

BRANDON BUZZ

24th June 2020

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Term Dates 2020	Due dates	Incursion/excursion fees on Compass
Term 1 29 Jan – 27 Mar	Overdue	2020 School Contributions (see Compass Course Confirmations) - \$350
Term 2 14 Apr – 26 Jun		
Term 3 13 Jul – 18 Sep		
Term 4 5 Oct – 18 Dec		

Hello Everyone,

I am finally back at school and absolutely loving it. I have not seen most people for three months and am just so happy to reconnect with everyone. The children have all grown, are still as gorgeous as ever and it was a joy visiting classrooms to see them. I haven't finished yet – still three classes to go. From what I can gather most have re-settled back into learning on-site which is wonderful – just a couple here and there may need to remember their Brandon Park manners.

In my absence Kate Buck has been the Acting Principal, capably partnered by Janice Corbett. I sincerely thank these colleagues for being able to 'step up' to the job in a most professional and efficacious way. Things ran seamlessly and the school kept 'ticking over' without any disruptions. I really appreciate the extra efforts both Kate and Janice made during this time. Thank you ladies.

COVID-19

This remains a concern with further cases being detected within the broader

community and another two schools closed down yesterday. I know we can tell you what symptoms to look for if you are concerned about going to work or sending your child to school, however attached to today's newsletter is a simple graphic that may help in determining whether the symptoms represent a cold, the flu or COVID-19. Please take a look at this.

Remote Learning

That probably seems so far away for you all but it is still fresh in my mind. Many people made wonderful contributions to guessing the Monday Mystery, to Tuesday Talent as well providing jokes for Friday Funnies. Thank you. You were amazing! You made my job so much easier!

I would like to acknowledge our Tuesday Talent people in particular. What was uncovered was a range of diverse talents within our school community of parents and children alike. I'd love for this to continue. Special thanks go to all contributors, big and small, for being prepared to showcase their skills and provide us with

special entertainment during this rather grim time.

I do have one joke to share that never quite made it to our remote learning Friday Funnies and this is from Antonio De Sensi. Thank you Antonio.

Question: What did the fish say when he hit the wall?

Answer: "DAM"!

I must say I thought Aidan McCormack showed his acting skills exceptionally well as he impersonated me, Kate Buck and Janice Corbett during a morning clip. His class told me I should growl at him for pretending to be the big boss and the two number two bosses. I didn't have the heart as I thought he was hilarious. Aidan, you gave us all a big laugh. Thank you.

Learnings from Remote Learning

It was wonderful that we were able to conduct parent/teacher interviews this week via Webex. How great was that? We don't have to ask you to sit outside portables in the heat or the rain, waiting for your appointment as you can sit in

the comfort of your home and chat with the teacher. Amazing! Assemblies are the same. No more hot asphalt, cold winds or drizzling weather interfering with the comfort of our staff and students as we go through the business of assemblies. Once again Webex is utilised. Technology has given us an insight into how we can strengthen our partnerships with you all, and hopefully teaching concepts will be sent home via a video clip in the future. That way if you want to reinforce a concept with your child you are doing this correctly. The possibilities are endless. It is a discussion the staff need to have but I also welcome your suggestions as to how you would like this used.

New Hall and Performing Arts Centre

The final tweaks for the décor and internal & external finishes are just being applied, and then this new building will go to tender. It's getting very close now. The Junior's playground will have to be relocated due to the location of the new building and because the current equipment is ageing, new equipment will be purchased. The new playground will then be constructed in between the two main buildings at the eastern end of these. It is going to be a very exciting play area for our younger students. We would love things to move faster but just have to be patient knowing the wheels of the department turn slowly.

Staff Updates

We didn't even really say goodbye to Irene Tsikouris. Irene was advised to cease work immediately, which she did. Her new baby is due early next term and once it arrives I will let you know. Thankfully Irene's co-teacher Kathy Argiriou was supported by the Year 4 team and Bec Pal to complete the remainder of the remote learning. These teachers really rose to the challenge and I thank them all for just giving that bit extra.

Bec has continued to work with the class and Kathy while we selected a new teacher to take over for the remainder of the year. We had eleven applicants for the job but an 'old friend' of the school who knows us well was selected.

Emily Choo will be working with Kathy as the two-days-a-week teacher and then moving across to teach Science alongside David Maierhofer. We are delighted to have Emily back with us again. Parents your children are in very capable hands.

We are getting really impatient waiting for baby Aron to arrive. Justin Aron, one of our Year 3 teachers is going to be a father any minute. It was due to happen last Friday and although I say 'we are getting impatient' I'm sure Justin and his wife are also wishing the happy event would eventuate now. Once again I will let you know when this little boy arrives. (I'm allowed to say that)!

We have another baby on the way – not due until December however. Marian Stavrinidis has announced the impending birth of a little Stavrinidis towards the end of this year. We are quite thrilled for both Marian and Anthony. Just FYI - Marian loves to chat about babies, so be prepared!

In closing I want to thank you all for your exceptional contributions towards remote learning. I know Kate has thanked you but I wanted to do likewise. Our children continued to learn and progress. They weren't 'marking time' with 'activity' packs, mindfulness colouring in or activities on mindless websites. They continued to grow academically. I am so proud of them, our staff and you all. I has been lovely to come back to such a positive environment where 'good things' continue to happen.

We will send out a notification on Friday after the Aussies of the Term are announced at assembly and let you know who these recipients are.

School will break up for Term 2 holidays on **Friday 26th June** with a **2:30pm** finish, while Term 3 commences on **Monday 13th July**.

I hope everyone continues to stay well and safe, and that the holidays are restful.

Sheryl Chard
Sheryl Chard | Principal