



NEWSLETTER

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SHELLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL

16th October 2020



Principal's Report

Welcome back to Term 4. I hope all our students had a great break over the holidays, and everyone had the opportunity to spend some fun time with family and friends.

If Week 1 is anything to go by, Term 4 is going to fly by! With the easing of some of the COVID restrictions, this week we re-commenced some short stage based assemblies. These assemblies are held outside and last only 10–15 minutes, but they are a great opportunity for our students to come together and celebrate their achievements. We will be presenting class awards every week, as well as Citizenship and White Awards in even weeks (Weeks 2,4, 6, 8) and Super Star Badges in odd weeks (Weeks 1,3,5,7,9). Assemblies will be held on:



- Monday for Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6)
- Tuesday for Stage 2 (Year 3 and 4)
- Wednesday for Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)
- Thursday for Kindergarten

Attending these assemblies this week, Mrs Williams and I have been very pleased with the settled manner in which Shelley students have returned to school and commenced a new term of learning.

Upcoming events

Our **Kindergarten and Year 2 classes** have some exciting visitors coming on Monday next week! They will be meeting the keepers and some of the animals from **Featherdale Wildlife Park**. This incursion has been provided free of charge by Featherdale and will be not only be a fun but also educational experience for our students.

Our 2020 **Book Week celebrations** are also planned for next week! The Children's Book Council of Australia deferred the celebrations this year due to COVID-19 and remote learning. This year will be a little different due to the consideration of regulations concerning students mixing outside of their stage. We believe that the day is indeed an opportunity for all students to celebrate their love of books and this year's theme, '**Curious Creatures, Wild Minds**' opens a world of possibilities.

Students are encouraged to dress in the costume of a favourite book character and parade with the members of their grade. Unfortunately, we will be unable to host parents this year, but our photographer is sure to be busy on the day taking lots of photos for us to share with you on social media and in the next newsletter. Book Week parades will be held on **Wednesday 21st October and students are encouraged to wear their costume for the day.**

Grandparents Day is another favourite day in our school calendar, usually held in late October. Unfortunately, this year we will be unable to welcome the grandparents to our school for usual scones and morning tea, or class visits. We are, however, planning COVID celebrations for Grandparents - particularly those who live close by the school! Look out for more details later in the newsletter.

Term 4 updates and reminders

The Department of Education's Term 4-COVID Guidelines for Schools was updated during the holidays. Whilst much of this information was included in the updates emailed to parents at the end of last term, I have included an overview below.

From the DoE website: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families>

"Schools are operating full time while actively following health advice.

Schools continue to be safe, and operations are in line with Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and NSW Health advice. All students should be learning on campus unless they are unwell or have a medical certificate to support their absence.

The activities that are permitted at school will be conducted in a way that is safe and appropriate in the current environment. Those that remain on hold will be reviewed during the term and will recommence when appropriate based on health and other relevant advice.

School Attendance

- In accordance with advice from NSW Health, parents and carers are reminded NOT to send children to school if they are unwell, even if they have the mildest flu-like symptoms.
- NSW Health has requested that schools encourage anyone who is unwell or has even mild flu-like symptoms, to arrange to be tested through their local medical practitioner or one of the COVID-19 clinics.
- Students and staff with flu-like symptoms will need to be tested and provide a copy of a negative COVID-19 test result and be symptom-free before being permitted to return to school.
- Students who do not undertake a COVID-19 test result will not be permitted to return to school for a 10 day period. Additionally, they must be symptom-free for at least 3 days prior to returning to school.
- Students who have seasonal allergic rhinitis or another condition that presents similarly to flu-like symptoms are still required to get tested for COVID-19 and return a negative test result. Where their symptoms continue beyond 10 days, students should provide documentation from their GP confirming their symptoms are typical for their condition. If the student develops new or changed symptoms, they should get tested for COVID-19.
- COVID-19 testing for students with complex health or disability may be challenging. In these situations, schools will ask the parent or carer to have their child assessed by their medical practitioner. Where a medical practitioner determines that a COVID-19 test is not required, documentation must be provided to the school to confirm that the student does not have symptoms that warrant a COVID-19 test. The certificate must also indicate that the student is able to return to school.

