



NEWSLETTER

VOL: 39 No.9

SHELLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL

29th May 2020



Principal's Report



It has been a delight to have all our students return to school this week, ready to engage in full-time classroom learning once more. Although we have not been able to also welcome parents back on school grounds, we are very appreciative of your support and assistance as we commenced our current pick-up and drop-off arrangements.

These arrangements will continue until further notice. At this stage, we will continue to have staff on duty at gates to assist with arrival and departure of students, however, once all students are in a good routine, they will enter and leave the school grounds independently. (For K-2 parents: When this happens, or if there is no staff member at a gate when you drop your child off, please watch your child enter the gate and walk up the path before leaving. If you are having difficulty getting your child to enter the school grounds independently, you can call the office on 9622 8359, and a staff member will come to assist).

Staffing News

This term we welcomed a new staff member to Shelley PS. Miss Tracy McMahon is a very experienced teacher who has been appointed permanently to Shelley PS. Miss McMahon has taken over the teaching of 1C. I would like to officially welcome Miss McMahon to our school. It has certainly been an unusual start at a new school, but Miss McMahon embraced online learning with her new class from the first week and enjoyed finally meeting them all last week.

Our thanks too to Mrs Pitt, who worked with 1C at the end of the term and has worked collaboratively with Miss McMahon to ensure a smooth transition for 1C students.

Finally- our congratulations to Mrs Rooney and her husband Sean, who welcomed their baby girl, Harper, on 31st March! We are always excited to have a new "Shelley baby" and we look forward to meeting Harper, in the future.

Mrs Elvy has unfortunately needed to take some leave for a number of weeks. We wish her all the best and look forward to seeing her back at school as soon as possible. In the meantime, 6E will be very capably taught by our Stage 3 Assistant Principal, Mrs Bradley (Monday – Tuesday) and Mrs Nadia Elsaket (Wednesday –Friday). These teachers have been working together with the class this week, and will work collaboratively with the Year 6 team, to ensure consistency in teaching and learning for our students in 6E.

Welcome back students!

COVID Restrictions and Important Reminders

Now that we have returned to full time school, we are trying to get back to as many routines as possible, however, with the restrictions still in place, it is not possible to do ALL the things we would normally do. Below I have provided a list of some of the things we can and cannot do, as well as some important reminders for parents and students:

- **Home Readers.** We will not be sending home readers again just yet. However all our students still have access to online readers and we encourage everyone to be utilising Wushka (K-4) and Literacy Planet (Years 5–6). Students can still enter their Wushka / Literacy Planet reading, in their home reading log. New McDonald's reward vouchers have arrived at school and I know many of the students are excited to achieve their next home reading reward. All students K-6 are also encouraged to continue utilising Typing Club at home – as it provides an excellent way to improve keyboard skills.
- **Public Speaking Competition.** Unfortunately we will not be able to hold our Public Speaking Competition this year, however, developing the skills to prepare and present a speech is still a critical part of our English Speaking and Listening programs. All students will therefore still be preparing and presenting speeches within their class.
- **Library Books.** Whilst we have not yet re-commenced library borrowing, students are encouraged to return any old loan books to the library as soon as possible. We have steps in place for cleaning books, before we re-commence library borrowing.
- **Contact Cards.** There will be no contact cards sent home this week. New Term 2 Contact Cards will be sent home from Week 6.
- **Excursions.** At this stage NO EXCURSIONS are able to occur. We will provide further information about excursions and camps, as soon as we know any more. Whilst we are unable to have our usual “payment plans” in place, we encourage parents to be putting some money aside each fortnight when able, so that if our camps are able to go ahead, it will not be so difficult. We will make a decision about Year 6 camp by the end of the term.
- **Incursions.** At this time, incursions are also unable to go ahead. We do have three incursions planned K-6 for Term 3 (Life Education, Footsteps Dance and Musica Viva). Most families have already paid for these activities, with resources packs at the beginning of the year. If you have not yet paid, we urge you to pay at least \$50 towards resource packs, so that your child does not miss out when these activities take place. (If any of the activities have to be cancelled at a later date, all money will be transferred to other Term 4 events).
- **School Assemblies.** School assemblies are not being conducted and at this time, we have put the presentation of white awards on hold. Students can, however, continue to bring their awards in for processing.
- **Scripture and Band.** No in-school activities requiring volunteers can take place and there will therefore be no scripture classes at this time. As no non-essential visitors are allowed on school grounds, our music and band lessons will also not resume just yet.
- **Sport.** Inter-school Sport and whole school sport activities are still unable to take place. We will be starting back with non-contact sports on a grade / stage basis only.
- **Bubblers.** The school bubblers are currently turned off, as it is recommended that children do not drink from them. Please remember to send your child with a drink bottle every day.
- **Enhanced Cleaning.** Enhanced cleaning process are still in place, in addition to normal before and after school cleaning.



