

Friday 9th October 2020
Issue 17

LINK LETTER



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Michael Kent - PRINCIPAL

Hello everyone, we miss you all!

I hope you all enjoyed the recent school holiday break and took the opportunity to disconnect to reconnect. I hope you managed to enjoy the easing of restrictions to get outside more often and managed some time to connect with others. We are so proud of the amazing students and how well they have coped during these challenging times.

Throughout the previous term and again this week our students continue to amaze us with their efforts and resiliency. Excitedly, we look ahead to next week when we can welcome all the students back to school. The whole staff team are equally, so very excited to see the students again! Today marks the end of the current home schooling experience, I hope everyone can look back upon these times with some sense of positivity and gratefulness.

Earlier in the week, you will have received some communication and documentation outlining some of the considerations that collectively we need to manage as our students return. Please make sure you are aware of these.

Students in Prep-2 will have a 9am-3.15pm school day; whilst the year **3-6 students will enjoy a 9.15am-3.30pm day.** There is some flexibility for siblings in differing year levels. Families are asked to work on the appropriate timetable for your youngest WHPS child. We will run this for a couple of weeks and review these plans as the situation evolves.

We still ask all parents to refrain from coming onto to school grounds and please try your very best to maintain social distance at school entry/exit points. We can expect some challenge with this as we manage this at the start and end of each day. Your patience and understanding is very much appreciated.

I thank-you all once again for your ongoing hard work and support of your children and the school. As time passes and we reflect on times gone by, I will remain grateful for all that our amazing school community has done allowing us to get through this together! Again I'd like to also thank and acknowledge the efforts of our amazing staff at WHPS!

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**RETURN TO
ONSITE DATES.
STAGGERED
ARRIVAL &
DEPARTURE
TIMES:**

12th October

Prep to Grade 2 times
are 9am - 3.15pm

Grade's 3-6 times are
9.15am-3.30pm

Reminders!

**Monday 12th October
is Footy Colours Day!**

Wear your colours
proud no matter what
team or sporting code!

Also on the day is a
celebration **free BBQ
lunch plus Crazy Hair
Day!**

**Book Week
Dress-Up Day
Wednesday 21st October
2020 TERM DATES**

TERM 1 - 30TH JAN-27TH MAR
TERM 2 -14TH APR -26TH JUN
TERM 3 -13TH JUL -18TH SEPT
TERM 4 - 5TH OCT - 18TH DEC



We are blessed to have such committed and dedicated team of educators. I am ever so thankful for their hard work over recent months and I am well aware of just how much this has continued leading into the term ahead. To help celebrate the first day back on Monday we will be having our annual footy day! Students are asked to wear their favourite footy colours and of course this can be from any code of sport! Students are also welcomed to enjoy a crazy hair day; not sure where that leaves me :)

We will also be providing a BBQ lunch for everyone at no cost to families. Students are also welcomed to bring their own lunch if they choose. As part of this day Miss. Demanuele will be cutting off 36 cms of her hair for charity! In support of this lovely gesture from Miss. D, parents are optionally welcomed to send along a gold coin donation towards this fundraising effort or alternatively log on to the fundraising page to donate towards the goal.

Please see further details below:

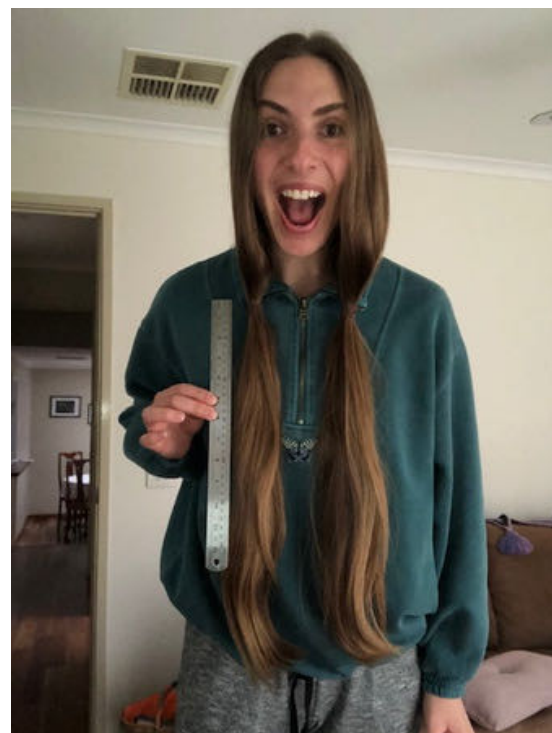
I am so excited to see you all back at school on Monday!