Visitors on-site

Parents and carers and other non-essential visitors are not allowed on the school site (unless working in the canteen or uniform shop, or permission has been given by the Principal, for an on-site meeting, under extenuating circumstances)..

What has changed?

The following activities can now proceed for Term 4:

- Saturday School of Community Languages will return to face-to-face learning.
- Interschool activities
- Singing and chanting with strict restrictions
- Playing wind instruments with strict restrictions
- School formals, dances and graduations with a COVID-19 Safety Plan
- Excursions and day camps with strict restrictions
- Kindergarten orientation
- Year 7 transition to high school.



School Events

- Schools can plan for Year 6 formals and graduations provided they occur in a COVID-safe way and they must follow the Year 12 advice for formals and graduations.
- Advice regarding all other end-of-year assemblies and graduations are currently still under review. Further information will be provided later in Term 4.

Activities on hold

The following events will continue to be reconsidered in Term 4. For now, these events must remain on hold.

- Interstate excursions
- Face-to-face professional learning for staff
- Parent and carer attendance at assemblies and other school events
- School-based activities that involve large gathering of adults. These include parent/community gatherings such as parent functions, working bees, fundraisers, school barbecues, large parent information evenings and large on-site cultural events.”

Kindergarten Orientation

We are excited to be able to now plan for our Kindergarten Orientation to go ahead on site for our 2021 Kinder students. There are of course still many restrictions and this will alter the format of our Orientation program.

We will be unable to hold our usual Parent Information Session – however we are preparing some great online resources and information packs which will be provided to all parents and carers of new Kindergarten students.

For orientation, our new Kindergarten students will be placed into one of 4 groups (please note, this will NOT be their 2021 class). Each group will have two allocated Orientation sessions. We hope all our new families and students will be able to take advantage of this opportunity for the children to become familiar with the school, to meet some of the teachers and to take part in lots of fun activities with their new friends.

NOTE: Parents WILL be allowed on school grounds to drop children off for Kindergarten Orientation. Entry will be via the Hadrian Ave Pedestrian Crossing gate and parents will drop / collect children at a designated meeting point. (Parents will not be able to wait on-site during orientation, but ONE parent will be allowed on school grounds for a maximum of 10 minutes for drop-off and pick-up).

The orientation dates will be

- Tuesday 17th November or Wednesday 18th November
- Tuesday 24th November or Wednesday 25th November

There will be two sessions on each of these days. Parents will be informed of which group and sessions their child will be attending soon via mail. (Please be aware that due to COVID restrictions, we will need children to attend ONLY on their allocated day and time. Thank you for your understanding and support).

We look forward to welcoming all our newest students at Kindergarten Orientation.

Kindergarten 2021 - Enrol now!

If you have a child who will turn 5 before 30th July, 2021 and you intend to enrol them at Shelley PS, please follow the link on our website to enrol online or contact the office for an enrolment form.

If you have a neighbours or friends with pre-school children, who intend to start Kindergarten next year, please advise them to apply now. Our student numbers for Kindergarten have a significant impact on school organisation for next year. We ask for your assistance in ensuring applications are sent in as soon as possible.

Year 6 Events

Transition Program at Shelley: In Weeks 3 and 4, our Year 6 students will have the opportunity to participate in our High School Transition program. This program is organised by their teachers to provide them with the experience of reading and following timetables, and adapting to working in changing learning spaces throughout the school day. The students look forward to this opportunity each year, and we hope Year 6 will find lots of benefit in getting ready for High School.

Year 6 Fun Days: Although it has been unavoidable due to COVID restrictions, we know our Year 6 students have missed out on some memorable events this year, such as camp and the Mini-fete day, but we want to ensure they have a great final term of primary school. We are planning TWO Year 6 Fun Days for later in the term. We are working with Supreme Incursions to coordinate two days of fabulous activities including some fun team-building activities, either a shelter building or 'Lego Masters style' Brick Building competition and even some Billy Cart building! The cost per student will be approximately \$30 and more information will be coming soon to Year 6 parents.



