

Newsletter 2, Term 2 22nd May 2020



Dear Parents Guardians

Our school is pretty much back to normal now, in most ways. Our attendance rate has settled on 94%, slightly above average. A few students are still working from home, and we have two staff on leave for Covid-related reasons.

Parents are still required to drop off and pick up students at the school gate, and not enter the school grounds unless for a pre-arranged appointment or reason. This is of course to facilitate social distancing and avoid mass gatherings of adults. I imagine this will soon be relaxed if Covid-19 data continues its current trend in WA. We have allowed a couple of exemptions for parents of students with special needs, and these parents have been given a pass. If you need to come into the school for any reason, please arrange this through our office. Our kids have managed this very well, however, and I am sure many of the younger ones are feeling very proud of themselves and “grown up” for getting themselves to class and preparing themselves for the day.

The additional cleaning program is continuing, and we are not yet able to hold assemblies. Our experiment to run an on-line assembly was not fully successful, and was more of a pod-cast than a video streaming. This was caused by a lack of internet bandwidth at the school (it could not support the number of classes trying to join) and only the sound could be transmitted. However, this has brought the issue to light and should result in our school gaining an improved internet service, with support from the Dept of Education.

Building Works: The veranda and drainage works are continuing, with final completion due in about three weeks. I hope this coincides with the return of parents into the school grounds, for two reasons: so you will be amazed by the sight of finished results; and right now, there simply isn't room for adults outside these classrooms as the veranda space is very narrow and the quad area closed off.

Other works are planned to commence soon including replacement of ceiling panels in Rooms 9 to 12, painting of the brown brick walls throughout the school, and further toilet upgrades.



Our Staff have been simply magnificent throughout the recent months. They have continued to come to work and keep the school open right through the uncertain times of the Coronavirus pandemic despite some nervousness, taking in their stride the constant changes and the increased workload of home-learning. Lately, there has been a lot of disruption and noise caused by the building works, resulting in reduced playground space, changes to timetables and rosters, and the flexibility, patience and tolerance shown by our staff has been commendable.

Canteen: Our canteen has re-opened on Thursdays and Fridays for on-line orders. Addie's burgers are proving very popular (chicken on Thursday, beef on Friday). Orders can be made using the Quickcliq website.

Jump Rope for Heart: The amazing generosity of the Esperance community has been revealed in recent weeks as our school has commenced a physical education program based around this skipping program. Our Phys Ed specialist teacher, Mr Pansini, introduced this to build students' fitness and coordination levels, and as a clever way to ensure limited physical contact and space between students – of course, people need to keep a safe distance apart when skipping! A secondary part of the program is to raise funds for the National Heart Foundation program.

Castletown Primary School has responded magnificently, and has quickly moved to second place in the Australian schools fund-raising table. In fact, we are only about \$500 off top spot behind a school in Victoria. Well done Castletown kids and families, and great work Mr Pansini!

As a proud West Australian, I always love to see WA beat the Vics, so maybe we can give it a big push in the next couple of weeks and see if we can take over top spot!

Some Staff News: Our Music specialist teacher, Mr Tim Holland, will be leaving us at the end of this term. You wouldn't know it, but Tim has not actually finished his teacher qualifications. Mr Holland has run a wonderful music program in our school for twelve months which the kids have very much loved and enjoyed, and has shown himself to be a natural teacher. He is moving to Perth to finish off his teaching qualifications. He will be missed at Castletown, and we wish him the very best for his future teaching careers, wherever that will be.

In other news, I have been appointed as principal of Castletown Primary School on a permanent basis. I have very much enjoyed my time here so far, and look forward to continuing to implement the plans that we have developed this year to take this school forward. The staff, students and community members here are very positive, friendly and enthusiastic, and I could not pass up the opportunity to stay on. I thank the School Board for endorsing my on-going appointment, and our Regional Executive Director of Education, Mr Saeed Amin, for enabling this. I am proud to call myself the principal of Castletown Primary School.