To make the first day back even more special Mrs Rancie and Mrs McIntosh will be chopping off a whopping 36cm of my hair to donate to the incredible Variety Hair with Heart Charity. My hair will help to make a wig for a little legend who has lost their hair through medical treatment.

Any donations would be so greatly appreciated and would go towards helping a family buy a wig. If you would like to support this great cause you can bring a gold coin donation to crazy hair/footy day or click the link below!

Through this link you can also read more about this amazing charity and see some photos of little Miss Demanuele with her luscious locks!
<https://hairwithheart.variety.org.au/fundraisers/laceydemanuele/hair-with-heart>
Thank you all so much for your support!

Lacey Demanuele :)



Term 4 is important for every student, and this year more so than ever. Please know that initially our primary focus will be to support each individual to re-engage with school life in a positive, careful, strategic and empathetic way. At WHPS we place the highest importance on developing students capacity to learn, grow, evolve and thrive. Central to this is the importance of health and wellbeing. .Without a stable personal foundation and balance, optimum learning won't occur. We are excited to connect again with the students. We will be focusing on strengthening relationships with students, between students, building confidence and self esteem amongst having lots of fun in our learning programs and experiences. As always, we will make informed decisions based on the needs of the students. We will continue to be flexible and agile in our programs and teaching Staff have spent many hours preparing the curriculum for this term and spent considerable energy unpacking the curriculum. This combined this with students' current progress and points of need will allow us to prioritise the areas of the curriculum that are most essential for the next 10 weeks..

There are elements of the curriculum that will take precedence over coming months. Our preparations have centered around wellbeing, learning and preparing for transitions. As I've previously shared, based on evidence and guidelines there is no need for students to repeat year levels due to the interrupted year thus far. Unless in appropriate circumstances, we expect all students to progress to the next year level in 2021.

In support of our students we have employed some new staff to help bolster our support and extension programs across the school. This will take differing forms from Prep – Year 6, depending on what our students need. We will be running various activities such as:

- Intervention and extension support in classrooms programs
- Small group support and extension external to the classroom
- One to One support for identified students
- Additional team teaching opportunities across the school
- Structured reading, writing and mathematics intervention programs
- Supporting individual learning plans for identified students
- Wellbeing support programs and activities

We have a additional team of teachers whom will be working part time to support our teaching and learning programs. Mrs. Chantelle Lanyon returned from family leave last term and this term will form part of our growing support team. We welcome Mrs. Victoria Milne, Mrs. Martine Femino and Mrs. Liz Smith to the staff and the support team. All these amazing teachers come to the school with many years; and a depth and breadth of experience and knowledge. Their impact will be significant.

Term 4 Student Free Days

There are two dates set aside for student free days.

Friday 23 October will be the Grand Final public holiday and also please be aware of term 4 Curriculum Day scheduled for Monday 2 November (Melbourne Cup weekend). This date is set aside for staff to work on the 2020 school reports.

School Fees

In light of the progressive easing of restrictions and the resumption of onsite learning in Term 4, we will evolve our planning for onsite and offsite learning experiences. As these become clearer and confirmed we will continue to review the school fees. Changes and confirmations will be communicated once we gain clarity about what we can offer this year.

Currently all excursions, incursions, camps and swimming are on hold.

If you have any concerns or questions please don't hesitate to contact myself or Bronwyn in the office.

2021

If you are planning on departing WHPS for any reason in 2021, please contact me asap so that places can be offered to those on enrolment waiting lists. 2021 planning is well underway. Please note that any requests for grade placements are to be emailed to me directly. Please refrain from contacting classroom teachers in regard to this. All requests will be directed to me. Please also be aware that this process is for special considerations, not to request certain teachers.

Please be aware that 2021 Prep Enrolments have now closed.

Sunsmart

In line with our Sunsmart policy, for the remainder of the year all students are required to wear their hats when at school for all outside activities. Don't forget our uniform can be purchased from PSW, whom have a click and collect process at the moment.

Outside school hours care

OHSC care will operate as normal during term 4 and parents are welcomed to register their attendance via the TheirCare website.

Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend and we can't wait for Monday. Yay!! Woohoo!! Yeah!! Awesome!!

Regards,

Michael

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World Space Week

This week was World Space Week, the largest space event on planet Earth celebrated in 96 countries around the world. What better way to celebrate World Space Week than to kick off our studies in Earth & Space Science?

Our Prep to Grade 4 classes did just that, discovering how the rotation and revolution of our planet influences the changes that we observe here on Earth including the weather, seasons, day and night.

