



Friends Learning Together

Newsletter

Wednesday 25th March 2020

Principal's Report

Sadly, we are not all together for the end of Term 1 to celebrate the wonderful work and achievements of all of our students and our community.

As a staff whose work revolves around your children, our parents and carers and community, it is a sad and unrealistic time to comprehend – our daily lives revolve around your children, and we miss them and our families very much.

These are certainly unknown and challenging times we are facing with the Coronavirus Pandemic and I wish everyone in our community a safe time over the next few weeks with your families and loved ones.

The newsletter for this week contains information in relation to Coronavirus and school communication.

Tips for Parents in supporting your Children's Health and Wellbeing

Maintaining and supporting your children's health and wellbeing is a key priority for all families as we know that children will be impacted in different ways.

Don't be afraid to discuss Coronavirus

- Most children will have already heard about the virus and parents shouldn't avoid talking about it
- Find out what your child already knows or is worried about – it's important to find out if they have the correct information
- Not talking about something can make children worry more – so helping them to feel informed with appropriate information providing facts from trusted sources is ideal to reassure children
- Think about the age of your children with the information and language you use
- Try to remain positive when talking to your children (I know this could be a very real challenge) – try to avoid talking in a way that could make your child feel more worried as this could impact their health and wellbeing.

Be reassuring

- Be conscious of the language you use with your child
- Don't dismiss your child's fears – it is understandable for them to be concerned because they will not have experienced anything like this before (except for students who have experienced severe trauma)
- Let them know you are happy to keep listening and talking – so they feel assured in these challenging times.

Communication

These are the forms of communication channels our school is utilising at this time to support clear, timely and transparent school community updates in relation to Coronavirus, start of Term 2 and remote learning (should the start of Term 2 be delayed).

- **Updat-ed App** – for whole school information. The link for parents to download this app is on our school website. 
- **School Website** – for whole school information. Any whole school information will be posted on the Home page.
- **Facebook** – for start of term / remote learning start dates and crucial information for families - for those who are connected and use this forum.

BRAND NEW COMMUNICATION FORUM – CLASS DOJO

We have started a brand new communication forum – **Class Dojo**. We will be using this communication forum

- ***Over this upcoming period of uncertainty in case of remote learning and teaching***
- ***On a continued basis throughout your child's schooling at Frankston PS***

We are confident that this platform will provide parents and teachers a clear and reliable method of communication, in a manner that is simple to use and readily available to your family. As mentioned above – we anticipate that **Class Dojo** will be utilised as a strong and reliable communication tool in the future, once school resumes as normal.



Class Dojo has been chosen for many reasons, including:

- Its ability to be used on a range of devices (computers, iPads, tablets iPhones and Android Mobiles)
- It's simple and easy to navigate features
- It's free to download and use
- It has the ability to translate the posts to 35 languages which will support the diversity of families within our school community.

As parent and carer you will have access to SCHOOL STORY and your child's CLASS STORY for each class.

- SCHOOL STORY is primarily used for whole school communication. This will be another whole school communication forum where you will find information that effects the whole school.
- CLASS STORY will only be available to parents of students within a given class (plus the class teachers and specialist teachers who teach these children). This is where you will find information that effects your child's class.
- IN CLASS STORY there is a 'message the teacher' function. This is a private message that only the teacher will see and can be used as a method of direct communication from parents to the classroom / specialist teacher.

Parents will need to check in on CLASS DOJO regularly as this will be a core way in which we will communicate with families should remote learning be implemented – or in the future during the term.

Information to parents and carers has been mailed out to families for how to install this app and set your child up with their own unique code for you to access their Class Dojo forums. If you have any trouble with the set-up of your child's unique code access – please email Frankston Primary School – Frankston.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au and supply the name of your child and their class and this will be passed onto your child's teacher.

Remote Learning

Our amazing and hard-working staff have been busily preparing home learning packs for your children should the Education Department release that the start of Term 2 will be delayed.

As discussed in previous communication, your child's home learning pack will be mailed home if we are informed that remote learning will occur. Within these packs there is a selection of work-sheet related tasks for literacy, numeracy and across the other curriculum areas including specialist areas. There will also be a variety of digital learning platforms that parents will be able to support their children to access.

As a parent you will be able to utilise the Class Dojo app platform to communicate with your child's teacher and vice versa.

I would like to remind parents that as well as these learning tasks that are available to you to support your child's learning, learning occurs in the home in many different natural ways – and this is vitally important for your child's natural learning and their health and wellbeing.

Supporting a natural learning environment at home

- Snuggle up together and read books to your child – enjoy being together and sharing ideas about the book
- Cook with your child – this involves so much maths, language, organisational skills, personal development (support them to plan and develop a menu or cooking ideas)
- Allow your child time to play naturally – make cubbies in the family room; play pirates and hold adventures around the house; play kingdoms and kings and queens; play outside and make up games etc.
- Play board games – any board game is great – but some of my favourites are Monopoly, Yahtzee, Cluedo, Chess, Battleships, Trouble, Scrabble etc.
- Play card games – snap, memory, Uno etc.
- Allow your child time to relax and enjoy your close family time.

Update on Snow Camp for 2020

Unfortunately due to the uncertainty of the Coronavirus, the Frankston Federation of Schools has had to make the difficult decision to cancel our joint Snow Camp for 2020. We are disappointed that we have had to make this decision and know that our students will be too.

Please note that once our school has more awareness at the start of Term 2 and the long-term impact of the Coronavirus, we will inform parents and carers of any further impact Term 2 on school-based camps and excursions etc.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Curriculum Day – First Day of Term 2

Tuesday 14th April – is a **Pupil Free Day** as released by the Education Department.

Wednesday 15th April – students commence Term 2 (if we don't begin remote learning).

Sad to See you Leave!

We are very sad to say that we are saying good-bye to 3 staff members at the end of this term. We are saying good-bye and farewell to Amy Carlile in Prep A – we wish Amy all of the very best for her future.

We are also saying good-bye and lots of luck to Natasha Beattie and Rhi Drake from our 5/6 Team – both Natasha and Rhi are taking maternity leave and we wish nothing but the very best as they welcome their new bundles of joy into their families!



Welcome to New Staff Members

We are very excited to be welcoming 2 new staff members to our Frankston Primary School community next term.

Rachel Costello is a highly experienced teacher and comes with much enthusiasm and passion for learning and teaching, excelling students and student wellbeing and is extremely excited to be joining our 5/6 Teaching Team alongside Melanie McGeoch, Bronwyn Green and Ellie Coombes.



Natalie Quirk has had one year teaching in the Frankston area before teaching for the past five years at a primary school in Brunswick. Natalie comes with much enthusiasm and passion for teaching and is extremely excited to be joining our Foundation Teaching Team alongside Mrs Rebecca Wilson.

I have full confidence that the high level of education in each of these learning areas will continue next term for our students I am looking forward to celebrating all of the achievements our students will experience throughout the remainder of the year.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge our amazing Frankston Primary School staff – all Teaching staff, Educational Support staff, Office Administration staff and our Assistant Principal, Jo Booth. Our team is amazing! They have worked tirelessly over the past two weeks in relation to supporting our school, students, our community and families and each other during these unknown times of the Coronavirus. They have done this positively, passionately, with love and care for our students and community.

Thank you to all of our amazing families – you have all shown us trust and support throughout these times – of which we are ever grateful – thank you for your kind words of support and acknowledgement of the hard work of our staff. It has been greatly appreciated.

I am so proud to be principal of such amazing staff, students and school community.

I wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday period. Take lots of care of each other. We all look forward to seeing our students and community next term.

Renée Kennedy
Principal

