

doxaschoolbendigo

valuing the diversity, resilience and potential of young people



June 2020

A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Well here we are half way through the year and like most, I too am looking forward to the term break. What a tiring term this has been for us all. It has almost felt like two terms in one.

When school resumes after the holidays, our cleaning practices, temperature checks and other procedures will remain in place until the health department tell us otherwise. We ask that parents/guardians continue to support our school by keeping their child home if they are unwell or are showing signs of a cold or flu.

Thank you to our students and families for sticking the term out. I know the period of remote learning was difficult for some of our students and other family members. I was pleased to see the level of engagement that many of our students were able to maintain during the first half of the term.

I extend a big thank you to our staff team for their efforts and determination to keep our students engaged in what has been a really challenging time. Hopefully things will return to normal early in term 3, although it seems that COVID 19 will impact all we do for some time to come.

We will continue to maintain our current precautions until further notice including limiting group travel, transport students individually and limit our contact with the broader community. It is unlikely that camps and excursions will occur in the foreseeable future, but, as stated earlier we will be guided by the Chief Health Office and the Education Department as to what will be appropriate.

It was great to hear some positive feedback from families about our online ILP sessions. We love to see our families present on site for meetings but were happy with the outcomes for students and their families during this unusual period. We value our family contact and while it is important that we limit non-staff adults coming into our community we encourage parents and carers to continue to keep in phone contact through the office and their wellbeing support worker as often as required.

We can't wait to reopen our Doxa Café and have our families in for our morning tea's but that is still a little while away. There have been some changes around the school during shutdown especially our beautiful new outdoor area. The new space is already being used during break times, even though the days have been a bit cooler.

I pray that all our families continue to remain in good health and take care as the current health emergency looks set to continue for some time. I hope all our students and their families enjoy the upcoming school break and re-join us ready for a more settled term 3.

Kind regards and many thanks,
John Russell

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 13th July - Students return for first day of term 3
Thursday 13th and Friday 14th August - Student free days for staff training
Friday 18th September - Last day of term 3



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'S CLASS

Hi all, early on in term 2 when we were beginning remote learning, we had a theme of "we are going to make mistakes" and "that's OK". As a team we then discussed how it is what we learn from these mistakes that drives us to being able to move forward and adapt to the challenges of what this term has held. Brad, Tony and Amy have all witnessed some remarkable resilience demonstrated from the boys over this process. Since returning to school, the boys did not take long to settle back into a calm routine. Recently, they have been enjoying learning about money and finance in math's and using persuasive devices to write sponsorship letters. Have a look at Austin's below.

Thank you for all of your support over this term and we look forward to kicking into term 3.

Brad, Tony & Amy

My name is Austin, I'm 14 and I love boxing and doing all kinds of fitness activities. I started getting into fitness through my first year of football. I'm a very energetic person. I love helping new people to like fitness in all ways possible. I attend Doxa school Bendigo but our problem at Doxa is that we don't have enough room for a lot of activities, we would like to do such as kicking a football.

At Doxa the purpose of our school is to provide the students with an opportunity to learn more skills and ways to figure out problems, in a different way but a lot easier for the students to understand. At Doxa the teachers encourage the students to learn academics in a different way to mainstream school.

Doxa provides a way to help students learn in a different way, that helps them because of their learning roadblocks. This is my first year at Doxa and I reckon that, I've seen that I can get by the troubles that I have in learning to figure a new way to solve them. Doxa has shown me that I'm not going to get everything that I want and that's ok because I can get by it.

*Austin
Doxa School Y8*



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE TRAPS cont.

RUTH'S CLASS

Hi everyone,

What a term we have had. It begun in a way no one could have anticipated. I would like to say a big thank you to all the students and their families for the way they undertook remote learning at the beginning of term.

It was a lot of work in the background from all the staff at Doxa who worked extra hard to make sure our students had the best possible start to the term.

Some students loved the online learning while others struggled at times to find their way and that was ok. We worked together and got through it.

It was lovely to see the students return to school in week 6 and they slowly returned to the routine of the classroom.

We have had the opportunity to engage in ILP meetings with parents and they were very positive for the students to engage and reset achievable goals for term 3 and beyond.

Students have been working on the English and Numeracy components of their learning and we have introduced some small STEM sessions as our students like to complete hands on tasks. SELs sessions are going well with Claire and are held on a weekly basis as well as their individual sessions with some wonderful, meaningful conversations and activities.