The Grade 5 and 6 students are studying Biological Science this term, but with a space theme. They were briefed on their Survival in Space Project for the term, assisting NASA with the design of the New International Space Station and helping its crew survive in the extreme conditions of space.

This term in Science is going to be a.....10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, BLAST OFF

Emma MacDoanld - Science Co-Ordintor



Lets celebrate

SCIENCE
IT'S
WORLD SPACE WEEK

ACROSS THE AP'S DESK...

TONY RYAN - ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Welcome Back!

Welcome back everyone to Term 4! We are very excited to have all our students return to face to face teaching next week. This has been a very challenging year and our students, families and staff should be proud of their response and how we have supported each other during this time.

As we know, the Co-vid restrictions and remote learning have impacted students and families differently. Some students have thrived during remote learning and made good progress, others have maintained their learning progress and some students have found the environment very challenging, despite the best efforts of all involved.

We know that parents, particularly those that feel their child is in the third group are concerned about possible long-term impacts on the learning progress of their child. We hope to allay those fears. Our approach this term will be to honour the journey of this year and support our students in all aspects of their development. Key to this is supporting their social / emotional development and mental health as a top priority. We know that students can only learn when they feel happy, comfortable, safe and connected, so their wellbeing must come first. This belief has informed our school approach during remote learning and meant that the wellbeing of our families has been our top priority.

The school is also investing heavily in extra human resources this term to provide substantial additional support in all classrooms to assist students to catch up any gaps in their learning that may have occurred during remote learning and to continue to extend their learning.

Our staff have invested countless hours across this year to try and provide support and the best possible learning environment for our students, whether that be face to face or via remote learning. I have every confidence that their level of commitment will assist our students to reconnect with their classmates and teachers during Term 4 and provide a strong platform for a positive finish to the year. I thank them for their tireless efforts.

Hopefully everyone in our community saw our recent post on Compass around the processes and procedures the school has put in place for our return on Monday. If not, I recommend families track down and read this document in full. A critical element within this document is around staggered start/finish times and collection gates. I have reattached this information below. We can't wait to welcome our students back on Monday and have a fun day planned with students invited to wear their favourite footy team colours and crazy hair. We have also planned a celebratory BBQ lunch, including vegetarian and gluten free options.

We will also be releasing some further information next week with regards to our **1:1 iPad Program** for 2021. This will be of particular interest to our current year 2 families and new families to the school in the 3-6 area in preparation for next year, so keep an eye out for this via Compass.

Have a great weekend,
Tony.

ACROSS THE AP'S DESK...

TONY RYAN - ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

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Zone A - The main front gates.	Zone B- The entry off Henry street near the Teacher Carpark and Library	Zone C- The rear entry to the school that leads to Elder Street.
9.00am & 3.15pm	9.00am & 3.15pm	9.00am & 3.15pm
1M & 1D & 1R	Prep R, Prep M, Prep G, Prep N	2HT, 2M & 2T
9.15am-3.30pm	9.15am-3.30pm	9.15am-3.30pm
5/6H, 5/6J, 5/6A, 5/6L	3/4G, 3/4K & 3/4D	3/4A & 3/4M

News from your Library



Library Zoom-a-fun Sessions!



Some of our Gr 1 Library Zoom Superstars in action!

This Monday I had soooooo much fun catching up with our **SUPERSTAR Gr 1's** for our trip around the world. It was wonderful to see so many of their smiling faces and hearing their fantastic fun facts about countries around the world.



Congratulations Yaami from Prep N!!!!



After enjoying Claire Saxby's gorgeous picture story books about Australian native animals with her family Yaami entered a colouring competition for Claire's beautiful book **Kookaburra**. Yaami received a special mention on Claire's website and was shortlisted to the top 5 entries.

Great work Yaami!

News from your Library

Book Week 2020 -- 17 - 23 October



This year we are enjoying the **BEST** week of the year a little later than normal, but it will be just as much fun and even more of a celebration after our much awaited return to school.

Monday 19th October - Book Week Treasure Hunt

We kick off the week with our traditional **Book Week Treasure Hunt** and this year we will do all the hunting at home. The treasure hunt quiz will be posted to **Seesaw at 4pm on Monday 19th** for families to test their Book-Loving wits! The first family to **email** through the correct answers will win a **\$30 Schoolastic Book Club** voucher and be named **2020 Book Treasuer Hunt Champions!**

Wednesday 21st October - Book Week Dress-Up Day

We will hold our much loved **Book Week Parade** on **Wednesday 21st of October**. Unfortunately, this year due to current restrictions, parents and carers will not be able to be part of our audience. However; we will capture the moment for you and post a video of the event for everyone to enjoy later that day.