Year 6 Assembly and Year 6 Farewell

Based on the current NSW Health and DoE advice, we are planning both a Year 6 daytime assembly and a Year 6 Farewell evening. At this stage, ONLY Stage 3 students and staff will be able to attend the assembly. Only Year 6 students and supervising staff will attend the Year 6 Farewell evening.

Unfortunately, the visitor restrictions still apply and only staff, students and essential visitors continue to be allowed on the school grounds. This means that the organisation of both events will need to be done by school staff. We appreciate this will be very disappointing for parents, to be unable to be on school grounds on the day of the event, or for those keen to assist with the farewell evening. Closer to the date, if the restrictions are eased, we will of course adapt our plans accordingly. We would be delighted to be able to have parents come along to see their children at the farewell and at the assembly- but we will have to await advice closer to the time. (If parents are unable to attend these events, we will be looking at filming some parts of the celebrations to share with parents).

As Year 6 have been unable to fund raise throughout the year, in order to cover the costs of the farewell event, we will be asking parents to make a payment for the Year 6 farewell. We will endeavour to keep the costs as low as possible. (For those parents who have already paid a camp deposit earlier in the year, you will be in credit, and the fun day / farewell costs can be deducted from this amount). We anticipate keeping the costs very reasonable, and in fact, it may not be much more than what parents would ordinarily spend through contributions to fundraising activities throughout a normal year.

Year 7 Selective High School Placement in 2022

Applications for Year 7 selective high school placement in 2022 have opened. To apply, visit

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7>

for information. The application site is <https://shsoc.education.nsw.gov.au/>. This website closes at 10:00pm on Monday 16th November, 2020. You must apply before the closing date.

Applications for selective high school placement are considered mainly on the basis of the Selective High School Placement Test results and school assessment scores. The Selective High School Placement Test will be held on Thursday 11th March 2021.

If you would like to have your child considered for Year 7 selective high school entry in 2022, you need to apply soon. You will need to apply on the internet using a valid email address (not the student's email address).

Grandparents Day - Art Gallery with a Difference!

"NSW Grandparents Day is a state initiative that celebrates the vital role that grandparents play in our society, as custodians of individual and cultural memories and as providers of care and love to their children and grandchildren. Grandparents Day recognises the irreplaceable role grandparents have in their families and in the wider community".

"It celebrates the contributions grandparents and older people make to their families and communities and recognises the diversity of grandparent relationships across age groups, cultural backgrounds, and geographical locations."

"Everyone has fond memories of being at their nan and pop's place – it's where you'd go to get the kind of love that only a grandparent can give!" National Grandparents day is held in October each year (this year it is Sunday 25th October). It is a day where we can acknowledge and celebrate our shared memories of being at home with our grandparents.

Our whole school Grandparents Days have been very popular over recent years. We love inviting all the grandparents for a scone and a cup of tea followed by a visit to the classrooms. Unfortunately COVID restrictions will prevent us from this favourite Shelley tradition this year (We had planned on celebrating with our grandparents on Thursday 29th October).

However, the team at Shelley still want to give our students the chance to acknowledge their grandparents – so we are working on a Grandparents Day art display! Every child in the school will have a piece of work included – and the display will be placed on the fences of the school, so that everyone passing by our school, can see the amazing work of Shelley PS students.

We know lots of grandparents live a long way away – and some grandparents can't come to visit the outside Art Gallery due to COVID restrictions, but we hope everyone in the Shelley community will enjoy this colourful addition to our school fences when it appears. (The art will be on Blacktown Road, Pelleas St and Hadrian Ave. We will let parents know where each grade's work is displayed once the art gallery is complete!).

