons taking place for Pre-Primary through to Year Six running over six weeks at Cockburn Arc. Learning the skills of swimming and survival are so important for all Australian children and we encourage all students to attend these annual lessons to develop their skills in water safety. Each year level will have a daily lesson for two weeks and families will be notified at the conclusion of the series from the swimming teachers about their child's skill attainment and level. Parents are welcome to join in the fun and can watch their child's lesson, through attending the pool at the allocated time, after paying a spectator entry fee.

COVID Update

I will be in contact with all families very shortly after the government's decision on COVID after Mark McGowan makes his announcement on October 25th. This communication and decision about the possibility to move to Phase 5 will determine how we manage many aspects of the end of year, ie Graduation, for us as a school and where we can potentially relax some of the restrictions that we have been required to put in place for the majority of the year. In the meantime, parents and families can enter and exit the school at all entry and exit points if they wish to do so; however, they are still not permitted into the classrooms. Parents and carers can arrange meetings with teachers if they are required before or after school, or during their DOTT times and be on the school site, as long as students are not in the classroom. We all must also, as adults adhere to the 1.5 metre physical distancing rule when waiting for our children before and after school and when on the school site.

We have done such a fantastic job together as a whole community this year in managing COVID and hopefully we will receive some good news on the 25th.

Drop Off and Pick Up Awareness

I have recently communicated to all families to be very aware of the surroundings during the morning drop off and afternoon pick-ups. We have recently experienced some 'near misses' for our students, when distracted parents have accidentally driven over crosswalks without looking first, or not noticed students on bikes and scooters crossing the school entry and exit points or reversing out of parking bays. It is also essential that **all families** use the designated crosswalks on Camden and Lyon road when approaching the site, as many families have been crossing Lyon road near the early childhood gate where the traffic is particularly heavy and dangerous. We do understand that the traffic around the school in the mornings is congested approaching 8:45am and the local council, WA Police and rangers are monitoring this situation in the hope to find a solution. The branch of WA Policing and Mainroads that oversee our crosswalk attendants are currently doing two unnotified audits of vehicle and pedestrian traffic around our school site and will provide us with feedback once this has been completed. On completion of this review, a report will be forwarded to the Children's Crossings and Road Safety Committee for their consideration and actionable recommendations.

Camp Australia

I would like to personally thank Mrs Sandra Gay, Camp Australia Coordinator for her valuable contributions to our school and children over the past years. Sandra has decided to retire from the coordinator role this year and we wish her all the very best in her future endeavours. She has been such a valuable and positive community member at our school and I know that many families will miss her jovial and caring nature. This week, we welcome Maria Rayson to Aubin Grove Primary School as Camp Australia's new Aubin Grove Coordinator.

2021 Planning

Planning is well underway for 2021 to assist us to plan our classroom structures, staffing and optimisation of our resources. Families have been asked to inform office staff if they do not plan to be attending our school in 2021. Understanding that for many families this year has been tricky to plan for with travel restrictions, we might not be settled with our final 2021 numbers until well into the new year. We are currently in the process of running a number of recruitment processes for fixed term teachers, education assistants, a pedagogical leader to whole school teaching approaches, deputies and principal to fill vacancies in the new school year.

These processes should be concluded by Monday of Week 10, so our students will be able to meet their new teachers for the 2021 school year at our annual Transition Afternoon.

End of Year Events

All families have been informed as to how we plan to proceed with some of our annual end of year events, taking into consideration that Western Australia will now remain in Phase 4 restrictions for the foreseeable future.

As the end of year is a very busy, social and celebration time for our school, Phase 4 will have an impact on how we manage these events, due to the large predicted number of families being in one space and in close proximity to each other.

After careful deliberation, in addition to taking on advice from the Department of Education, we have decided to not proceed with the usual format for our end of year concert in Week 10. We understand that many families, students and staff will be very disappointed with this decision; however, we do not feel as though we would be acting responsibly should we have decided to proceed. The delay in the government making their decision to remain in Phase 4 also impacted our decision, as it does take a term to rehearse and organise this event, due to the large number of classes and students. In line with how we have always adapted to suit the conditions throughout 2020, we will still hold mini assemblies for each year level in the last two weeks of school to recognise those LEAF award winners for each class, share the highlights of the year and conclude with a community song that the children are already familiar with. Parents of the LEAF award recipients will be invited to these assemblies and will be seated for the event, following the correct physical distancing requirements. More information about these assemblies will follow in the coming weeks on our family Connect site.

The end of year is also an important time for our graduating Year 6 students. They will proceed with their graduation dinner event in Week 9 and their graduation ceremony will still take place on Thursday 10th December at the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church auditorium; however, we are waiting for confirmation from this venue as to what options we can consider with the restricted venue capacity. Year 6 parents will be notified as to how we plan to proceed for this event as soon as we receive this direction from the venue provider.

Transition afternoon, class parties and our end of year good standing reward for all of our students can all proceed, as they are in-school events and do not involve parent participation. At all of these events, our staff and students will follow good hygiene practices, as we have done so for the majority of the year.

Long Service Leave

I am also taking long service leave commencing next Monday, November 2nd for two weeks to support my youngest child through his final Year 12 ATAR exams. Mrs Melanie Osborne will be acting in my position in my absence and will be more than happy to support any students or families whilst I am away. She can be contacted at Melanie.Osborne@education.wa.edu.au or alternatively on 6174 6500.