

FRIDAY 18TH JUNE 2021

Newcomb Park Primary School
Respect - Responsibility - Resilience

Hello Families!

Final reflections: I can hardly believe it's time to write my last newsletter. I came to NPPS in October, 2019 for what was going to be three school terms. Three terms has turned into seven and I'm now finishing up to pursue another role and move to the country. I have cherished my time at Newcomb Park PS. Friendly chats with parents and carers, joyous classroom visits, seeing student work, sharing many a laugh, helping students make better choices and working with the wonderful staff. I'm sure I don't need to tell families that they have struck gold in being a part of this community. The staff here go the extra mile in developing their own professional knowledge and they care so genuinely about your kids, as do I. It has been an honour to lead this community, even the tough stuff (covid, building works etc) has been rewarding. I will be so excited to return to see the completed building works and to see all of your friendly faces. As Winnie-the-Pooh says "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

Name change: I received a call this week from Christine Couzens (MP) office. We have officially been approved to change our name back to Newcomb Primary School! It is quite surprising how much paperwork and time is required for a name change. A big thanks to Sharon Willis, Blanche Denmead, Gary Winbolt and Miranda Hurley for all their help.

Covid restrictions: The most recent Department of Education guidelines are outlined in this newsletter. Please take time to read over them.

Parking: Last week I put a notice in the newsletter around parking and it has continued to be an issue. We are not permitted to park or simply pull over in no-parking zones when the flags are out in the mornings and afternoons. Please abide by these rules as they are in place to create a safe space for children to enter and exit the school. There are a large number of people dropping off and picking up from the Lindsay St gates. You may wish to consider using Richard or Newland St as they may be less congested.

Building Update: The new building is on track and looking good. We now have a roof full of solar panels, which is very exciting as we will not only be doing right by the environment but also saving a lot of money each year.

A few things to note:

- From Wednesday next week, Kelly Club will be in the library in the BER.
- The Indonesian room, Kelly Club and art room will no longer be in use after this coming Monday.
- Asbestos removal works will be occurring on that side of the senior building during these school holidays.

- The bike shed will not be available from next term due to new fencing. Students can put their bikes in the garden area which gets locked.
- Our 3/4 and 5/6 classes will safely remain in the senior building for the start of next term.
- We hope to temporarily move these two classes into our new building in week 2 next term.
- The administration and front of school will return to Richard St around week 2 or 3 next term.
- The senior building will then be demolished and a new demountable will be brought in (which will take 7-8 weeks).
- By the end of Term 3, our 3/4 and 5/6 students will move into the new demountable.
- The landscaping will take place later in the year and it will all look fabulous!

Old Furniture: I am pleased to say that we have been working with the Rotary Club of Bayside Geelong to re-home some of our old school furniture. We will be donating a large number of school desks and chairs to schools in Papua New Guinea. These are schools that have no electricity and some without solid walls in their classrooms. We are so thrilled that our no longer needed furniture will find a new (and so deserving) home. A picture below shows the four Rotary volunteers who met with us today. You might not be able to see it but there are beaming smiles under those face masks. How's that for a good news story!



Enjoy the last week of term, stay safe over the holidays and I hope to come and visit soon.

With much admiration and respect,

Jackie

Covid restrictions currently in place

Below are a number of restrictions currently in place in all regional Government Schools. We are required to abide by all of these. Thank you for your patience and kindness at this time.

The Victorian Government has announced new arrangements for schools in Victoria from and including Friday 18 June.

Key changes:

- Visitors to school grounds must observe face mask requirements – wearing them indoors.
- Excursions and incursions are permitted throughout Victoria.
- Indoor and outdoor interschool sport can proceed throughout Victoria, and outdoor and indoor contact and non-contact physical activity is permitted.

This information is also to provide you with important information about a new update on the health directions under which all schools will be required to operate.

The use of Service Victoria QR codes for electronic record keeping is mandatory for all workplaces to enable the effective contact tracing of any COVID-19 cases.

This now includes all education sector workplaces, including schools.

QR codes will be required to be used by:

- all parents who enter buildings when on the school site
- all visitors, including contractors, external Department staff and building and maintenance staff

QR code check-ins will not be required for staff or students.

All building entry and exit points will now display QR code posters.

If you are required to enter buildings on school grounds, for whatever purpose, you are now required to use the provided QR code check-in.

If you are not able to check in using a smartphone or tablet, a Kiosk check-in service is available at the front desk in the BER (Ipad sign in).

Using the QR code system does not replace the existing requirement to also sign in at reception (for a specific purpose).

Thank you for your support and understanding of this important health direction.

Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or contact the school if you have any concerns.