Tell Them from Me PARENT Survey - (All parents K-6)

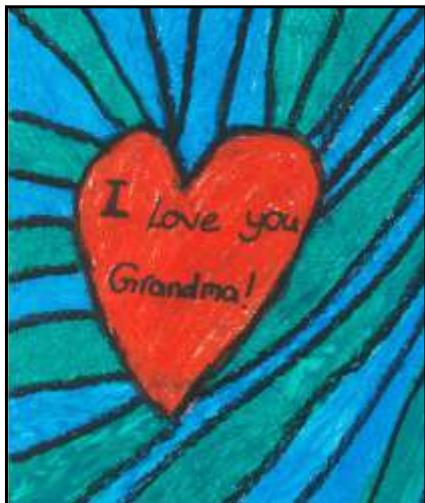
Our school is participating in the Partners in Learning parent survey, another part of the Tell Them from Me suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey helps our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online. We are inviting Shelley parents to complete this survey over the next week (survey closes on Friday 25th October). Although participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, your responses are very much appreciated. The survey is available in 23 languages.

To access the survey please follow the link: <http://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/q8bm6>

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/>



School Facilities Updates

Top Field - Phase 1 (the oval) - as you know was completed last term, however, we needed to give the new grass time to settle and establish. The Top Field will be open to students very soon (either end of Week 2, or Week 3 at the latest). Initially the field will be open 3 days a week.

Top Field - Phase 2 (the tiered synthetic grass area and stairs to the oval) - is now very close to completion. We hope to also have this are open to students by the end of Week 2. Look out for photo updates on Instagram or Facebook, next week.

K-2 Playground Equipment - The tender process for this project was completed at the end of last term and has been awarded. The construction time for the play equipment itself is about 8-10 weeks, so whilst this project may start by mid Term 4, we hope to have the K-2 playground equipment finished by the end of year.

Top Field - Phase 3 – with some money left over from our current projects, we are now considering moving on to Phase 3 of the Top Field- the hill / grass area immediately behind the library. Having seen a number of very interesting children's playgrounds built on slopes, we are investigating designs and costs to do a "3-6 playground", which would include synthetic grass and / or soft fall, a rock climbing wall, some rope climbing and possibly two slippery dips. We hope to have the costings by next week and we will determine whether this is another project we can undertake this year or early next year.

Kiss and Drop Facility: As some of you may be aware, we have been in discussions with Transport NSW and Blacktown Council intermittently over the past 7 years, to discuss the planned upgrades to Blacktown Rd / Prospect Highway and what this will mean for our school. You may have heard in the Federal Budget announcements that \$120 million was allocated for the Prospect Highway upgrade. Within the first 6 months of this project- the necessary work will be undertaken at Shelley PS, including the installation of a Kiss and Drop facility inside our school grounds (just in front of the OOSH building). I will be meeting with Transport NSW again next week, as part of the pre-tender process and I anticipate this work commencing within the next 3-4 months.

2021 Planning

We are well underway with planning for Kindergarten 2021 orientation, which commences on Tuesday 17th November. We look forward to welcoming our newest students.

We are also starting to plan for K-6 classes for 2021. It is important that we have up to date information about expected students in Years 1 to 6, as we begin organisation. If you will be moving over the Christmas holiday period, or your child will NOT be attending Shelley PS in 2021, please advise us as soon as possible.

(There is a tear off slip below which can be completed and returned to the office).

Jo-Ann Campion



ARE YOU MOVING?

In order to assist with our planning for next year please indicate below if you will be moving residence and/or your child will be attending a new school.

Please return to the office or your child's teacher.

Name of Student: Class:

Name of Student: Class:

New School: Leaving Date:

Parent / Guardian's signature: Date:

Deputy Principal's Report



Shelley Super Stars

Kindy White Awards



SAFE

1. Move calmly and quietly
2. Keep your hands and feet to yourself
3. Use equipment properly
4. Play and behave sensibly

RESPECTFUL

1. Stop, look, listen
2. Speak politely
3. Wear your uniform correctly
4. Care for our school

RESPONSIBLE

1. Be in the right place
2. Follow instructions
3. Cooperate with others
4. Take care of property



Shelley Super Star Morning Tea





Shelley White Awards



Congratulations



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19-25 October 2020





For inquiries about birds and domestic gardens, contact:

BIRDS IN BACKYARDS www.birdsinbackyards.net

BIRD LIFE AUSTRALIA www.birdlife.org.au (02) 9647 1033



Birds in Your Garden

How to bring back the little ones . . .

