

MURRABIT GROUP SCHOOL



Telephone: 5457 2284

Fax 5457 2417

Email: murrabit.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Website: www.murrabitps.vic.edu.au

NEWSLETTER

- 12th May, 2020

School Values:

- Respect
- Honesty
- Teamwork
- Learning
- Persistence

*Murrabit Group School respectfully acknowledges
the traditional custodians of the land.
We pay respect to their ongoing living culture.*

Hello Everybody,

Thank you for your continued support with Flexible and Remote Learning. As we have progressed through the COVID 19 Lockdown we have waited patiently for messages from the Premier about when the restrictions within the community would be eased. Today Mr Andrews put out a Press Release titled **Getting Our Kids Back Into The Classroom**.

Part of it read:

From Tuesday 26th May, all Prep, Grade 1 and Grade 2 students, specialist school students, as well as VCE and VCAL students will return to on-site learning at government schools. The next fortnight, and a pupil free day at all schools on 25 May, will give staff, schools and families time to prepare for the change.

Vulnerable students in Years 3 – 10 and children in those years whose parents or carers cannot work from home, can continue to attend school on site as needed during this period.

Students in the broader year 3 to 10 cohort will continue to learn remotely until Tuesday 9 June, to give the Government and the Chief Health Officer time to monitor and evaluate the effects that the return to school by other year levels has on the increased movement of people and transmission within the community.

For the full release read the attached copy.

Staff are very much looking forward to having the students back at school with their big smiles.

School Council

The School Council held its May meeting via Webex and we welcomed Tim McNeil along as a new School Councillor.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report was presented to School Council. This is a snapshot of what it showed:

- Naplan Data at Murrabit Group School in 2019 was very strong, being above state average in 8 out of the 10 areas in Grade 3 and 5.
- Student attendance rates at Murrabit Group School has improved in 2019, with absences dropping from 14.2 to 13.1. This is a significant improvement. The state median was 16.3.
- The Student Attitudes to School Survey gave a 100% positive response to Sense of Connectedness to the school. (The state median was 80.9%)
- On the ATSS 97% of students gave a positive endorsement on the Murrabit Group School's management of bullying (State median 81.6%)
- Parent satisfaction was outstanding, as evidenced by the parent opinion survey. Survey results show that the percent of positive responses for Parent Satisfaction was 94.2%. The State Median was 85.8%.

The full Annual Report will be on our school website www.murrabitps.vic.edu.au shortly if you would like to look at it in more detail.

Packages

Be in contact with your class teacher to organise the pick-up and dropping off of packages.

Attendance

A reminder that each class teacher will have set up a method to record their class attendance. Also a routine should be put in place to help your child.

Mothers Day

I hope all mum's had a great Mother's Day and enjoyed the gift that was given with much love by your children on Mother's Day morning.

Survey

Thank you to the parents who have completed the Remote and Flexible Learning Survey. If you haven't done so we would really appreciate your feedback.

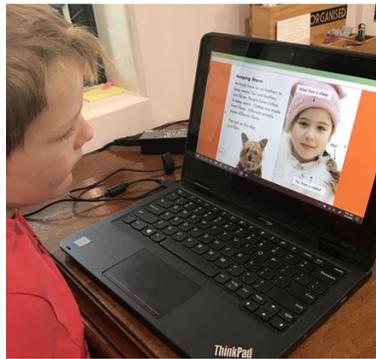
Assembly

An assembly will take place Friday morning at 9:30am. A link will be sent to your child's email address. While it is optional, it would be great to have as many children as possible join us to find out what has been happening in the **whole school community**.

Year 6 Transition

Our Grade 6 students received a package from Zoe Ferrier, KTHS Junior School Leader. It outlined all the important information for KTHS Transition Program for 2020.

Have a great week, **Greg**



P/1/2 Home Learning

Student of the Week



Charles Henderson – for his outstanding art work

Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund

A reminder that if your circumstances have changed from Term 1 and you are now in receipt of a **Centrelink Healthcare Card**, you may be eligible for CSEF funding. Please contact the school for an application form which needs to be completed and returned by **14th May**

balancing online schooling and working from home



Coronavirus (COVID-19) has resulted in new opportunities and challenges for those supporting and caring for young people in our community.

The transition to online schooling and working from home will be exciting for some people who may thrive in this new style of working and learning and for others this transition may be quite stressful and overwhelming. It may also be a mixture of both these experiences. All of these feelings and experiences are understandable in these circumstances.

