



9 December 2020

Dear parents and carers,

It is hard to believe that the 2020 school year is coming to an end. It has definitely been a year to remember and one like no other before. And yes, it has not been an ideal year.

Students have all missed out on many things, however they are not missing out on having family members sitting at the table at Christmas due to the virus. We only need to look to see what is occurring in America and England. However, I do acknowledge that for many families and students this truly has been a very challenging year. Fingers crossed 2021 is a year where it is business as usual.

Thank you for your support throughout the year. As a community, I think we have responded amazingly to the challenges of the year. We could not have done it without you. Having read every child's report in the school I can see there are many students whose learning has not been negatively impacted because they were able to engage in remote learning. However, for others the year has been a bigger challenge educationally, and these student's progress has been impacted. The school has received a substantial amount of money to support these students to catch up next year. We are currently considering how we can use this money to make sure it is put to the best use to progress student learning.

To those students who are graduating from the school, I wish them all the best for secondary school. It has been a pleasure working with them and you. Of course, there are challenges along the way as this is the nature of our job and also, being a parent. However, teaching and working with young people is a privilege and we are truly pleased to have worked with you and your family.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of staff over 2020! It has been a challenging year but they have risen to the occasion. Together we all have achieved so much.

To those families exiting our school, we wish you all the best. To the rest of our school community, have a great Christmas and New Year. We welcome working with you in 2021. **Dismissal time is 1.45pm on Friday.**

Graduation

Last night we formally said farewell to our Grade 6 students. We could not celebrate in our usual manner, however students did get to share a meal with their peers and formally farewelled the school. It was a lovely night and one we would have loved to have some family attend. It was great that students did get to have something special occur in a year where not much occurred in this space.

Our students excelled on the night. They all were able to speak on the night. This is an amazing achievement and something they can be very proud of. It is not easy to stand in front of an assembled group and speak publicly.

Award Winners

Leslie Norton Scholarship – Zoe B

Spirit of Speci - Mikey F

Masonic Scholarship –Daria F

Dux - Augie W

Crusoe College Award - Oscar M and Ella B

Y-Men's Citizenship Award - Augie W and Amelia W

Matthew Harrington - Kirsten R and Cooper C

Sports Award - Jye C

Art award – Zara G

I would like to thank Mrs Roberts for her organisation and running of the evening. A big thank you to Mrs Belinda Seymour, Mrs E and Destinee Seymour for preparing a beautiful meal for students and staff.

Classes for 2021

The process of allocating students into their class for the following year is a very long and involved process. It begins weeks before the classes are announced. We do aim to balance classes, that is, equal numbers of boys and girls, a range of abilities in each class, equal numbers in each class and behavioural considerations all have to be taken into account. To move one student into another class is a not as easy as it sounds and has a flow on effect. If, for some reason, it becomes evident after a reasonable time to staff, that a student's class placement is not working out, and there is a better option for them, we do not persist with the

arrangement. I asked for parent requests early in the process and for those that are received after the date it is very difficult for the school to action. I ask for your understanding around this.

Assistant Principal Position

As I have previously shared, Mr Corey Warne has resigned his Assistant Principal position. The process has been completed and I am very pleased to announce that Miss Jac Louttit was the successful applicant. Jac has worked in this position for this year, and has established great relationships with our students and families. I would like to congratulate Jac on her appointment and thank her for the amazing contribution that she already has made to the school.

We are hoping that we can formally say goodbye to Corey in 2021. I have spoken to him and he would like to come to the Food Fair if it is able to happen. If we are allowed to hold this next year, it is my intention that we do so and also, include a movie on our oval.

Library Books

Please return all school library books as soon as you can. The shelves need to be restocked.

Security Cameras

The school is having security cameras installed, due to a run of vandalism and stolen property in recent months. We hope that the cameras are a deterrent for future thefts during holiday periods and after hours.

Fun Day at the Pool

The Fun Day at the pool will be happening tomorrow. Junior students will be arriving around 9:30am in the morning and leaving around 12:00 o'clock. Senior students will arrive at 12:15pm and depart around 2:25pm. A free sausage sizzle will be happening and students are free to bring some money along to spend at the kiosk. Parents are welcome to attend. ***Remember the sunscreen and bathers.***

Enjoy the holiday period with family and friends. Please stay safe – we look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Wendy Jackson
Principal

2021	
Monday 25th January	School office open
Tuesday 26th January	<i>Australia Day – Public Holiday</i>
Wednesday 27th January	Staff return to school
Thursday 28th January	Grades 1 – 6 return to school
Friday 29th January	Preps commence school