COVID-19 A Special Message from the Principal for Parents and Caregivers

Dear Parents,

I am writing to update you further on the changes required to our schooling due to COVID-19 -

1. All representative school sport programs, including district (Tablelands), regional (Peninsula), state, national, interstate and international competitions, are cancelled until further notice
2. Other school events that require students to congregate together or visit areas where large groups of people are gathered will be cancelled or alternative arrangements made (this includes school parades)
3. We have cancelled all school excursions and trips
4. We are reminding students of hygiene practices and have ensured cleaning of the facilities is maintained to the highest possible standard.

The Department of Education and Training have released information for parents who have contacted us regarding self-isolation of their children. According to the Australian Government Department of Health factsheet, people who have arrived in Australia from midnight 15 March 2020, or think they may have been in close contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus, are required to self-isolate for 14 days.

The Department of Education has clarified the policy for roll marking during this period:

- students who meet Queensland Health’s requirements for self-quarantine will be marked absent and we will record this as an authorised absence. On our database, this type of absence will be shown as ‘Attendance not required’: This absence is considered a reasonable excuse and will not count as an absence on the student’s record card or impact the school’s attendance data
- students who do not meet Queensland Health’s requirements for self-quarantine but who are being kept at home on the advice of a medical practitioner, will similarly be marked absent ‘Attendance not required’. This absence is considered a reasonable excuse and will not count as an absence on the student’s report card nor impact the school’s attendance data. Ravenshoe State School P – 12 is requesting documentary evidence of the medical practitioner’s advice be forwarded to the school
- students who are unwell and unable to attend school due to a medical diagnosis of COVID-19 will be marked absent ‘Illness and medical appointments’. Before students can return to school, the school must receive a medical clearance certificate that the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 are no longer present in the student
- Students who are unwell for any reason are not expected to attend school and should stay at home. These students will be marked with an authorised absence ‘Illness and medical appointments’
- students who do not meet Queensland Health’s requirements for self-quarantine but who are being kept at home as a precaution will be marked absent ‘Unauthorised’. These absences are not considered a reasonable excuse based on current health advice

In light of these directives, please note that unless we receive documentation that meets the listed criteria of being an authorised absence, we will be marking students who are not in attendance as unauthorised absences. It is critical that parents understand the impact of an unauthorised absence on student assessment.
In summary, if students are absent for assignments or examinations then requests can be made for extensions or special consideration to be applied.

Year 12 students who are absent for exams, however, are unable to have any consideration applied without a medical certificate.

More information for parents can be obtained by accessing the Qld Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) website.

Whilst I acknowledge that parents make decisions about their children based on personal circumstances, I hope that this information provides you with the opportunity to make an informed choice about your future actions as we work together to support your children and their education.

As further information is provided to the school, I will endeavour to share this information with our school community as soon as possible.

Yours in learning,
Ms Helen Carne
Principal
Message from the Secondary Deputy Principal

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of Term 1, there are many important things happening for students across the secondary campus, particularly assessment. We look forward to rescheduling the Cross Country to another day in the year when the weather will be fine to host this event. Students in junior secondary enjoyed a Science visit last week, during which they participated in some interactive activities around the theme of Forensic Science. Thanks to our Science Coordinator, Mr Phil Perham for organising this engaging set of workshops.

Term 1 Student Report Cards

Teachers will be using student work to prepare the Term 1 Report Cards. Staff will report on student levels of achievement in all subjects as well as behaviour, effort and homework compliance. Parent-Teacher Interview requests will also feature on your child’s Report Card. Term 1 Reports will be issued Monday 27 April. Copies of Student Report Cards will also be emailed to parents who have provided their email details to the school.

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Parent-Teacher Interviews will be held on Tuesday May 5 in the Primary Hall from 3.20-6.00pm. To make a booking to meet with your child’s teachers, please contact the secondary office on 40975333. We look forward to taking the opportunity to meet with parents and carers to discuss students’ progress and ways in which we can work together to improve their educational outcomes.
NAPLAN Online Practice Tests

This year, Years 7 and 9 students will be completing the NAPLAN Tests online in May. In order to best prepare the students for this new mode of test delivery, we have scheduled online practice sessions for Monday 30 and Tuesday 31 March.

All students participating in the official NAPLAN Online tests are required to attend these practice sessions which will consist of two tests; a Writing Practice Test and an Omnibus Test (which combines the areas of Reading, Conventions of Language and Numeracy.)