Students will be working with Claire and Amy to deliver their resumes to local businesses over the coming weeks as they have identified that this is an important pathway for them to gain some casual employment and give them something to strive for. Please talk to your child about this as they are all very keen on this next chapter of their journey.

Shed has also been available to the students even though it is not in the way it previously has been the students are completing some great tasks with Jacko.

Some of the students have completed some Skateboard ART as well after researching the history of Skate Art and have done some terrific work.

Keep up the great work everyone, enjoy your break and stay safe.

Ruth, Claire & Amy



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE TRAPS cont.

LOU'S CLASS

Congratulations to each and every member of our class; you've made it through what has, at least in my time, been the most challenging school term ever!

From the very beginning of the term all of you have managed yourselves through in the best way you possibly could. Thank you for allowing us to have human contact every day while we were engaged in remote learning. I really looked forward to seeing you all, either through our online daily check ins or remotely, while I was at home and you were on-site.

The remote learning time was certainly different, thank you to the students and families for making it as easy as it could've been. Since returning to on-site learning most of our young people have settled back in nicely. Those who haven't quite made it back in regularly, are working really well with their wellbeing workers to set goals and plan to re-join the community. Well done everybody!

When we return next term, students will continue to be able to participate in a range of activities during our afternoon program that see us remain on-site or very close to school, with the use of school vehicles continuing to be limited to essential, single student travel only.

If they haven't already, students are encouraged to return their Chromebooks and chargers to the school; if you have any concerns or questions about this please just call the office.

We hope you all enjoy the term break and return to us well rested and ready to resume learning in a couple of weeks.

Lou, Mick, Nick & Lillie

KY'S CLASS

It is great to be together as a group again after remote learning. We missed the students and although they were both really impressed with the level of commitment and engagement from most students, it is nice to be back in the classroom.

The transition back to onsite learning has been relatively smooth with all students now back in the classroom. We have used this time to finish tasks from the remote learning period as well as complete small teamwork tasks, to help in refining these important employability skills. These activities have included in-class challenges, organising to have the "Safe, Kind and Curious" magnets sent to everyone and escape rooms. Students are enjoying the challenge that these types of activities offer. The Intermediate VCAL students are working in a team to provide lunch to the school for the shared lunch on a Friday, so far we have had pies, lasagne and chicken rolls. This program is set to continue into term 3 as it enables students to complete several of their Intermediate VCAL requirements.

Students engaged in TAFE and VET studies are starting to transition back to on campus delivery, with (at the time of writing) all but 3 subjects being back on campus. Hopefully all subject areas will be back on campus early in term 3 to allow students to complete the practical side of their VET learning. As discussed in ILP's VET is an important part of students VCAL curriculum.

We wish everyone a safe term break and look forward to what term 3 brings.

Ky, Jac and Lillie

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE TRAPS cont.

ROHAN'S CLASS

OUTREACH - REACHING OUT.

In the beginning of 2020 Doxa School began trialing at Outreach program working with students who couldn't come on-site. We began the year taking students to café's around Bendigo, mainly Peppergreen Farm. This was very successful. The students enjoyed working in different locations, and loved the Pizza and other food available to them. By the beginning of term 2 teaching had become remote and a number of students still engaged in schooling in this new environment.

More recently, when all students returned to school the Outreach students had to come into Doxa as we were unable to sit in cafes. We had planned to bring the students into school much later in the year but circumstances meant that was bought forward. The students who started coming on-site have done very well engaging in the new space and increasing their time and days at Doxa and have become familiar figures around the place. This has been fantastic to see as engagement at Doxa was, for many students, the eventual plan. Their desire and ability to come into Doxa to continue their education is a testament to their resilience and the relationship -based teaching and learning that is the Doxa Education model.

Students began the program focusing on interest-based work, including space, café reviews, sharks, mechanics and measuring and building. Students have moved onto a combination of interest based and foundational learning now.

Some outreach students have excelled in the remote learning environment and the knowledge gained by staff in having to do this has translated into a flexible learning environment allowing students to continue their learning off-site and engaging in VCAL to a high degree, which has resulted in activities, such as setting up a small business to take place. The pictures of the cakes being produced sure look delicious.

All in all, the Outreach program has reached out to students who needed it, providing them with an education and path into engagement at Doxa that may not have been possible without this innovative program.

Rohan & Carla

SHED WITH JACKO

This semester in Shed has been disrupted like everything else seems to have been around the world. Unfortunately, due to the new required cleaning and hygiene procedures in place at the moment Shed has been suspended and will not be open for the foreseeable future.

