

Dryandra Primary School

Independent Public School

NEWSLETTER



28 October 2019

Number 11

Dear Parents and Guardians

We have had an incredibly smooth start to the term. All of the students welcomed the new playground equipment which was installed over the holidays. It is a great credit to our Student Councillors who surveyed the students and then put a recommendation to the school on what they would like to see. Well done to our student leaders!

As we commence this week, our students will be participating in swimming lessons. It is essential that all students are organised the night before so that everything is packed and ready to go. The swimming program has organised three separate sessions for our school which proved to be a logistical nightmare. Please be aware that lunch times will be altered to accommodate the swimming sessions. Once again the students will be getting changed at school and not at the pool. This proved quite successful last year as it avoided wasting lots of time and the students were able to return to the school promptly.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY

On Friday, our school had our annual review at the School Development Day. We analysed our data, reviewed our business and operational plans and examined some of our priorities for next year.

We need to celebrate and acknowledge the great effort of our students in the NAPLAN testing. This is a credit to the hard-working efforts of all of our staff.

Our school performed above expectations in some key areas. Green boxes indicate better than expected results. This is a fantastic outcome and we need to celebrate this effort. The yellow boxes highlight an expected result. Luckily, we did not receive any red boxes which indicate a below-expected result.

	Year 3			Year 5		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Numeracy	-0.2	-0.2	0.2	1.0	1.3	1.0
Reading	1.4	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.0	-0.3
Writing	0.7	0.6	1.2	0.9	-0.5	0.2
Spelling	1.1	0.2	0.8	0.4	1.3	1.7
Grammar & Punctuation	0.7	0.4	-0.7	1.0	0.1	1.1

Based on the available data, next year, our focus will be on writing. We will be implementing a new program called 'Talk for Writing'. We will also be introducing a more explicit approach to teaching literacy and numeracy called 'Explicit Direct Instruction'. We have been trialling this approach with a couple of teachers and we will be expanding this strategy next year with all classes in one key learning area.

Along with supporting students with their behaviour, we will continue to implement the Positive Behaviour Support framework and Friendly Schools Plus. We recognise that all students will need to be able to manage their emotions, resolve conflict and develop positive interpersonal skills.

This year we have expanded our technology in the school and we will be purchasing about \$25 000 of science and digital technology resources. This will greatly expand the range of activities our students will be undertaking next year. We are very excited about this development. Ms. Young's class (Room 18) has trialling a new program called CONNECT. This is a way of completing work assignments online, sharing resources and furthering research skills. It is a great way for parents to 'connect' with the learning programs undertaken in the classroom. This has been a wonderful initiative and I would like to thank Ms Young and Mr McGeever for their efforts!

All of our programs aim to support the academic and social development of our students. We are maintaining the essential focus on our vision of 'Preparing our students for tomorrow.'

CHANGES TO VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES

Every year the school does its best to provide exercise books, art materials, cooking ingredients, science consumables and other items to support the class curriculum and student learning. Unfortunately, costs have continued to rise and our voluntary contribution has not changed for many years. The School board is therefore meeting on the 13 November 2019 to increase the voluntary contribution from \$20 to \$60 a child. This is the current voluntary contribution for the kindergarten students. This means that all students will be paying \$60 a year. Obviously, we will continue to offer part payments throughout the year to make this manageable for parents. By supporting the voluntary contributions, you will be supporting the school to continue to provide a vibrant and engaging curriculum for your child. If you have any feedback, please email me directly on paul.biemmi@education.wa.edu.au or contact me on 9345 6400. Thank you for your support and understanding.

PARENT COMMUNICATION FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS – NEW POLICY

This week, the State Government announced a new Student Mobile Phones in Public Schools policy to take effect from the start of Term 1, 2020.

The policy requires all public schools to implement a ban on the use of mobile phones for all students from the time they arrive at school to the end of the school day. This extends to the use of smart watches which need to be on aeroplane mode during this period. The policy aims to reduce distractions in class and improve student engagement.

In the policy, primary students cannot have a mobile phone in their possession. This means if your child brings a mobile phone to school, it will be stored until the end of the school day. Exceptions are allowed for students who have approval from me to use a phone to monitor health conditions, or where teachers give students permission to use mobile phones for a specific purpose.

If your child needs to contact you, they can do so through the school administration. Likewise, if you need to get a message to your child, you can call the school.

I will now work with staff to determine how we will implement this policy and then provide further information to you and the school community.

If you have any queries or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me by telephone, email or at school.

Thank you
Mr Biemmi