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February 5<sup>th</sup> 2021

*Annunciation Catholic Primary School promotes the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all students.*

## NEWSLETTER

### *Reflection*

#### *Prayer for the new school year*

*Gracious God As the summer begins to fade, new possibilities lie on the horizon.*

*Bless all of those who are beginning or returning to their roles as teachers, as well as those who lead and support them in their efforts.*

*May this school year be a time of grace and potential as they teach, share, and challenge others to grow in faith, knowledge, and wisdom.*

*Bless the children, along with their parents, as they begin a new school year. May their minds be open to learning and to the wonder of discovery and insight.*

*Be with us all as we embark on this new year.*

*Amen*

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone and welcome to 2021!!



We have had a lovely start to the year and the students have settled in really quickly. We are very fortunate to have 17 new students across the school.

We warmly welcome Lily, Aavi, Nico, Rafael, Noah, Livinia, William, Joshua, Datong, Lucia, Ivy, Elisabeth, Alfie, Manny, Jacky, Jack and Zayn. We also welcome 9 new families. I hope that your time at

Annunciation is filled with joy, laughter and friendship.

Annunciation is a very special place and our families are the foundation of this. The staff take great pride in their work and really do have your child at the center of everything they do. Last year was testament to how a small community can come together in challenging times to support each other.

We endeavour to make your time at Annunciation as smooth as possible, however at times, challenges may and do come along. Please know that myself and the staff are always available for a chat and that problems can easily be resolved if we talk them through together. We are very fortunate to have a small school community so we can look out for each other.

I am looking forward to a year where we can meet face to face, have fantastic experiences as a school community and watch our students grow and thrive.

Have a wonderful term everyone.

Robyn



PLEASE NOTE THAT TODAY'S NEWSLETTER IS COMING HOME BOTH IN HARD COPY AND VIA THE SKOOLBAG APP.

NORMALLY WE ONLY SEND OUT THE NEWSLETTER VIA SKOOLBAG UNLESS FAMILIES HAVE INDICATED OTHERWISE. WE ARE SENDING THIS NEWSLETTER OUT BOTH WAYS AS A TEST TO ENSURE ALL FAMILIES HAVE DOWNLOADED THE APP AND ARE ACTUALLY RECEIVING CORRESPONDENCE .

PLEASE CHECK THE SKOOLBAG APP TO ENSURE YOU HAVE THIS NEWSLETTER EITHER ON THE APP OR VIA EMAIL. IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED IT PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE ON MONDAY SO THAT WE CAN ASSIST YOU TO FIX THE PROBLEM.

IF YOU ARE NEW TO THE SCHOOL PLEASE FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS NEWSLETTER TO DOWNLOAD SKOOLBAG. IF YOU WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA HARD COPY YOU WILL NEED TO EMAIL THE OFFICE.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A PHONE WITH INTERNET YOU WILL ALSO NEED TO LET US KNOW SO THAT WE CAN SEND YOU CORRESPONDENCE VIA ANOTHER MEANS.

### COVID SAFE PRACTICES

Unfortunately this week has shown all Victorians that we need to continue to be vigilant. Masks now need to be worn inside so I do ask that if you do need to come into the school that you have a mask on. We have spares if you forget.

We are continuing with the daily sanitising and cleaning and we do have a COVID Safe plan specific to our school. If your child is unwell we ask that you keep them at home and if you are identified as a close contact to a known case we ask that you notify the school so that we can follow correct guidelines.

### SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

We will only be able to do assemblies (with Parents) outdoors now that restrictions have lowered the number of people inside. We will endeavour to have them outdoors but unfortunately families will not be able to attend if the weather is too hot or wet as we will need to gather inside. Assemblies are at 3:10pm on a Friday afternoon.



### FUNDING

As you may have heard in the media, schools were given some money to support children returning to school after 2020. This was worked out per student and we have been able to employ a Maths Intervention teacher for several hours per week. The staff and I have looked at other interventions and we now have quite a few running throughout the school. These include Reading Recovery, GREAD (a reading/comprehension program), Maths individualised sessions, ERIC (reading program) and a Wellbeing program. All these interventions are aimed to build confidence and develop skills in the areas of Maths, English and Wellbeing. We are incredibly fortunate to have so many staff that have the expertise to implement a diverse range of programs. We will continue to revise these programs as the year goes on.

### UNIFORMS

Our school uniform is something that we take pride in so I ask that all parents please ensure that their child is dressed in the correct uniform from next week.



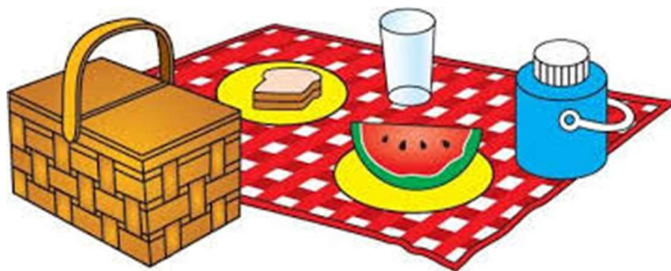
All children need to have black school shoes and not runners on Monday to Thursday. This includes Grade 6 children as there is still a year left of school. Boys need to be wearing grey socks too as I have noticed sports socks on a few of the older children. Apologies to families who are still waiting for uniform, unfortunately we just have to wait for deliveries which have been delayed.

