

doxa school bendigo

valuing the diversity, resilience and potential of young people

March 2022



A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

The year has started well and it is great to see how well many of our new students have settled into the routine of school and joined our community in such a positive way. I'm sure many families are keeping up with what is happening at Doxa through our Facebook page thanks to Colleen's great work in keeping things up to date.

As well as our new students we also have a new staff member in Peter Smith. He has joined our team to help out in all class groups by picking up roles to replace teachers as needed and to support students with one to one tutoring. He is an experienced teacher with much to offer our school and I would like to welcome him as he joins the Doxa family.

COVID is still an ongoing concern for us and the wider community. As a school we have specific requirements we need to follow, which include all staff having been fully vaccinated (3 doses), and all visitors to the school including parents and guardians being fully vaccinated as well. While some restrictions have been eased or lifted we are still doing our best to keep our community safe and well. Our cleaning and sanitising routines are continuing, and we are required to Rapid Antigen test twice weekly. Can I please remind parents and carers to keep students' home if they are ill or display some COVID 19 symptoms?

We have already had a number of students and staff who have had to isolate themselves as household contacts, but fortunately, no one who has had COVID during the school year so far.

It has been pleasing to see our attendance levels have been healthy most days and I would certainly encourage all students to do their best to build their attendance.

Congratulations to those students who have started their VET studies at TAFE or are continuing on from last year. They are doing well. Thank you also to the staff members who attend with the students to support their learning at TAFE. Our experience over the past couple of years is that our VET students experience real success after they leave Doxa School as a result of the confidence they gain in participating in the VET program. It was fantastic to see that one of our past students Cody Newlan won the pre-apprentice of the year award at TAFE for his efforts last year, and there are a number of other past students who have found their passion and started a journey on a successful pathway into further study and work. Well done to all of them.

Thank you to all the families who have attended Individual Learning Plan (ILP) meetings this week and to those who will attend in the next couple of weeks. I really appreciate the incredible support our parents and carers provide to help your students and our staff in the work we do together to help our young people be the best they can be. Sometimes the journey through school can be a tough one and it is courageous of many of our students to face the challenges they do. I know that the staff here and the families that surround them want the best for them and it is important that we all work together to help them achieve success.

Well done to our students for a positive start to 2022 and to our families for their ongoing support.

John

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

AMINDA'S CLASS

It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through our first term in 2022. It has been a great start in Aminda and Claire's space here at Doxa. We are happy to see the return of some familiar students as well as welcoming some new faces!

Just like any school, we have started the year with a lot of testing. The students have had a good crack and should be proud of their achievements! We have started off our math's unit by revisiting negative numbers and practicing solving problems with the correct order of operations. We have kicked off our writing unit with some narrative writing. We are wrapped to see some busy brains creating some unique and interesting stories.

The students have also had a chance to play around with some emerging technology at the Bendigo Tech School. We look forward to what the rest of the term brings!

Aminda & Claire

THE MORE THE MERRIER!

As we come toward the half-way point of the term, we know that the energy of beginning another school year can start to wear off. As a result, getting to school can be just a little bit harder and take more effort for some.

Research tells us that students do better in life when they can be a part of school as much as they possibly can, so we're here to help. Let's work together to give students every opportunity to be at school, so if a little more support is needed (perhaps emotional support to get through the door, or transport help, or maybe some extra reassurance about how they can get home when they need to leave) have a chat with their key support staff at school - they'll be more than happy to help.

We also have some students with adjusted timetables as we help them get used to Doxa School and then build up from there. Part of our role is also helping students to build their stamina to be able to participate for full days, and we look forward to helping all students achieve this as best they can throughout the year.

Ultimately, our aim is to make sure all students attend school as much as they are able to. If you think there are different things we can do to allow this to happen, then please get in touch.

Nick Grainger
Wellbeing team

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE TRAPS cont.

RUTH'S CLASS

What a terrific start to the year. Our students are very settled and have enjoyed getting to know all the new students in our community. We have had many opportunities to get out and about and spend time as a class group learning about each other in a safe, kind and curious way.

We have explored our regions parks and have been yabbing at Smart Dam in Axedale. We have also penciled in some future dates to go fishing and swimming.

Ruth's is the teacher in the class and will work individually with your child to help develop a learning plan and resources for them to achieve their very best throughout the year. Tony's role in our class is wellbeing. He will have individual support sessions with your child and help set individual goals again so they will learn and grow in a supported environment. Ruth and Tony will also deliver weekly SEL sessions developing your child's social and emotional literacy.

We are really looking forward to working with our students and their families and we welcome you all to Doxa.

If you need to contact Tony or Ruth please phone or message our class phone on: 0468710119

If your child is away, please notify the school office on: (03) 54428140 or the school mobile number on: 0417108870

Thank you,
Ruth and Tony



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE TRAPS cont.

KY'S CLASS

The start to the year has been a busy one in the VCAL room. We have welcomed new students into the space and are developing our teamwork skills with each other. So far this year we have completed a unit of work around the Chinese New Year, learning about the Chinese Zodiac, Chinese traditions and participating in a Chinese Banquet.

Our current unit of work is titled 'The Kindness Pandemic'. Being Kind is one of our Doxa Expectations, alongside Safe and Curious, so we are using this unit to expand our knowledge in this area and be those to those in our extended community. As part of this unit students are practicing Random Acts of Kindness, a supporting smile for someone in the hallway, a kind word to a friend and of course practicing being kind to ourselves which is sometimes the most difficult part.

VET has started with most students engaging in the VET subjects and enjoying the different style of learning offered at TAFE.

Ky, Jac & Amy

LOU'S CLASS

It's been a great start to the year in our room, with students settling in and getting to know each other. On Monday afternoon 'Safe' sessions we have explored local parks together and have cooked meals for home and had a baking session.

Our ILP meetings have been happening over the last couple of weeks and students are making great progress in building towards completing their first goals for the year.

Thank you to students and families for making the start of 2022 a great one!

Lou & Carla

Important Dates to remember

- Monday 14th March - Labour Day public holiday
- Friday 8th April - Last day of term 1
- Friday 15th April - Good Friday
- Sunday 17th April - Easter Sunday
- Monday 25th April - Anzac Day public holiday
- Tuesday 26th April - First Day of term 2



LENT 2022



*Do You Want to Fast
This Lent?*

Fast from hurting words
and say kind words,
Fast from sadness
and be filled with gratitude,
Fast from pessimism
and be filled with hope,
Fast from worries
and trust in God,
Fast from pressures
and be prayerful,
Fast from bitterness
and fill your heart with joy,
Fast from selfishness
and be compassionate to others,
Fast from grudges
and be reconciled,
Fast from words and be silent, so you can listen.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE TRAPS cont.