In saying that, there are still Shed/Technology sessions for each of the four classes throughout the week. We have started by exploring early energy sources going right back to prehistoric times when fire was the number 1 technology known to man. We have made Wind powered and rubber band powered vehicles.

Term 3 we are starting to begin some electronics that we can set up in the classroom and continue to develop new skills like soldering and building simple circuits. Hopefully this will present an engaging learning opportunity that appeals to some students.

Shed will be back as soon as it is suitable and we will work hard to complete the Habitat Boxes that we started for the Bushfire habitat restoration project in Gippsland and get back to making/breaking and burning/learning.

Jacko

**"All students can learn
and succeed, but not in
the same way and not in
the same day."**

WILLIAM G. SPADY

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE TRAPS cont.

Hello everyone

What a really different term we've all been through. Hopefully there are no more surprises coming our way and Term Three is much more 'usual' in the way that we are used too. Even if this is not the case, we feel very confident that we can get through things again as a school community.

Many of you will have received our school 'Safe', 'Kind' and 'Curious' magnets by now (if not, they're on the way!) and we hope they help to serve as a reminder of the things that we believe are really important. We'd love some feedback regarding these so let us know what you think. There are also some other things we're working on to continue to make sure we keep our school expectations in the front of our minds, so stay tuned for these.



If you're in the school early next term you might also notice some new bits and pieces that are happening on-site. Firstly, we'll have a new tv in the corner of our corridor with some nice reminders and photos on rotation. Second, the outside fence near our entrance will have some new signs going up soon that remind us all school expectations. Similarly, thirdly, the inside of the school fence is getting a makeover with some artwork going up. Students will be invited to be a part of this wherever possible. It should complement how our updated back yard is coming along.



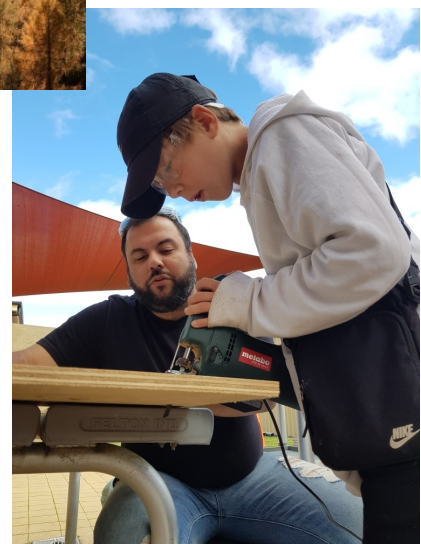
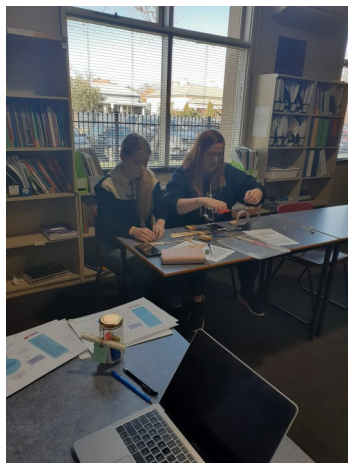
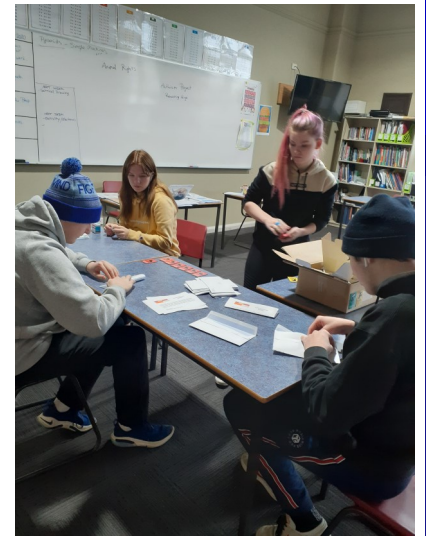
Finally, can we wish everyone a very safe (and kind, and curious!) next fortnight and we'll look forward to starting things back up again for a big Term Three.

Best Wishes,

Nick (on behalf of the PoPPI Group)



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE TRAPS cont.



Other useful information for families

CatholiCare Sandhurst CCS



What's on in 2020.....

Term 3

Please check out What's On across the Region in Term 3, 2020

Download the Term 3 'What's On across the Region' Newsletter here

<https://ccds.org.au/newsletters/>

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Information for parents, guardians & carers



Click on the link below to access the NCCD website for more information

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