Intervention Programs – Catering for Individual Differences: Some exciting initiatives are commencing in our school, to cater for students at both ends of the learning spectrum. Four of our Education Assistants have participated in on-line training in the Minilit and Macqlit literacy intervention programs, and we plan for this to commence with small groups of students in term 3. If successful (and I am certain it will be), this program may be expanded to include more students if we can afford it.

Mrs Lesley Mather, our library specialist teacher, will start working with some groups of Year 4, 5 and 6 students soon on a reading extension program, an exciting initiative. We will be exploring other possibilities for extending high-achieving students, and of course this too will depend on what we can fund in our school's budget.

Student Reports: In week 10 this term, student reports will be sent home. The reports for this semester will be slightly abridged, the main change being that they will not contain A to E grades. They will show an Attitude and Effort rating for each subject, and contain comments for English, Maths and General. Our assessment schedules have been thrown out this semester, students have been at school for varying periods, and it would not be fair or valid to allocate grades at this stage. Reports should be back to normal by the end of the year.

THANK YOU P&C DAY: Today is P&C Day here in WA. So I wish to acknowledge the wonderful Parents and Citizens Association of Castletown Primary School. Our P&C, like others, has been fairly quiet in recent months of obvious reasons, but behind the scenes it is still operating and supporting our school. The P&C runs our canteen, which has re-opened and providing an excellent, valuable service under the management of Addie Timms. It also operates our Uniform Shop and this has continued to operate throughout, led by Kristy Roper. In both of these areas, our P&C takes a very professional approach and these businesses are well managed, keeping up-to-date with all changes and developments.

I extend my thanks and congratulations to our P&C executive and all the parents who have contributed through the P&C to support our students and staff.

Our executive for 2020 is:

President: Sandra Prosser

Vice President: Fiona Ryan

Treasurer: Emma Green

Secretary: Jenny Sage

Executive Committee: Hailee Schmidt, Nicki Mackenzie, Tiana Gilchrist



Mr Baker
Principal

Deputy's Desk - Student Services

Triple P – Positive Parenting Program

I'd like to promote an opportunity for all of our parents to link in to the Triple P Positive Parenting Program.

The program is being delivered via online seminars by the Goldfields School Psychology Service and aims to help parents **"Make sure your child has the skills to tackle the world!"**

As a parent myself, I am a massive fan of this program as it is full of tips and strategies on how you can support your kids with resilience, friendships, independence, and how to cope with challenge and setbacks.

The program is completely free and places are limited so please see the attached flyer in **"Community News"** for more information and how to register.

Water Bottles

With current COVID-19 guidelines, students are not allowed to drink from our school water fountains. The solution to this is that students use their own water bottles which they can fill up from the fountains.

For all kinds of reasons, we sometimes have students without water bottles and our local Bunnings has come to the rescue and donated 30 spare water bottles to give to those students who don't have one.

Massive thanks to Bunnings for supporting our Castletown kids.

Mr McLaren
Deputy Principal



Deputy's Desk - Curriculum

Connected Learning at Castletown PS

It has been great to see our students back at school this week. We have certainly missed them and our teachers are eager to put class routines and programs back to a more 'normal' approach.

We have been extremely grateful and appreciative of the assistance of Mrs Julie Palmer, Ms Kim Kidd and Ms Taryn Linden in the development of the home-school connection whilst some students were studying at home. Many of our at-home families appreciated the regular phone calls and access to support for the activities that were set. It has definitely been a wonderful example of how school and home can work together.

Brightpath

This term our Years 1-6 students are focusing on the writing genre of Narratives. They will be learning about the ways to craft a story, developing characters, settings and plots. Many of our merit certificates have described some of our students' exciting stories they have been writing and our Admin team have enjoyed reading some of the stories that have made their way to the school office.