Australia-wide, populations of many of our small bird species are declining. Once common birds such as finches, fairy-wrens, silvereyes and small honeyeaters are becoming rare, or in some places are no longer being seen at all. There are many reasons for this, but the biggest is the loss of places for them to live (habitat) and successfully raise their families.

This situation exists in both rural farmlands and in built up urban areas; from big cities to rural townships. That means that we can all contribute towards saving our small birds irrespective of where we live or how big our gardens are. We just need to do things a little differently.



To find out more about identifying the birds in your area, creating gardens and habitat for birds at home, in school grounds or any open space, or undertaking bird surveys in your own garden or local area, see the Birds in Backyards website: www.birdsinbackyards.net

Photo credits: Bob Ravich (Eastern Yellow Robin, Red-browed Finch), Wojciech Dabrowska & Kevin Vang /Bird Explorers (Grey Butcherbird, Laughing Kookaburra, Australian King-Parrots, New Holland Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Superb Fairy-wrens), Trevor Quested (Grey Fantail, Spotted Pardalote), Birds Australia (Australian Raven), Michael Seyfort/Australian Museum (Silvereye); Richard Major/Australian Museum (Pied Currawong, Australian Magpie, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Galah, Crimson Rosella, Rainbow Lorikeet, Red Wattlebird, Little Wattlebird, Noisy Miner, Noisy Friarbird, Magpie-lark, Willie Wagtail, Common Myna)

Small changes for a big difference . . .

Garden design and structure:

Simple open gardens provide little shelter or food for birds. We need to plant:

dense shrubs close together so they form protective thickets. shrubs that provide a range of foods: nectar, seeds, fruit, and habitat for insects.

local plants that provide the things that the birds in our local areas need.

below trees, creating a dense protective understory. less grass for mowing, but rather plant native grasses that can seed and only need cutting occasionally.

We should:

avoid using insecticides

use lawn clippings and leaf litter on garden beds as mulch.

Providing water:

Birds need fresh water but they are vulnerable when they are drinking or bathing and need to feel safe. We should:

place birdbaths beyond the reach of cats, and in dappled shade.

grow plants close to birdbaths so birds can perch and observe the area first.

replace the water and clean the container regularly.

ask a neighbour to add water when we're away, so the birds don't lose their water supply.

Provision of supplementary food:

It is much healthier for birds to glean natural food from our gardens than to be fed directly by people. However, many people really enjoy the contact they have with birds that they provide food for. If you want to provide extra food for birds:

ensure the feeding area is kept really clean.

don't feed meat-eating birds – encourage the small birds that are declining, not their predators.

only provide good quality natural foods, e.g. finch seed rather than bread.

Be a responsible pet owner:

Keep your cat inside or within an outside enclosure.

This is safer for the cat as well as other wildlife.

De-sexing prevents unwanted kittens

Deter other cats from entering your yard by spraying them with water.

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New and Returning Registration: Friday, 16 October, 2020.
New Students can also join on any Friday during term.

New and Returning
Students
Ages 4-6
Class Time 4:15 to 4:55 PM

New Students
Ages 7-16
and Returning Students
Class Time 5:00 to 5:40PM

Returning Students please see website at www.karate-kids.com.au for class times.

REGISTRATION WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR ALL STUDENTS WHO TURN UP. WE DO NOT TURN KIDS AWAY. NO PRE-REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY. JUST TURN UP 10 TO 15 MINUTES BEFORE CLASS TIME ABOVE IF POSSIBLE. WE ACCEPT CHEQUES OR CASH. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, SEE WEBSITE AT www.karate-kids.com.au.

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