

DONCASTER PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 9

Wednesday 10th June 2020



IMPORTANT DATES:

June 9th - Grade 3, 4, 5 and 6 return to school for face to face teaching in class.

June 24th – Curriculum day

June 26th – End of term, early staggered dismissal from 2.00pm – Teachers on duty until 2.45pm

July 13th - First day of Term 3

Doncaster Primary School
2021 Prep Enrolments Now Open
School Tours Now Available by Appointment
Please call 9848 1122 to book a time.
Visit our website to see our Virtual Tour: www.doncasterps.vic.gov.au

2021 Prep 'School Starters' Transition Program
Friday 20th November 2020
Friday 27th November 2020
Friday 4th December 2020
Tuesday 8th December 2020

Our 'Starting School at DPS Information Evening'
Monday 7th December @ 6pm
Junior School Building

Honesty Integrity Respect Fairness Equity Teamwork

From the Principal's Desk.....

As we moved back to the usual school schedule there is a great deal to consider so we can do everything possible to stay safe. The COVID-19 virus is still out there. It is vital we remain vigilant and observe the advice of the health experts. We must focus on what we do know and do what we can to ensure the safety of our students, families and staff.

Prep/1/2 students returned on Tuesday May 26th. It was so good to see our classrooms full of students, and there is a really nice buzz around the school after being so quiet and still for so long. Social distancing will be observed. We ask that parents do not enter the school grounds.

Children are dropped off at one of the school gates on Council Street or the gate near the gecko on Hummel Way. Gates are staffed from 8.30am until 9.00am. On arrival, children are greeted at the gate and they make their way directly to the classroom where their teachers will be waiting for them.

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Children arrive between 8.30am until 9.00am to avoid unnecessary crowding. At the end of the day children are dismissed between 3.00pm and 3.15pm according to their House. At 3.00pm children in Monash House will be dismissed first, at 3.05pm Lawson, 3.10pm Phillip and 3.15pm Flinders. Once again, this helps to avoid crowded areas and students will be able to leave with siblings. Staff are on duty from 3.00pm until 3.45pm. We also have Before and After School Care onsite if needed. On June 9th, the Grade 3-6 students returned to school.

Main points of interest recently communicated include; From Monday 25th May all staff are back onsite. School resumes on Tuesday May 26th for P/1/2 Students. Grades 3-6 continue remote learning from home. On June 9th Grades 3/4/5/6 return to school. Parents are not be permitted on school grounds without prior arrangement. No toys or sports equipment to be brought to school. BYO Water bottle, bubblers will not be used. Ensure your child/ren know where to meet you after school. Nominate a gate as a collection point.

To provide clarity around remote learning we made a short video. We also made a virtual tour as we couldn't run face to face tours. We then made a short PowerPoint on returning to school. Each week teachers made a short video of themselves reading a picture story book, all in the effort of maintaining connected.

Have you seen our **Virtual Tour**? <https://vimeo.com/420926156/2d5782e6d6>

Have you seen our **Remote Learning** Video? <https://vimeo.com/412996114/001e0cd882>

Have you seen our **Returning to DPS** video?

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gy7szlD3b6E60xsBEcVXQ9HDafmK2MEC>

THANKYOU!

In our last newsletter I took the opportunity to send a huge thankyou to our community, I would like to repeat this once more to show appreciation;

Thankyou for being so patient with us as we were coming to terms with the new way of teaching. We certainly had a steep learning curve.

Thankyou for working with us to support your children, our students, I think we did a great job under the circumstances.

Thankyou for supporting your children in their learning, it wasn't easy.

Thankyou to our students for having a go and doing their best, some absolutely thrived in this learning environment!

Thankyou to Kelvin Wong from the My Health Medical Clinic, Doncaster for his ongoing medical advice and support.

Thankyou for your kind emails, phone calls, text messages, your words of support meant more than you will ever imagine!

I would also like to **thank** our wonderful staff who worked tirelessly day and night.

If I'm honest, I thought it was going to be a breeze, but was I mistaken!?!?

Hats off to our teachers, under the circumstances, working in these conditions was a challenge.

Our mantra throughout this period was **Care, Supervision and Connection**. We referred to this daily as we tried to do all we could to be there for our students.

