



OVERPORT NEWS

From the Principal's Desk.

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Dates to remember:

MARCH

LAST DAY OF TERM

Fri 27th End of term 1
2.30pm dismissal

APRIL

Mon 13th Easter Monday

Tues 14th First Day Term 2



*Thought of
the week:*

*Your calm mind is the
ultimate weapon against
your challenges.*

Bryan McGill

Covid-19 Update.

I am grateful for your current support as we navigate what is a complex and unique time, not just for our school but the broader community as well. The Department of Education continues to be advised by our Government and Department of Health which is in turn guiding us. Schools will remain operating. If you have chosen to keep your child at home, your child's teacher will forward some suggestions to you that you may choose to do while they are at home. The advice of the Chief Health Officer remains at present that our schools should stay open, except in the case of a confirmed case of coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Overport DOES NOT have any confirmed cases. The full advice can be found on https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/departments/CHO_advicetoschools_16March2020.pdf

The document provided at this link outlines the basis for the decision for schools to remain open and notes that Chief Health Officer's observation that school closures may still be considered. Yesterday a decision was released to ban all internal gatherings of 100 people. OPS has decided to minimise the amount of students in any one area in the playground by the following measures: The Preps-2s have the oval and from the soccer pitch fence including the play equipment. The Y3-6 have from the front on the west including that play equipment up to the soccer fence. All students can use the central area of the indigenous garden, canteen and grassed area beside the administration. We have also postponed a number of whole school activities. This includes our Cyber Safety program and school assemblies, as well as our Curriculum Day on 17th April 2020 normal before and after school care will be available on that day.. We are also investigating later dates for year 4 and 6 camps. We are receiving daily updates from DET and we are responding quickly to implement precautions and will continue to keep you updated via Sentral as this information comes to hand. Please refer to the website, Overport Official FB page for current updates. The school is also developing plans to assist your child's continued learning if you have chosen to keep your child at home. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to ring me.

School Council Elections Process

School Council elections and ballot were finalised last week. I wish to thank all those interested parents and to congratulate and welcome the following new members: Katarina Ovcin, who has a year 1 & 3 student, Lukas Konopcik, who has a year 2 & 6 student, Sara May, a prep student and Miia Tolvanen, a year 3 student and returning DET members, Ricky Joyce and Sophie Brennan. They will join our current members, Jenny Sidwell, Daniel O'Hara, Ervin Torok, Marsha Hughes and DET member Sam Rodwell. We warmly welcome them to School Council and look forward to their input. At this stage, however, our AGM and first School Council meeting has been postponed to 20th April. At the AGM, we will select a new executive to guide the school for 2020.

**FRIDAY 27TH MARCH 2020—LAST DAY OF
TERM 2.30PM DISMISSAL**



...continued overleaf



*To all students
celebrating their
birthdays this week,
next week or over
the holidays*

Cooper 2A,
Noah 4B, Stella 2A,
Georgia 2C,
Logan 3D, Charles 5D,
Summer 1D, Emily 3C
Alexander 3E,
Zac 2C, Riley 3D,
Oscar 5E, Lucy 5B
Mia 5D,
Cameron 2A,
Henry 56A, Kira 3C,
Lily 6D, Tom 3C,
Indi 3E, Zaid 4B,
Ada 4C, Archie 1C,
Ayden 3E,
Dakota 6C, Faith 6E,
Aziah 56A, Macy 2B,
Eri 5E, Lucy 2B,
Neve 3B, Scarlett 3C,
Amir 5D, Molly 1C,
Ivy 3C, Ruby 1C,
Anieke 5B, Knox PD,
Alexander 2A,
Tai 4C, Mia 6B,
Sophie 2E, Basil 4D,
Yasmin 5B, Paiton 6E,
Shailee 1B



Principal 's Report Continued

Trauma Advice - dealing with the stress Covid-19

An article with advice on how to support your child with the growing concern around the Covid-19 and pandemic. Children often pick up on adult concerns and react in a variety of ways. They maybe more tearful, act out, tired or grumpy. The article at this link discusses how you can talk to them about their concerns and support them. We all need extra patience at these times. Please see this link for advice specifically around trauma related to Covid-19.

https://talihealth.com.au/blog/helping-kids-cope-with-the-covid-19-epidemic/?utm_campaign=COVID-19%20&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=84823492&hse nc=p2ANqtz-_axKkCfQgxqdlxkTVIxz5JSsFCZ1oq01fCXS2OEbuWXRLcODjloAikqQw4yt oG6ySBE8G5-8o_tQiavfOqQWpFzt7yoOfQmn66e8yBtS7f8xUO4s& hsmi=84848765

New staff member

We would like to officially welcome Mr Simon Dewar who has joined Mr Steven Davidson in the Performing Arts (Music) program while Mr Freeman is teaching in Western Australia. The children have responded extremely well and are enjoying the style of teaching he is offering. Mr Davidson and Mr Dewar continue to plan together to ensure continuity of the program. I know our community will make him welcome.

