



Jewells Primary

Newsletter

Principals' message

I would like to thank the community for their extreme patience as we worked and continue to work on improving our communication methods, processes around COVID restrictions and working with parents/community to support student learning and attendance. I especially thank the P&C for their candid feedback regarding such matters.

Communication

In a period where there has been disconnect from the school due to COVID-19 restrictions, the school has not been as effective in its communication as what could have been. There have been a number of causal factors influencing that, needless to say there is significant room for improvement and clarity.

A community communication Survey Monkey will be advertised shortly to gather pertinent information as to the best ways to capture our audience and communicate key points of information. Your responses are invaluable in helping us tighten up this area.

School P&C

The P&C have been outstanding in supporting the ongoing school improvement processes over the last 3 years, and will be an even larger stakeholder in the consultation process for what will be our new 4-year school plan 2021-2024. I would like to thank all previous volunteers for their support and congratulate the newly appointed P&C executive committee.

Situational Analysis

The school is currently undertaking a large-scale internal examination of all facets of its operations, with critical examination taking place on the Teaching, Learning and Leadership domains of the school. As advertised to the school P&C and staff, I am

making a focussed commitment as Principal to leading and driving the new 4-year School Improvement Plan from beginning to end, 2021-2024, unless unforeseen issues change that.

The two significant areas we are carefully looking at are as follows:

1. Teaching

- Effective evidence-based Classroom Practices that yield the greatest impact
- Use of Data to inform Practice
- Professional Standards of teachers and their ability to meet high performance expectations
- Professional Learning & Development and transference of that into effective Teaching & Learning in the classroom

2. Learning

- Learning Culture
- Wellbeing (social, emotional, discipline, anti-bullying)
- Curriculum delivery and relevance
- Assessment & Reporting on student progress

Term 4 will be a period whereby the school will look to action some innovative ways of capturing and maximising the opportunities to seek your feedback on those areas. I am after a 'wart and all' judgement from community.

The road map to success is never straight forward, but along that pathway we choose to take, are some valuable opportunities to learn more about ourselves and what skills we may need to hone.



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Student Wellbeing

Recently there have been spikes in incidences of covert and blatant bullying behaviours by some students. This is highly disturbing, as is the lack of support from some in relation to calling this behaviour out and then stamping on it completely.

In addition to elements of bullying behaviours, are those of aggressiveness towards others, whether verbal or physical. Students and staff are entitled to a safe working, learning and playing environment. The school will not take lightly matters whereby the wellbeing and safety of others are compromised. If you are notified that your child is a person engaging in this behaviour, I encourage you to work with the school to curb and eliminate this before greater disciplinary consequences are brought into play.

Social Media

I absolutely detest this subject for it is the catalyst for many issues that can have long lasting and sometimes detrimental and devastating consequences. Please be aware of what your child is accessing and doing online. Discuss with your child the appropriate use of technology, social media and ensure that they have ample breaks away from such things. We are seeing a significant spike in instances of inappropriateness.

Belmont High School Enrichment Test

The Belmont HS Enrichment Test for 2021 will be taking place tomorrow, Thursday 10th September, here onsite at Jewells PS, beginning at 9:25am. It will run until 1:15pm,

with students going out for a lunch break at the same time as the rest of the school.

Students are asked the following-

- Arrive at the hall at 9:15am
- Bring a blue or black pen (well worth bringing a spare just in case)
- Water bottle

All other materials are provided by the testing company. Appropriate COVID protocols will be in place.

Canberra Excursion

Please note that the planned Canberra Excursion for Years 5&6 has been cancelled due to ongoing uncertainty with restrictions. As such you have the option to use fees in advance to cover payments for other items or seek a refund. Please communicate this with the office staff.

Orientations – Preparing for 2021

At this stage all orientations – Kindergarten, Year 7, Vulnerable students and O.C transition programs are on hold, with a significant likelihood of not going ahead at all. This brings with it a significant level of complexity of which I am sure you can appreciate.

Attendance Matters...every school day counts!

Attendance at school and being on time everyday has a huge impact on a child's learning and helps to ensure personal success. Please make sure your child is here every day!

Barry Croft
Principal