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Respect Responsibility
Persistence Confidence
Care Honesty

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Term 2, Week 2 – Wednesday 6th May 2020

No 7

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 8 May	Mother's Day Stall
Friday 5 June	Student Free Day
Monday 8 June	Public Holiday

Future dates

Term 3 Week 4 Tuesday 11 August	School Photo Day
Term 3 Week 6 Friday 28 August	Student Free Day – Berry Street training
Term 4 Week 4 Friday 6 November	Student Free Day

Principal

Welcome back everyone, it is amazing that we are already in the month of May. In my entire career with the Education Department I have not experienced a time like we have been going through over the past two months. The term 'one day at a time' certainly was the case. The four student free days before Easter were extremely busy for teachers as we planned for students to remain at home and engage in online learning. Everyone pulled together and we prepared home learning packs and completed crash courses in SeeSaw and Microsoft Teams. Staff left for the break well prepared for term two. Then of course everything changed again and parents have been encouraged to return their children to school. As of Monday we have 90% of our students back at school. I would like to thank the tremendous staff at Waikerie Primary School for their dedication to our students and collaborative work, not just during this COVID-19 time but always. A special thank you must also go to the school community for all your support and positive comments.

A positive out of all of this is that we now have 95% of our families connected with SeeSaw, we hope to now investigate this medium more as a platform for sharing student learning and classroom communication. We ask that you please restrict SeeSaw communication to normal working hours 8:30am – 5:30pm.

Another great event this term has been the completion of the early year's nature play area last Friday. The workers removed the fence as they were finishing the last of the mulching and teachers took classes through so they could view it. It was delightful to hear the students engaging with the workers and thanking them for building a new play area.

With the recent changes teachers have been modifying their programming, therefore class newsletters will be sent home in week 3.

In this newsletter there is an article written by Jack Duffield, Jack attended the Memorial Gardens at dawn on Anzac day to lay a wreath on behalf of the school, many thanks to Jack and his family.

Sports Day has been scheduled for Friday 18 September, week 9 term 3. On the day years 3 to 7 participate in the shot put and discus events. Some discussion has occurred relating to these events and the Department now has released specifications if these athletic activities occur. We would like to invite community feedback on whether shot put and discus continue at the school sports day or should we replace them with alternative events. If they are replaced any suggestions as to what the alternative throwing activities maybe eg. discus replaced by a vortex throw. Please provide feedback via dl.0456.info@schools.sa.edu.au or note to the office.

We have decided to go ahead with this Fridays Mother's Day stall, staff will set up and the year 7 school leaders will support Mrs Pietsch with sales on Friday. I wish all our wonderful mum's a happy Mother's Day this Sunday.

On 25th April I felt very honoured to be able to represent Waikerie Primary as school leader and lay a wreath on the school's behalf at the War Memorial. My whole family got up at 5am to get ready and make sure we were there before 6am so we could do a "proper" dawn service to pay our respects to the fallen by giving a minute's silence and lighting candles. Mum also read out the Ode of Remembrance and we played the Last Post.



My sister Loren (year 9) and mum made a wreath from plants around our home so she could lay a wreath on behalf of Immanuel College. We also paid tribute to my two great-grandfathers who served in WW2. I am actually named after both of them.



John Leonard Duffield DOB 21/12/08, (who was known as "Jack") was a Rat of Trobruk and served from 2/7/1940 to 14/1/45. He was posted overseas in November 1940 and was wounded in action at Trobuk in 1942 and returned home. I was named deliberately to share the same initials as him and the medals shown in the photos are his.



Jack French Wilsen DOB 1/4/15, served between 29/1/41 and 18/1/46 in the Australian Airforce. He was actually named "Jack" by nurses as he was rejected by his mother when he was born. He was always ashamed of his name as he felt it was only a "nick-name" and not a proper name back then. Unfortunately he wasn't alive when I was born but it was very special for my Nanna May who was and turns 104 years old in June this year.

On the way home the sunrise was spectacular so we took another photo with my grandfather's medals there.

Deputy Principal

Welcome to Term 2. It has certainly been a challenging time for many and it is wonderful to see our students busy in classrooms.

This time has brought about some changes with NAPLAN for 2020 being cancelled. PAT assessment in Reading and Maths will go ahead in Term 3 and teachers completed Writing moderation, which will again be completed in Term 3. These assessments inform and align with our teaching and whole school improvement goals.

At this stage we are still unable to have volunteers on site to support such things as reading and breakfast club, but will be sure to inform you of when these restrictions ease. Please ensure that if you are a current volunteer or intend to in the future that there are requirements that must be met. Please contact the school if you would like more information.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of our staff and their flexibility throughout the past weeks. I would also

like to thank parents and families for their support and engagement in how to best meet their child's learning needs.

Student Wellbeing Leader

I hope that our families had as good of a 'break' as could be expected. It has been a crazy couple of months for everyone, but fantastic to see so many students back at school and partly 'back to reality'. Please note that I am available Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays to support students with any areas of wellbeing, whether it be school or home related. I am also here for parents/carers to contact and can point you in the direction for other support services if required. Below is a short strategy that might help calm during the chaos!

Alison Pietsch

Mindfulness – What is it?

Mindfulness is a special way of paying attention on purpose, that can help with how you cope with everyday life or deal with tough times, and there are great benefits for your physical and mental health.

If you would like to explore mindfulness with your child(ren), take a look at the *Smiling Mind* app at <http://smilingmind.com.au/> - it's a great introduction to students to help them calm their mind and body.

Mother's Day Stall

This Friday, 8th May. Gifts available for purchase from .50c-\$8.00. Classes will visit the stall with their teacher.

THANK YOU! To families and businesses who have kindly donated goods 😊

Protective Three - Kimochis

Times are not quite like we anticipated at the start of the year. Over the last few months we have all had to adapt and change the way we do things. I think coming from a community where being, becoming and belonging, has made this slightly easier, we are taught as learners and staff to allow for growth in anyway possible. Believe me when I say I have had to adapt to the changing situation and how I can serve the school. These three feelings are called the **protective three**. With a little bit from each feeling, we can get through all the really hard times and enjoy the precious moments. So what are the protective three?



Grateful: Gratitude is a very helpful practice. It allows you to stop and reflect on what you are thankful for. For kids, gratitude journals are fantastic! Ask them to write 3 things they are grateful for (for the littlies, what they enjoyed the most today) this could be incorporated as a daily practice.

Brave: I'm not sure how that will look in the coming days. From my understanding being brave is building resilience around things that might be hard. These next few months are all very new to us, we are all learning in different ways and being brave enough to see it through.

So challenge your kids to try something new...even yourself. Journey together in building your resilience together.

Hopeful: Hope is such a simple word that can mean so much, especially when you are going through a difficult time. I think, you would all agree the current situation can be described as difficult. Hope can bring focus, it brings goals, it helps to solve problems. Hope is an expectation that something will happen.

At WPS we have a wonderful Leadership Team, Teachers and SSO's working hard to adapt schooling to the ever changing COVID-19 situation so no learner misses out. I am available to help in anyway I can, if your child or you are struggling or just want a chat I am available.

Shazz Paschke – Pastoral Care Worker.

Mon, Tues, Wed 1.30 – 3 and Fri 9 – 3.