Tik-Tok

Concerns around students using Tik-Tok have once again raised its head. In a group chat recently there has been inappropriate on-line bullying that is happening outside of school hours but is causing concerns among students at school. Your child's welfare can be significantly impacted through social media. Tik-Tok's age limit is for over 13 years old. I ask parents to monitor their child/ren's access and use of social media and be mindful of its impact

Last Day of Term One

Although we are not proceeding with our Easter hat parade, students are welcome to wear Easter style clothes or hats to school on Friday. Please note that term one **finishes at 2.30 pm on Friday.**

Kind Regards,

Julie Gleeson Principal.

Privacy Note:

The Department of Education and Training (which includes all Victorian government schools, central and regional offices) values the privacy of every person and is committed to protecting information that schools collect. Please view the Overport Privacy Policy and all other policies on the Overport website.

Recent Sad News

We are extremely saddened by the recent accident that has lead to the passing of young Dylan Briggs a past student and brother of Mia-Jane B in year 3. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family as they face this difficult time. His beautiful smile and lovely manner will stay in our hearts.

Sleep well Dylan, we will miss you

Assistant Principals Report

Student Voice Leaders

This year, after consultation with our staff and students, and in line with our 4 year School Strategic Plan, we have decided to create a team of students called the “Student Voice Leaders”. These students will work with the year 6 Student Health Ambassadors to ensure all of our students have a say in their learning and their school environment. They will meet regularly with Miss Hull, Mrs Cumberlidge, Miss Bower and Miss Howard and they will be supported in sharing their ideas and creating action plans.

These students have been chosen because they embody everything that we expect in an Overport student; commitment, acceptance, respect, excellence and strength. Congratulations to:

Dusty B

Valentina Z

Tom P

Alex B

Sydney D

Sam B

Kalen S

Montana S-P



We look forward to watching this team develop and grow over the year as they make real plans to increase student engagement, voice and agency.

Overport Community Wellbeing

In this current climate, where everything is a little scary and unknown, please ensure you are looking after yourselves and each other. If you need extra support remember these resources are available for yourselves and your children: Beyond blue– 1300 22 4636, Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800 <https://kidshelpline.com.au/>



This is a great opportunity to practice our Resilience Project values of **GEM**:

1. **Gratitude:** Be grateful for everything we have and stop thinking about what we need to have/achieve to make us happy. Just be happy now. Speak with your children every day about things they are grateful for.
2. **Empathy/Kindness:** Being kind and doing things for others releases oxytocin and improves our mood and happiness. Model kindness to your children.
3. **Mindfulness:** Take the time to become more present in your life and learn how to relax. Meditation or mindfulness colouring are great ways to do this.

Take care everyone.

Jill Wathen and Ricky Joyce

Assistant Principals





Minasan konnichiwa (Hello, everyone)

In each Japanese lesson, the students start by counting, greeting and checking how they are feeling in Japanese. They have been practising “Japanese is easy song,” “Japanese alphabet (Hiragana) song/chant,” and “Be kind to the earth in Japanese song.” The students have practised their Japanese speaking skills by playing social games. Often I only gave them a few rules to follow and the students had to come up with effective ways to play the games by class discussion and fair decision making. The focused speaking skill for Year three students is to introduce their name in a full Japanese sentence. Year four students are extended to ask other people’s name as well as introduce themselves in Japanese. Year five students have been learning to tell what they like in addition to introducing their name in a full Japanese sentence. Year six students have been learning to introduce themselves politely by adding up proper beginning and ending Japanese phrases. Each year level students have been learning to read some of the Hiragana symbols (based on the key focused Japanese phrases and sentences) by repeating the story with relevant actions. Senior students have learned the fact that Japanese has different type of writing symbols such as Hiragana and Katakana (which Japanese people tend to use in order to write words from different languages). Year three and four students practised writing their name in Hiragana and Year five and six students have been writing their name in Katakana symbols. Responding to many Year six students’ request, we will have a Japanese week next term (i.e last week in term two). The year six students will be busy planning and organising special activities for the Japanese week in addition to their normal Japanese learning activities next term.



Vegetable Garden News

This year, some very lucky 40 students (from Year three to six) were selected to work with Mr. Mallinson (our ex Overport Primary School parent) in the vegetable garden at some stage during Wednesday afternoon. The students are divided into four mixed age groups, and learn to grow vegetable from Mr. Mallinson. One of the students’ favourite activities is to look around and to pick the delicious fresh food from the garden. I often see the students having a big smile with their fresh harvest after school. Unfortunately, some students missed out for this opportunities due to the limited space. Responding to the huge demand, I will try to be in the vegetable garden every Wednesday lunch time. Any students above



Year one are welcome to come to have a look or do a bit of gardening work with other students. Often I am lucky enough to have the regular senior students who are more than happy to assist young students.

We are always very fortunate to have our community’s extended support. Heritage families have been kindly working on the weekends to conduct the major pruning for each fruit tree. The aim is to improve overall health of the fruit trees. In the long run, the trees should produce more fruits for our students to enjoy picking and tasting them.

Arigatoo goziamasu (Thank you very much)

Tomoko Yamashita (Japanese teacher)



A Note from Our Canteen

If you are sending bags in for lunches can you please supply only new bags not used.

Thank you for your co-operation.

