



Barton PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Andrew Felsing

END OF TERM

We have made it to the end of what has been a very difficult term. All of us, in our work, our schooling and our family lives have had to make sacrifices or deal with things that we have never had to deal with before. The advice that we are receiving now indicates that we are still in the middle of the pandemic and we need to maintain our efforts to protect ourselves and those around us.

Please read the letter from the Victorian Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton via this link. It is also available in a range of languages via the same link : https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/Pages/cho-message-parents.aspx?utm_source=email+marketing+Mailigen&utm_campaign=Direct+Send+-+Emergency&utm_medium=email

I will take this opportunity to once again congratulate our staff at Barton for their preparedness to do what ever is necessary to cater for our students. They continually go over and above. In addition I would like to thank our parent group for their support and appreciation during this term. It certainly means a lot to us. Finally I want to thank our students for their resilience and eagerness and appreciation of our school. Certainly was a highlight seeing them all come back with such happy faces.

Please take care during the holidays. Follow the guidelines and keep everyone safe.

NEXT TERM

We will commence Term 3 as we have finished this term.

- Any student unwell should stay home and only return when they have fully recovered.
- Any student who is showing symptoms of the COVID-19 such as fevers, sore throat, a cough, runny nose should get tested and remain at home until they have received the negative results.
- Parents are not permitted on school grounds
- All drop off and pick areas will be supervised by teaching staff.
- Students will be hand sanitised on arrival and at multiple times during the day
- Students enter the classrooms directly in the morning.
- Staggered dismissal times will continue
 - 2.45pm Preps and older siblings
 - 3.00pm Grade 1 & 2 students and older siblings
 - 3.15pm Grade 3-6 students.

*** We have missed out on so many activities this term like Mother's Day Breakfast, Harmony Day, excursions and dress up days. Teachers have already started plans for some exciting at school activities that when can do COVID-19 safely. Our Lunchtime programs have already commenced with a Fun Club, Recorder Club, Choir just to name a few. Watch this space next term for more information.





Barton PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Andrew Felsing

REMOTE LEARNING SURVEY SUMMARY—Parents & students

Thank you to our parents who participated in our Remote Learning survey. We are hoping that we never have to go into remote learning again however if we did we know from the feedback what works for the majority of the community.

It was our aim to ensure that we had 100% participation in the Remote Learning program and that is why we had a gradual measured approach. The end of our program, in particular the last few weeks of the Grade 3-6 program, will be our starting point if we ever have to resort to this in the future.

Some of the key points from the survey are:

- 87% believed that the activities were OK - very engaging
- 70% believed the support materials were helpful
- Parents believed that all of our communication strategies were effective with the Frequently asked questions FAQ flyers being the most successful
- Spending extra time with my child and seeing how my child learns were a common highlight of the program
- Juggling work commitments and remote learning was seen as the most common challenge

We also surveyed all of the students and some of the key points from the survey are:

- Common highlight was spending time with family
- Common challenge was missing friends and their teacher
- For students in Preps—grade 2 every response was skewed heavily to the positive—80-90%
- For students in grades 3-6 the main highlight was using Microsoft Teams.

VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY

Our student leaders have been trying extremely hard to produce a good product in regards to our virtual Assemblies. We are working on how we do this and will continue to develop our video and presentation skills. For this week's assembly please see the video on Clickview via this link.

SMS—DIRECT CONTACT VIA SENTRAL

As part of our emergency management procedures we have the facility to send an SMS message directly to each parent's mobile number as per our records at school. This facility can only be used in urgent situations and unfortunately not available for day to day use. If we ever have to close the school (eg if there was a confirmed case of COVID –19 in our school) or if there is some other urgent need to contact all parents, we will send an SMS. Our school will be identified in the message eg Barton PS as the number will not be recognisable. We would follow that up with an email with more detailed information. At the start of next term we will do a test run with select group of parents to test its efficiency.