On the first day back there were 178 P/1/2 students and 145 attended on the first day back!

On June 9th we welcomed the "big kids", back to school. They were bursting to get back to school and see their friends. They were excited and full of stories to share and it was great to see them again. As tempting as it was to dive straight into work work work, for teachers to hit the ground running, it is important that we allow time to settle in which will mean lots of time to talk.

We hope this is the beginning of the end of what has been a difficult time for everyone. Fingers crossed we continue to move forward and allow life to get back to how it was before COVID-19.

While students were not onsite we have used the time to improve our grounds. We have a new astro turfed half basketball court, a new Volleyball (astro turf) in the senior area, new sand for our sandpits, a range of veggies have been planted and are now growing, the oval has been reseeded in heavy traffic areas and more native bushes and trees planted. We are watching out for gardening awards because I'm sure we will go close to winning as we have such great range of spaces at DPS.

The drop off and staggered pick up mentioned, has been working really well. I would like to remind you about the safety of all students at these busy times. Please observe speed limits and parking restrictions. I ask that you also ensure your children cross the roads safely at designated places; we don't want any accidents at DPS.

Please stay safe, and stay connected.

Jim Hill
Principal

Parent Fundraising Group

Easter Bun Drive was cancelled, Monica and I collated the Mother's Day Stall gifts and safely handed out all orders via the 'Kiss and Drop Drive Thru' at Hummell Way. Not as successful as we had hoped but those families that did utilise the online stall were very appreciative. The stall raised \$591.67 however obviously purchases were much higher and we ran at a loss. All left over items can be reused and sold next year. Perishable items such as the chocolate blocks were left in the staff room for teachers to purchase.

Hopefully some normality is restored before the Father's Day Stall, if not we will have more notice so that we can organise another online stall. A massive thank you to Lisa and Bec for their time and efforts in organising the online

Mother's Day Stall.

Mal Dabab and the PFG Team

JUNE SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

School councilors met on Tuesday 2 June, using a platform that has become integral in facilitating the work of DPS during Term Two, WebEx. At the centre of discussions held during the meeting were restrictions brought about by CO-VID 19. We recognized correspondence received from parents that included emails, phone calls, texts and cards expressing gratitude. Parents on school council who are also parents at the school, like myself, spoke about the positive remote learning experiences provided by our staff. Teachers were acknowledged for the support, care and continuity of education they provided to our students. There were discussions about how the vast amount of information around CO-VID was digested and acted upon. Councilors spoke about the ease in which the quality of education flowed and focus on wellbeing was evident.

Fellow school counselor, Katherine Zingiris, shares her perspective, which follows this summary.

Term 2 led to many changes. These changes were made thoughtfully and were well received by our community. Our school council meeting referred to some of these changes. With Prep, Level 1 and 2 students being back on site, the staggered start and end to the school day was discussed. Lunch times have been shortened to still maintain face to face teaching time, but still giving children ample time to eat and play. Students are dismissed in their house groups from 3pm, with all teachers being on duty outside ensuring the safe pick up of all children. Student safety and the provision of a quality education remain paramount and are always at the forefront of discussions.

There are also changes to adults who are on site. Parents wishing to pick up children early or need clarifications still have access to our school office. Only children and teaching staff have access to the rest of our grounds. External providers, such as tennis, music tutors,

KT Maths lessons, speech pathologists will not be permitted to work from our school until further notice. We will revisit this as new information comes to hand. It was also mentioned that these changes have brought new learnings and new ways of doing things. We will continue to reflect and review these changes whilst continuing to consult our community.

Also acknowledged were our PFG team led by Mal Dabab. Their fundraising efforts did not go unrecognized at school council. School councilors thanked Mal and the PFG for the recent Mother's Day Stall which continued to run in an online format. Although not well-received by our school community, the innovation and ease in how presents could be bought online, was noted. A great initiative!

We were successful in a grant to commemorate the end of WWII. This ceremony will be held in early September. Work on our school grounds was mentioned with our grounds looking even more impressive. Council also spoke about other wonderful initiatives during this time. Videos of teachers reading stories were uploaded daily and other videos have been made and shared.

