



OBERON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Issue 5, April 21, 2020

I acknowledge the Wathaurong people as the traditional custodians of this land and pay my respect to the Elders both past and present and extend that respect to all indigenous people.

Dates for the diary:

May

Tuesday 12 — School council meeting

Monday 25 — Curriculum Day

June

Tuesday 16 — School council meeting

Friday 26 — Last day of Term 2

A note from Mr A...

I would like to wish everyone a big welcome back to Term 2. I hope everyone enjoyed a restful holiday break and a gr8 Easter. We are entering a new paradigm with the temporary shift to remote learning and I would like to reiterate how proud I am of our staff and students, who have embraced the transition with positivity and flexibility. While each day brings new challenges and questions, we are working as a team—staff, students and families—to remain solution-focused and supportive of one another. I would especially like to highlight the wonderful work done by Mrs Jo Neal who has spent countless hours working with staff to get our online curriculum set up, as well as supporting me with leadership duties and liaising with families. Thank you Jo!!

Over this week and next, you will see more and more face-to-face teaching happening as we set staff and students up with the required software and access. Webex is our preferred platform for video conferencing, as per DET guidelines, and staff have been quickly upskilling themselves in its operation and functionality. There will be a combination of whole group teaching times, individual student conferences and check-ins with

families where required. As I'm sure you can appreciate, generating and communicating new email addresses and Seesaw accounts for over 180 students is not a quick process, but we are almost there and we are excited about the opportunities this will create for our students.

I would like to bring your attention to the DET requirements around student attendance at this time. As is always the case, there is an expectation that students are 'attending' school every day. Obviously this looks different for those learning from home, but teachers are still mandated to record student attendance. Students will be marked as present for the day when they have checked in online prior to 9.30am. Each grade and year level will have individual processes in place for this, but there will be an opportunity for students to engage in some way with their teacher every morning. We ask that you are mindful of this, particularly during these early days where children may need some assistance with logging onto devices. If you have specific questions or concerns about this, I encourage you to contact your child's teacher. All families have now been sent Seesaw details and it is fantastic to see so many students logging on, ready to go.

We are also making a number of phone calls to families at this time. To maintain the privacy of staff, calls from their own phones when working at home will come through as private numbers, so please be aware that if you get a call from a blocked number, it may be your child's teacher or another member of staff.

Again, thank you for your support over the past weeks. It makes me so pleased to know I'm surrounded by such a gr8 school community!

Mr Andrew Augerinos

Wellbeing

Please remember that Kellie Hewson, our Student Wellbeing, Welfare and Family Liaison Officer is available to support families having difficulty during this time. If you feel you would benefit from a chat with Kellie, please contact the office and Kirsty or Mairead will pass your details on. Kellie is warm, approachable and a wealth of knowledge, so please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need her. Kellie works on a Monday and loves a chat with our families!

Curriculum days for 2020

A reminder that the remaining dates listed below have been confirmed as our curriculum days for 2020:

Term 2: Monday May 25 (this will still go ahead)

Term 3: Monday August 24

Term 4: Monday November 30

gr8 People values program

For the remainder of April, we are focusing on the gr8 value **GOOD COMMUNICATORS**. How timely! Good communicators are able to convey messages using clear language and non-verbal communication to support what they are saying. They listen thoughtfully and respect the opinions of others. In the current situation, our focus will be on communicating online, which in this era is SO important. The written word can differ from the spoken word, where tone and facial expression reflect intent. Without this, messages online can be misinterpreted. A gr8 value to think about right now!

SunSmart hats

As per Department guidelines and our school dress code and Sun Smart policy, all students are required to wear their broad-brimmed SunSmart hat throughout Term 1 during outside recess and lunch time and sporting activities. Our SunSmart policy extends into Term 2, with hats required until the end of April. It is a good idea for hats to come home during the school holidays for a wash, but please remember to pack them in bags for Term 2!

School banking

A message from the Commonwealth Bank...

The health, safety and wellbeing of our communities and our people remains our highest priority. Due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding coronavirus, the School Banking program will remain on hold.

We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed with any updates including how we will be managing Dollamite tokens for students.

