



OBERON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Issue 10, July 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:

August

Tuesday 4 — School council meeting

Wednesday 5 — Prep 100 days of school

Saturday 15 — Bunnings BBQ

Monday 24 — Curriculum day

Thursday 27 — School photo day

September

Tuesday 8 — School council meeting

Friday 11 — Walk to School Day

Thursday 17 — Grade 1/2 sleepover (TBC)

Friday 18 — Last day of Term 3

A note from Mr A...

Welcome back to Term 3! I always describe this term as my favourite, with a real focus on our students consolidating what they have learned this year to produce outstanding work. Our July gr8 value is 'hardworking', which really sums things up! I have been so pleased to see students returning from the break settled and ready to learn. Our classrooms are ticking along beautifully and I have been really enjoying popping in and out. A big well done to everyone here.

Unfortunately the COVID-19 situation has not headed in the direction we hoped over the holiday break. Attached is a letter containing information addressing the issues relevant to schools and families right now. We will continue to monitor and be guided by the advice of the DET in all of our decision making, with the priority always being the health and wellbeing of our staff and families. At the moment though, business is 'COVID normal'. We are continuing with the practices implemented last term, including increased

cleaning, hand washing and sanitising and our staggered drop-off and pick-up times. I would like to remind all families that **nobody but students** should enter the school grounds, including the office, yard, classrooms and corridors. While we started out very well with this, recently I have noticed a number of family members inside the grounds at different times. I ask that you please adhere to this important rule to ensure the safety of our school community. Most queries can be resolved via a phone call to the office or a diary note—please use these forms of communication. Thank you to all of our families who have been conscientious with this.

I would also like to remind families about the importance of using our school crossings. I have been very disappointed to hear of students and parents ducking through cars in Dorothy Ave, which not only presents a serious risk, but sends the wrong message to our students about road safety. Please do the right thing and use our crossings. Our staff car park is not to be used by families for parking, dropping off or walking through. Please park safely around the school and use the marked paths for walking. We appreciate your support with this important safety measure.

I'm so pleased to welcome Mrs Karina Darling back this term. In times of difficult decision-making, it is wonderful to have her experience and knowledge of the school on staff. I also welcome Mrs Hollie Williams back to her permanent position, teaching 5/6NW on Thursday and Friday, as well as Miss Tash Nevill and Mrs Jenny Wallace into Grade 3/4C this term while Mr Crofts is on long-service leave.

I look forward to a wonderful term of learning!

Mr Andrew Augerinos

Curriculum days for 2020

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

Term 3: Monday August 24

Term 4: Monday November 30

Volunteers over the holidays

A big thank you to our wonderful volunteers who helped out around the school over the holidays. There was cleaning and tidying happening, mail being collected and yards maintained. Schools rely on the support of extra hands, and we are grateful to have a number of willing helpers. Please accept our sincere thanks.

gr8 People values program

For the remainder of July, we are focusing on the gr8 value **HARDWORKING**. This is Mr A's favourite value! Students who are hardworking are determined. They are focused on their learning and they work hard to achieve their best. Term 3 is traditionally a term with few interruptions, where we really prioritise hard work and solid progress in the classroom. Who will be our hardworking award winners?!

2021 enrolments

Prep places for 2021 are filling fast. Please contact the office with any enrolment enquiries you may have. We are currently meeting with between 7-10 families every week and it is really special to be able to showcase what we have to offer. We encourage anyone interested in an enrolment for 2021 to get in touch ASAP.

School council

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

Meeting dates will be:

Tuesday August 4

Tuesday September 8

Meetings will commence at 4.30pm, via Webex.

Subcommittee meetings will also be held via Webex on the following days and times:

Buildings and grounds—Mon July 27, 11.30am

Finance—Mon July 27, 12.00 noon

Promotions—Thu July 30, 3.30pm

Policies—Thu July 30, 3.30pm

OH&S—Thursday July 30, 3.30pm

Parent club

Please keep an eye out for details of our special lunch days coming up for this term. While the COVID-19 situation has made it difficult for our parent club to arrange the many events they would normally run, they are still hard at work. Stay tuned!

2020 School camp program

We are aware that our planned Grade 3/4 and 5/6 camp are fast approaching. At this stage, we are monitoring the situation and are yet to make a decision on whether these will proceed. There are a number of considerations, some of which are out of our hands, including the ability of our venues to continue with bookings. Please know that the decision to cancel will not be taken lightly, and will only occur if we feel it is in the best interests of our students. We are planning to send out a survey to collect feedback from our Grade 3-6 families in the coming week, so please keep an eye out for this via Skoolbag.

School banking

School Banking is back. School banking day will be on a **Friday**, commencing **July, 24**.

For each deposit made at school, students will receive a Dollarmites token. Once they collect 10 tokens, they can redeem them for a school banking reward.

If your child has previously participated in school banking, or has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account, they can start banking straight away by bringing their Dollarmites deposit wallet to school on school banking day.

If your child has lost their deposit wallet, please contact the office or visit any Commonwealth Bank branch for a replacement.

If you would like to know more about school banking, please contact the office or visit www.commbank.com.au/schoolbanking.

With the pause of the program Commonwealth Bank acknowledges that students were unable to make deposits in the usual way and therefore missed out on receiving tokens for their deposits.