Have you seen our **Virtual Tour?** <https://vimeo.com/420926156/2d5782e6d6>

Have you seen our **Remote Learning** Video? <https://vimeo.com/412996114/001e0cd882> Have you seen our **Returning to DPS** video?

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gy7szlD3b6E60xsBEcVXQ9HDafmK2MEC> To conclude our meeting, we recognised those that helped us during this unprecedented time with medical advice, curriculum implementation and other discussions. School council acknowledged the work of our school community, including principal class officers, teachers, parents and above all, our students. I take pleasure in ending with this piece that I mentioned earlier.

Regards, Dimitra V Ferizis

A parent perspective.....

The last two months we can all agree it has been "unprecedented" and no one in this world could ever have predicted that all parents would need to step into the shoes of being an IT webex expert, Math, Art, Science, PE, LOTE and a literacy specialist and maybe at times a Principal. So pat yourself on the back for home-schooling your children, keeping them interested, safe, happy and, of course, educated.

As full time parents of a 7 year old and 11 year old you may be able to empathise that we too had our challenges and some days we only achieved one task or took a day off and focused on our wellbeing and safety and that's okay.

From the younger kids refusing to cooperate to older kids complaining constantly about the work they have to complete and how they missed their friends, home learning was a challenge and we've all gained a new appreciation for teachers. I want to say THANK YOU to every teacher at DPS, you have continued to provide the care, connection and support to our children and we are grateful.

Covid-19 has changed the way we live and work, possibly forever, however, it has provided an opportunity to be grateful for the time we have spent together as a family and the simple things in life.

Our children are looking forward to seeing everyone in person instead of virtually and we will miss them during the day as we have formed a great routine which seemed to work. Feeling anxious to return to school is normal so please keep talking to teachers and your children.

We look forward to a safe transition back into our school and some fun reconnecting with friends. Enjoy the long weekend with your families.

Kind regards

Katherine Zingiris

Honesty Integrity Respect Fairness Equity Teamwork

Doncaster Primary School

157 Years of Academic Excellence



Virtual Tour and Q&A Webinar for Future Families

Tuesday 16th June, 7.30pm

*A link via Compass
will be coming soon!*



Honesty Integrity Respect Fairness Equity Teamwork

LEVEL 6 LAUNCHPAD INCURSION

The Level 6 students started their Launchpad incursions through WebEx this week. The Launchpad program is a series of creative writing workshops. Students will develop short stories that will be professionally published in an Anthology book.





WEEK 7 AND 8 MATHLETICS AWARDS

Mathletics

JUNIOR SCHOOL FOUNDATION TO GRADE 2

WEEK 7 JUNIOR MATHLETE

Ethan Fang

Ethan is in 2E and earned 1,530 points

Top junior grades for Week 7

Grade	Points
Prep S	3240
2P	3170
1G	2970

WEEK 8 JUNIOR MATHLETE

Noor Al Sekafi

Noor is in 1A and earned 1 520 points

Top junior grades for Week 8

Grade	Points
2P	2390
Prep S	1520
1A	1520

Grade rankings for weeks 7 and 8

	Grade	TOTAL Points
1 st	Prep	8780
2 nd	2	8680
3 rd	1	7650

SENIOR SCHOOL GRADE 3 TO GRADE 6

WEEK 7 SENIOR MATHLETE

Ojas Chauhan

Ojas is in 3L and earned 5 780 points

Top senior grades for Week 7

Grade	Points
4C	14010
4P	10470
3L	9740

WEEK 8 SENIOR MATHLETE

Sophie Musker

Sophie is in 5K and earned 4 370 points

Top senior grades for Week 8

Grade	Points
5O	17630
6W	10460
5K	9250

Grade rankings for weeks 7 and 8

	Grade	TOTAL Points
1 st	5	47 900
2 nd	3	47 480
3 rd	4	45 440
4 th	6	31 510



CONGRATULATIONS MATHLETES



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2020 Term 2 Art

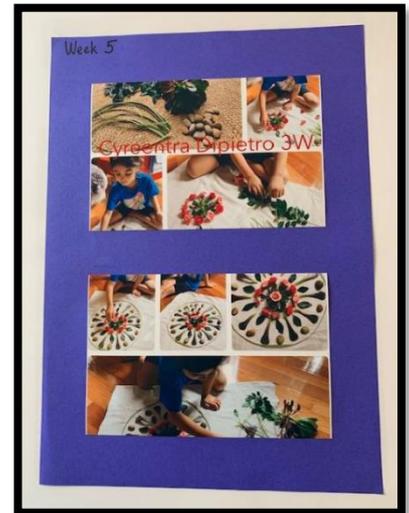
Hi everyone, it's nice to see that we are slowly settling back in to school life! Here are some of the things we did during the home learning period:



