

# doxaschoolbendigo

valuing the diversity, resilience and potential of young people

July 2022



## A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Hello Families and Friends,

Welcome to the second half of our school year. Term 3 promised to be a good one with our Camps program moving ahead at pace. There are two overnight camps planned this term, one to Warrnambool where visits to the Shipwreck Coast and Tower Hill are amongst a range of planned activities and the other to Marysville where a trip to Lake Mountain and the snow is amongst a range of fun outdoor activities planned. Lou and the Student Experiences team have done a great job in planning and preparing students for the camps. A special mention to Lou as well for her fast foot work in organising the Marysville Camp in a weekend after some earlier plans fell through. Not all students are comfortable going away overnight and there will be some day trips organised to allow these students to participate in some of these fun learning experiences.

Thank you to parents and carers for your support through a nasty period of sickness that has impacted the winter months. As I write this we have 4 staff away sick today and the term so far has been marked by staff and student sickness. Can I encourage families to keep students' home if they are unwell, as illness has spread rapidly through the school this winter. Can I also encourage students to RAT test twice weekly or more regularly if they are experiencing COVID symptoms? While most illness in the school has come from colds, Flu and gastro we have had some COVID cases amongst staff and students as well if we continue to maintain good hygiene and COVID safe practices the impact of illness on the school community might be eased. We have experienced lots of days with staff absences and I am grateful to our families for their understanding when we haven't been able to do the normal pick-up or drop-off activities.

We will welcome Emma back from leave in the next week or so and farewell Colleen as she takes a well-deserved break for a few weeks. Thanks to Amy who has been helping in the office while Emma has been away and will also help cover for Colleen.

Attached to this Newsletter is a letter to parents and carers explaining that I will also be going on Long Service Leave later this term and will then be retiring from my role as Principal of Doxa School. Vanessa will be standing in as Acting Principal in my absence and Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd have begun the process of seeking and appointing a new Principal commencing in January 2023. I look forward to catching up with families to thank you for your support and certainly will have the opportunity to do this at our Awards Celebration in December.

The year is rushing by and I trust our parents and carers to continue to encourage your students to do their best to achieve their goals and be the best they can be for the remainder of the year. The pressure is on our VCAL students particularly to finalise course work by the required deadlines and I know that students' success requires their hard work but also the support of their school support staff as well their family's encouragement. It's a team effort.

Thanks folks, stay well and Gods blessings,

John

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE TRAPS

## AMINDA'S CLASS

The students in Aminda and Claire's room have returned from the break ready to learn in Term 3.

We have been busy learning about persuasive writing and exploring its use in the real world such as in advertisements and politics. We have started to read the young adult classic novel 'The Outsiders' which has been a highlight for us every week. We have been learning about finding the mean, median, mode and range of a set of data.

We are excited about the upcoming camps available for us this term and we have been doing a lot of planning in preparation for our trip.

We hope that everyone in our Doxa community has had a great start to Term 3!

**Aminda & Claire**

## RUTH'S CLASS

Welcome back, we are already at Term 3 which is hard to believe. The year is moving quickly with so much still to do with in the classroom.

This term students will be learning about Inferencing, Persuasive writing and continuing with the terrific work all of the students have been doing on their spelling.

As well as this we will be covering all topics of numeracy including Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability. All students sit a pre-test on topics and move through the levels of achievements as they complete the topics.

We have also introduced a passion project this term for students that wish to push themselves and work on a project of interest.

Some students are undertaking tasks around Mountain Bike Riding, Cooking, Athletics and Art. We look forward to seeing the wonderful work the students produce at the end of term.

Camps are back and we have been working hard as a whole school to help prepare the students for this opportunity. Notes will come home soon and if you or your student have any concerns, please contact the class phone and we can do our best to help you out.

ILP Days are in week 5 and Colleen and Amy will be in touch soon before this date to book in times.

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you all at the ILP's.

**Ruth and Tony**

**CHECK OUT THE DOXA FACEBOOK PAGE AND  
SEE WHAT WE GOT UP TO TODAY**



## New Child Safe Standards

As of the 1st of July, this year, the Victorian Government introduced some updated 'Child Safe Standards' with the intention of building on the effectiveness of the existing 7 standards. The new 11 standards will also ensure Victoria is aligned more closely with similar standards in other states/territories across the rest of the country.

