

doxaschoolbendigo

valuing the diversity, resilience and potential of young people



Feb/March 2020

A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Hello and Welcome to 2020 to all our students and families new and old. I hope that you all had a safe and happy Christmas and New Year season. Our year has started pretty smoothly with students settling in well. It has been great to welcome all our students over the past couple of weeks and although it can be an anxious time, particularly for new students, and there is certainly a positive vibe in the community at this point. It has been promising that most students are attending often and the Class Groups are working well together.

This year, we welcome Rohan Wightman to our teaching team and Claire Taylor to the well-being group. Both Claire and Rohan come to us with a vast amount of experience with youth and education so they are a fantastic addition to our team, and will be of great support to all of our staff, students and families.

There have been some changes to the TAFE VET program this year with students also having a broader scope of subjects. Hospitality is still held each week at Doxa School.

Doxa Café is up and running each Friday morning until the end of term. It is great to see so many familiar faces come in to support our Café and the Hospitality team.

Many students participated in our Orientation excursions in the past weeks, with students visiting Funfields at Whittlesea, Tuki Trout Farm at Smeaton and Ice Skating in Melbourne. These trips provide a great opportunity for staff and both old and new students to spend some time getting to know each other outside of the classroom.

Many thanks to parents and carers for attending term one ILP meetings. These meetings are important in planning with you, how best we can support your child to achieve the best for themselves this year. It is important for them to know that parents and guardians are in partnership with the school in supporting them. If you still need to book an appointment or reschedule to another time, please call the office to organise.

Obviously the big news item during term 1 has been COVID19 (Coronavirus). It has been stated that this will affect all schools at some stage and we are preparing for this. There is a letter attached to this newsletter outlining the current response of our community. It is likely that this will change as the situation evolves. Updates will be uploaded to our Facebook page so please check it regularly for the latest information.

Thanks in anticipation of your support this year and remember to give the office a call on 5442 8140 at any time, if you need help with anything.

John Russell
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 27th March - last day of term 1. Students dismissed at 12pm

Friday 10th April - Good Friday

Sunday 12th April - Easter Sunday

Tuesday 14th April - first day of term 2



Ways to contact the school on 54428140 or 0417 108 870 or message us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/DoxaSchoolBendigo/>

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE TRAPS

Brad & Tony's Room

Hello supporters. Firstly, how quickly is the term/year going, it seems like we only just begun.

The boys have had a terrific beginning the school year with wonderful participation in orientation weeks and activities including a trip to Funfields and a recent trip to the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre. Fun was had by all who attended and it was pleasing to witness friendships develop and grow.

On the business side of school, the boys have fully engaged in the 'Splash and Learn' unit of work, where they are measuring up a local pool each week to assist their learnings on perimeter, area and volume. Within this unit, the boys have explored literacy skills, including nouns and verbs, which is the beginnings of descriptive writing. Please remember it is important to chat to them about their school work to assist with their understanding.

Each Wednesday has been a huge success with the boys having a mixture of shed experience and completing their academic testing.

A huge thanks from us for all your support and an even bigger congratulations to the wonderful start to the year boys.

Keep going and try your best.

Brad, Tony and Amy.

Ruth & Claire's Room

The year has started well for our classroom.

Our new students are settling in well to Doxa and it has been wonderful saying hello again to our existing students.

Our class has spent time working on our Literacy and Numeracy to develop a learning style for each individual and students will undergo further testing in these areas over the next few weeks.

Claire Taylor is our Wellbeing support in our classroom this year and is new to Doxa. She is working individually with each student and will run weekly SELs sessions to develop the students Social and Emotional learning. Our students are positive and encouraging in their meetings with Claire as well as our SELs session which is wonderful to see.

We are also lucky enough to have Amy on a Wednesday for classroom support. Amy will work in small groups or on an individual basis to support all our students.

Our class went to the Melbourne Ice-Skating Rink for our classroom excursion and all the students and staff had an amazing time with lots of laughter and just a couple of falls. We will have future opportunities to do more class excursions and will keep parents and carers informed via permission slips, the classroom phone and Facebook.

We look forward to seeing all parents and carers at our upcoming ILP meetings to discuss your students start to the year and put together a plan for the 2020 year.

