

From the Principal

We are open for business! For those of you who are still uncertain whether to send your children back to school, classes are now running normally and I believe that our school is low risk for students. Staff continue to practice social distancing as much as possible. If your child is medically vulnerable, teachers will continue to support your child's learning. If you are choosing to keep your child home, there are two week units of work available from the Our Learning SA website - <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/our-learning-sa>. Teachers individual support has now been wound back as they no longer receive additional release.

Despite a number of changed practices in our school, students, staff and parents have done a remarkable job in adapting to new routines:

- Our drop off and pick up procedures have generally worked well with a couple of concerns which we have addressed as quickly as possible. These procedures will continue through next week and until further notice.
- Our home pack pick up procedures have been successful but have wound down significantly as most of our students have now returned.
- Teachers have been able to deliver a regular learning programme to students at

school while also managing to continue contacting parents of students at home and keeping a check on which students are sick or absent from learning tasks.

- Parents and carers have been so supportive of the school and we have appreciated your understanding and messages of support.

In **staffing** news, Kate Taylor has been seconded to central office to write curriculum and **Ms Crystal Oh** is filling her role. Ms Oh said she is really enjoying teaching the class and is working closely with Mr John Slattery. I wish her all the very best.

Ms Naomi Tree is now working in rooms 3 and 4, backfilling for Mrs Varcoe and Mrs Matcham who work part time. Ms Tree was previously teaching Ms Marling-Bauer's class who remains on leave.

In what may have been a world record for the shortest retirement in history, **Mrs Deb Swann** returned to our site on the first Monday back at school this term after officially retiring on the Sunday night. Mrs Swann will continue in Ms Marling-Bauer's class next week. With luck, Ms Marling-Bauer will be able to return in week 4 which is the week after next.

This semester we will be changing our **reporting** schedule to enable teachers to gather a

more accurate picture of your child's skills and abilities so they can provide correct grades and comments. **Our reports will be sent home next term on Tuesday of week 3 – the 4th of August.** Reports take quite some time to prepare and if we were to stick with our usual schedule, teachers would be starting to write them in the next two weeks. Because of the learning at home option that the vast majority of parents chose, and the pupil-free days in the last week of term, there is very little information for teachers to assess at this stage. I appreciate your understanding.

Finally, I liked to reiterate that the fastest ways we have to communicate information is via our Facebook site and the Skoolbag app. Please consider connecting with one or both.

Kind regards

ALEC TIBBITTS



Staff and students wished Sonia Kernick a very happy 50th Birthday this week. We hope you enjoyed your celebrations Sonia.

Diary Dates

TERM 2

Friday, 22nd May

Last day for Year7/8 applications to be submitted

Friday, 5th June

Pupil Free Day

Monday, 8th June

Public Holiday

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Government of South Australia

Department for Education

Curriculum Corner ...

Welcome back to Term 2. It is great to see students heading back to school ready to learn and also to catch up with friends.

This term, the Year 7 to high school transition process begins. This year it is a little different as it has progressed to online. The transition to secondary school is a major milestone. It will bring changes and new experiences in education, personal development and planning for future pathways. South Australian government secondary schools offer a wide range of subjects, programs, activities and opportunities to meet the interests and talents of young people.

There are often questions parents ask about the process. I have included these in this article for you to read.

Q: Where can I find opening dates and principal tours and times for secondary schools?

A: From individual school websites.

Q: When will I find out where I have been accepted for secondary school?

A: Students will receive their allocation packs on or by Friday **14 August 2020**.

Q: When will I receive the email or letter to complete the registration of interest for my child?

A: Public school families will receive transition information including an email or letter with the unique URL from their primary school at the beginning of term 2, 2020.

Q: What if I miss out on my preferred schools?

A: You will be allocated to a local/zoned school. Students who miss out on their first, second and/or third preferences will be placed on each of the secondary school's waiting lists, if they have one. Waiting lists are managed directly by schools and to ensure the process is fair and equitable, parents will not be advised of their position on the waiting list.

Note: there is no non-local/out-of-zone waiting list for schools with a capacity management plan.

Q: What documentation will I receive in my allocation pack?

A: A letter of welcome, offer for year 8 enrolment, confirming enrolment instructions and review information, if applicable.

Q: What can I do if I am unhappy about my allocation?

A: You can request a review of the process by completing the review form you receive in your allocation pack.

Q: When will I be notified of my review outcome?

A: Families will be notified of the review outcome on or by Friday **18 September 2020**. If the review is successful, your position on the waiting list may be amended, although this review does not guarantee entry to the school.

Q: What happens after the statewide registration process has closed?

A: After this registration of interest process closes each year, schools will take late applications directly. Late applicants may have limited opportunity to attend a non-local/out of zone secondary school or a secondary school with a capacity management plan.

Q: Can an offer for enrolment be withdrawn by a secondary school?

A: If the offer for year 8 enrolment was based on false or misleading information, or the child no longer meets the school's enrolment criteria for a place, the principal may reconsider the offer for enrolment prior to the start of the school year.

Q: When will year 7s move into government secondary schools?

A: All Year 7s will move to secondary school by 2022. Further information is available from <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/sites-and-facilities/year-7-high-school>

Until next time,

Leah Searle
Senior Leader, Special Education

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data

All schools are required to collect information about the numbers of students that they provide adjustments to under the Disability Discrimination Act (1992) and Disability Standards of Education. This data is used as the basis for national funding. The NCCD involves the collection of;

- the number of students receiving adjustments to enable them to participate in education on the same basis as other students

- the level of adjustment provided to students
- student's type of disability if known Under the model the definition of disability is broad and includes learning difficulties, health and mental health conditions.