The original 7 Child Safe Standards were introduced in Victoria in 2016 and organisations that were able to effectively implement these standards should find the 11 new standards add value to the existing work they are doing regarding Child Safety. That has been our experience here at Doxa School as we implemented a number of strategies, and enhanced some others, to ensure we are compliant.

We will have updated information about these new standards up around the school and on our website shortly, and we will describe the work we do to meet each of these expectations as part of that. For now, for your information, the new Child Safe Standards are as follows:

1. Cultural Safety - Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued
2. Leadership, Governance and Culture - Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture
3. Empowerment and Participation - Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously
4. Family Engagement - Families and communities are informed, and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing
5. Equity and Diversity - Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice
6. Staff Suitability - People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice
7. Complaints Processes - Processes for complaints and concerns are child focused
8. Education and Training - Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training
9. Physical and Online Environments - Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed
10. Review and Improvement - Implementation of the child safe standards is regularly reviewed and improved
11. Policies and Procedures - Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE TRAPS cont.

### LOU'S CLASS

It's been a great start to the new term for our group, students should be very proud of their attendance so far and their willingness to 'get in and have a go' at different opportunities. Students are working with support, to prepare for camp by engaging in camp prep sessions with their camp group and individually with Carla.

As we get closer to camps, we encourage student and families to keep talking with each other and letting us know if there are things that we can help with. One really great way to get ready for camps is to attend school as much as possible and participating in the best way you can.

We look forward to seeing what the rest of the term brings and are so grateful to be able to witness the growth of our young people. Keep up the great work everyone.

Lou & Carla

### KY'S CLASS

Term 3 has been busy already! Camp preparations are well on the way and everyone has been very flexible about the camp change from Roses Gap to Marysville. I know many are excited about heading to the snow. Some other students have opted to head to the beach for fishing and ship wrecks in Warrnambool. Everyone is getting ready and we hope everyone will be safe, kind and curious during our time away.

ILPs are coming up and students and parents are encouraged to attend again to keep up-to-date with goals and VCAL progress. It would be great to see parents who haven't been able to make it yet.

We hope that everyone is keeping warm and well.

Ky and Jac

### SHED WITH JACKO

Term three in 'shed' has seen all four classes start their metal units.

Students have begun by creating small quick metal projects, garden snails and hanging brackets, using basic metal working tools, some selected power tools and some students have even made their way into the welding bay.

Moving forward we will see students choose projects from a selection of plans and ideas and then hopefully start to do some individualised projects. If you have anything that you need made, or would like made, it would be a great time to start a conversation with your young person so we can start to work through some design ideas.

Cheers Jacko

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE TRAPS cont.

## Important Dates to remember



Monday 8th August - Student free day due to ILP meetings 9am to 4pm

Tuesday 9th August - ILP meetings 12.30pm to 4pm

Thursday 11th August - ILP meetings 12.30pm to 4pm

Tuesday 16th August - Student Free day due Curriculum Day

Thursday 18th August - Book week dress up day

Monday 22nd to Thursday 25th August - Warnambool Camp

Friday 26th August - Johns last day

Monday 29th August to Thursday 1st September - Marysville Camp

Tuesday 6th September - Student Free day due to staff training

Friday 16th September - Last day of term 3

## DOXA CAMPS

It is an exciting time at Doxa School as we are all in the swing of preparing for Camps later in the term. Our camp to Warnambool will run in week 7, with our new option, Marysville, being the following week, in week 8.

While the prospect of attending camp, after being unable to for the last two years is exciting, it is important that students are participating in discussions about how they'll be able to work with support to manage themselves through the challenges that they will face. Our camp preparation sessions also include opportunities to think through the activities on offer and how we can make sure everyone has a great time by being Safe, Kind and Curious.

It is really important that students, staff and families are able to talk through camp options; as always, students cannot attend camps without having discussions with class teams, usually during ILP meetings or over the phone.

You will have, by now, received a camp package of notes, please return these ASAP. You will have noticed that there is no cost listed on this paperwork, this is not an error. At Doxa School, we believe that opportunities such as camps and excursions, should not be a financial burden and would like all of our students to participate in the camps program.

The "Medication Authority" form is for anyone taking medication regularly, including over the counter medication such as, paracetamol or ibuprofen, and **MUST** be signed by a Dr prior to camp.

If there is anything on the "What to Pack" list that you will need assistance accessing, please get in touch with your class team soon.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding camps, please get in touch with your student's class team.

### The Doxa Camp team





July 25<sup>th</sup> 2022.

