

doxaschoolbendigo

valuing the diversity, resilience and potential of young people

July 2020



A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to semester 2 and the 'winter' term, as well as a time of uncertainty regarding COVID 19. The term has started well for most of us although there have been a few staff members and students who have been a little unwell. I have been pleased to see that staff and students are staying home if they are unwell and not spreading sickness through the school. This does mean we are having some slightly higher absences, but, it also helps to keep us well.

We will be continuing to operate the school program as we did in the second half of term 2 with lots of washing and sanitising of hands, temperature checks and appropriate use of protective equipment. Student transport in our buses is still limited though we are thinking creatively about how we can participate in some off-site activities in outdoor areas away from the school. We will not be conducting excursions or camps this term at this stage, and we will continue to limit non-staff adults from entering the school. We have been lucky in our region so far but the recent cluster of COVID cases from KR Castlemaine is a timely reminder that we can't be complacent.

While the current situation does impact us in some ways we are still managing to provide a program that meets the needs of our students and it is a credit to the staff team in the way they are supporting our young people. Credit must also go to the students who have "just got on with it" with few complaints and a smile.

Make sure you stay in touch with what is going on in the Doxa School community through Facebook and our website and if you have any concerns or questions please contact Colleen or Emma, who will gladly provide the information or support you might need.

As always, thanks for your ongoing support of our school, remember to maintain vigilance in the current public health situation, keep your child home if they are unwell, and, all do your very best to stay in good health.

Kind regards and God Bless,

John Russell

IMPORTANT DATES

Thurs 13th & Fri 14th August - Student Free Days for staff training

Mon 24th August - Whole school ILP day

Fri 18th Sept - Last day of term 3



Ways to contact the school on 54428140 or 0417 108 870 or message us on Facebook

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE TRAPS

BRAD'S CLASS

Hello supporters. So far in term 3, we have experienced some wonderful attendance, throughout challenging global circumstances and celebrated our academic success.

The classroom has been concentrating on some team goals -

- **Being calm.** With strong structure being encouraged daily for each student to find their own calmness.
- **Raising the academic bar.** All students are being provided with the opportunity to show their potential, with staff encouraging them to strive for higher achievements.
- **Being heard.** Students are daily being encouraged to appropriately discuss their individual challenges.
- **Moving forward.** Students are being encouraged and supported to not get discouraged when they make mistakes but rather 'what's next.'
- **Celebrating success.** Students are being sessionally congratulated for their achievements.

With these themes Brad, Tony and Amy have all noted a general calmer classroom environment, students engaging more with work tasks, students discussing difficult challenges, students resolving issues and students being proud of their success' each day. Thank you to all of our supporters and to our boys who are doing an amazing job. Keep going boys.

Brad, Tony and Amy

RUTH'S CLASS

This term has started off well. The students are settled and glad to be back in the classroom. We have been working through our literacy and numeracy tasks daily and have added some STEM sessions to boost the hands-on experience of the classroom.

This week we have started our Indigenous Unit where we are developing a greater cultural understanding and to recognise identity and connection to Indigenous Australians and the land.

Students are collecting "wonderings" (questions) which they will have the opportunity to ask a local Aboriginal man by the name of Troy Firebrace on the 5th of August. Troy works at the CEO office and will be joining our community through a WEB EX to talk to the students and perform on the didgeridoo.

The students have been learning all about our local Dja Dja Wurrung people and the land and will continue this learning throughout the term.

Scott has been busy with the students on Fridays in Shed and they are all enjoying this time creating and discussing different energies and how it all works.

Students are busy reviewing their ILP goals with Claire in preparation for ILP interviews in week 6.