If your child is identified for inclusion in the Collection, the required information will be included in this year's data collection. If you have any questions about the data collection,

please contact Adele White on 85 222 688.

Further information can be found at

<http://www.education.gov.au/nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability>.

Adele White
Senior Leader-Special Education

Friendly Schools and Families

Our school is a part of the Friendly Schools pilot project which is occurring throughout our Partnership schools. 'Friendly Schools' is a program which aims to involve the whole-school community to build social and emotional skills, create supportive environments and significantly reduce bullying in school communities. It is based on 20 years of ongoing research which has been largely carried out in Australia and is recognised world wide.

As parents, you have probably been thinking about your family and how they may be impacted by the changes taking place around us. To support you during this time, I will be providing you with information and tips from our friendly Schools social and emotional learning resources.

Social and emotional learning is addressed throughout the curriculum at our school and in every stage of a student's schooling. Social and emotional capability is seen as critical to the education of your child. Evidence shows that those children who have well de-

veloped social and emotional skills find it easier to manage themselves, relate to others, develop resilience and self-worth, resolve conflict, engage in teamwork and feel

positive about the world around them. The development of social and emotional capability is a key foundation for learning and for citizenship.

The most effective approach, defined by the Australian Friendly Schools research, occurs when schools and families form strong partnerships to teach and support children to build their social and emotional capability. Included in this newsletter is an information leaflet about ways to communicate with your children. If you try the conversation starter activity at home, I'd love you and your child to send me an email at anne.baldwin347@schools.sa.edu.au and let me know your best answers. I'd also love to hear about the special ways you and your family make time to communicate with each other. The world is such a busy place and having family communication time that strengthens family bonds is sometimes hard find time for. In our next

newsletter, I'd love to share the ways our Gawler East families bond together and communicate. Who knows, you may have the answer another family is looking for.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Be kind to each other,

Anne

School Crossing

Week 3

Morning

Khloe Claxton
Mitchell Todman
Mariah Anderson

Afternoon

Adellyn Mullaney
Jack Jolloy
Jessica Mudge

Week 4

Morning

Madi Braun
Sienna Gaspari
Caitlin Walker

Afternoon

Seb Vereb
Teisha Pollard
Kiara MacDonald

Jody has an exciting new competition up and running!

This is a unique time in history as we manage the restrictions around this COVID-19 business. Let us work with the children in our home to make this time as memorable as possible. There are lots of things we cannot do, but there are still plenty we can!

I am asking children to be involved by doing a time capsule or lockdown diary. They have set pdfs for both ideas - **children have three (3) options:**



1. Do the Time capsule booklet - more suitable for Year 2/3 and above.
2. Do **at least 10 pages** out of the Lockdown diary - lots of picture activities for the Junior Primary children and older children who are creative
3. Do a mix and match from both booklets of at least 10 pages

ALL CHILDREN WHO COMPLETE A TIME CAPSULE OR LOCKDOWN DIARY WILL RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION!

Prizes: Mini board games, bubble wands and Play-doh - more details to come on this! The number of prizes will depend of the number of entries - so make sure you enter soon....

Collect entry booklets: directly from Jody, from class teachers and will aim to get on dojo this week! At home, no problem - contact Jody on her email jody.byerley386@schools.sa.edu.au or get from dojo.

Please note some of the classes will be doing booklets as class activities. Adult assistance is required on some pages e.g. interviewing parents, reading assistance and age-appropriate guidance is allowable.

CLOSING DATE: Thursday 4th June, end of school day by 3:30pm

Jody is very much available for 1:1 'chats'

At this very stressful time, please remember that I am here for **all** in the school community, if you are a parent or caregiver who needs a chat, or are concerned about a child in your care, please don't hesitate to contact me at school on 8255 0533 or email jody.byerley386@schools.sa.edu.au and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Whether you are at school or home, keeping you in my thoughts,

Stay safe and well,

Jody Chambers, Your PCW

You may have heard that Australian Red Cross Lifeblood is calling out for anyone who is feeling well to come forward and donate blood. In fact, they need 14,000 donors over the next few weeks to prevent a shortage of blood supplies. Various factors mean donors are currently unable to donate, but the need for blood never stops.

The Australian Red Cross Lifeblood is visiting Gawler twice in May!

Gawler Mobile Donor Centre

Hewett Centre

28-30 Kingfisher Drive

Monday 25 May	10.30am – 7.00pm
Tuesday 26 May	10.30am – 7.00pm
Wednesday 27 May	11.30am – 7.00pm
Thursday 28 May	8.00am – 3.00pm

So, if you're healthy and haven't travelled overseas in the last 28 days, please book a donation

<https://don8blood.com/2QPRMg5>

Our Front Office is in need of any spare size 4-8 black long pants. If your child has recently been sent home with a spare pair from the office can you please return. For any families wishing to donate pants in good condition can you please send to the Front Office.

Medication at School

Any medication required to be given at school must be notified via the Front Office. A Medication Agreement form will be provided and must be completed by a GP or Specialist. Staff are not able to administer medication unless this form is provided to us. Medication must be provided in original pharmacy packaging—clearly labelled. **Forms available on our website or Skoolbag.**

Asthma Care Plans must be provided even if students keep their Ventolin for use themselves. Asthma medication will be kept in the class room by the Teacher if required (under supervision). School Ventolin is available for students at recess or lunch time if required (an Asthma Care Plan is needed).

If your child has a Non-specific health condition that requires additional care then a time must be made with the Principal to discuss the needs of the student and forms completed.

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