School website and OPS Skoolbag app

Our app and school website are excellent sources of information for all community members, particularly in the current climate. Notices and reminders are sent home via Skoolbag, and we encourage all parents to use the app. Not only does this make access to important information quicker and easier, it ensures our environmental impact is reduced via less printing. We would also like to draw your attention to our new school website, which now has improved functionality for smart phones. Mrs Stewart has worked hard to get this up and running with the help of one of our parents, Chris French. A big well done on this!

Closure of school grounds

As communicated via Skoolbag last week, we have made the decision to temporarily close the school grounds to the community. The only exceptions will be staff, and students/carers attending for onsite learning. This decision has been made with consideration to the current building works, along with DET recommendations for the prevention of COVID-19 in schools.

2021 enrolments

A reminder that we are still taking enrolments for 2021. While we cannot offer tours currently, we are very happy to book these for later in the year. If you have a sibling to enrol for 2021, we ask that you do so ASAP.

School council

School council meetings for this term will go ahead via Webex video conference.

Meeting dates will be:

Tuesday May 12

Tuesday June 16

Meetings will commence at 5.30pm, although this may change if required due to the online platform. Please look out for a Webex invitation via email on the day of the meeting.

Staff news—welcome back!

I would like to welcome Mrs Jess Argento back on staff this term. Mrs Argento is a permanent Oberon staff member who has been on leave with her young family, working casually here and studying a Masters in Learning Intervention at Melbourne University. Mrs Argento will fill the part-time role of Learning Support teacher, undertaking literacy intervention and learning support. This term, Mrs Argento is available to chat to families who may have concerns about their child's learning. Mrs Argento is happy to be contacted via email at: argento.jessica.a@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Spotlight on.... Ms Tozer!



This is your first year teaching a class at Oberon! Tell us about your career so far...

I actually started working as an Integration Aide when I was fresh out of university! I loved helping students with specific needs to be successful in their learning.

After that I taught Grade 1 for three years, then Grade 3 for one year. I enjoyed both for so many different reasons. After that, I had two years off 'official' teaching, as I was on family leave with my daughter, Harriet. I did a bit of Casual Relief Teaching during this time. Then I finally found my place at OPS, as the Reading Intervention teacher last year, and I am so thrilled to be back full-time in the classroom now.

We are embarking on a real adventure this term! How are you feeling about remote teaching?

When I taught Grade 3, I especially enjoyed teaching a very ICT-rich program with my class, as they each had their own iPad for school. These skills are coming in very handy now that we are learning from home and using lots of different technology with our teaching. I am sad to not have face-to-face contact each day with my class, but each time they respond to a post on Seesaw I get a little 'warm, fuzzy' feeling. I'm very proud of how everyone is adapting to this new way of learning.

What do you enjoy doing when you're not at work?

I loooooove to cook. All holidays I was cooking elaborate dishes to try to keep the boredom away. I also love to make cocktails, and I'm really looking forward to being able to have friends over to my house again, so I can play bartender for someone other than my husband, Andy!

If you didn't become a teacher, what career would you have chosen?

My ultimate job would be to read and edit manuscripts for a fiction publisher. I think there would be no better job than being paid to read books all day. Plus, imagine being the person who said 'Yes' to publish something legendary like Harry Potter?! What a dream!

Spotlight on.... Laura!



What is your role at Oberon?

I am an Integration Aide at Oberon Primary. I work with Miss Tozer in 1/2To. This is my second year at Oberon and I have loved every moment! It's a wonderful place to work, the students, staff and whole school community have been so welcoming to me.

What is your favourite thing about working in a school?

I really enjoy being in a school environment, helping students learn and develop. My favourite thing would have to be seeing the students progress in their work and the smiles on their faces when they achieve something great.

You're combining work with study... what an effort! What does the future hold for you?

I'm currently studying Primary Education at Deakin University. It can be a busy timetable to work around but Oberon have been so accommodating to my schedule. I still have a while to go in my degree but once I've finished my plan is to teach a class of my own! The experience I'm getting from working here is amazing, I've learnt so much from the other staff. I've worked with some great teachers and look forward to shaping my teaching career on things I've learnt here at OPS.

What do you enjoy doing when you're not working or studying?

My family love to go camping, we have a caravan we take on a few trips each year, although we may not get to go on any trips this year! I also love sport, I love to watch AFL and spend about 4 days a week playing netball locally. At the moment it's pretty hard to enjoy these things so I'm spending a lot of time watching TV or going for walks.