## UPDATE INFORMATION

Just a reminder that if you change your home phone number, your mobile number or your address, or emergency contact details, could you please advise the school so that we can keep our contact details up to date.

## WELCOME PICNIC AND INFORMATION NIGHT

On Tuesday February 16th we are hosting a welcome picnic/information session for all families. At 5:30pm we ask all families to come to the school. Students will play outside from 5:30 to 6pm (staff supervising) whilst parents attend a brief session with their child's classroom teachers. Each teacher will cover expectations/excursions/camp etc.



Due to the 1.5 meter COVID safe rule we are asking that only one parent attend the session. In the event that you have more than one child you can have an adult attend separate sessions or choose one session and we will pass on the information from the other classes.. After the session we are having a picnic. We ask families to bring their dinner and a rug or camp chairs. This will be a lovely opportunity to meet other families or to catch up with those that you know and may not have seen for a while. We have also organised an ice cream truck to come along!

## CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

A reminder that families who hold a valid Health Care Card for the 2021 year are able to receive a government rebate through the Camp, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF.)

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF.

The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. The annual CSEF amount per student is: • \$125 for primary school students For more information about the CSEF visit [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)

**HOW TO APPLY:** New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef). If you applied for the CSEF at your child's school in 2020, you do not need to complete an application form in 2021, unless there has been a change in your family circumstances. You only need to complete an application form (AVAILABLE THROUGH THE OFFICE) if any of the following changes have occurred:

new student enrolments;

- ❖ your child has started or changed schools in 2021 or you did not apply in 2020.
- ❖ changed family circumstances; such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number,
- ❖ or new siblings commencing at the school in 2021.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

Also families who hold a valid Health Care Card for the 2021 year are eligible for a rebate from the school in addition to the Camp, Excursion and Sports (CSEF) fund provided by the Government.

### SEEKING AN ARTISTIC PARENT/PARENTS

Last year we created a school family tree display in the front foyer and it has been greatly admired by prospective parents. It is now time to change the display to add in our new families. Are there any creative/artistic parents who would like to come in and put together a display that showcases our children? I have some ideas but my delivery on the ideas is not always great!!!! (It could only be up to 2 parents as it is in the foyer)

### NEW SANDPIT

Over the holidays we had a giant sandpit put in and the children are loving it. We are just waiting for quotes to come through and then we will put a sail shade over the top. This sandpit along with the giant board games that we purchased late last year will be sure to entertain all of our students outdoors!

**The term ahead: Please note these dates in your own diary:**

<b>Wednesday February 10th</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL FOR FOUNDATION STUDENTS ONLY</b>
<b>Tuesday February 16th</b>	<b>Welcome Picnic (See note below)</b>
<b>Wednesday February 17th</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL FOR FOUNDATION STUDENTS ONLY</b>
<b>Thursday February 25th</b>	<b>Parents and Friends Meeting 2:30pm</b>
<b>Wednesday March 17th</b>	<b>All students will be going to St Augustine's Yarraville to celebrate Mass with Parish schools. Entertainment afterwards to be decided.</b>
<b>Thursday April 1st</b>	<b>School finishes for the term at 1pm</b>

### IMPORTANT DATES IN 2021:

Here are a few dates for 2021 that we know of so far.

<b>Sacrament Dates</b>	<b>Confirmation Grade 6:</b> Sunday May 2nd at 11am <b>Reconciliation: Grade 3:</b> Tuesday June 15th at 6:30pm <b>First Communion Grade 3:</b> Sunday August 29th at 11am
<b>Term Dates</b>	<b>Term 1:</b> January 27th - Thursday April 1st (School holidays start Good Friday) <b>Term 2:</b> April 19th - June 25th <b>Term 3:</b> July 12th - September 17th <b>Term 4:</b> October 4th - Wednesday December 15th
<b>School Closure Dates that are known at the moment</b>	<b>Monday March 8th:</b> Labour Day Holiday <b>Monday June 14th:</b> Queen's Birthday <b>Monday July 12th:</b> School Closure <b>Monday November 1st:</b> School Closure <b>Tuesday November 2nd:</b> Melbourne Cup

### BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

We now have before school care as well as after school care. You must be registered with 'Looked After' before you can use the services offered. This will need to be done on Looked After website. You must also book in the day before if you need to use either service on any day.


## PARENTS AND FRIENDS FIRST MEETING



At Annunciation we have a Parents and Friends Group who assist in fundraising, helping out at different events, special lunches etc etc.

However the main point of our Parents and Friends Group is to provide an opportunity to get together over a cuppa. Our meetings are very informal, no one has a specific role and is welcoming to all, including toddlers.

Last year we trialled meetings in the afternoon rather than at night time. The response was amazing but unfortunately we didn't get to see the year through. Our first meeting for the year will be on **Thursday February 25th at 2:30pm to 3:20pm. Toddlers welcome.** If you are unable to make these sessions please don't worry as there will be many opportunities for all parents to be involved. (Please note this meeting will be subject to the ever changing restrictions).



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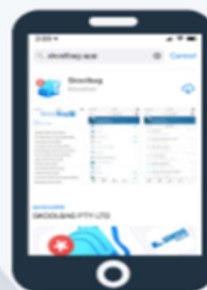


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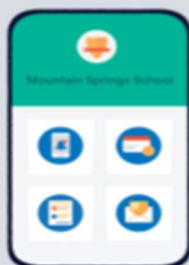
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