



NEWSLETTER

February 9th 2022 - Week 2 Term 1

Whole School dates to remember:

Swifts Creek P12 Swimming Carnival—**Postponed**

Tambo Campus Dates to Remember

Flagstaff Campus Dates to Remember

11th February—Scholastic Bookclub orders are due

Principal's Message

It seems that our good fortune as a school community has changed. At this point in time we have three staff and five students in isolation due to positive COVID results, and another seven students isolating as they are family close contacts.

This data set may continue to grow when people use the RATs again today. Clearly the Department's strategy of testing does allow us to have a sense of the spread of COVID within our school community. This is a key element of the strategy to keep schools open and avoid periods of lockdown. So please keep using the RATs so we can manage within the system strategy. We are currently in the second week of a four week period in which we are to be using RATs. Talking with other Principals, our data is similar to what is happening in their schools.

For those students who are having to be at home staff will be forwarding work. For those students who are unwell the clear objective is for students is to rest up and recover so individual judgement will need to be used in terms of what those students may be able to do.

Please bear in mind that with some staff also needing to isolate the workload for all staff is impacted, so please be considerate in your expectations of when work will be sent home.

Once students have completed the seven days of isolation they may return to school if they are no longer showing any symptoms. My reading of the directive from the Department is that students do not need to do another RAT as it takes thirty days for the tests to be effective again given the time that the virus will remain in a person's system.

We are fortunate to live in such a great location with the quality of health care that we do. For the best advice about health care we are well looked after by our Bush Nursing services, Omeo District Health and our Secondary School doctor who works alternate Thursdays with us.

One of the expectations the Department has is that I inform you of known cases which are de-identified. An email seems to be an efficient manner to do this. To add to this each day the student population will be provided with a summary of the numbers of staff and students who have a recent positive test and those that are isolating as they are family close contacts. This information is seen as important by our system leaders which is why we are sharing it.

We are working to ensure the educational program can return to as normal as possible. The data state wide is trending in a positive direction, so if we can continue with students following those simple steps of staying home when they are not well, wearing a mask when inside at school, social distancing when possible, using of hand sanitiser and practicing good respiratory etiquette, will assist in our local data heading in the direction we would all like it to be.

Continue over the page

Again the strong message is if you are not well please stay at home. A number of people have shared with me their experience of doing a RAT and gaining a negative result only to test again 24 hours later to have a positive. The other aspect that we do need to keep in mind is that notion that if you do your best not to be impacted by COVID then you cannot pass it onto those vulnerable people in your life such as the young, the medically vulnerable or the elderly.

On a positive note we are looking forward to the Swimming Sports, but they will be postponed. We are aware that the next level of competition dates have been pushed back so we do have a bit more flexibility with the date.

Robert Boucher



Kickstart the year with healthy lunchboxes

Healthy Lunchbox Week is coming February 6 - 12. Held at the start of school term, Healthy Lunchbox Week is a Nutrition Australia initiative that helps families access credible lunchbox nutrition information and recipes setting them up for the year ahead.

Around one third of children's daily food intake comes from the lunchbox so it's important we make it count. Use this time to build your bank of lunchbox inspiration and know-how with Nutrition Australia's healthy lunchbox information and recipes.

Nutrition Australia have teamed up with other health-focused organisations to share our collective lunchbox resources making the Healthy Lunchbox Week website a hub for all the latest lunchbox info and will remain your source of inspiration throughout the year.

Check out www.healthylunchboxweek.org.au and follow Nutrition Australia socials.