



WELLARD WEEKLY

8 APRIL 2020
TERM 1, WEEK 10

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff,

I hope this edition of the Wellard Weekly finds everyone in good spirits and looking forward to a somewhat different Easter.

Next Term – Who Attends??

In Term 2, Wellard Primary School is open to students of essential workers only. Please, to minimise the risk for all concerned, keep your children at home until further notice. Those students who are attending, do not need a work package as it will be provided by their classroom teacher. All school staff are expected to attend and will work from school.

Work Packages

The staff have been working very hard in preparing the work packages which were distributed today. Thank you to Mr Matrozis for organising this event and ensuring it all went so smoothly. These packages are intended for students to complete in Weeks 1 – 3 of next term. Please **DO NOT ALLOW** your child to complete this work over the holiday period as teachers will not be able to provide you with extra activities during the first three weeks of next term. Teachers will be using the first three weeks to make contact with students and parents, begin the process of familiarising students and parents with Connect and working collaboratively with colleagues in planning future lessons. The staff are also going through a huge learning curve in learning new technologies and determining what is the best mode of delivery. I am very impressed in the positive way they have embraced this challenge and in their determination to provide the best possible outcomes for students.

Parent Communication

All parents are encouraged to use Connect in corresponding with teachers. When doing so, please include a time (between 9am – 3pm) that is convenient for you to be contacted by the teacher. The teacher will then call you back to discuss your query. Ongoing communication between home and school is going to be a challenge for all, so I ask that you be patient during this time. Teachers will not have time for long conversations but will make every effort to assist you.

Connect – Very Important

Connect is going to be essential to your child's learning over the coming months. As your child works through his/her work package, we will be using the first three weeks of next term to work with parents and students on "How to use Connect". Families will be contacted to discuss any difficulties they may be having. We will be using a range of tools to do this including video conferencing, email and phone calls. One of our staff members, Mrs Teri Bekker, has put together a video explaining Connect and its different features. Thank you Mrs Bekker!!! No doubt this will be a learning experience for all of us, so please take your time in becoming familiar with Connect. You can access these videos through the links below.

<https://youtu.be/TIa4ivZQ2FU> - how to access connect as a parent

<https://youtu.be/0g-GiD6UoFQ> - how to submit work as a student.

Holidays

The school will be closed from Friday 10th April (Good Friday) to Monday 27th April. Please note that Monday 27th April is a Public Holiday for ANZAC Day. Students of essential workers only attend next term.

Library Books

Mrs Rogers would like all library books to be returned by the end of the term. You can return your child's library books by placing them in a box outside of the office door.

Contacting Every Parent by Phone

Early next term (Weeks 1 – 3) every parent will be contacted by telephone to discuss your child's program of work and any issues/concerns you might have particularly in relation to Connect. We are well aware of the complex issues around teaching your own child, and hopefully through having this conversation we will be well placed to better assist you.

Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you have any queries.

I hope you have a Happy Easter and enjoy the holiday period as much as possible.

Kind regards



Geoff Miller
Principal



Mini Golf at school



Learning at Home Tips

The following tips are suggestions you might like to consider as you oversee your child's learning at home. Take on board what is relevant to your home and family situation.

Be Realistic

We are currently in a State of Emergency so it is vital that you continue to meet the needs of your family members with this in mind. It is very important to maintain positive relationships between family members, so don't proceed with a learning activity if it is causing disruption. At these times, it is best to stop, take a few deep breaths and then have a break. You may return to the initial task or move onto something else. Whatever happens, please don't stress about not completing the set work.

Teaching

I am a teacher but I would never have chosen to teach my own children at home. It can be really challenging. We recognise most of you aren't teachers so don't be too hard on yourself as you try and juggle all the other duties that you oversee in your household. We have tried to formulate the learning suggestions to be manageable for a wide range of circumstances. We want students to be thinking about ways they can be helpful around the house during this time at home.

Structure

One of our most important suggestions for learning at home is to provide some structure to the day and the learning experiences. Children need to know what is going to happen in a day so they understand the big picture. This structure, determined by yourself, needs to occur daily so that students know what to expect. I know of one family (they don't attend Wellard) where the children wear their school uniform for the learning component of the day. Their morning tea and lunch is prepared the night before so that break times can be included. School is finished when the uniform is removed. Remember to structure the day based on the age of your child. Seek clarification from your child's teacher in regards to the timetable.

Learning Environment

If possible, try and designate a learning zone within your house. We understand that space will be limited, especially if there are also adults working at home. When children are in this learning zone, attention to learning is to be expected but when they are finished they are free to move from this area and do other activities.

I hope you find some of the above tips helpful. I will provide some suggestions in the next edition in regards to managing behaviour linked to rewards and consequences.