The **Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA)** website is a handy resource for students after some costume inspiration and this years theme is **Curious Creatures, Wild Minds**.

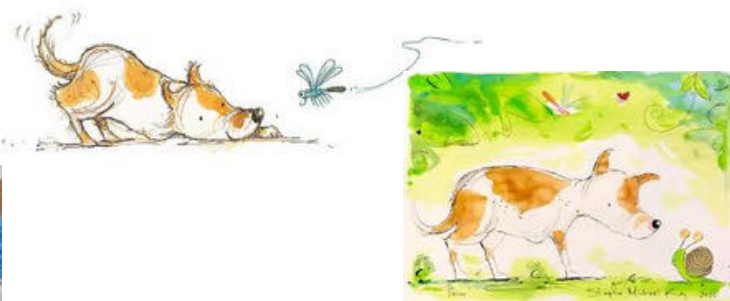
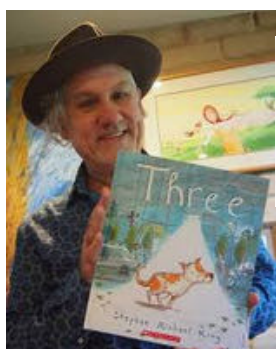
Jump on to the **CBCA** site here <https://cbca.org.au> and we can't wait to see how wonderful you all look!

Book Week Production - Three by Stephen Michael King

This year we will watch the **2020 Book Week Production** online during our Library sessions and it will be set to the gorgeous CBCA shortlisted picture story book **Three by Stephen Michael King**.

Each class will enjoy the **Meerkat Productions** adaptation of this delightful story about a very curious 3 legged dog who travels around on a search for friends.

Visit <https://cbca.org.au/resources/three> for more information about this gorgeous book.



Students of the Week



WEEK 1

***Prep G - Corbin, *Prep N - Earnest, *Prep R - Matilda, *Prep M - Digby**

***1M - Mitchell *1R - Ivy D , *1D - the whole Dream Team!!, *2M - Aidan,
*2HT - *2T - Sebastiano**

***34A - Jessica S *34D - Laily *34M - Evie, *34K - Joanne *34G - Ollie**

***56A - *56L - Lucas *56J - Whole Class! *56H - Tanner**

Specialists:

***Library - Brodie D 5/6L, *Science - Rory S Prep G , *Music -Faith Prep R
, *PE - Hilla 5/6H & Shira 1M *Mandarin - Dylan 5/6A *Art - Finn F 1D**

Well done to all of our superstars!

Helpful resources to support your child's mental health and wellbeing



Parents: looking after yourself

Parenting is an important and sometimes challenging job. Looking after yourself helps you do the job well so that your child can grow, develop and thrive.

 Raising Children Network / Jun 22

Click the link to be directed to the resource



Raising Learners podcast

Help your child learn and thrive at school with Raising Learners. This podcast series has tips for supporting kids in all areas of school life and learning.

 Raising Children Network / Oct 6

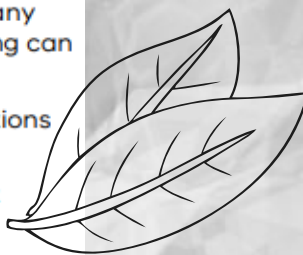
Click the link to be directed to the resource

Wellbeing comes from physical, mental and emotional health

For children and young people, there are many things that build positive wellbeing. Wellbeing can come from:

- Understanding and managing their emotions
- Having good relationships
- Experiencing a sense of accomplishment
- Using our strengths
- Taking part in healthy activities, getting lots of sleep and eating well.

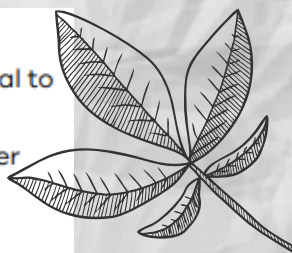
There are a range of things you can do at home to help build and sustain your child's wellbeing.



Maintain good relationships

A positive relationship with your child is critical to supporting wellbeing.

- Share family memories and stories together
- Try to eat a meal together each night
- Establish and maintain family rituals and routines
- Social connections are vital for your child's wellbeing. Helping your child stay connected to friends is important.



Promote help seeking

It can be hard to ask for help but it is important that your child knows that it is okay. Encourage help seeking in your child by:

- Asking how things are going
- Letting them know it's okay if they are feeling sad or frustrated
- Listening without judgement when they seek out your support
- Providing teenagers with a range of information about where to get help if they need it.