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to let you know that I am intending to retire from my role of Principal of Doxa School at the end of this year. Many of you would have been informed of this by your student but I know some of you may not have known this.

I intend to take long-service leave from August the 29<sup>th</sup> until the end of the school year. During this period Vanessa will act as Principal and the school Leadership Team will support her to maintain a consistent and ongoing approach to how our school supports its students and families. The teachers and wellbeing workers that support you will continue to ensure it will be business as usual.

While I plan to do some traveling during term 4, I will be back to celebrate the end of the year with students and families at our Awards Evening in early December. This will give me an opportunity thank you all for the support you have provided me and our school while you have been a member of the Doxa School community.

The process of selecting a new Principal for our community has begun and will be undertaken by Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited. The role has been widely advertised and a new Principal should be appointed by the start of term 4. The new Principal will begin in their role in January 2023.

If you have any questions regarding this change of leadership of our community please don't hesitate to contact me. I am confident that this transition will be a smooth one and that the people managing the selection process will choose the best candidate to lead the Doxa School community into the future.

Thank you again for your ongoing support and I'm sure I will catch up with many of you in the coming weeks or the end of the year.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John Russell'.

John Russell  
Principal  
Doxa School Bendigo

## Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) On School Students with Disability

### What is the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data?

Schools must now complete the *Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)* every year. It counts the number of students who receive additional adjustments or “help” at school because of a disability. The NCCD helps governments plan for the needs of students with disability.

### Who is counted in the data collection?

To count a student in the NCCD, schools must think through some key questions:

1. Is the student getting help at school so that they can take part in education on the same basis as other students?
2. Is the help given because of a disability? The word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA) and it can include many students.
3. Has the school talked to you or your child about the help that they provide?
4. Has the school kept records about the help they provide, the student needs and the reasons that the student needs this help? The school will need to keep copies of tests, student work, assessments, records of meetings, medical reports or other paperwork and information about how the student’s learning is moving along over time.

Once the school decides that the student should be counted in the NCCD, they then choose a disability group and one of four levels of help that has been given to the student.

### What does the word ‘disability’ mean in the NCCD?

In the NCCD the word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA). There are four types of disability that the school can choose from: sensory, cognitive, social-emotional and physical.

Many students that need help at school can be counted in the NCCD. For example, students with learning problems, e.g. specific learning disability or reading difficulty (sometimes called dyslexia), health problems (e.g. epilepsy or diabetes), physical disability (e.g. cerebral palsy), vision/hearing loss and social-emotional problems (e.g. selective mutism, Autism Spectrum Disorder, anxiety).

Letters from doctors or specialists can be very helpful for schools as they plan how to support students with their learning. Schools do not need to have these letters before they can count a

student in NCCD. Teachers can use all that they know about the student's learning and the records that they have collected over time to decide if a student can be counted in the NCCD.

### **What sort of help does the school give students?**

Students need different types of help at school. Some students need a little help sometimes while other students need a lot of help nearly all the time. The type of help given depends on the needs of the student. The help can include changes to the school buildings or grounds (e.g. ramps or things like special desks or chairs), extra teacher help in classes, special learning programs, changes to the work they give the student or extra adult help.

### **How will the NCCD be different this year?**

All schools have been counting students in the NCCD since 2015. The government will use the NCCD data as part of the funding to schools.

### **What will the school need to know about my child for the NCCD?**

Schools work together with families to understand the needs of each child. It is helpful if families give their child's teacher a copy of any letters or reports they have. The letters or reports will help the school understand the child and the help that they might need. Letters from doctors, psychologists, speech pathologists, doctor, and occupational therapists etc. can be very helpful for schools. These reports along with information that the teacher has (i.e. school based tests, your child's work and learning plans) helps the school to understand and meet your child's needs.

### **What happens to the NCCD data? Who will have the NCCD information?**

Each school principal must check the NCCD data in August of each year. The school will give the information to the Catholic Education Office. The school will work with the Catholic Education Office to make sure that the NCCD data is OK before they give the data to the government. The government will not be given the names of any students or any letters or records. Please ask your school for their privacy policy if you need to know more.

### **Does the school need me to agree with them about counting my child in the NCCD?**

Amendments were made to the [Australian Education Act 2013](#) and [Australian Education Regulation 2013](#). Schools do not need you to agree to let them count a child in the NCCD. You cannot ask the school not to count your child.

### **Where can I find out more?**

Please contact your child's school if you have further questions about the NCCD and/or refer to the national [NCCD Portal](#).