



**CRONULLA SOUTH
PUBLIC SCHOOL**



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Newsletter - Term 1 Week 1

Principal's Message

Welcome back to the 2021 school year. I hope that you all had a fantastic break from the routines of school over the holiday period. I think it is fair to say that we had the full mix of weather from cold to hot and dry to rain. Fortunately, we had no major disasters to contend with and the NSW Government and community has done an amazing job of keeping us COVIDsafe, be it with some necessary restrictions.

In this newsletter, you'll see some information about changes coming up related to our newsletter as well as an update on COVIDsafe restrictions and procedures for the beginning of school. We will also be repeating some information about Stage and Composite classes and the years 3 to 6 Bring Your Own Device program from the end of last year.

As we prepare for the new school year, it is good to get your children back into the schedules of the day and speak positively to them about the expectations around the school. They will be out that routine, which is a good thing, though, it will be good to remind them tomorrow about lunchtimes and recess times and perhaps coordinate eating around these times. I know that many will be looking forward to seeing their friends again and the good news for reflection is we only have one day before the weekend.

Friday sees the start of school for our year 1 to 6 students. Information about our new drop off and pick up procedures is provided here. We are mindful that the virus is still active and are keen to ensure that were it to be around the school, it does not come into the school. Please check the update sent earlier this year to you as well as the one contained in this newsletter.

The staff held their first school development session this morning. We looked at the new code of conduct for news staff as well as beginning the conversation around a new professional learning policy which has been updated for the first time in 16 years. Each teacher and SASS staff has their own

professional learning plan which will hook into the high impact of student needs, needs of the school and the professional development should be collaborative, continuous and properly evaluated. We will begin the school year with a conversation that closes off the 2020 professional development plans as well as a discussion about goals for 2021. I can tell you we are all raring to go and full of energy.



I am looking forward to attending the 2020 school camp with stage 3 on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday next week as we head to the Great Aussie Bush Camp. Mrs Waring and Ms Galletta and I will be leading the students. While I am away. Ms Pryor will be relieving principal.

Here is to a great 2021. Once again, welcome back.

Newsletter Interval Changes

As we enter the lead up to school, you may be wondering why you are receiving a newsletter at the start of the school year and term. It is a good question as in previous years, the newsletters have been published fortnightly in even weeks of the term. This means that the first newsletter is normally in week 2. We often

felt that as the term starts there is information that we would like to pass onto you which would be old by term 2.

Consequently, we have decided to move the fortnightly newsletter to odd weeks so that we can inform you of news at the beginning. We are also going to try and provide more forward focusing news in our newsletter so that you are informed about what is coming up rather than what has happened. An initiative we started last year was our news team. The intention is that we build the capacity of this team to deliver stories of things that have happened around the school retrospectively and give them the means to do that in a different way, whether it be through print or possibly video.

Our newsletters may be shorter as a result of this, though our feedback from parents is that longer newsletters are not necessarily better. We will certainly also looking to support our Facebook page with more just in time news on happenings around the school as well as updates on matters as they arise via SchoolZine. We'll continue to evaluate this as the changes take effect.

COVID Restrictions - Drop Off and Pickup - Meetings

Drop-off and Pick-up

Further to the information provided on 18 January, the school executive has met and discussions have been held with teachers about how the new restrictions would work at school. Although we are now allowed to have K-2 parents onsite for dropoff we have made a decision to not allow year 1 and 2 parents onsite for drop off at this time. We believe that over the past 25 weeks of school, students developed a maturity to enter school grounds and become settled in the morning. Indeed our observations showed us that the students adapted very well to the boundaries. This coupled with the additional problems of ensuring COVIDsafe behaviour in a small school has led us to make this decision. Once we are allowed for parents of all age groups to enter for drop off and pickup we will change this.

For our new Kindergarten, for the first two weeks at least with the possibility of extension, we will start school each day in the kindergarten COLA area. On the first day (Wednesday 3 February) this is a staggered start. After that, it will be an 8:50am start in this same area. We will continue this until at least the end of week 3 (Friday 12 February), with the possibility of extension. After this, Kindergarten children will start from the southern site and enter without their parents.

Our pickup procedures will remain the same as last year with the exception that years 1 will leave at 2:50 pm. Therefore years 1 and 2 will both leave at 2:50 pm from the northern site and years 3 to 6 at 2:50 pm from the southern site. Kindergarten students in the first week will be picked up at 2:30 pm and from thereafter at 2:40 pm.

An information poster similar to the one last year is being prepared to summarise this.

Meetings

We will now be able to have meetings with teachers on-site by appointment. The meetings will be held in a socially distanced manner and there will be an expectation that you: 1) Checkin with the Service NSW app as well; 2) sign our visitor book. The former is a NSW Government requirement and the latter is for our records as we do not have access to the Service NSW data.

