

Monday, March 16, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

With regard to COVID-19, it is our intention to update you regularly, answer your questions and allay your fears as best we can.

Principals are currently being updated with information from the Department of Education and Training each day, and I will forward this to our school community, via Compass, as soon as I receive it. If you have not yet activated your Compass Portal, we highly stress that you do this now, so that you can receive the most up to date information possible.

It has been announced that non-essential, organized gatherings should not proceed. These measures are intended to protect the health of our students and the broader school community. It was for this reason that we were directed to postpone our Camp, and any excursions such as Athletics this coming Friday 20th March 2020.

With regards to our upcoming Harmony Day celebrations on Tuesday 24th March, we will still be holding student activities; however, we will not be holding a parade or parent gathering, as per DET guidelines. We also request that you do not send any food to school to be shared. We will postpone this part of Harmony Day to a later date.

Whilst our school remains open, we also understand that during this time you may wish to keep your child/children home from school. From Wednesday 18th March, we will be able to provide you with a list of online resources and some prepared homework packs for you to collect from the school office. Please notify the School Administration Office if you wish to take up this offer. It will be the parent responsibility to assist students and to monitor their learning whilst you keep them at home.

While there are no reported cases of COVID-19 among the staff or students, the current school cleaning contracts and operations are appropriate and adequate. Additional cleaning may be undertaken in the future.

As directed by the Department of Health and Human Services at lunchtime today, schools will remain open and all students are encouraged to be at school, so that their parents may continue with their work and/or studies. This may reduce community transmission of the virus.

As per the guidelines provided by Victorian State Government, there are ways to reduce your risk of Coronavirus. These include:

- Wash hands often with soap and running water, for at least 20 seconds. Dry with paper towel or hand dryer.

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- Try not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you do not have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow.
- Isolate yourself at home, if you feel sick.
- Phone your GP first if you need medical attention. They will tell you what to do.
- Continue healthy habits, exercise, eat well, drink water and get plenty of sleep.
- Do not wear a face mask if you are well.
- Get the flu shot (available in April)
- Shaking hands is optional!

As you are all aware, we are dealing with a stressful situation, however, staff and students at school are maintaining a positive and calm environment. Please talk to your children, explain to them what is happening and reassure them that we all need to look after each other.

Can I please ask that everyone supports us and promotes the school in a positive way, both in the community and in online (social media).

If you have any concerns, please contact us directly.

I look forward to providing you with further updates as the information becomes available.

Kind regards,



Christine Campbell
Principal