

13<sup>th</sup> October 2020

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

#### **RETURNING TO SCHOOL – HOORAY!**

After more than a term of remote learning, yesterday was a really happy and exciting day for our students. They rushed back into school, so pleased to see their friends and teachers. The junior students ran and ran around the school, whilst the older children caught up with the latest social happenings. The air was filled with laughter and squealing – music to our ears! Back in class, the teachers reported how well the students have progressed over the home schooling time and how engaged learning was in the classrooms. Thank you parents and teachers – we appreciate your massive efforts so very much.

Of course, we must balance the exhilaration of returning to school with the continuing necessity for caution and stringent COVID health measures. At Serpell this includes:

- temperature testing of everyone every morning
- all adults wearing masks except when teaching
- sanitising hands regularly throughout the day
- hand washing regularly
- reminders about coughing and sneezing safety
- cleaners on site throughout the day
- nurse Mary onsite for health checks and advice
- isolation arrangements for anyone who is ill
- reduction of adults onsite
- teaching of single class groups
- no singing, contact sports, assemblies, incursions or excursions

Parents can help by:

- **if your child is unwell, they must not attend school**
- drop your child at the front gate each morning
- arrange a pickup outside the school grounds
- order uniform on line
- contact the office by email or telephone

#### **PLAYGROUND RENOVATION**

The Year 1/2 and 5/6 playgrounds are currently under renovation works, which will be completed this week. Extensive work including the total replacement of all rubber under surfacing was required and COVID restrictions delayed the completion over the holidays. It should all be available for safe play shortly. Thank you to Costa Kotsiras for his attention to this matter over his vacation time.

#### **CANTEEN OPENS NEXT MONDAY**

The canteen will reopen for business next Monday. We suggest that if you wish to purchase any items or snacks, that you place a lunch order. This means that the item will come to the classroom rather than large numbers of students shopping at recess and lunch.

**WILMA CULTON**

### SUNSMART

#### **SunSmart In Spring**

Our lovely sunny Spring days have arrived. So our students can enjoy it safely, could all children return to school with their clean hats and apply sunscreen at home in the morning. Each class has sunscreen provided, however if you wish your child to have their own, please place a roll-on in their bag. Our school SunSmart policy requires all children, teachers and parent helpers to wear a hat during all outdoor activities at school up until the 30<sup>th</sup> April.



**Thank you for your support,  
Mara Rawlings**

## ABSENCE REPORTING



It is a Department of Education requirement that you have report your child's absence to the school.

Please ring to report your child's absence or late arrival before 9:00am on each day of absence.

Ring the school phone number – 9842 8182  
**Press 1** – Report a Child's Absence or Late Arrival

**Clearly** state your child's first and last name, their class and brief reason for their absence.

***If your child arrives late to school, please check in at the office using our new sign in system XUNO before proceeding to class. This will avoid unnecessary worrying text messages from the office that your child hasn't arrived.***

## UNIFORMS

A reminder that the Uniform Shop is closed for over the counter sales due to COVID-19 restrictions until further notice.

To order uniforms you can do the following;

- Ask your child to collect a uniform order form from the office for you, complete it and give it to them to return to the office. Your order will be completed and given to your child to bring home.
- Download the order form from the school website, complete and email it to the school email address [serpell.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:serpell.ps@education.vic.gov.au) your order will be filled and given to your child to bring home.
- Payment can only be made with Visa or Mastercard – **NO CASH**
- Exchange Process – If you need to exchange sizes, return the item to the office via your child and include a note as to what size you want to change it for, it will then be sent home with your child.

You will find pictures of the uniform and a 'How to Measure' guide on the website to assist you.

## FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



### On-site learning program.

Terms 2, 3 and 4 saw the organization and implementation of an on-site learning program for the students of permitted workers and those who were vulnerable.

A fabulous team of teachers and Education Support staff were rostered to support the students who were attending school. Our dedicated Education Support staff attended every day and put themselves at considerable risk during the height of infections in Melbourne. We are very grateful for their dedication and that of the teachers who worked on a rotating roster.

The program ran originally as a multi age – Prep to year 6 program – located in the Library when numbers were low. As the requests for support grew, the students used the Library, CCM classroom and Prep classrooms ensuring that Covid – 19 regulations were in place.

The students participated in their on-line learning and when time permitted, participated in the joint projects of constructing a beach collage mural, and making 'Serpell Spoonville'. They also participated in great additional PE activities.

I am sure that the students (and staff) will have very happy and positive memories of their 2020 school year during lockdown.



**Sue Young**

## SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH

Congratulations to all the students whose projects were entered into the statewide judging of the Science Talent Search competition. We are happy to announce the results of the virtual judging:

**Major Bursaries were awarded to:**

Clarissa Ma  
Edilyn Wong  
Jenny Wu  
Lauren Yim  
Loshaya Jayasinghe  
Mark Birchall

**Minor Bursaries were awarded to:**

Anagh Urs  
Charmayne Lee  
Chelsea Paule  
Chloe Jin  
Danyal Malik  
Dylan Le Mon  
Elisabeth Teh  
Gloria Lian  
Marcus Schena  
Nadia De Angelis  
Olivia Ho  
Rachel Franco  
Sonara Weerasinghe  
Yaara Hammard  
Zachary Kwei

**Certificates of Distinction were awarded to:**

Arunavo Paul  
Carol Zhou  
Dylan Lu  
Emily Franco  
Ethan Tran  
Harry Polites  
Hinson Lau  
Micaiah Jiang  
Rebecca Coates  
Sienna Paterson-Caracoglia  
Sophie Brooks  
Zackery Tung

**Certificates of Merit were awarded to:**

Aaron Tsoi  
Abbie Mason  
Chloe Yuan  
Cynthia Cui  
Henry O'Malley  
Jeremy Harianto  
Michaela Ho  
Rachel Jonatan

## DIARY

Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Oct	AFL Grand Final Eve Public Holiday – No School
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Nov	Curriculum Day – No School
Tue 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Nov	Melbourne Cup Day – No School
Tue 8 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	Year 7 Orientation Day for Year 6 Students going to a State Government Secondary School in 2021
Thu 17 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	Year 6 Graduation (Details to follow at a later time)
Thu 17 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	Last Day of School – 3:30pm Dismissal from school
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	Curriculum Day – No School
<b>2021</b>		
Thu 28 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of School for 2021 Year 1 to 6

## CANTEEN

**CANTEEN OPENS NEXT MONDAY**



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Please see the order form for instructions on how to order.

An order form has been sent home today with your child.

## PARENT'S ASSOCIATION

We had a fantastic response to the online family Trivia last term.

Thank you to everyone who participated and we sincerely hope you and your family had a fun time.

A big Congratulations to the winners for getting all the answers correct.

### **Prep / Year 1**

Kieran Xue 1CH  
Ria Ajit PSD  
Lucan Wang POA

### **Year 2/ Year 3**

Avika Garg 3RM  
Jaylend Li 3JX  
Sadie Smith 2TH

### **Year 4/Year 5**

Scott Webster 5RK  
Krishan Nagreh 4JC  
Effie Teo 4JC

### **Year 6**

Toby Zheng 6JD  
Emily Franco 6SS  
Sonara Weerasinghe 6SS

We will be giving out the prizes shortly and are hoping to organise another fun activity for this term.  
Congratulations once again and thank you all for your involvement.

***Kanika Saluja***  
***President P.A.***