During this time, parents may have transferred deposits directly, or even made deposits at local branches. To recognise their efforts, Commonwealth Bank have decided to give active school banking students a reward item. This means that any of your bankers who completed a deposit in Term 1 will be eligible to receive a reward. Kirsty will contact the students who are eligible for these rewards and place the order on Friday.

From the office...

Just a reminder to all parents, if your child is absent, could you please contact the school to notify of the reason. This can be done via Skoolbag or by contacting the office directly on 5243 1613.

Also if any of your personal details change, for example, phone number, address, emergency contacts, could you please notify the school as soon as possible. **It is vitally important that we have current contact details.** Thanks for your support.

Spotlight on.... Mr G!



What is your role at Oberon?

This year I have a new role, teaching Prep. The previous two years I was teaching Grade 1/2 which was such a great experience. However, I have absolutely loved being in Prep! Watching the students develop quickly and become more capable of new things each day has been my favourite part. I have also loved working with Miss Jardine, she is such a knowledgeable and kind person who has helped me settle into the Prep Cohort, thanks Nat! I also take care of the school vegetable garden which is big passion of mine. Such a great feeling when you see kids harvest their crops (and then eat them)! Especially after all the effort they put in planting seeds, watering, fertilising, composting and weeding.

What is important to you as a teacher?

I always find this question tricky to answer because there is so many different aspects of teaching that are important to me. I love that I get to work in such a supportive environment that has a committed staff which all help each other to become better teachers. But in the classroom my favourite thing would have to be when I can tell that a child just loves being at school. That school is a safe place for them where they can learn new things, laugh, play with their friends, build relationships, make mistakes and just simply have some fun. They are definitely the most important things to me as a teacher.

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

When I'm not working I love getting out and about! Gardening, cricket, footy, music, fishing, playing with my pets, cooking and golf are my main hobbies and interests. I do nearly all of these things with my wife Amy. I think she is starting to like fishing (I hope!). Local sport keeps me fit and active and I have created hundreds of friendships from being involved in local sporting clubs. I'm also secretary of my Cricket Club and Coach the Junior Blasters Cricket Team which I really enjoy doing as it relates so closely to teaching.

If you could jump on a plane tomorrow, where would you go?

I would head straight over to Scotland, Ireland, Wales and Iceland! This has always been Amy and I's dream holiday! I can only imagine how special it would be to go to such beautiful countries and meet new people and experience different cultures!

Spotlight on.... Aaron!



What is your role at Oberon?

I am an integration aide in Grade 1/2 Tozer.

What is your favourite thing about working in a school?

Making students laugh and enjoy coming to school each day and getting students involved in playing games!

What do you enjoy doing on the weekends?

Normally I'm trying to get a kick on a Saturday for Bell Post Hill Football Club but since the season has been cancelled I've been playing tennis and adventuring out to waterfalls.

If you weren't working in a school, what would you be doing?

I would probably be a physiotherapist or sports development officer.

OUR LEARNING IN GRADE 3/4

In literacy we are learning about procedural texts, how to follow them and how to write them! We practiced this by making slime!



Our Integrated Studies topic this term is **'Our Australian Story.'** We are currently putting together our display wall. This includes starring in a video recording revealing what we already know about Australia and identifying topics we would like to learn more about.

It seems that we know a lot about Vegemite, Australian animals and AFL! We also know that Geelong and the Gold Coast are gr8 places to visit!

Some of our wonderings include...

- What was life like for Indigenous Australians before Europeans discovered Australia?
- Why were Aboriginal children taken away from their homes?
- Why is Victoria called Victoria?
- Why does our flag look the way it does?
- How many people were in Australia when it was discovered?
- How many convicts came to Australia?
- How did dinosaurs get to Australia?
- What was Australia like in the olden days?
- How long is the Princes Highway?



In maths we are learning about time. We made our own clocks and practiced reading analogue clocks to the nearest minute. We are also getting pretty good at converting between units of time.



A warm welcome to our newest Grade 3/4 Obies, Shawn, Noah and Harry!



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Dear parents and carers,

I wanted to write to you to reassure you at what I know is a concerning time.

The Victorian Chief Health Officer's advice is that schools continue to be safe places to learn and work and that schools across rural and regional Victoria – including ours – are able to continue operating as normal.

It is worth noting that schools in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire have moved to remote learning for years Prep-10 to avoid more than 700,000 students and their families moving around that area, rather than because schools are unsafe.

As you may be aware, some schools in our region have been closed due to confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19). However, the health advice is that unless otherwise directed, schools can continue to operate while observing health measures recommended by the Victorian Chief Health Officer.

This includes implementing a range of measures to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in school settings, including social distancing for adults, increased cleaning. The wearing of masks for children over the age of 12 is not compulsory in regional and rural areas apart from for students and staff travelling from Melbourne and Mitchell Shire, however students or staff in our school can choose to do so.

The Department of Education and Training and the Department of Health and Human Services have introduced comprehensive procedures to manage suspected or confirmed cases in schools. Where there is any risk to the health of students or staff they act quickly to manage it, including closing the school to allow for contact tracing or cleaning if required.

I'm pleased to see students back at school after the holidays and continuing face-to-face learning will help to ensure that, as much as possible, to minimise disruption for students in what has already been a difficult year.

I understand this is a time of heightened anxiety, but please rest assured our school is taking all necessary precautions to ensure a safe learning and working environment for our students and staff.

If you would like health information from the Department of Health and Human Services, you can visit dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me through the school's front office.

Thank you again for your continuing support.
Kind regards,

Andrew Augerinos

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