Kindergarten 2021

It is almost June already – and before we know it, we will be planning for Kindergarten 2021 orientation.

We are currently accepting applications for enrolment in Kindergarten 2021.

If you have a child who will be turning 5 before 30th July, 2021 and you are intending to enrol them for next year, please complete an application form as soon as possible and return it to the office.

If you need an enrolment form please contact the school office and we will send one home with your other children, or mail it to you.



Likewise, if you have a neighbour or friends with pre-school children who is intending to commence next year – please advise them to complete their application in the next few weeks.

Our student numbers for Kindergarten have a significant impact on school organisation for 2021. We ask for your assistance in ensuring applications are sent in as soon as able.

“Application to enrol” forms are available either via the school website or from the office. Those parents who do not live in the catchment area and wish to send their children to Shelley PS are also required to complete an out of area application form, which will be reviewed by the Out of Area Panel.

National Simultaneous Storytime

Many of our students in K-6 participated in Simultaneous Storytime on Wednesday this week. “National Simultaneous Storytime is an annual campaign that aims to encourage more young Australians to read and enjoy books. It is a colourful, vibrant, fun event that aims to promote the value of reading and literacy, using an Australian children's book that explores age-appropriate themes, and addresses key learning areas of the National Curriculum for Kindergarten to Year 6”.

This is our school's fourth year taking part in Simultaneous Storytime – and Shelley students joined thousands of other students across the country reading the selected book during literacy time on Wednesday 27th. Every year a picture book, written and illustrated by an Australian author and illustrator is read simultaneously in libraries, schools, pre-schools, childcare centres, family homes, bookshops and many other places around the country. 2020's book was *Whitney and Britney Chicken Divas* written and illustrated by Lucinda Gifford. The students enjoyed the story and a range of associated activities.



Social Media: Instagram and Facebook

In order to help our parents stay in touch with what is happening at Shelley, we utilise social media. We have established a Facebook page, as well an Instagram account, which is used to acknowledge the amazing work done by students and teachers of Shelley and to showcase the many events and activities that usually take place here every week. Whilst there are far fewer activities during our current COVID restrictions, we will still highlight some of the work being done here by students and teachers in coming weeks. This will be a great way to stay connected, even though you are unable to come into school grounds. (Please note: the social media accounts are a secondary form of communication – and should not be relied upon for reminders about upcoming events etc. **We encourage all families to access the newsletter and Skoolbag app, as the core communication tools.** Please do not send questions through Facebook – it is better to phone the office or email the school if you have a question, as you will receive a much quicker response).

The OFFICIAL Shelley PS social media accounts can be found by searching -

Facebook: Shelley PS

Instagram: shelley.ps

Of course, both social media platforms are closely monitored and managed. The Facebook page is for use by parents (none of our students should have Facebook accounts anyhow, as they are under 13 years of age).

We hope parents will find these platforms to be a helpful and enjoyable way to stay in touch with what is happening in their children's school.

Parent Concerns or Questions

If you have a concern or query about your child's learning or any aspect of school life, the staff at Shelley PS encourages all parents to let us know.

The first “port of call” should always be the class teacher as they will have the best knowledge of your child's learning. If you would like to make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher please send a note or contact the office.

The Assistant Principals are your “second port of call” should you have a concern or query that has not been resolved – or a more general question about school organisation and procedures.

The Assistant Principal for the relevant stage can also be contacted for a meeting. They are:

Early Stage 1	Kindergarten	Miss Greenwood
Stage 1	Years 1 and 2	Mrs Ramnac (Wed-Fri Year 1) or Mrs Jassal (Year 2)
Stage 2	Years 3 and 4	Miss Sultana
Stage 3	Years 5 and 6	Mrs Bradley

Parenting Ideas Getting to School on Time

As I mentioned at the start of this newsletter, it is wonderful to have our students back at school. I have always been impressed with the outstanding rates of attendance of most Shelley PS students – and we have had very good attendance rates with the return to school this week (94% of students were here on Wednesday!).

