



# Caledonian Primary School Newsletter

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2020

## Calendar

### October

Friday 16<sup>th</sup>- 100 Days of Prep Celebration

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Book Week

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Book Week Dress Up Day

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>- Footy Colours Dress Up Day

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>- Public Holiday- no students at school

Monday 26<sup>th</sup>- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> – Dental Van

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> – Prep Ecolinc excursion

### November

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Melbourne Cup public holiday

To the Caledonian School Community,

Student emotional wellbeing continues to be a priority for us. The isolation period has been challenging for everyone, parents, staff and children. We have navigated our way through remote learning, we have had our children at home locked away and we have all been stuck in our houses. I have found it quite challenging “letting go” of my children and sending them back to school has almost been like when they first started in prep years ago. My year 7 daughter has found this very embarrassing and refused to let me walk her to the gate...

So I want to reassure you that we are very mindful that kids are finding it all a bit weird. So far we have been blown away at how resilient they are, yet we continue to monitor them daily. And for you guys, mums and dads, it is ok to feel a bit anxious about it all. It's hard not being able to catch us at the gate (well you can catch me but not your class teacher) and you can't pop into the classroom. But hopefully this won't be for much longer!

As we enter term 4 we are returning to some semblance of normal, however it's a “Covid normal”. There continues to be many constraints on what we can and cannot do. For example, we are to limit who can come on site, are unable to run school photos (more on that below) and we cannot have assemblies. Also at this stage we are not to hold graduation ceremonies, although we are working on a plan and hopeful this will change. To be clear this is not Mr Moody being difficult and trying to make school a miserable place (even though this has been the main job of principals for the last 100 years). The rules are being set by the chief medical officer, not us.

What we are allowed is; camps and excursions in regional Victoria (not into Melbourne), inter school sports and we are allowed to run a modified Kinder transition program. As we returned this term the advice from the chief medical officer and the Department of Education has been that camps and excursions can resume in regional Victoria. Although we have no camps planned, we do have excursions planned, and to provide some positive experiences to our students we will explore some more excursion opportunities.

We do have an excursion coming up to EcoLink. This is the first opportunity to provide a curriculum based excursion this year! Our preps did get to our athletics carnival, yet since then we have been unable to provide any normal school experiences.

EcoLink is a Department of Education run science facility. As such they operate under the same conditions as we do here at Caledonian, for example additional cleaning and sterilisation. Sadly this means no parents or volunteers can attend as the site is managed under our state system Covid Safety Plan. Our students will not be mixing with students from any other schools.

We are very excited that we can finally begin to provide a normal learning experience for our students after many months in isolation. Be assured we are taking every precaution in line with the Covid Safe Guidelines from the Department of Education in planning and providing this excursion.



We also have some snazzy new automatic sanitisers for the kids. We are going through sanitiser at an amazing rate which tells us the kids are doing a fantastic job at keeping sanitised!

School Photos.

We are hanging on in hope that we will be able to have school photos. We should know by next Sunday if they can go ahead. If we are not able to go ahead I will do them myself! I will be able to provide individual photos and sibling photos so you will have something to put in a nice frame and send to the mother in law for Christmas!

No they won't be as good as they normally are, but we will not have our students and families miss out on this special yearly record of their education. I do not yet have a plan for how this will work, but be assured I will make it work.

Reports.

Reports will be completed this term and will include “dots” for English and Mathematics. Midyear these “dots” were not provided but we believe we will have enough information to accurately report on student progress.

Finally this week I would like to thank you for your patience as it’s been a rough year on many levels. We receive changed information, sometimes at 9:00 on a Sunday night, and it’s difficult to make any real plans when we can’t predict what is coming next. We are very hopeful and feeling positive that things are getting better, that we will be able to make things more “normal” for our students.

There have been multiple occasions where we have provided you information about what’s happening, only to be in the position that we have had to retract that information. I can only apologise for this and let you know many of these things have been out of our control.

So again, thank you for your patience.

Ben

### **In the Art Room**

We have had the opportunity to participate alongside Ballarat Community Health’s School Focussed Youth Service and their Arts & Wellbeing Team. The program we will be running during Term 4 for our Grade 5 and 6 students. In Art will be utilising these beautiful art supplies and lessons that will assist our students with reengagement in learning while returning to school during COVID-19. The program is based around the philosophy of ‘busy hands, calm mind’ and provides a range of art activities that teach new skills, inspire creative thinking, relieve stress, give a sense of achievement, and build resilience – all whilst reconnecting students with teachers and peers.



### **100 Days of Prep**

Our Prep students will be having a belated celebration of 100 Days of Prep on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October. Preps can come dressed up as someone who is 100 years old.

### **Book Week- Dress up Day**

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> students can come dressed up as their favourite book character. We will have parades in our rooms and post some photos to our Facebook page for everyone to see. Students across all year levels will participate in book week activities.

### **Footy Colours Day**

Thursday October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Come to school wearing your favourite team’s colours. Fun and activities throughout the day! Gold Coin Donation for the day.

## **CSEF**

DET have now made a change to the use of CSEF for the 2020 year. It can now be used for Essential Learning Items. To help ease the burden of education costs to CPS families we will be allocating 2020 CSEF off of Essential Learning outstanding costs for families who have been unable to pay for these.

## **2021 Grade 6 Jumpers**

Order forms for the 2021 Grade 6 Jumpers went home last week. We have some sample sizes at the office, if you are unsure what size to order, please send your student up to the office to try them on. Sally and Brooke will then advise which the more suitable size is. Orders and payment are due by 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

## **Dental Van**

The school dental van will be onsite at CPS from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October. All students who returned a dental van form earlier in the year will be seen by the dentist during the week.

## **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/carers 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.

## **Head Lice**

Could parents/carers please check student's hair for head lice and treat if eggs/live lice are present. Students should not attend school until appropriate treatment has been completed.

## **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club is running again this term. On Tuesday and Thursday from 8.20am. Please come along.

## **Parents/Carers on school grounds**

Remind that parents/carers 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.

## **Parking around the school**

Please remember to obey all traffic and parking signs around the school. These signs ensure that the environment around our school is safe for our students and community members when coming to and going from school.

## **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.



CBCA Book Week  
CURIOUS CREATURES,  
WILD MINDS

October 17-23 2020

#CBCA2020

Artwork by Gwyn Perkins ©2020 The Children's Book Council of Australia



Fight Cancer™  
**FOOTY  
COLOURS  
DAY!**

We're wearing our

# FOOTY COLOURS

on:



[footycoloursday.com.au](http://footycoloursday.com.au) #footycoloursday

Proudly sponsored by **foxtel**

 Fight Cancer Foundation™  
*Giving hope. Saving lives.*