Julie Fetherston
Deputy Principal

Specialist News - Music

Music this term is run for students in Year 1 to 3 and has two main focuses. For Year 1-2s the focus is on the development of rudimentary music skills - tuneful singing and a strong awareness of beat and rhythm. These skills are developed through games, dancing, listening, improvisation and singing, all which help to cultivate a love and appreciation of music and its various forms.

Year 3s have formed their class ensembles, complete with African drums, xylophones, and an assortment of other percussive instruments. These are valuable and very enjoyable experiences that teach children to work together to create short, multi-layered pieces of music that sound fantastic! We are looking forward to developing this further in the term with exciting and increasingly more complex pieces.

In choir, we are working on some beautiful pieces that commemorate the sacrifices of the ANZACs as well as pieces from musicals and Australian choral composer, Paul Jarman.

Whilst there is some uncertainty regarding choir performances with the COVID outbreak, we continue to practise and develop our voices in weekly sessions so that we are ready to perform when it is once again appropriate to do so.

Timothy Holland,
Music Specialist



The Library is OPEN!!

Wow! What a hive of activity the library has been the last two weeks! It's been a long time coming and I'm sure everyone will agree it's certainly been worth it.

Lesley Mather and I have hit the ground running and we're loving it. It is such a pleasure seeing the delight and interest shown by the students when borrowing books. We certainly have some avid readers at Castletown Primary School and it's great to see students who might not read so much choosing a book that appeals to them. Minecraft books are in huge demand!

Lunchtimes are buzzing with students colouring in, reading, borrowing books, playing board games and chipping away at a Where's Wally jigsaw puzzle – it's wonderful to see. We are lucky to have some very enthusiastic Year 5s who have formed a roster to help out at lunchtime. They are doing a sterling job and have made my role much easier – thank you girls.

Each class attends the library once a week, where they can choose 2 books to borrow for one week. As well, they are always welcome any lunchtime to exchange their book/s out of class time. Students all need a library bag to protect the books in their school bag. If students haven't finished their book they may extend it for another week. Students can only borrow when they have returned their current 2 books. Please remind your child/children to take their book/s to school on their library day so they are not disappointed. All borrowed library books are thoroughly cleaned before being returned to the shelves and of course students hand sanitise as they enter the library.

The collage below paints a picture of what's happening every day in the library. It's going to be a great day, parents and carers, when you can come to school to see the library for yourselves and if you wish, help out! Mrs Mather will outline her role in the next newsletter, in the meantime happy reading!

Sally Castledine
Library School Officer



Virtual Assembly – 15th May, 2020

On the 15th May we attempted to hold our first virtual Assembly via Webex. Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, we were able to broadcast only the audio of the assembly but not the visual. This is something we are continuing to investigate and hope to have a solution in the near future.



Destiny opening our first Virtual Assembly.



Receiving a toe tap from Mr Baker for earning a merit certificate.



Mrs Fetherston and Mr McLaren tied Mr Baker to the chair so that he can't leave Castletown PS.

Mr Baker then shared the welcome news that he is staying at Castletown. Mr McLaren confirmed this in a 'phone call' to Mr McGowan, the WA premier.

Merit Award Winners

Congratulations to our Merit Award Winners at our assembly.

Room	Year	Award Winners	
EC3	PP	Braxton Johnson	Ila Meredith
EC5	PP	Theo Schmidt	Sarah MacAlpine
EC6	PP	Scarlett Black	Max Hooper
Room 1	1/2	Heidi Hurrell	Amaya Nankivell
Room 2	1	Carter Weckert	Khaleesi Searle
Room 3	1	Emily Riggs	Zavier Oliver
Room 4	2	Rosie Holst	Kate Ashman
Room 5	2	Sophee Arnold	Lily Thomas
Room 6	2/3	Coby Guest	Nathan Forrester
Room 7	3	Olivia Beardsmore	Jordy Chapman
Room 8	3	Tiffany Humphrys	Brody Oliver
Room 21	3	Jayde Browning	Micheal Nguyen
Room 13	4	Katie Bourne	Cooper Weckert
Room 14	4	Zebb Hunter	Finlay Hunt
Room 9	5	Charlotte Beardsmore	Alice Navarre
Room 10	5	Benji Lear	Riley Davies
Room 11	6	Kayde Anthony	Lara Smallman
Room 12	6	Bronte Florisson	Joseph Richardson