It is important for us to also reduce the number of partial absences (students arriving late and leaving early).

Remember: Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late. Children arriving late also cause disruption to learning for the other students in their class.

This week I am repeating a useful article from Parenting Ideas, which provides some handy tips and ideas about “Getting to School on Time”.



Jo-Ann Champion



Deputy Principal's Report

Welcome back! What a blessing it is to be back to full time learning at Shelley. Monday morning was very special. It wasn't like coming back after a holiday. Students and teachers were really excited to be back at school and there was an energy and buzz around.

Students and parents have responded very well to the changes in drop off and pick up routines. Initially, some found it a bit hard to let go, but as each day goes by, it gets easier and easier. A product of these changes has been some growth in resilience and independence, especially in our youngest students. I see them saying goodbye and proudly walking themselves to their playground each morning. Only one little one asked me to carry their bag for them and responded with a cheeky smile when I said they were doing just fine by themselves.

Thank you, parents and carers for all your work, support and patience with the previous weeks of online learning. All classes are now working on Term 2 programs for all key learning areas. It may take a little while for students to get back into the hang of normal school routines. For the first few days some students have been "starving" at all times of the day (and want Crunch n Sip at 9.15 in the morning) and many want to visit the bathrooms a lot. It will all work out in time.

Over the next few weeks our focus will be on the wellbeing of your child coming back to full time school and also assessing their current understanding of key literacy and numeracy concepts and content. Teachers will be starting to work on Semester 1 Reports which will cover both at school and online learning.

With regard to attendance, from Monday 25 May, all students should be at school unless:

- They have a medical certificate which states that they are unable to return to school due to an ongoing medical condition
- They are currently unwell – normal sick leave procedures apply.

Whilst we are currently unable to present white awards and Super Star badges, students should continue to bring in their awards for teachers to process, and we will save the presentations for later.

Students seem to be very happy to be back with their friends at school – our playgrounds are once again very happy places.

For the foreseeable future all school gates will be locked by 9:10am each morning and reopened again for the close of school. Gates will then be locked at 3.10pm.

In partnership,

Leanita Williams

Kindergarten students planting snow peas



INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose - Australia's No 1 parenting educator

Getting kids to school ON TIME!

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

"Come on Jack! Get a move on. School starts in ten minutes and you're not even dressed yet!"

If this scenario sounds familiar then you are not alone. Anecdotal evidence suggests that getting children to school or pre school on time can be one of the most difficult tasks for parents.

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late. Current research shows

that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do precious minutes are lost. A child who is fifteen minutes late to school each day misses one week of school every year.

How can you get your dawdling kids out the door without yelling yourself hoarse? Here are a few techniques and ideas for you to try to get your punctually-challenged children to school on time:

✓ **Establish a morning routine.**

Make sure your children know what is expected of them in the morning, and also what you will do. Resist nagging but be willing to take them to school even if they haven't fully prepared for the day.



✓ **Identify and remove distractions such as television.**

If the children are regular watchers before school change the routine and keep the TV off. It should only be turned on when children are completely ready for school.

✓ **Teach some of the basics of time management.**

The average adult underestimates by about 25 per cent the time it takes to do various jobs. Make sure you have realistic time estimates and stop packing so much into the time you allocate. Encourage older children to estimate how long it takes to do activities such as getting ready in the morning. Then they can measure the time taken to do these tasks and compare their estimates with real time.

✓ **Arrive at school ten minutes early.**

Plan to arrive at school early rather than be there on time. This idea works well for perpetual latecomers, whether young or old.

✓ **Model a good routine.**

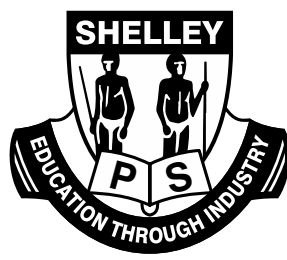
Its pointless expecting children to be organised in the morning if you are in a muddle yourself. Set a good example by being as methodical as possible and avoid sleeping in unless your children are so organised that they get you breakfast in bed. And pigs might fly as well!

Published by Michael Grose
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For more ideas, support and advice
for all your parenting challenges
visit: www.parentingideas.com.au


Parenting ideas
MICHAEL GROSE

We are currently organising our

Orientation Program for Kindergarten 2021



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