



Caledonian Primary School Newsletter

Wednesday 16th December, 2020

Calendar

December

Wednesday 16th – Grade 6 Ringing of the Bell

Friday 18th – End of Term 4, students dismissed at 1.30 pm

January

Wednesday 20th – Book Box Collection 9.00 am – 12.30 pm

Thursday 21st – Book Box Collection 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Thursday 28th – Term 1 commences. Grade 1-6 Students start school.

Thursday 28th & Friday 29th – Prep testing

To our School Community

This year has been challenging, with a global pandemic, lockdowns and technology taking over our lives. There has been time away from family and friends and of course the most horrifying- the return of the mullet. I am not sure who is responsible for the mullet trend but I am optimistic the upcoming vaccine will remove the threat of both covid and the mullet!

2020 has been a unique time for all of us. Back in march we would never have expected the year to turn out as it did. Our students have moved from onsite learning to remote learning and have missed many normal school events and activities. As a result we have tried to include as much possible fun in the last weeks as possible. We have had picnics in the park, gym sports, movies, jumping castles and our grade 6s are hitting the pool. It was confronting to realise that many of our students caught a bus for the first time this year just last week! Our senior student rode to Echuca that is they completed enough laps of the oval to cover 215 kilometres. Then – not satisfied- they rode back again! This shows what a large team of riders can achieve!

Graduation was a challenge as the rules were changing weekly however we were pleased to be able to allow parents to attend- many schools did not have that flexibility so we feel fortunate we were able! We appreciate the patience of all grade 6 parents with the changes over the last few weeks!

The many upheavals we have faced this year have only been overcome by being part of an excellent school community. Our students have continued to engage to the best of their individual ability with their learning and their peers coming in and out of school, twice, they have showed an astonishing resilience.

Our education support workers continued in their commitment to working with children with additional needs and in supporting our teachers during remote learning. Teaching is tough, requiring patience, professionalism and in some cases mind reading powers to understand what a child is thinking or doing in their learning. This year our teachers have been incredible and to use everyone's favourite word of 2020, have been able to "pivot" multiple times to ensure learning could continue.

We have achieved some things this year. Grounds and classrooms have been freshened up and sports courts are also to be redone soon. We have spent time redeveloping curriculum and learning approaches ready for implementation in 2021 including structured phonemic and English approaches in P-2 and a comprehensive approach to reading instruction 3-6. Added to this we have incorporated greater amounts of content aligning this with our English program as a basis for improved engagement in writing.

We have also finalised staffing for 2021.

- Ms Bleicher and Ms Tunbridge will be taking Preps
- Ms Dorian and Ms Quinlan (a new teacher) will be taking 1-2 classes
- Ms Lawlor, Ms Jennings and Ms Berryman (new teacher) will be 3-4
- Mr Vagg, Ms Morrison and Ms Mathieson will continue in 5-6
- Ms Dent - Chinese, Ms Gleeson - Music, Ms Micich - Art
- Mr Prockter will be taking on a new combination role as PLC coordinator, wellbeing support and PE

Ms Nellie will be off to have a baby and Mr Jinks is seeking new opportunities and we wish them all the best into their futures!

We do have a few final thankyou's for 2020.

Our School Councillors have been disrupted this year with online meetings, fewer opportunities for sub-committees to meet and a lot to organise! We thank them for their patience and ongoing support this year. A special thanks goes to Cam (leaving us in 2021) for all he has done for our school.

I would particularly note also our Family Engagement and Fundraising Committee. Feels like such a long time ago we had our Harvest Party and there has continued to be many things our FE & F committee have done. These include welcoming new families to our school through Prep Transition. We do appreciate it!

Glen from Bakery Hill Bakers Delight has also continued to support us here with rolls donated for our Graduation Lunch. Thanks Glen!

We would also like to thank every parent and carer who had to become a home tutor this year. This is a role I personally failed at so I do know it was hard. Having children locked away for so long, learning remotely has been a task none of us could have predicted and you did a fabulous job. I would also like to thank you all for your support and patience. You have all kept calm and got on with 2020 and I hope you all get some time to relax over the Christmas period.

Although you will also have your kids at home with you...

The other day I was feeling pretty flat as 2020 has been a difficult year. It was our crossing supervisor Barry that pointed out to me how lucky we are to live here in Ballarat, in Australia. We need only look at the news, as countries around the world experience a second and third wave of covid cases and the subsequent harm that that causes. We are about to enter a holiday period without fear of becoming sick (unless from too many grape juices) where we can travel to see family and friends. We can go camping, go to the shops and work without risk.

All the difficulties of 2020 have paid off!

Have a great break, rest up and enjoy family time without any seesaw messages or Google Meet sessions and take a moment to reflect on how fortunate we are to live here!

And keep sanitising!

Ben

Book Box Collection

Wednesday January 20th between 9:00am -12:30pm

&

Thursday January 21st between 1:00pm-4:00pm

Book boxes can be collected from the office. The parent payment information will be provided via Compass.

Appreciation

We would like to say a huge thank you, to a local community member who has donated some money to purchase gift cards to help ease the financial burden of Christmas for some of our families. This person wishes to remain anonymous, however, we thank them so much for their kindness and generosity.

2021 Enrolments

If you know someone who is looking to enrol their child at CPS for 2021 we are still accepting enrolments. Please encourage them to get in contact ASAP to discuss this with us, and for anyone who is yet to complete an enrolment form for 2021 please do so ASAP.

Before and After School Care

Is operating. If you need to access care please contact Camp Australia. Please do not drop kids off too early, there is limited supervision for our students who catch the bus into school and we cannot hold many students in our office area safely.

Unwell Students

If students are unwell with cold/flu like symptoms please keep them at home until they are well again. If students become unwell during the school day parents/careers will be called to come and collect them. A doctor's certificate is not required to return to school, however students should not return to school until symptoms have resolved.

Parents/Careers on school grounds

Remind that parents/careers are not permitted on the school grounds. If you need to speak with a teacher please phone the office or contact the teacher via Seesaw to organise a time to have a phone call with them. All other enquiries can be directed to the office.

Bell Times 2020

Bell times will remain the same for 2020

First bell- 8.45 am

Second bell- 8.50 am- class begins

Recess- 11 am – 11.30 am

Lunch Eat- 12.30 pm – 12.45 pm

Afternoon Recess- 1.45 pm – 2.15 pm

Students dismissed- 3.15 pm

Children arriving after 8.50 am must collect a late pass from the office.

Uniform

Caledonian Primary School requires all students to be dressed in our school uniform. A copy of our school uniform policy can be found on the school website or at the school office.

When the kids come home from school and you ask them “What did you do at school today?” and they say “Nuthin Happened” – Here’s what’s happened.

CPS News



Our Grade 6 students had a lovely graduation lunch and presentation on Monday. The students looked fabulous and enjoyed a fancy sit down lunch. Thank you to everyone who helped organise the day. And thank you to the parents who came along to the presentation.