Where are they now?

Past students of Ravenshoe SS P-12 tell the story of their success beyond school:

Kyra Angwin (left)- past student and Airfield Defence Guard

So I joined the Air Force at the start of 2018 as an ADG (Airfield Defence Guard). Our job is to perform specialist ground defence tasks to protect air power assets from hostile ground action. Our primary role is the protection of RAAF equipment, personnel, assets and facilities during operations both in Australia and overseas.

I spent my first 3 months at Wagga Wagga NSW at 1RTU, transitioning from civilian life into military life. At 1RTU we learnt all about the Airforce. We learnt the history, drill, Airforce values, and what it means to be a part of the military.

I then spent the next 6 months in Amberly QLD at SFS. During the first 3 months, we learned the ins and outs of RAAF base security on what was called a ‘Common Course’.

The last 3 months of my training arrived very quickly. I was now on ADG basic course. On ADG basic course, we spent many weeks living out field. We were tired, exhausted and pushing our bodies both physically and mentally every single day. We learnt how to patrol out field under a high threat environment, how we would conduct a contact if we were threatened by an enemy, different methods of clearing buildings, and how to use many different weapon systems and explosives and how to secure an airfield.

I graduated from my ADG Basic course alongside 17 males with myself being the only female. To this day, there are only 4 females including myself in this role.

After graduating, I was posted to a SQN at Williamtown base in Newcastle, NSW. I get 2 hours of PT every morning and am learning new things every day in my job. The military really is where it’s at... free medical and dental!

I’m actually deploying to the Middle East this year near Dubai for 6.5 months... so very excited for that!

Shared by: Kyra Angwin
Jessie Cairns,
Secondary Deputy Principal
News from the Primary Deputy Principal

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware, we have changed our eating times and play times at the primary school. Students now go out to play first and come back and eat before entering the classroom. This has already had a huge impact with students being very settled before entering the classroom to learn.

We have noticed two things happening:

• Some students are eating more and are running out of food for second lunch
• Some students are not eating enough food in the allocated eating time

Please check with your child/children that they have enough food to get them through the day (healthy eating break, 1st lunch and 2nd lunch). If your child is coming home with food still in their lunch box, please see their class teacher and ask for them to have some extra time during play time to eat.

Home Reading

Home Reading is an important part of schooling. At school, teachers teach students how to read and provide some reading practice. However, students need a significant amount of practice to become fluent readers and this is where parents/carers can make the most significant impact to their child’s reading development.

It is often difficult for parents/carers to know how to help their child when they get stuck on a word. Below is a bookmark that can assist parents/carers with helping their child when they get stuck on a word. The link below also has some resources for parents/carer: https://tinystepsmakebigstrides.com/if-i-get-stuck/

Primary School Calendar

Fruit and Veg
Community Centre. Year 5. Every Wednesday this term

NAPLAN Online Practice Test
Monday 30 and Tuesday 31 March. Year 3 & 5

Term 1 Report Cards sent home
Monday 27 April
Primary Tuckshop

Primary Tuckshop is open every Monday and Friday for both lunches. When it is a public holiday on the Monday, the tuckshop will be open on Tuesday. Orders can be placed in the morning before school. Ice-creams will be sold during play time both lunches.

Possi Pupil and Shining Star Awards

Congratulations to our students who received Possi Possum and Shining Star Awards in week 7:

Alysha, Tamia, Saiah, Mikayla, Meika and Clancy

Congratulations to our students who received Possi Possum and Shining Star Awards in week 8

Thanking you,
Lurelle Hodge, Primary Deputy Principal

Breakfast Club

Every Mon, Tue, Wed, Thurs - 8:15-8:40

Donations of bread, milk, milo or spreads would be wonderful. If you have any excess oranges or mandarins, we would love them for our Breakfast Club. Please contact our Chaplain Debra Redfearn:
dredf8@eq.edu.au
National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA)

The National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA) is an important day to mark Australian school students standing together in their communities to say Bullying. No Way!

The whole community has a role to play by continuing the conversation and raising awareness about bullying prevention.

Ravenshoe State School P – 12 will take action together on Friday 20 March (wear orange!)

Parents and other carers have a key role in preventing and responding to bullying.