Parent Information 'Meet the Teacher' Sessions

We will be holding Parent Information 'Meet the Teacher' sessions in week 4 of this term. At this stage, we are not certain as to whether this will be an online session for each class or as an onsite meeting. There are restrictions around the allowances for how many parents we can have in a room at one time and this may lead to equitability issues around who can attend. The school Executive will be making a decision on this during this week and it will be further communicated with you as soon as we have some more established plans.

Uniform Shops

Parents will be able to access the P&C uniform shop to access second-hand uniforms. The shop will be available from 9 am to 9:30 am on Thursday mornings. Parents will need to access via the office.

Band

Band will commence again this term and a note will be released on Friday related to this.

PSSA

At this stage, we are anticipating that PSSA can go ahead with a COVIDsafe plan in place. The details of this will be passed onto you as they are announced.

Swimming carnival

Our 3-6 swimming carnival is booked for Monday 22 February at Caringbah Pool. At these events, we currently understand that parents or members of the public are not allowed to attend. Again, further communication will be released on this soon together with accompanying permission and payment notes.

Year 1 to 6 Student's Return - Friday 29 January

This Friday all our year 1 to 6 students will commence school for Term 1. Our Kindergarten parents will also commence their Best Start sessions with Ms Buhagiar, Ms McIntosh and Ms Palmervale.

At this point, we will not be forming classes straight away. Our numbers have been fluctuating and we have to be sure that we have the numbers of students in the school to allow us to form classes correctly. If we were to jump to a formation that was not sustainable it could lead to classes being changed later. Evidence shows that this is not good practice and therefore, we will initially be forming holding classes across years 1 through 6. Therefore, be advised that your child's teacher during this

period may not be the teacher that they will have as their class teacher during the remainder of the year.

As soon as we have some certainty, we will form classes and advise you. We will continue to update you as the situation evolves.

Kindergarten Best Start and First Days of School

We are excited to be welcoming our new Kindergarten students to Cronulla South Public School. Families of incoming Kindergarten students have been emailed their Best Start Assessment times and allocated starting times for their child's First Day of School (Wednesday 3rd February 2021).

Best Start Assessment

The Best Start Kindergarten Assessment is a state-wide assessment that helps show teachers the literacy and numeracy skills of each student at the beginning of Kindergarten. This helps teachers to plan lessons to best support the learning needs of every child.

Children come to school with a range of experiences, skills and abilities. Some are familiar with books, can recognise letters of the alphabet, write their name or count to ten, while others have not yet learned these skills. The Best Start Kindergarten Assessment provides teachers with the opportunity to sit with a child one on one, focusing on what that child can do.

The assessment is not a test but provides teachers with useful information to help support your child's learning at school. If you have any questions regarding the assessment, please contact the school.

Assessment dates and times have been emailed to families of incoming Kindergarten students.

Please bring your child to the foyer on the northern site. You will be met there by one of the Kindergarten teachers who will take your child into the Kindergarten classrooms. The assessment will take approximately 30 minutes and you may remain in the foyer whilst the assessment is undertaken.

First Day at school - Wednesday 3rd February - Drop off

Staggered starting times for the First Day of School have been emailed to families of incoming Kindergarten students.

The teachers will meet students under the Ewos Parade COLA on the northern site at the time indicated above (same location as transition afternoons). Your child will need to wear their full summer uniform and bring their crunch and sip, recess, lunch, drink bottle and a raincoat in their school bag.

Thursday and Friday - Kindergarten Drop off

On Thursday 4th February 2021 and Friday 5th February 2021, the Kindergarten teachers will meet students under the Ewos Parade COLA from 8:20 am. Please remember to leave your child quickly. If they are starting to become upset, please let the teachers know.

First Week - Kindergarten Pick Up

Dismissal will be at 2:30 pm from the gates near the crossing along Trevellyan Street for Wednesday 3rd February, Thursday 4th February and Friday 5th February.

To ensure the safety of all our students' afternoon dismissal occurs in class groupings with parents needing to approach the class teacher for collection. Students are not permitted to leave without an adult present.

Stage and Composite Class Information

This is a very topical and often emotional subject for many parents who worry greatly about a number of things when they hear that their child may be in a stage or composite class. We are keen to address those concerns as we do from time to time have stage and composite classes at Cronulla South Public Schools.

At the end of last year, Friday 4 December 2020, our principal Dr Neil Lavitt and our Kindergarten teacher Mrs Noelle Buhagiar and K-2 Assistant Principal - Ms Sally Pryor got together to have an honest conversation around the issue. The video below can be viewed at your leisure.

https://players.brightcove.net/6129823236001/default_default_t/index.html?videoId=6214018298001

We hope that this dispels some of the myths and conjecture around this subject.