PBiS Virtue Raffle Winners

Emilyn Young (Yr1)
Cooper Oldfield (Yr2)
Heidi Hurrell (Yr2)
Ava Burnett (Yr3)
Sophia Rickerby (Yr3)

Anaya Ramalepa (Yr5)
Marley Roper (Yr5)
Zain Hartley (Yr6)
Jessie Hennessy (Yr6)
Druce Blythman (Yr6)

Aussie of the Month Award

Our May Aussie of the Month was Coby Guest. He is a dominant sportsman but incredibly humble. He never leaves his fellow classmates in his dust, instead he is always supporting, encouraging and doing all he can to share his experience/ knowledge/ skills with his classmates.

P&C Information

Come along and join us at our next meeting to be held on Monday 8th June in the library.

The time is to be confirmed so please look for updates on our website or the contact the P&C via email at CastletownPandC@gmail.com

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB IS BACK - Orders due by 8th June

Book Club is back! Check the school bags as your child may have received a copy of Issue 4 today or keep an eye out as it will be coming next week. As there are limited copies available the eldest child in your family will be given a copy and it is also available online.



Scholastic Book Club offers a variety of books at affordable prices to encourage reading, and for every order made the school benefits with free books and resources.

To order, use your existing online Book Club LOOP account (it will ask you to update your children's details-select their Room Number and Teacher) or for new users go to scholastic.com.au/LOOP to register (choose the CASTLETOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL B/C account). Alternatively, you can download the LOOP app from the App Store or Google Play. **NO CASH PAYMENTS ACCEPTED.**

Select **ISSUE 4** when placing your orders. Place **Issue 4** orders by **8th June** for free delivery of books to the school. Late orders incur a delivery charge and the books will be delivered to your home. Online orders can be made from Issue 3 but will incur the delivery charge and will be delivered to your home.

Book Club is coordinated by the P&C. Queries to Book Club Organiser *Katie Witt* 0439 989 921.

Dates to Remember

Monday 1 st June	WA Day – Public Holiday
Friday 5 th June	Assembly
Friday 12 th June	Jump Rope for Heart – Jump Off Day



Room 6 were very excited when they visited our new library

Community News

For more community news [click here](#)



Make sure your child has the skills to tackle the world!

Triple P – Positive Parenting Program

FREE Online Parent Seminars
Suitable for all parents of children aged 0-12 years

We are bringing Triple P to you in the comfort of your own home! The sessions will be presented through an online meeting (using Webex), with 10 parents per session. Parents will need to have access to a device that has video and microphone/audio. Each session will run in the morning and afternoon so parents can sign up to the session that suits them.

The Power of Positive Parenting

Tuesday 26th May 9.30 – 11.00am
 4.30 – 6.00pm (repeat session)

Raising Confident, Competent Children

Tuesday 2nd June 9.30 – 11.00am
 4.30 – 6.00pm (repeat session)

Raising Resilient Children

Tuesday 9th June 9.30 – 11.00am
 4.30 – 6.00pm (repeat session)

Presented by the Goldfields School Psychology Service.

For any questions, please contact Brett Kipling on 0472 628 104

To register, please visit <https://www.triplep-parenting.net.au> and follow the links to choose your sessions.

When sessions are full, parents will be contacted about additional sessions.

Do you want your child to have the skills to:

Thrive in a chaotic world

Make and keep good friends

Become independent

Problem solve on their own

Bounce back from setbacks

Manage their emotions

Live their best life