You can:

- Learn what bullying is and what it is not. This is the first step in talking about how to prevent or respond to bullying with your child. ‘Bullying’ is a word that is used for lots of things that are not actually bullying. These other behaviours may be just as serious, but may require different responses.
- Talk about the value of diversity with the community and understanding that each individual is unique and brings with them individual differences that should be values and respected.
- Talk about bullying with your child at home to make it easier for them to tell you if something happens. Make sure they know what bullying is and how they can respond. Help prepare your children to prevent online bullying and to know what to do if it happens.
- Start when your child is young to guide them to develop the social and emotional skills they will need to build positive relationships throughout their lives, including problem-solving skills.
- Recognise the warning signs of bullying. Although there may not be an issue, you should talk to your child if you have any concerns. Raise the topic generally if you don’t want to ask directly. Be aware that many times children and young people won’t ask for help, so it is important to know what to look for.
- Learn about how to respond appropriately if your child tells you about bullying. You can reassure your child by remaining calm and being supportive.
- Find out as much as you can about what has happened by talking calmly with your child. A good understanding about what has happened can also help you in communicating with the school about the situation.
- Read about strategies that can help. Practising strategies at home with your child is a good way to prepare them to use them at school.
- Contact the school if bullying has occurred and the school needs to be involved. Read about how you and the school can work together to support your child, whether your child was bullied, bullied others, or witnessed bullying.
- Get involved in what your school is doing to prevent bullying.
- Learn about relevant state or national laws about bullying.
- The Student Wellbeing Hub Online Safety for primary students and secondary students provides resources for parents, educators and students about being safe online and making responsible online choices.
- Find additional assistance if, after working with your child and your school, you need more information or help to address the situation from outside the school.
Dear Parent
In September 2019, Queensland committed to working with New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory and Victoria on a Cross-jurisdictional Review of NAPLAN.
This review will be informed by findings of the 2018 Queensland Review of NAPLAN, which received feedback from more than 7500 parents and carers, 5800 teachers and principals, 3000 students and 200 education stakeholders.
Led by panel members Emeritus Professor Barry McGaw, Emeritus Professor William Louden and Professor Claire Wyatt-Smith, the purpose of the review is to identify what a standardised testing regime in Australian schools should deliver, assess how well NAPLAN achieves this, and identify potential short and longer-term improvements.
The review is now exploring proposals in the interim report through public consultation. Online responses to a range of consultation questions can be provided here until 20 March 2020. I encourage you to take the opportunity to provide your views.
If you would like to share this with your school community through your weekly newsletter or another form of direct communication, some suggested wording is as follows:

• Queensland is working with New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory on a cross-jurisdictional review of NAPLAN.
• This will build on findings and recommendations from the 2018 Queensland NAPLAN Review, which are available online.
• The review panel is now seeking feedback on the future of NAPLAN, including a number of proposals set out in an interim report released in December 2019.
• Responses to a series of consultation questions can be provided via the NAPLAN review website by 20 March 2020.
If you seek further information on the Cross-jurisdictional Review of NAPLAN, please direct any questions to: NAPLANreview@det.nsw.edu.au.

2020 Next Step survey
The Queensland Government is conducting its annual statewide survey of all students who completed Year 12 in 2019. The Next Step survey is a brief, confidential survey that gains a comprehensive picture of the employment, study and life choices made by Queensland school completers in the year after they finish Year 12.
Between March and June, all our students who completed Year 12 last year can expect to receive instructions to complete a web-based survey or a telephone call from the Queensland Government Statistician’s Office. Please encourage them to take part. If their contact details have changed, please assist the interviewer with their updated details or forward the survey to their new address so they can participate.
Thank you for your support of the Next Step survey in 2020.
Further information on Next Step is available online at www.qld.gov.au/nextstep or on toll free telephone 1800 068 587.
Dear parents, students and staff,

As Chaplains for our school community, we acknowledge that we are now living in very uncertain times with COVID-19 affecting almost every facet of life in Australia – even around some simple things like toilet paper! There is a lot of fear and anxiety about, with no one really knowing where things will end up; as many have said, we are now in ‘uncharted waters’.

What was previously a relatively ordered and predictable human society, not only here but across the world, has been turned upside down in ways that would have been unimaginable only a couple of weeks ago. This is extraordinarily difficult and very stressful for everyone.

