

15th December 2020

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

At this time of year we sadly farewell people with whom we have shared the learning journey for many years. We wish them success and happiness in the future, thank them for their rich contribution to our community and look forward to hearing their stories in the future when we meet.

Year 6 students in 2020 have always held a special place in our hearts. Since Prep, they have been thoughtful, exceptionally hard working high achievers who care for each other and support those who need help. As they disperse amongst the schools of the eastern suburbs, they take with them our very best wishes for amazing futures that we cannot yet imagine.

Graham Matthews OAM, will retire after 45 years, 26 of them at Serpell. The staff will hold a special farewell for Graham, his friends and family on Friday. We are certain that we will see Graham again in 2021 in a sports support capacity, but at this time, we wish to acknowledge the deep respect that we have at Serpell for his leadership and promotion of sport and physical education here over so many years. He leaves a legacy of generations of young people being able to access and enjoy fitness, wellbeing and sports.

Nicoline Toh has been teaching at Serpell in Year 4 and the library this year. She was also very supportive of the onsite program during lockdown. We thank Nicoline for her care and support and wish her well in her career.

Kylie Crampton, our Art teacher who has been on leave this year, has decided to pursue other career options. We thank Kylie for her highly professional support for our visual arts program and wish her well for the future.

Richard Turner, School Council President, will be leaving us after seven years on School Council and two years as President, as his daughter Sofia, will be graduating this year. Richard has been an intuitive, thoughtful and wise leader of our community and I personally have valued greatly his guidance and support through both good and worrying times.

David Kwei, School Councillor, leaves us as his son Zachary will be moving to secondary school. We thank David for his contribution, particularly to parent involvement in the school.

The Banking Team, who have supported our school over so many years, will not be able to continue in 2021, due to a change in government policy about school banking. This is sad for us, as this group of dedicated parents have enjoyed the companionship of each other each Tuesday morning for years and years and years. Thank you to each of these willing helpers – we are sure that we will be able to find a new activity to involve parents in 2021.

REPORTS EMAILED TOMORROW

All parents will receive their students' reports by email tomorrow afternoon. I am very pleased to share that the reports demonstrate excellent achievement right across the school and are a resounding testament to the wonderful work by teachers, parents and students throughout the lockdown period. If you do not receive your report, please notify your child's teacher. The data reveals that some children do still require additional support in catching up and we have identified these students for the 2021 tutoring program, to begin in February.

FINAL ASSEMBLIES THURSDAY

On Thursday, we will have final school assemblies for all year levels as follows:

Prep students will have a short assembly at 9.15 on Thursday morning. This will involve the presentation of certificates and the singing of Christmas carols and songs.

Prep parents and grandparents may attend this assembly. We have made this decision to allow the Prep parents to share just a small moment in their Prep child's first year. With just one year level attending, we can have parents attend and still meet the 1:2m² COVID rule. Please wear a mask and socially distance when you are seated in the stadium.

Years 1 to 6 will have an assembly in the afternoon. The event will feature the presentation of awards and certificates and the farewell to Year 6 students. Unfortunately, we are unable to invite parents, as it is impossible to meet the COVID rules.

GRADUATION THURSDAY EVENING

We are excited to share that the Year 6 Graduation will now go ahead with a parent audience! Shona Stanford pursuing venues over several weeks and Costa Kotsiras working to address strict COVID safety regulations has achieved this much longed for outcome. The graduation will be held at the Besen Centre, Station St Burwood at

7pm on Thursday evening. We are so grateful to the Besen Centre for making this exception for us.

STARTING IN 2021

Due to COVID restrictions, we have a new system for payment of fees and collection of books. Please refer to the information sheet sent home several weeks ago, which is also available on the school website, or see further into the newsletter for ordering instructions, your child's books will be delivered to your home. School will recommence on Thursday 28th January 2021 for students in year 1 to 6 and students should bring their books, named, to school on that day. If COVID guidelines remain the same as this week, parents are now free to come onto the school site. Please remember to socially distance.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

I wish all families a relaxing and happy holiday season. I am so deeply thankful that at the end of a frightening and stressful year we are all safe and well. Thank you to the School Council and the Parent Association for your ongoing support. To the teachers, parents and students, thank you for such a united and dedicated effort in keeping our whole community safe. Seasons blessings to each and every one.

WILMA CULTON



YEAR 6 HOUSE SPORTS



Thursday afternoon saw the conclusion of the 2020 Serpell House Cup. In a year filled with cancelled activities it was wonderful to see the House Cup thrive and grow into a yearlong sporting competition. 2020's competition saw the addition of house points being awarded for cross country as well as remote learning events such as dancing and chore challenges. In a Serpell first, year 4s were also invited to participate in various events.

The success of the 2020 Cup was a testament to the dedication and leadership of the House Captains as well as the enthusiasm and teamwork of all students involved. In what was one of the closest competitions in recent history, the 2020 winner (by only 30 points) is Blackburn House!

Final Ladder

1 st	Blackburn	23,690
2 nd	Anderson	23,660
3 rd	Reynolds	23,030
4 th	King	22,930

PARENT PAYMENTS FOR 2021

A reminder that the Parent Payment Ordering system is now open. Please refer to the information sheet that went home last week for ordering instructions.

Please use the website -
booklist.officebrands.com.au/croydon

Enter the School Access Code: X7UMPP

Orders will close on 11th January 2021 and book bags will be delivered to your designated home address.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SELECT THE BOOK PACK FOR THE YEAR LEVEL YOUR CHILD WILL BE IN 2021

CANTEEN

Please note that the Canteen will be open every day including the last day of school, Thursday 17th December.



SCHOOL BANKING

From Term 1, 2021 the Victorian Government has ceased school banking programs in Victorian government schools. As a result, the CommBank School Banking program will no longer operate at our school. If you are unsure of other methods of depositing to your child's account, please feel free to contact the Bank's general enquiries hotline on 13 2221 or alternatively visit your local CommBank branch.

We would like to thank you for your participation and support throughout the School Banking program.

School Banking Team 

DIARY

Thu 17 th	Dec	Year 6 Graduation
Thu 17 th	Dec	Last Day of School – 3:30pm Dismissal from school
Fri 18 th	Dec	Curriculum Day – No School
2021		
Mon 11 th	Jan	Last Day for online Parent Payments and Book Bag delivery.
Thu 28 th	Jan	1 st Day of School for 2021 Year 1 to 6
Thu 4 th	Feb	1 st Day of School for 2021 PREP

UNIFORMS

A reminder that the Uniform Shop is now closed.

Orders submitted via email will be filled from Wednesday 27th January 2021.

The Uniform Shop will not be open for over the counter sales 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 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.

2nd HAND UNIFORMS

Due to COVID-19 guidelines, we are **unable** to accept the donation of 2nd Hand Uniforms at this stage. Please hold on to any you have and we will make an announcement when they can be brought in at a later date.

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.

If you would like to order books directly through them, you can do so online, but please select for the books to be delivered to your home, not the school.

Thank you



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Learn music here at school

Come and join in the fun of learning to keyboard, guitar, flute, clarinet, violin, singing, here at Serpell Primary School.

Creative Music for Schools conducts a music program here at school each week.

Small group classes or one-to-one lessons of up to 30 minutes give children an excellent grounding in music where they will learn to read music and play their chosen instrument.

Tuition costs from \$18.80 per lesson and enrolments are now being accepted for limited places in term 1, 2021.

Interested parents should contact Swee via email:

swee@creativemusic.com.au

 Creative Music
www.creativemusic.com.au

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