Regards,
Ruth and Claire

****CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR SOME PHOTOS OF ORIENTATION ACTIVITIES****

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE TRAPS cont.

Lou & Mick's Class

What a fabulous start we have all made to what is shaping up to be a great year with some really lovely young people. The majority of our group attended our class excursion to Tuki Trout Farm on the 12th and from all reports our families enjoyed some really lovely, fresh fish, caught by us.

Afternoon program, Monday, Wednesday and Friday is in full gear and we have been enjoying a nice mixture of physical activities like Gym and Gymnastics and creative ventures like Art and Cooking.

We have had some great conversations about Individual Learning Plan goal setting, with our young people making some really solid plans for positive change moving forward. Thank you to most of our families who attended the ILP meetings this week; we really enjoyed the conversations we had about how to best support your young people.

Please get in touch with Mick, Nick or Lou if you would like to discuss anything further.

Well done again, we have made a really solid start to the year and look forward to continuing to work with you all into the future.

Lou, Mick & Nick

Ky & Jac's Class

2020 has begun with Ky and Jac's class getting stuck straight into their VCAL work, along with some fun during orientation with a trip to Melbourne for Ice Skating. A really fun day was had by all students who attended and it was great to see everyone get up and have a go, Ky was very sad to have to sit on the sidelines in her bubble wrap.

We have begun our first unit on Globalisation, looking at the world and our place in it. As well as our bushfires and animal boxes unit of work.

TAFE has started for VCAL students with most students reporting back that they are enjoying the experience although they are finding the new space and classes challenging at times. This is a great opportunity for them to develop skills in other areas.

We have already had students engage in work experience opportunities this year with Tara at McIvor Road Veterinary Clinic and Liam at Skip's Skateboard shop. Feedback from both workplaces and students is that they have had a really successful start.

We will be working with all students in the group to help them engage with work placement opportunities during the year.

A big thank you to the families for attending our recent ILP meetings.

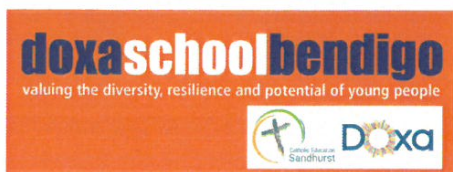
Ky and Jac

Rohan & Carla Doxa's Outreach program

The Doxa pilot outreach program, with Educator Rohan Wightman, and Wellbeing Worker Carla Dullard has been meeting a number of students in off-site locations to engage students in education in a non-school setting. Peppergreen Farm has been a popular choice, and we have secured internet access at the farm and a place to work so students can begin engaging in school work and social and emotional development regularly.

The first few weeks of the program have consisted of getting to know students over various snacks and now we are moving into a more educational and social engagement phase with some of the students. This is the first outreach program operating in Bendigo and generally there has been a good level of engagement from the students.

Rohan & Carla



Dear Parents and Guardians

Our first priority at Doxa School Bendigo is the health and safety of our school community.

I want to reassure you that the school is well prepared for the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus).

We are being provided the latest advice from the Australian and Victorian Chief Medical Officers by the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd to ensure that our school practices are helping to keep our school community safe from the outbreak.

Any incidents that arise will be addressed in accordance with our Critical Incident and Emergency Management Plan. We will also have access to resources and support from Catholic Education Melbourne and the Department of Health and Human Services.

I am aware of concerns about the disruption to teaching and we are planning to ensure continuity of learning for all students.

As parents, you have a critical role in helping the school manage this situation:

- Exercise good judgment by keeping children home if they are feeling unwell for any reason
- Talk to children about the situation, as they may be feeling anxious or stressed. You have a key role in helping students feel prepared and safe
- Encourage children to be proactive and committed to their schoolwork, and to stay connected with the school and their teachers.

The Department of Health and Human Services has a number of resources on its website, which explain the virus, detail risk-reduction practices and behaviours, and answer frequently asked questions. These are available at www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

You can also find information about Catholic education's response at <http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents>.

This is an evolving situation, but we will keep you updated as things change.

I ask that you continue to work closely with the school and to contact me should you have any new concerns.

Thank you for your support as we work to keep our students safe.

Yours Sincerely

John Russell
Principal