

Tuesday 14th October 2020

Week 1 Term 4

Diary Dates		
Friday	16 th October	In School Disco
Monday	19 th October	Preschool 2021 Pack pick up
Tuesday	20 th October	Book Week Dress Up – Preschool
Thursday	22 nd October	Kindergarten 2021 Information Session
Thursday	22 nd October	Book Week Dress Up
Friday	23 rd October	5/6P Assembly
Notes Sent home		
Year 5 – Year 6		The Smith Family – Passport to Success

From the Principal

Dear Calwell Families,

It's hard to believe we are starting Term 4. We hope your family had the opportunity to do some enjoyable activities during the break. As always, this term is jam packed. The impact of COVID is regrettably still with us and we may need to adjust the way we do some of our end of year activities, however we are maintaining the 'norm' as much as possible. I would like to thank you all for your on-going understanding and support in what has certainly been a year we could not have foreseen.

COVID Arrangements

Accompanying this newsletter is a note with the information we have been provided with at this time from the Education and Health Directorates. Day to day arrangements in the school with regard to COVID are as follows:

- physical distancing of 1.5 metres for adults on site
- parent/carers are asked to continue with current drop-off and pick-up arrangements
- teaching units and the area around the four units is a student and staff area only (please do not walk through this area to reach the playground or preschool)
- students should be kept home if they are unwell or presenting with any COVID related symptoms
- adults attending the school must sign in and out at the front office
- students and family members should leave the school grounds as quickly as possible after 3pm

We ask that all members of the community actively support these arrangements. Staff should not be placed in the position of having to ask a community member to adhere to guidelines. We are all in this together. The safety and well-being of our school, students and community is a shared responsibility. Thank you for your support.

Term Four Activities

We are looking forward to providing our students with a number of fun and engaging activities this term, including a welcome back disco on Friday, Book Week in week 2, dress-up days and assemblies. We are very mindful that our students have all had a challenging year and we hope to make this a happy term. At the end of last term, we held a student / staff basketball challenge which everyone really enjoyed so much the we are already planning another challenge for the end of this term.

Kindergarten BASE Testing

Many of you will be familiar with the PIPS testing which was a regular feature of Kindergarten. This has been replaced by BASE testing. The children complete a Literacy and Numeracy test on entry to Kindergarten and again at this time of year. The school and families are then provided with standardised information about your child's growth in these areas since the start of their formal schooling. The test is conducted by the class teacher one to one with your child. This testing will take place in weeks two and three.

Learning Journey Survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete these surveys. Not only do these surveys provide an opportunity for parent/carers to give feedback, the information you share helps to inform decision making to ensure the school meets the needs of the community it serves.

The School Board will review all comments at its meeting next week, however the key commendations and suggestions for improvement are as follows.

Commendations

- the school was commended by many for the way it has managed COVID and remote learning
- many staff were commended for their professionalism, commitment, care, and work
- the school has a very positive environment and culture – Team Calwell
- the school's focus on student support and well-being
- the school encourages a love of learning
- the PE & Science release programs are valued
- the value and success of PBL, positive acknowledgements
- a variety of activities are valued e.g. sport clinics, dress-up days, Market Day, Footsteps Dance, Learning Journey, community events
- good communication avenues – Seesaw, newsletter, Facebook
- commended for the upgrade of the school grounds

Suggestions for Improvement

- revamp the school newsletter, include photos, information from classes
- use Seesaw as the key communication tool with families
- more PE, clinics and sport activities, school weekend sport teams
- more intervention and greater support for students with challenging behaviour
- greater focus on developing social skills, especially in junior classes
- find ways to connect families – develop community, more family social events
- school fete – outside hours recreational activities for families
- more things about environment & waste reduction / gardening program
- teach a second language - teach recorder
- improve the program for students not in Ukulele Band
- provide support and extension opportunities for students who would benefit
- explain changes to Calwell CARES / Learning Assets
- upgrade the car park
- maintain up-dates of the COVID protocols in the school
- more homework / less homework / homework on Seesaw / prepare senior students with home project work

I am pleased to let you know that we had already planned some of the things suggested for improvement, such as a daytime disco, changes to the use of Seesaw, Indonesian for Yrs 3-6 in 2021, building garden beds close to units and greater community connection and engagement. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with the community in making school improvements – hopefully more easily as COVID restrictions are eased further.

Linda Neeson

Principal