

Portland North Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Friday 17th September

... is a child safe school



Principal

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Principal's Message

We've all had a lovely footy colours dress-up day to end what has been a very changeable term. However, despite the disruption the children have returned to school again full of enthusiasm and excitement. It has been a delight to have all the littlest people back at school and we absolutely have our fingers crossed that we'll see all the children back at school to start Term 4. **We have not received any further advice about the way school will return next term, however as soon as we know what's happening, I will communicate with families via Compass.**

Yet again I thank families on behalf of the teachers for your ongoing support and commitment to your children's education throughout this latest lockdown and remote learning program. I have checked in frequently with the teachers and monitored the progress and engagement of the children on Seesaw, and I remain impressed by the effort being put into learning tasks and activities. I hear stories daily about the creativity and quality of the work being posted by the children and I'm confident most children continue to make progress in their learning journey.

I want to thank the teachers for their ability to switch so seamlessly from our usual learning program to remote learning – and back again! They have worked really hard to ensure continuity and consistency for the children, and to make sure they are present every day to provide the teaching and support every child needs to maintain steady progress, and to look after their wellbeing. **I also want to thank the staff who were onsite every day**, supervising the children who were learning at school and making sure they also continued to make progress and thrive. It was very challenging at times, trying to get up to 35 children into their different webex meetings, online lessons and completing tasks. They have all done a wonderful job and I'm very proud of their achievements. They have certainly earned a well-deserved break.

DATES

- TODAY
Last day of term
- 2.30pm dismissed
- Dress up in your footy colours – just for fun!



- Term 4 starts Monday
4th October



We have spent time this week reviewing student progress and making plans to ensure that we continue to support the learning needs of children during term 4. **Our learning support program and tutoring will resume next term** and families of children involved will be advised about their participation and learning goals when the program starts.

We have just received our initial NAPLAN results and we are very proud of the trend of improvement across almost all areas. Our Year 3 cohort achieved particularly strong results and were above the state and national benchmark in all areas of mathematics. We will share more details about our NAPLAN results next term. The children's individual NAPLAN results will be sent home to parents early next term, when all the children have returned to school. It has also confirmed for us that the COVID restrictions and remote learning has not had the detrimental impact on student learning outcomes that many feared.

We will begin to finalise our 2022 Prep arrangements early next term, so please ensure your enrolment forms are returned as soon as possible.

We wish Skylah and Beau Van Helden and their mum Kristy all the best as they make the big move to Mornington. We hope they love their new school!

We offer another big thank you to Sabah for the hot lunches – we all appreciate the opportunity she gives us to provide the children with something special and to give parents a little break from lunch-making!

Once again, thank you for a positive term, despite all the change and disruption. We hope you have a wonderful break – stay safe and we hope to see everyone back next term.

Cate



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