Positive self-talk

Self-talk is the way we talk to ourselves with our inner voice. Positive self-talk is when we say positive things to ourselves. Self-talk has big impact on how we feel and what we do.

Encouraging your child to talk to themselves in a kind and positive way can help improve their wellbeing and help them manage stress. When you hear them speaking about themselves that isn't kind, you can:

- Draw it to their attention
- Ask them if what they are saying is true
- Get them to think of a more helpful thought
- Encourage your child to 'speak' to themselves the way they would speak to a best friend
- Regularly remind your child of their strengths and accomplishments.

Set rules and boundaries

Clear rules and boundaries help children and young people feel safe.

Involve your child in making the rules and they will be more likely to stick to them. Negotiating rules is a way of showing you respect their growing maturity.

For more information, see [Raising Children Network](#)

Getting support about your child

If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing, contact your child's school. Start with their classroom teacher, year level coordinator or the Wellbeing leader.

You can also contact [Parentline](#) 13 22 89 – a phone service for parents and carers of children from birth to 18 years old. Offers confidential and anonymous counselling and support for parenting issues.

Wellbeing in Prep

During term 3 in Prep, we had an overarching focus on maintaining a positive growth mindset to tackle the potential challenges that came with remote learning. We learnt about different mindfulness techniques and showed persistence when trying difficult things. We also practised flipping negative thoughts or choices into positive ones. The Preps were able to utilise the video functions on Seesaw to celebrate their successes and share their talents, including gymnastics, drawing, building inventive creations and dancing.



Term 4 has rolled in with a bang as we are thrilled to be returning to onsite learning next week! The excitement level is high, but along with excitement can come nerves! In order to promote a positive and smooth transition back to school, you may like to consider the following ways to help at home over this weekend:

- Have positive conversations with your child about the benefits of returning and the fun things they have to look forward to.
- Catch up with friends where possible (via Zoom if needed) to connect socially.
- Your child can practise packing their school bag.
- Discuss school routines such as drop offs and picks up, as outlined in the Back to School information posted on Compass.
- Promote independence where appropriate.
- If necessary, come up with a welcome and parting routine to encourage smooth transitions.

Program - 0438522874

Email –
watsoniaheights@their
care.com.au

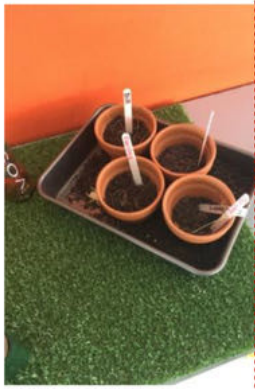
TheirCare October Newsletter

Reminders for Term 4:

NO HAT, NO SUNSCREEN = NO OUTDOOR PLAY

- Please remember to bring hats to TheirCare!
- We use SPF 50+ coles brand sunscreen. If your child requires a specific type, please pack it in their bags.

Due to COVID-19 our policies have temporarily changed for pick up and drop off times. Only one parent can enter the room at a time. We ask that you please wait outside until the room is free. We would appreciate it if you could collect your child and leave immediately so that no one is waiting outside for too long. Thank-you and apologies for the inconvenience.



We have planted some seeds, now to watch it grow! We are currently working on making a natural environment in our room. If you have any suggestions or anything you would like to donate, please get in touch.



To stay connected during this time Lauren and other TheirCare Coordinators spent their Friday morning zoom meetings playing dress ups!

WELCOME BACK THEIRCARE FAMILIES!

We are so excited to be welcoming back our families that we haven't seen for a long time. We have missed seeing each one of your lovely faces! It's been a quiet couple of terms with an average of 1-3 children attending most days. Our program is now open for everyone who wishes to attend the service, you no longer require a childcare permit. Please ensure your bookings are up to date on the online system. Our policy is that if a child is booked in and doesn't arrive, we will look for them. This includes making announcements, calling parents and then calling police if there has been no word. It is very important that we know your child is safe so please cancel the bookings online if you don't need them.

We hope to see you all very soon 😊

October Birthdays

Mason – 5th
Jenaya – 7th
Ellen – 8th
Sienna – 9th
Flynn – 10th
Ryan – 11th
Joanne – 12th
Lucas – 12th
Isaac – 15th
Ember – 16th
Bailey – 19th
Eleanor – 23rd
Winnie – 23rd
Charlotte – 27th
Derin – 29th
Matilda – 30th
Grace – 31st

TheirCare Holiday Program – Ocean Odyssey

Look at all the fun activities we have been up to!



Making Clay Animals
for Claymation Video



Octopus Cupcakes



DIY Diorama



Beach in a Jar