So what can we each do to help us all to get through this. Well first of all, we would suggest that we must tackle the COVID-19 threat together, as a community, drawing on the very best values of what it means to be Australian. There won’t be any Anzac Day services this year, but the enduring values we have inherited from our brave forebears, values such as mateship, sacrifice, courage and endurance are what should (and perhaps must) unite us as one in tackling this common threat to our community and national health and wellbeing. Sadly, we have sometimes seen on the news anything but these values in play as many people have panicked, even fighting in the supermarkets.

This doesn’t mean of course that we must neglect our own responsibilities to our own families; not at all. But perhaps we could try and keep things in perspective and also think of the greater good - maybe if I take this item to build up an even better stockpile, and therefore make myself feel better, then perhaps someone else who needs it more will miss out altogether.

And we all need to take care of our own mental health when we are all being bombarded with so much ‘bad news’. Please allow us to offer some suggestions:

• You could limit your access to the TV news and commentaries, especially for your children; perhaps use an App such as ABC News which has some good links to accurate data and information
• Don’t just sit at home and let any worries and anxiety build within you in isolation; talk to someone you trust, a friend or family member, or ask to speak with either of us;
• Do something enjoyable for yourself every day, and for those dear to you; even better, do a random act of kindness for a stranger :)
• Each day count all the good things in your life - try and get the list to at least 10 - and remember to be thankful for everything on the list.

With our very best regards,
Deborah Redfearn and Peter de Haas
Sport News

Another busy and successful few weeks of sport for our students at Ravenshoe State School.

We had our year 5 and 6 students participate in the Geoff Hoad Memorial Cup (soccer) Gala day at the Atherton International soccer fields on Friday the 13th March. Our year 5-6 students demonstrated outstanding respect, sportsmanship and Fair play on the field walking away as overall champions of the Geoff Hoad Memorial cup Gala day.

Not only that, our Ravenshoe team were also awarded best and fairest! Congratulations to our grade 5 and 6 students who participated in this event.

Geoff Hoad Memorial Cup Participants: Bailey Gillies, Dallas Coker, Aidan Clay, Dayuan Bennett, David Gothachalkenin, Tom Allen, Zachary Bormann.

Our students also participated in Peninsula trials for the girls netball, boys and girls rugby league and girls touch football regional teams. The following students were successful in trialling for their respective sports.

Taylah Dalgety (13 – 15 years girls netball - shadow). The girls in the 13 – 15 years netball team will now commence training to compete against the Queensland regions at the state titles held at the State Netball Centre in Brisbane on the 28th – 31st of May.

Clayton Dalgety and Justin Bevan (16-18 years boys rugby league). Clayton and Justin will commence training to compete in the state titles held at Kawana Stadium on the Sunshine Coast on the 23rd – 26th of May.
Unsuccessful Peninsula Trials
Once again, a huge congratulations to our students who participated in the Peninsula trials for the selected sports. You demonstrated excellent behaviour, respect and sportsmanship on and off the field.

- Nataliyah Barlow (14 – 15 years girls rugby league)
- Paige Groves (16-18 years girls rugby league)
- Aila Bevan (13 – 15 years girls netball)
- Leeroy Wilkes (14 – 15 years boys rugby league)
- Jackson Anziliero (14 – 15 years boys rugby league)
- Jakeem Walker (14 – 15 years boys rugby league)
- Zachary Wilkes (14 – 15 years boys rugby league)
- Morgan Payne (16-18 years boys rugby league)

Upcoming Peninsula trials
The following students will be representing our school and the Tablelands region at the following trials:

- Sanapati Baira - 16-18 years girls basketball
- Anastasia Theochari and Paige Groves - 16-18 years girls touch football
- Dartaiarn Bennett - 10-11 years boys rugby league (Vic Jensen Cup)

Good luck to all of our students!
Stephanie Cushing
Sports Coordinator | General Health & Physical Education Teacher
P and C News

Welcome to the new P and C executive for 2020:

President – Tabitha Wilkinson
Treasurer – Bec Mason
Secretary – Vanessa Brown
Fundraising Coordinator – Tracey Kent
Tuckshop Convenor – Cherie Hill

Thank you so much to outgoing President – Kylie Roberts. Kylie has offered the P and C great wisdom and advice over her term as president.

The P and C with the support of the Local Chaplaincy Committee will be hosting a sausage sizzle on election day.

The P and C are also gearing up for the annual Mothers Day stall and cent sale.

The next P and C meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 21 April at the primary campus library.

Hope to see you there!

Regards P and C executive