



# Grapevine



Term 3, Week 10 2021

Dear families

As the term draws to a close we are taking every opportunity to reflect upon our current situation and take our learning through to next term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our incredible staff for their flexibility, dedication and comprehensive approach to ensuring the continuation of learning for all of our students.

Of course never before has our partnership as parents and school been tested so rigorously. It has been a delight to work with our families with the purpose of continuing the learning for your precious children.

## **PBL Reward System**

Due to our current situation, our school has modified our reward and commendation system for 2021. We are conscious that learning environments and opportunities may differ within family settings and that continuing with rewards may be seen as a disadvantage to some, but we also feel that is necessary to keep as many school routines as possible in place and we feel that there does need to be recognition for students along the way to keep them motivated in the 'at home' learning space.'

The adjustments we have made are:

- In order to earn a PBL Hat Pin this year, we have reduced the number of awards students have to earn from 6 to 5.
- Starting last week, classroom teachers will be handing out PBL Connect, Respect and Inspire Awards during their Zoom meetings.

All students will receive a 'Connect' Award upon returning to school in recognition of the connection to learning during this phase

All students will then be presented with their certificates and Hat Pins when we resume face-to-face teaching.

## **Reporting**

The NSW Department of Education, in conjunction with NESA has released guidelines for schools to help prepare a modified report. The level of modification may vary across the state, depending on the school or LGA context. We are currently reviewing our 2020 adjusted reporting structure in readiness for Semester 2 reporting cycle.

\*Please see policy excerpt below:

## **Interim policy on reporting for Semester 2 2021**

The department has developed an interim policy standard for Semester 2 reporting 2021. The formal written report for each student will:

- Use plain English
- Describe student progress and achievement on the learning covered during the reporting period, including the learning from home period
- Provide teacher comments to describe student learning and identify the next steps in learning.

In addition, principals will have flexibility to:

- Adapt or modify existing reporting templates/software to meet current requirements (this may include adapting or modifying the simplified report developed in Semester 1 2020)
- Continue to use the A-E scale where valid assessment judgements can be made against statewide syllabus standards
- Provide information about student attendance and commitment to learning, where possible
- Incorporate information about student learning from parent-teacher discussions for a more complete picture of learning progress.

### **Staffing Update**

3N - I would like to inform you that Mrs Nicholls is continuing her leave into Term 4 and will not return as class teacher in 2021. We wish Mrs Nicholls all the best during this time. I know that Mrs Nicholls had an arrangement to join a zoom meeting this week with 3N to say goodbye to them.

Miss Cavill will continue to take our students through the year and is thrilled to have the opportunity to do so. Please know that Miss Cavill is supported by her Relieving Assistant Principal, Mrs Lawson and the Stage 2 team.

I know our students will adjust to this situation well. Miss Cavill will be waiting to welcome your precious one back to school, hopefully in the first few weeks of next term.

### **New Assistant Principal- Curriculum Instructional Leader**

New position given to all New South Wales public primary school - Assistant Principal Curriculum Instructional Leader - 0.8 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) plus school will buy in 0.2 FTE to create a 1.0 position.

A panel is being formed now and the ad will go up early next term. We should know the outcome of this position by the end of Week 4, Term 4. Currently buying this position at 0.6 (Jane Pankhurst holds the position currently) so this is an advantage for our school and then acknowledgement from New South Wales DoE that the role of instructional leadership, which is to do with pedagogy and attainment, is a vital role.

The Assistant Principal, Curriculum and Instruction position is a leadership role dedicated to ensuring that literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills are embedded in curriculum and assessment; high quality teaching practices are enhanced; and the capabilities of middle leaders are strengthened in literacy and numeracy instruction. It shares the broader educational imperatives of the Assistant Principal position but with an explicit focus on the leadership of effective, evidence-based literacy and numeracy teaching and assessment practices for improved student learning outcomes across the curriculum.

The Assistant Principal, Curriculum and Instruction provides high support and guidance to enhance teacher growth and development in literacy and numeracy and strengthens schoolwide instructional capabilities across the curriculum for middle and senior leaders.

We are excited about this new role for our school.

It is with a touch of sadness that we say goodbye this week to the amazing Mrs McCurdy who is retiring. Mrs McCurdy has been teaching small groups in the Covid ILSP program this year, but before that she has been a temporary teacher in our school for many, many years. Mrs McCurdy is the ultimate professional. She has made a significant impact on many students lives over the years with her outstanding ability as a teacher. She has been a wonderful support to other teachers in our school and we are very sad to see her retire, although she seems pretty pleased about it. Please check out the photo of our whole staff zoom party to farewell the amazing Mrs McCurdy.

### **Holidays**

We have sent a clear message to our staff that it is crucial that they take this break as a serious opportunity to rest. I have never seen such exhaustion in 35 years of teaching. We know that this is the same for our families. Please take this time to rest with your families and take a complete break away from the pressures.

Unplug, unwind and relax. We will see you next term.

Regards,

*Mrs Saurins*