

## Newsletter 1, Term 2 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As the past two weeks have progressed, our student attendance has gradually increased from 67% last week to 82% today. Our contact with families is suggesting we will be over 90% next week. This is a much different scenario than we expected, and reflects the successful response to the Coronavirus pandemic in Australia, WA and Esperance. We can all be proud and thankful for this.

The term calendar will be sent out on Monday. Please note that some of the events listed, such as assemblies and in-term swimming, are at this stage not permitted, but if restrictions are lifted, they will proceed. We will be investigating the possibility of an assembly via Webex so that students can join from their classes, and those at home can as well. This might be limited by our internet capability, but we will test this early next week.

Once again, I want to extend my sincere thanks to you all for complying with the government's restrictions for schools, including parents and carers remaining outside the school gates. I have no doubt that many children will have gained more independence and responsibility as they have been carrying and unpacking their own bags, and sorting themselves out before and after school. The love and affection evident between family members at the gates has been wonderful to behold.

We are continuing to provide two extra cleaners throughout the day around the school, and ample sanitising and cleaning products are available to make our school environment safe for our students and staff.

It has been noted however that a lot of children have been arriving at school prior to 8.30am, who do not need to do so. The number has risen gradually and we now have a large number of children at the assembly area, which is actually placing us in contravention of the Dept of Education's rules which ban large congregations of students. We are also finding it difficult to supervise these children, as well as greet students arriving at the gate. Please do not send your children to school prior to 8.30am, unless they travel on an early bus.

**Building Works:** It won't be long before parents can enter inside the school gates – and you might be surprised and impressed by what you see. Outside Rooms 1 to 8, the steel sheeting will soon be installed to the new verandas, and the drainage is progressing well. It will be crowded there however, until the work is finished and the fencing can be removed, so it is probably fortunate that children only are allowed in there at present.



Other works include the installation of an upgraded security system through the school, and completion of a new fence around our tennis courts. We will soon see the commencement of works to refurbish some toilet blocks, and hopefully some internal improvements to ceilings and walls in Rooms 9 to 12. The government has spent a lot of money on our school recently, and our School Board will be pleased to see so many of its plans come to fruition.

**School Board:** (I do love a good segue!) The board will meet next week, and pick up on the school's Business Plans which were stalled six weeks ago when the Coronavirus overtook all our time and focus. The Business Plan and Focus 2020 are nearly ready to be published, and all of us in the school really look forward to getting on with the implementation of these plans.

**Year 6 News:** One has to feel for the Year 6s of 2020, as it is such a special and exciting year. We hope that the camp in September will still be able to go ahead. The planned fund-raising activities were of course cancelled or postponed, and this may have jeopardised the chances of some students being able to attend. However, IGO Limited have come to our aid, as they have donated \$7,500 towards the bus transport and other camp costs. What is remarkable about this is that parent Kellie Guest's original request was for \$5,000, but when the company heard about the fund-raising events being cancelled, they increased their donation – a wonderful gesture! Thank you IGO Limited.



The Mothers' Day raffle (which was to be drawn today) has been postponed until further notice. The Bunnings Sausage Sizzle planned for last weekend was also cancelled, and will run again when these start up again. The student disco is also on hold awaiting the lifting of restrictions. The Year 6 leavers' jackets are under way, and a letter to Year 6 parents with an order form is coming.

#### **PBIS Rewards: "Catch 'em Being Good", "Every Child Every Day"**

This term we have introduced an exciting new program in our school, the PBIS Rewards app. This app enables school staff to award a point to students who are exhibiting the behaviour we desire and expect, on a random and occasional basis. We have identified five key expectations, linked to the Virtues approach adopted by the school, which are:

- Be a Learner
- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be Friendly
- Be Resilient

The aim of this is to reduce anti-social and negative behaviours in the school by increasing the focus on recognising and promoting positive behaviours. By acknowledging children for doing the right thing, we will be encouraging these behaviours to be repeated. It is also a lot of fun, as children will be able to redeem their points for reward activities once we get it all under way. Hopefully, kids will be recognised at least once a day.

While this is only for school use, the same principles can easily be applied by parents outside of school.

Tim Baker  
Principal

## **Jump Rope for Heart – Years 1-6**



### **Jump Rope for Heart kicks off this term!**

Jump Rope for Heart is a fantastic physical activity and fundraising program that has been run by the Heart Foundation for over 36 years. It's a great way for your child to keep fit and learn new skills, but it also helps raise funds for vital heart research and education programs.

Since Jump Rope for Heart started in 1983, schools like ours have raised more than \$104 million for the Heart Foundation's lifesaving work.

It's important you [register your child online](https://www.jumprope.org.au/parents), so they can receive the full benefits of the program and participate in online fundraising, simply follow the link below to get started.

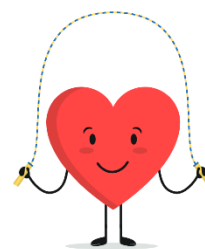
[www.jumprope.org.au/parents](https://www.jumprope.org.au/parents)

We will all be skipping throughout the term in PE lessons, recess and lunch. Students are required to log their skipping times to work towards "Skipping Badges" on their profile page. Share their online fundraising page on social media and with family and friends to help raise money for this great cause.

Towards the end of term, we will hold a School Jump Off Day which will give students the opportunity to demonstrate their amazing skills.

Thank you for supporting the Jump Rope for Heart program!

Damien Pansini  
Physical Education Specialist



## **Mr Palmer's Retirement**

Last term, we held a retirement function for Mr Laurie Palmer. Mr Palmer has been a staff member at Castletown Primary School for 16 years. He had an excellent role-model to follow as his father, Mr Ian Palmer, was the inaugural Principal of Castletown Primary School.

Mr Palmer was recognised for being:

- a "tireless worker and advocate for the students and staff of the school".
- a "great listener, always willing to listen and provide empathy and some words of wisdom"
- a "calming influence"; "measured and considered in responses" and a "steady rock"

Mr Palmer's sense of humour and quick wit was also acknowledged at the function.

Mr Palmer was presented with a Certificate and Medallion from the Department for his 33 years of service to the Department.

We wish him well for the future as he spends time with his family and grandchildren, enjoying his love of flying and adventuring in the great outdoors.



## **Community News**

A Message from our School Nurse:

**School-aged influenza vaccinations are now available free of charge for all  
WA children Kindy to Yr 6.  
Saturday morning clinics by appointment are commencing at Esperance Population  
Health.  
Please call 9071 0400 for an appointment.**

### **Bus Warden**

Can you work under pressure and have eyes in the back of your head?

**Esperance Bus Service** is looking to hire a bus warden for Castletown PS.

Hours of work are for every school day whilst the buses are dropping off and picking up students to assist with the safe transfer of students between buses. Generally, 8:00-8:40 & 2:50-3:30.

You will require and maintain;

1. Working with Children card
2. First Aid certificate
3. Police Clearance

If you are interested, please contact Ken at Esperance Bus Service 0427 907 217