Rehaan Hirani, 1Q
Toy Photography



Cohen Tchia, 2P
Colour Wheel



Cyreentra Dipietro, 3W
Found Object Mandala



Charlotte Chua, 5O,
Mountain drawing



Sophia Glodo, 2C
Cute and Scary Monster



Avalyn Phengbunn, PQ
Observational Drawing of a Favourite Toy

Back at school students explored and learnt about Art from around the world. Grade 1 and 2 students were working on making their own colourful African beads using coloured paper and wool. They learnt that the Maasai tribe in Africa is well known for making beautiful beads. They are an important part of their culture. It is considered a duty of every Maasai woman to learn the art of making beaded bracelets and necklaces, but the jewellery is worn by both women and men.



NEED HELP?

Considering the past two to three months has been unprecedented, we have faced a number of challenges. While some people have enjoyed the isolation and haven't missed interacting with others, we can't assume it has been easy for everyone. I have therefore included the following details and encourage you to seek assistance if you feel the need.

Jim Hill



Beyond Blue

24/7 mental health support service

1300 22 4636
beyondblue.org.au

headspace

Online support and counselling to young people aged 12 to 25

1800 650 890 (9am-1am daily)
For webchat, visit: [headspace.org.au/eheadspace](https://www.headspace.org.au/eheadspace)

Kids Helpline

24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services for children and young people aged 5 to 25

1800 55 1800
kidshelpline.com.au

1800RESPECT

24/7 support for people impacted by sexual assault, domestic violence and abuse

1800 737 732
1800respect.org.au

Lifeline

24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services

13 11 14
lifeline.org.au

Suicide Call Back

24/7 crisis support and counselling service for people affected by suicide

1300 659 467
suicidecallbackservice.org.au

Mensline

24/7 counselling service for men

1300 78 99 78
mensline.org.au

QLife

LGBTI peer support and referral

1800 184 527 (6pm-10pm daily)
qlife.org.au (online chat 3pm-12am daily)

If you are concerned about someone at risk of immediate harm, call 000 or go to your nearest hospital emergency department.



With delivery partners:



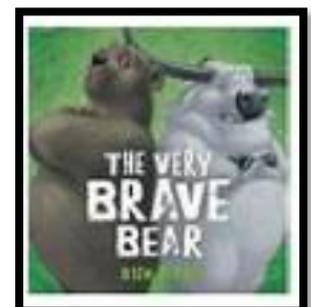
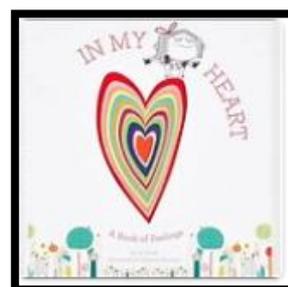
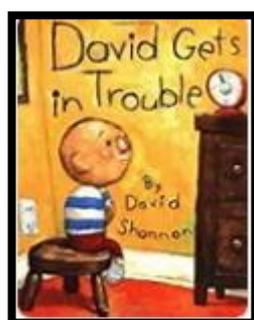
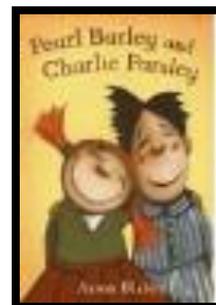
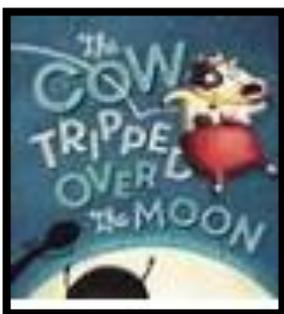
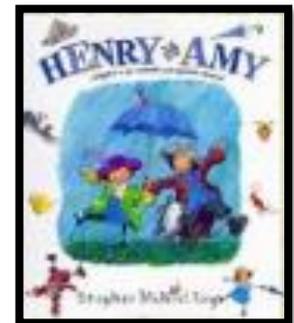
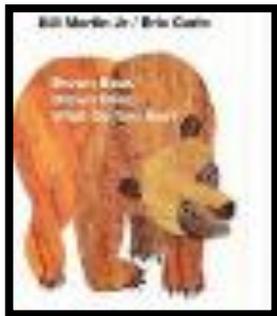
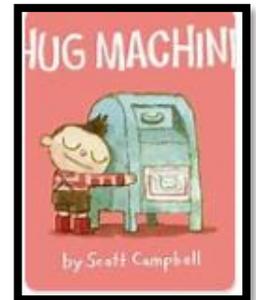
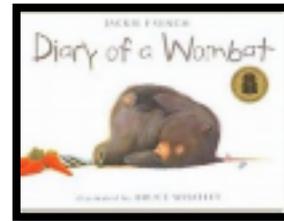
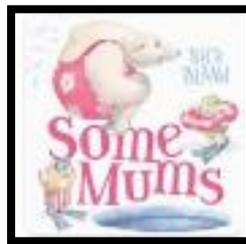
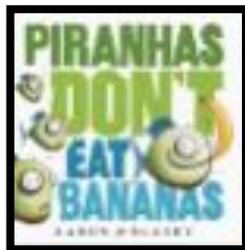
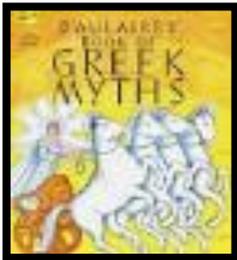
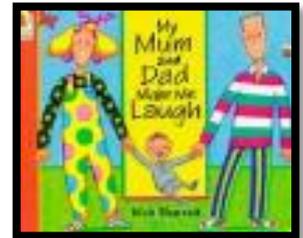
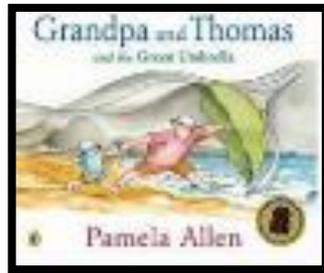
Funded by:



Story time with D.P.S

Missed a story on Compass please find all stories on the schools website.

<https://www.doncasterps.vic.edu.au>



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SCHOOL STARTERS TRANSITION PROGRAM PREP 2021

We offer an extensive 'School Starters' program for the children enrolled to start at Doncaster Primary School in 2021.

During these sessions the children will engage in a variety of activities with the Prep teachers. This allows them to become familiar with Doncaster Primary and to feel at ease and connected to their school environment and peers. The 'School Starters' program is an essential step in ensuring a smooth transition to Primary School.

The time for all sessions is **9.15-10.45am**.

Friday 20th November

Prep classrooms

Friday 27th November

Prep classrooms

Friday 4th December

Prep Classrooms

Tuesday 8th December

9.15- 10.15am—Prep Classrooms

10.15-10.45am—Parents are invited in to meet the teacher

Our 'Starting School @ DPS' Information Evening will be held at
6pm on Monday 7th December

At this time we will provide you with the information you require about being a Prep parent well as your child's class list for 2021.



Honesty Integrity Respect Fairness Equity Teamwork



GIVE IT A GO!

A lot has changed over the last few months, including the way we spend our time. We've dusted off the bikes, put on our runners and taken in some fresh air to keep our minds and bodies happy and healthy.

As lockdowns ease, there's never been a better time to plan and test out different routes to school and choose which ones works best for you..

We want every parent to feel confident in making healthy, safe choices when it comes to getting their kids back to school, so we've come up with some simple steps to get you on your way.

READY to rock 'n' roll?

- Strap on your runners or pump up your tyres
- Make sure your helmet fits tight
- Pack your school bag

SET to travel to school?

- Find your best route
- Practice the road rules
- Recruit a friend

ROLL on out!

- Test your path to school
- Stay safe
- Have fun

Do it all over again!

Be sure to check out the Ride2School website and Facebook page as we continue to support you on your journey to school by posting online content including 'How To' videos, tips & tricks and a whole lot more!



ride2school.com.au
facebook.com/ride2school