Until next time,

Ruth, Claire & Amy

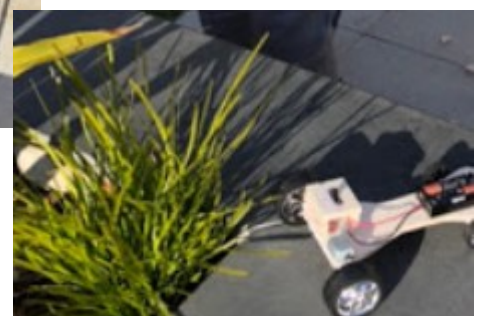
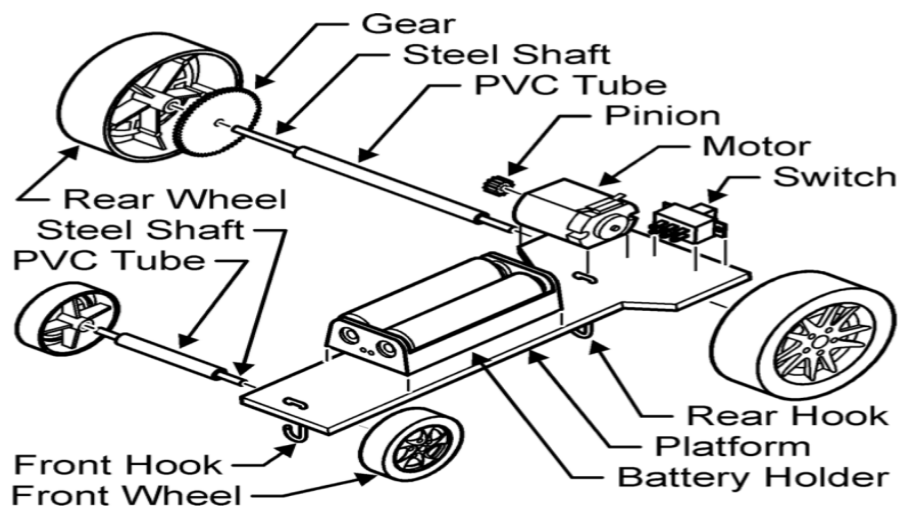
WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE TRAPS cont.

SHED WITH JACKO

This term in Shed we have started to work on simple electrical circuits. We are looking at what electricity is and how it is applied in day to day living. After some basic circuits we are currently making a small Dragster. It has a small electric motor that drives a gear and pinion direct to the axle. This involves a basic circuit that has a battery pack and a switch that needs to be soldered and gives our students the chance to explore and develop another skill. Students will get the chance to race their Dragster and look at gear ratio, acceleration and speed.

Jacko

In the words of Ricky Bobby "I wanna go fast".



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE TRAPS cont.

LOU'S CLASS

It has been great to spend some time together in what has been a somewhat "normal" start to Term 3, albeit with a few more absences than normal due to illness. As we move into the busy time of the term, with upcoming ILP meetings, students have been working hard to work towards achieving their goals and setting new ones with Lou and their wellbeing worker.

Well done to Henry who has managed to attend everyday this term and has shown fantastic growth in a number of areas. Xanthe and Henry had great fun making catapults as part of Maths last week and Xanthe and Rheanna spent time making fabric masks in class.

Congratulations to Brandon and Cody who are continuing to maintain their 'star student' status in their VETis classes at Bendigo Tafe.

Please remember students are required to wear masks on their travels to school and will be encouraged to wear them while at school too; although we are able to be flexible around this while students are on site due to our status as a specialist setting.

Lou, Mick, Lillie



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE TRAPS cont.

KY'S CLASS

We would like to start with a 'thank you' to all students, parents and guardians who are patiently waiting for daily updates and adjusting to this everchanging situation we are in. Monday marks another change with students and staff able to wear masks. There is a link to the DHHS website included in this newsletter if you require more information. Ky and I are available to answer questions or chat about how these changes are impacting your student or family.

In class we have been working on our Activism topic as well as learning about the political and social issues surrounding the 'COVID towers' in Melbourne. Some students are showing a great interest in social justice and class conversations have been very exciting to be a part of.

After next week we will be starting a new round of electives. We have been attempting to encourage students to work on a project in the art elective and this time it was 'model making'. Some of the students have finished their projects from this round and are helping others to complete their models. It's been great to see students so motivated to complete the models, even when they required so much patience and attention. Great work everyone.

Ky, Jac & Lillie



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE TRAPS cont.

In order to be compliant with the recent requirements that will be implemented for Victorians to wear face masks in public, a number of Doxa students have embraced the new changes with a positive attitude. Although the restrictions are not in action until the 2nd of August at 11:59pm, Dylan, Liam and Riley have decided to be conscious of their duty to protect themselves and those around them by wearing a face mask. If you require more information about facemasks and schools please head to -

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/face-coverings-regional-victoria-coronavirus-covid-19>

It is great to see young members of the school being proactive and ensuring that they are being Kind, Safe and Curious around the community. Great job boys!

