

# doxaschoolbendigo

*A catholic school providing a safe and supported learning environment*



## Doxa News

August | 2021

### A word from our Principal

I would like to start by extending a big thank you to all our families for their cooperation and support through what has become an extended period of lockdown in our communities. As you all know we are still open to support student learning and it has been great to see a number of regular attendees at school each day. I realise many families are keen to stay safe and keep their students home from school and I understand this. The current situation with the Delta variant of COVID is concerning and it is up to all of us to do the right thing to keep those we love safe. Can I please remind parents and guardians that if your student is ill please don't send them to school, particularly if they have any COVID symptoms, or have had a bout of any other contagious illness such as gastroenteritis.

On that theme it is good to see the availability of vaccinations more broadly across the community particularly for our younger people. The more of us that are vaccinated the safer we will be and hopefully the sooner we will be able to get back to doing the things we love to do and spend time with family and friends. If you are unsure about the available vaccines for yourselves or your children you should seek advice from your Doctor. I should also give a big shout out to our staff who have tried hard to manage on-site and flexible learning to best support the students in their classes. I know this can be a challenge at times but I know they have done a marvellous job of remaining connected to all our students as best they can.

Unfortunately, the extension to the lockdown has meant we are unable to go ahead with our camps as planned. It is also unfortunate that the Roses Gap and Warrnambool camps are unavailable in the first half of term 4 and as such won't run this year again. We will have some discussions as a staff team to explore what positive experiential learning opportunities we might be able to find during term 4 as things, hopefully, open up more.

We are farewelling a couple of staff members this term.

Brad Gargiulo has had a period of leave and he will not be returning to his teaching position. Brad worked at Doxa for just over 2 years as well as helping us out in an emergency role for a period prior to that. I thank Brad for his contribution to our community and wish him well in the future.

Mick Turner will be finishing with us at the end of term. Mick has been with us for almost 6 years and has done a mighty job supporting many young people over that time. The students Mick supports will miss him terribly and as he has some time to think about what the future holds we wish him all the best.

Two other people need to be thanked and they are Gabrielle and Julie who have helped out in the front office in Colleen's absence. They did a fantastic job and fitted in with the community beautifully, which was pretty easy as both of them have helped us out in various roles in the past. Thank you both and hopefully we will see you again around the place. Obviously, we will be welcoming Colleen back soon and hope she isn't in holiday mode too much, or it might be hard to get her back into work mode. I'm looking forward to catching up on all her holiday news and I'm sure many families and students will be pleased to see her back or have her on the end of the phone line soon.

We only have a few days before the term ends and I hope and pray that term 4 brings with it some easing of restrictions and that we see more of our students back at school for the last weeks of what has been another disrupted school year.

God Bless and Stay Well.

John

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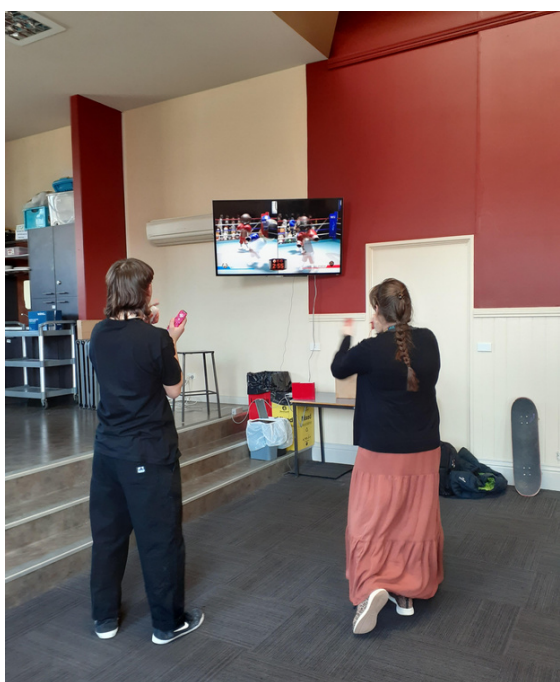
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While it's harder to get out and about we've been making the most of our time at Doxa.



