



Achievement, Confidence & Pride

Thursday, 30 July 2020.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Online learning

The online learning arrangements are an improved version of our last effort at short notice! Thank you to those parents who have noticed and provided positive feedback to the teachers. The teachers have all reviewed what worked well last time and each team has made some changes to improve the process.

Parent teacher Interviews

Parent teacher Interviews will be held on **Tuesday 11 August**. That will be a student free day and there will be no onsite learning or online learning. Parents who need their child supervised on that day can contact OSHC who will be providing a holiday program. Instructions for booking a time will be sent to parents via Compass. Interviews will be conducted by phone. Please ensure your contact details are up to date.

New Build

We are excited to announce an architect has been appointed to help design the revitalisation of Avondale Primary School! We will be working with [Fooks Martin Sandow Anson Architects](#) to deliver modern facilities that our growing school community can be proud of. To keep track on the progress of our project please visit the Victorian School Building Authority's website at: <https://www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/schools/Pages/Avondale-Primary-School.aspx>

Due to the short timeline for completion of the new facilities, representatives of the school meet weekly with the architects.

COVID 19

The Department of Education has advised *'Parents/carers will be required to wear face coverings whenever they leave the house, including for school drop off and pick up.'*

It would be appreciated if all could follow the advice provided by the Premier and the Chief Health Officer so that we can get through this pandemic as quickly and safely as possible.

Attendance for Online learning

All students have been advised that they need to log on each day to indicate to the teacher that they are engaged in their learning. If students do not log- on the teacher will mark them as absent. If your child is ill please log their absence on Compass as per normal.

A reminder; if parents have any queries or questions for the teacher please communicate with the teacher via email through Compass and they will endeavour to get back to you in a timely manner.

End of Semester reports

I hope you have all had the opportunity to read through your child's Semester One report and provide them with some positive feedback. If you did not receive the report please check your 'junk' emails.

Dr Bette Prange

Acting Principal

Inspirational Quote:

"Some people dream of accomplishing great things. Others stay awake and make it happen." – **Anonymous**



Parent Teacher Conferences Term 3 2020

This year Parent Teacher Conferences will take place over the phone on Tuesday 11th of August from 9am – 6:30pm.

This will be a Pupil Free Day and teachers will not be available to run their online classes.

Due to current advice from the Chief Medical Officer and DET regarding parent access to school sites, all parent teacher conferences are to be conducted over the phone. It is therefore crucial that your telephone contact details are correct on Compass.

Compass is NOW OPEN for parents to make parent teacher conference appointments. If you are unsure of your username and/or password to log in to Compass, please contact the school as soon as possible.

Booking slots are for a 10 minute conference and 5 minute changeover time for teachers between families.

Conference bookings on Compass will close on Friday 7th August at 4pm.

Specialist teachers

Specialist teachers Nick Boffa (Italian), Laura Farrell (Visual Arts: Grade Prep, Grade One, 2B & 2D) Michelle Portelli (Visual Arts: Grades 3-6, 2A & 2C) and John Cleary (PE) will also be available for conferences on Tuesday 11th August.

Interpreting services

Families who require an interpreter for their conference do not need to make a booking on Compass and are asked to contact their child's classroom teacher directly via Compass email. These conferences will be scheduled for a separate day and will need to be conducted as a 3 way conference call with Victorian Interpreting Services.

Student Support Group Meetings

Term 3 Student Support Group meetings will be scheduled by our Wellbeing Coordinator Carol Broadhurst in the upcoming weeks. Families who usually attend Student Support Group Meetings for their child's Individual Learning Plans will not be required to book a parent teacher conference on Compass.

To make a booking using a desktop computer, iOS/Apple or Android device please read through the step by step instructions attached to the newsletter.

Any families experiencing difficulties in using the online system to make a booking are asked to contact the school on 9318 1755.



REMINDER TO PARENTS: teachers are in class online with students during the day so they cannot respond to your requests for assistance during class time.

Key COVID reminders from the School Operation Guide:

Everyone can protect themselves and prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) by continuing effective hand hygiene. Enhanced hygiene measures continue during the return to onsite teaching and learning.

The DET Students Using Mobile Phones Policy remains in place. Remind staff and students to clean their phones regularly.

Extended and increased cleaning arrangements have been introduced and will continue. This involves progressive cleaning throughout the day to ensure that risks of transmission are reduced for high-touch services.

Advice for parents:

- Keep unwell children home.
- Stay away from school grounds if you are unwell.
- Be aware that we may contact them to discuss any concerns about the health status of the student, and request them to collect their child from school if they become unwell at school.
- Ensure that their contact and emergency contact details are current.
- Avoid congregating in areas around the school.
- ***If learning from home***, set up a learning environment and establish routines that support a balance of engagement with learning program and breaks for play and exercise.

Canteen will be available Thursday and Friday next week – orders through Flexi schools

Prep students for 2021

If you have a child ready for enrolment in Prep for next year, (or you have neighbours or friends with Prep enrolments), can you please contact the office to complete the enrolment papers.



Book Reviews – Tried and Treasured

The Snowman's Wish

Written by Sophie Masson and illustrated by Ronak Taher



The Snowman loves the sights, the smells, the sounds and the soft touches of children playing around him under the old pine trees in the park. He wishes that he could stay like this forever and the children do too. Eventually spring comes and the snow starts to melt and Snowman melts into the earth. In his place a beautiful sweet smelling flower grows that reminds the children of their memorable Snowman. This story has a fairy tale quality about it that children 4 to 7 years would love.

By Liz Oruba

Looking to the future 2.

by: Morrigan R

Welcome back to Looking to the Future! Today we will be talking about green roofs. If you read my last article, you will know that solar panels will leave roofs and move to our windows. So that means that roofs are free for other things, like roof-top gardens! Reducing carbon emissions, looking great and possibly growing fruit at the same time, green roofs could mean a *greener* future for everyone.

A green roof is not just a roof painted green; it is a garden growing on a roof! It may sound a little bizarre, but it is quite a clever idea that will take over the empty roofs in our sustainable future. More greenery on roofs will mean less carbon in the atmosphere as plants absorb harmful chemicals. But green roofs can also help to reduce flooding and keep summer temperatures down in cities. Finally, as well as providing a neat garden, green roofs insulate buildings, keeping them cooler in summer and warmer in winter and cutting down on energy use. This will mean a more sustainable future for everyone.

Imagine if you had a garden on the top of your house. You could plant anything you wanted, including trees, shrubs, flowers, fruit, vegetables...nothing would stop you! If you wanted, you could



make your roof garden easily accessible. You could put a fence around the edges of the roof, put a bench up there and...boom, you have a lovely secret garden in the treetops for the whole family to

enjoy! Plus, your rooftop garden would have nothing to block sunlight or rain, so your plants will thrive. One day, every new house built will have a space for planting and a fence on the roof. This will mean a more sustainable future for everyone.



So, look into a future where every roof is a green roof. It would seem completely normal and everyone would have one. You could have dinner up there, play games, or even just relax. Just a tiny little garden, nothing out of the ordinary but a haven in our built-up urban centres. A future with many green roofs would be a better one.

Image Source: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-20/why-australia-needs-more-rooftop-gardens/9775464>

So, you have come to the end of my second looking to the future instalment. Join me next time for Looking to the future 3: Urban Farming. Have a good day!

“Will the roofs of new buildings be vegetated? If not, why not?” – Tom Turner