Each household will be different in what they are managing. There may be multiple people of various ages trying to transition to online schooling and working at home or there may be just one or two in your household. Everyone will balance this differently with each household having different ways of managing and different priorities. This is okay. There is no one right way to go about this and no household will get it perfectly right.

The initial weeks of this transition will be the hardest whilst everyone is trying to adapt to new routines.

Here are some tips to support the balance of online schooling and working from home.

1. Create good communication

Creating good communication between young people and others at home will be very important during this time. It could be the difference between balancing and negotiating everybody's different needs or increasing conflict in the household.

Some important ideas for good communication include:

- communicating early**

Start conversations and model talking early when you are noticing things aren't working so well or there are differences in priorities, expectations or people's needs being met in the household.

- taking a 'you and me vs the problem' approach**

If you think about any problems coming up 'side by side' rather than 'you vs me' you are more likely to get a good outcome for everyone. This includes letting everyone have a turn to express their perspective, expectations and opinions in a respectful way.

- acknowledging and summarising what each person has said when communicating**

This shows you're interested and listening to the other people. When we feel our perspective has been heard and understood we are more able to listen to what the other people have to say.

- using 'I' statements rather than you statements**

Using 'I' statements to express our perspective or needs helps us to own what we are saying rather than giving a sense of blame that can happen with 'you' statements.

Take some time to talk about what everyone in the house is going to need to be effective in online schooling and

working from home. It is good to set up a time for this conversation when everyone is available and able to be focus on what you are talking about. This conversation may need to keep occurring over time as you try things out and adapt to see how it is going.

This conversation could include thinking together about ideas such as:

- how you will let each other know when you can be available to support young people's online schooling and when you are not able to be interrupted
- how you will let each other know when you need some help or support
- how you are going to manage shared work and schooling spaces
- what is working or not working for the household?

If you feel like there is some tension between household members during this transition or you would like more ideas on communication, check out the responding to family conflict fact sheet for more tips and information.



headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health Services - 24 April 2020

2. consider and manage your expectations

Each household will be managing different things during this time. For some households, those working from home are going to need to prioritise work and won't be available for online schooling support. Other households will have more flexibility in moving between supporting online schooling and working.

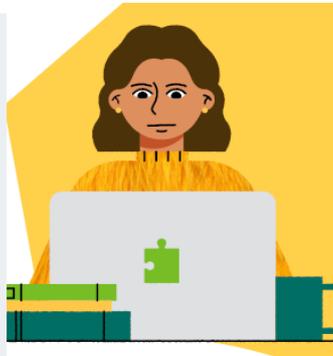
Consider what your household is managing and adjust your expectations accordingly.

It is okay if you are not always available or if young people aren't completing all of the allocated tasks during this time. If this is happening some things to think about include:

- using the communication tools discussed above to have a conversation with the young person and ask them about what feels reasonable and manageable. Once they have come up with some ideas, negotiate and work together to come up with an agreed solution.

- keeping the communication with teachers going so that they are aware of what is happening for the young person during this time.

Usually school time and work time is a time of social contact for young people and adults too. Discuss expectations around talking to friends during school or work time and encourage peer to peer connection in an appropriate way to maintain social connectedness.



4. Foster Independence

Young people are usually independent during their school day without the support of care givers to guide their work. Wherever possible, try to encourage this to remain the same.

Take some time to talk to them and ask them about what they would normally do if they got a bit stuck at school with some work or don't know quite what to do.

Some ideas might include:

- sending a question to the teacher
- asking their friends.

Independence also includes things like encouraging young people to make their lunch, choose what to do at breaks or lunch time and setting up their work space.

3. Create a routine

As much as possible try to keep to a normal routine for online schooling and working from home. It can be easy for work time, school time and home time to merge into one which can be overwhelming at times. It can be good to create routines to differentiate this time and support being able to 'switch off' from work or school time.

Some ideas around this could be:

- taking a walk around the block or exercise when you finish work/school to mimic your usual travel home time (whilst still obeying the COVID-19 restrictions)
- packing down your work space at the end of your work day, closing computers and putting books away. You may even want to cover your station with a blanket
- changing into different clothes for work or study time and home time.

5. Use your resources

Think about the resources that you have around you. This may be adults in the household taking turns to provide support to young people. If this is not possible, there may be other extended family members or friends that have special skills in areas such as Maths or English that young people can reach out to for support with tasks online or via phone when required.