### Important Dates for Term 3

End of Term - 17th September



### Getting in touch

Ways to contact the school

Phone - 54428140 or 0417 108 870

Facebook -

<https://www.facebook.com/DoxaSchoolBendigo/>





## Aminda's Class

August | 2021

### Our Trip to the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion

Our class were fortunate enough to visit the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion in August, as part of a follow-up to our Stupa construction unit in class. We were able to experience the history of the buildings and monuments held on the site, including the lifesize sculpture of the Four Harmonious Friends. The Four Harmonious Friends is a life-size statue of an elephant, monkey, rabbit and bird. The story behind the statue is that if all the animals helped each other and worked harmoniously together, they could reach the fruit at the top of the tree; and, in this way, there was plenty for all of them to eat. A kind monk gave us a tour inside the Stupa in which we were introduced to the Jade Buddha statue. And you wouldn't believe it weighs 4000kgs! It was a great experience to visit the Great Stupa in Maiden Gully. We are so lucky to have a place like this in our community.





## Ruth's Class

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We are nearly at the end of term 3 and it has been a busy one even though we have had 2 state lockdowns.

Early in the term students learnt all about Zoos and were able to identify the positive reasons we have zoos and some of the negative views of them as well.

Students were able to discuss their different types of zoos or animal sanctuaries and join in classroom discussion about the ones they have visited with family or ones they would love to visit in the future.

Students have continued to take the opportunities at school during the lockdown period to maintain routine and we have had pleasing numbers on site. Students choosing to complete remote learning have been in contact with the class phone and we encourage this to continue and to jump on our google meets scheduled for Mondays and Wednesdays.

Tony will continue to follow up with students during wellbeing sessions and onsite SELs sessions.

With the recent Olympics we have followed the able-bodied Olympians and the Paralympians with great discussions throughout the weeks.

We will be continuing this focus as we look at the x-games and extreme sports and the choices people make to get to the top of their sport.

We are looking forward to having some great classroom discussion about what makes someone get to the top of their sport and the support they have along the way.

Students have been focusing on Measurement in their Numeracy sessions and are showing some pleasing results. Amy has been working individually with students focussing on spelling, writing and numeracy and will continue to do this for the remainder of 2021

With the holidays fast approaching we hope you all stay safe and enjoy the family time during the break.





## Ky's Class

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### Term 3 in Jacinta & Ky's Room

Term 3 is always busy in the VCAL space and this year it is no different. Students have been working through a unit on homelessness, discussing the issues and the services available to help. They are currently developing an awareness campaign on this issue.

We have also been looking at various aspects of the 2020/2021 olympic games, investigating the OHS requirements as part of our WRS work, Researching sports for Literacy and looking at the stats for Numeracy. Students are also participating in coming up with their own Olympic Mascot for the 2032 Brisbane games.

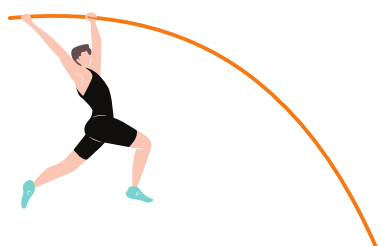
Jac and I acknowledge how hard lockdown is and we are so grateful to have been able to have so many students onsite. Thank you also to the parents and carers of our students who need to access remote learning for helping the students to work on the Google Classroom and continue to engage in their studies.

We are sorry to see that the pandemic has forced our camps program to be postponed for another year.

We know that many students look forward to these activities and it is sad that we are not able to participate again this year.

Kindest Regards

Ky, Jac and Lillie





## Scott's Class

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### A keeping us safe update

Just a reminder to everyone that we are still following the government expectations regarding Covid-19 and the health recommendations that have been made. This means that students are required to wear masks to and from school, and if they leave school during break times (unless they have an exemption from wearing a mask). We have lots of disposable masks on-site so please remind your student to get them from us if they've forgotten theirs.

Also, while students do not have to wear masks while inside school, we are supporting students to continue practising their skills based on the government health advice. This means wearing masks if they wish to, practicing really strong hygiene (with washing hands, using sanitiser, and not unnecessarily making contact with others), physically distancing and building our knowledge about how to keep ourselves safe and sound.

Everyone has been doing their bit to keep themselves and each other safe!

