

# Mount Evelyn Primary School

22nd July, 2020

Issue 8

NEWSLETTER



## Principal's Report

Welcome back to what has become another term of challenges, problem solving and remote learning. Responding to feedback from last term, we have made some adjustments to the way teachers and support staff interact with those students learning from home. All teachers will be using video conferencing tools to connect with small focus groups of students. This provides an opportunity for your child to see some of their peers and hear about their home learning experiences. This will also be an opportunity for some targeted teaching and clarification of learning intentions. Families are already responding positively to this.

### Face Coverings

In line with advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government and DET have announced that people in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire must wear a face covering when they leave home from 11.59pm on Wednesday 22 July 2020. Face coverings will be mandatory for people aged 12 and over.

At Mount Evelyn PS this means that school-based staff will be required to wear a face covering whilst at school. Teachers and support staff will not be required to wear face coverings while teaching, but those who wish to do so, can. Teachers will wear face coverings in other areas of the school when not teaching - in the staffroom, on yard duty and when providing first aid or taking temperatures.

For students currently attending school for on-site supervision, a face covering is optional. Primary school students, even if they are 12 years of age or older, are not be required to wear face coverings but may do so at the parents' discretion.

### Term three school events

A number of events and opportunities that had been planned for term three have had to be postponed until term four or cancelled completely. While we will make every attempt to ensure that students will have access to camps, excursions and extra curricula opportunities, much of this is currently out of our control.

Many of our students have paid for and have been looking forward to the **Arts Festival**. As this is a school based program, we will be celebrating the Arts in term four and payment will be held until then. The **Art Extension** program has also been moved to term four and the Yarra Hills SC staff will be running a program for students from levels 3-6. Any students who have paid for this program will have their payment held until term four. A highlight of the year for many families is the annual **School Photos**. We have already re-scheduled this once from March to August and will try to find a suitable date in term four. This will be dependent on the availability of MSP photography. At this stage we will keep our **school camp** bookings for term four and await further advice from DET and the Department of Health about the likelihood of these going ahead. Families who have registered for ICAS testing will receive notification from the organising body informing you that the ICAS testing period has been moved to later in the year. The **student free day** planned for August 20<sup>th</sup> during which all staff were to participate in first aid training, will be rescheduled for term four if possible.

We know that students and families have been looking forward to many of these events particularly school camps and the annual school photos. Please know that the postponement or possible cancellation of any event is out of our hands and while we will make every effort to try to reschedule, so will every other school in the state.

A huge thank you to all families who are staying positive and working with your children to complete and post some very high quality work. While I'm sure the novelty will wear off much more quickly this time, feel free to contact your child's teacher if you need any support or help engaging your child in the learning. Sometimes approaching a task in a different way will make all the difference. The teaching staff, support staff and school leadership will assist you in any way we can.

**Have a great week and stay safe**

*Angie and Helen*