GANNAWARRA IN-HOME EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICE

Gannawarra Shire Council in partnership with Bendigo Health Carer Support Services have successfully acquired funding for the Gannawarra In-Home Education Support program. The project is designed to support families to manage the requirements of home schooling throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Supports may involve a worker entering the home for period of time to help a child, assisting the parent/s to support a child or internet connection supports such as data or equipment for financially disadvantaged families to ensure the child has the appropriate connections to complete required curriculum.

Please tick any challenges you wish to be supported with;

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Internet devices | <input type="checkbox"/> Uploading/downloading |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Internet connection | <input type="checkbox"/> Work space |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Internet data | <input type="checkbox"/> Time management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1:1 support | <input type="checkbox"/> Family roles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Subject support | <input type="checkbox"/> Other family members |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Completing work | <input type="checkbox"/> NDIS plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

I give permission for Gannawarra Shire Council In-Home Educational Support Services to contact me to further discuss my challenges.

PARENT NAME: _____

Signed: _____ or Verbal consent given

PHONE: _____ Date: _____

School: _____



Creative Ways to be Active at Home

Break up Screen Time: Many of us – both adults & children are now spending more time using technology. Try to break up this time with some exercises. For example, you could do 20 sit-ups after each Netflix episode. See how many sit-ups (or any exercise) you can do during each TV ad break – see who can do the most in your family. You could also do a Zoom call and workout with friends or have exercise challenges.



Room Exercises: Make up a different exercise for each room of your house – every time someone in your family goes in that room, they have to do that exercise. For example, star jumps, sit-ups, push ups, lunges, crunches – anything! Set a time limit for example, 1 minute, and see how many you can do. Make a score sheet for your family and see who can do the most at the end of each day or week.



Obstacle Course: Make an obstacle course around your house or outside with things that you already have. You could use chairs, tables, pillows, blankets, pot plants, drink bottles, a broom, sporting equipment such as a skipping rope or hula hoop – anything that you can find! You can make it as hard or as easy as you want. See who can do it the quickest.



Dance: Play some music and just dance to it. Your kids could make up dance routines to perform for the rest of the family. You could also [Youtube](#) Zumba classes. If you have neighbours you could all do dance or Zumba classes together on the street - making sure to social distance. You can connect and stay active at the same time.



Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier



Tuesday, 12 May 2020

GETTING OUR KIDS BACK INTO THE CLASSROOM

Victorian government school students will begin a phased return to classrooms before the end of May, following advice from Victoria's Chief Health Officer that it is safe for the community to do so.

Since the beginning of Term 2, most children in Victoria have been learning remotely, limiting the number of people moving around our state every day to help slow the spread of coronavirus.

The Government thanks parents, teachers and staff for their incredible efforts in helping deliver remote and flexible schooling this term and, in doing so, playing a vital role in flattening the curve of this pandemic.

These efforts, and the biggest testing blitz in the country, mean Victoria is now in the position to begin moving back to face-to-face learning in the classroom.

From Tuesday 26 May, all Prep, Grade 1 and Grade 2 students, specialist school students, as well as VCE and VCAL students will return to on-site learning at government schools. The next fortnight, and a pupil free day at all schools on 25 May, will give staff, schools and families time to prepare for the change.

Vulnerable students in years 3 to 10, and children in those years whose parents or carers cannot work from home, can continue to attend school on-site as needed during this period.

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The Government will invest up to \$45 million for enhanced cleaning that will occur every day at every school across the state for all of Term 2 and Term 3. This will help to reduce the spread of viruses and germs in schools and will include the cleaning of frequently used high-touch surfaces.

All Victorian school staff will be prioritised for voluntary coronavirus testing for a two-week period from both mobile and fixed testing sites, starting today. This will enable school staff to seek testing during the preparation period before the return to on-site schooling.

Schools will be encouraged to implement a staggered drop-off system to reduce the number of adults congregating outside the school at any one time, as well as staggered break times to manage the number of students mixing across year levels. Schools will also implement social distancing measures for all adults.

The strict health protocols that are already in place will be followed if a member of the school community tests positive for coronavirus.

Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

"As a father of three kids who have been learning from home, I know this has been a really challenging time for many families but thanks to everyone's efforts in sticking to the rules and getting tested, we're now able to start getting our kids back into the classroom."

"Having most of our kids learning from home has made a big contribution to limiting the number of people moving around the community and reduced the spread of the virus."

Media contact: Matthew Dixon 0438 190 148 | matthew.dixon@minstaff.vic.gov.au

Curators

May – 1st Half – Maher

- 2nd Half – Murray

June – 1st Half – Lacey

- 2nd Half - Heritage