Bring Your Own Device 2021

Cronulla South Public School has as an option a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) program across Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 classes. Our vision is to encourage creative and innovative learning opportunities for students using BYOD as a tool to facilitate and maximise learning.

BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) refers to student's bringing a personal technology device to school to use for educational purposes under the direction of a teacher. For the purposes of BYOD, 'device' refers to a privately owned wireless laptop. This will also ease transitions into high school where students are required to bring their own laptop. Please Note: Cronulla South Public School has made the decision that mobile phones/smartphones/smartwatches and tablets will not be accepted as stated in the attached Digital Devices Use in School Policy.

Students will be able to connect compatible devices to a filtered DoE internet service which will provide safe and secure internet access for students.

There are many reasons to go BYOD at Cronulla South Public School. These include:

- Increased access to online resources.
- Increased access to develop the skills to use technology efficiently and effectively.
- More personalised and differentiated learning is available, eg. Using Google Classroom as a platform and a variety of apps to produce quality pieces of work, adjusted to individual learners' needs.
- Allows students more control of their learning.
- Develops student organisation skills and sense of responsibility.
- Creates future-focused learning environments that can increase student engagement.
- Eases transition to high school where students are required to use laptops more frequently.

Equity is integral to the BYOD initiative at Cronulla South Public School. This is an opt-in program for students who are able to bring in a device. Bringing a device for BYOD is not compulsory and devices will be made available at school for students who are unable to provide their own. However, students will not be allowed to take the school devices home and this is where the advantage of having your own device comes in. BYOD also provides a level of responsibility to students and gives them the opportunity to look after a device and manage things like charging. The school will be providing help to parents on how to ensure that devices are kept safe as well as to ensure that the devices.

A video has been created for the 2021 school year to introduce and provide information to parents about the program.

https://players.brightcove.net/6129823236001/default_default_t/index.html?videoid=6216486536001

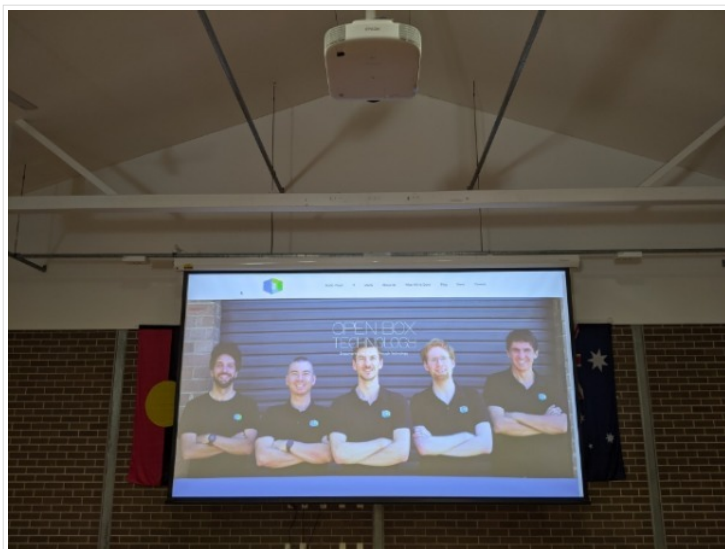
The school has a Parent and Student User Agreement 2021 which together with its Digital Devices Use in School Policy provides information on how the program works.

https://cronullasps.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/2382/csp_bpod_parent_and_student_user_agreement_2021.pdf

We realise that this was aimed at the holiday period, but we thought that a reminder about this may work well for you.

Hall Audio-Visual Upgrade

Last week, the media company Open Box who so wonderfully helped us with our live stream of the Presentation Day assemblies came to the school to fit a new screen and projector as well as some new wiring for the AV setup. This will allow us to use the hall better for functions, as well as make the hall an attractive learning space for the future. The old projector was not up to the task and produced a sub-standard image. There was also only one place that the computer projecting could be plugged in, significantly reducing the capability to present from the front of the room.



Stage 3 Camp

Next week Stage 3 will be attending camp at The Great Aussie Bush Camp at Kincumber on the lovely Central Coast of NSW. This will be a real extravaganza for all the attending students, with opportunities to try out lots of really exciting activities that will really stretch them physically and help build their teamwork. The excursion will be led by Dr Lavitt, Ms Waring and Ms Galletta and the crew of staff at Kincumber are trained to provide an outstanding educational experience.

Today a session via Zoom was held with Logan from the camp and more information will be going home on Friday about the detail of the camp. While Dr Lavitt is offsite, Ms Pryor will be relieving principal. There is a recording of the Zoom link that was sent to all parents. This unlisted YouTube link contains lots of useful information. If you did not get this link, call the school and we will send it to you.

Year 6 Shirts

The order for the Year 6 shirts is now being processed by the producing company and it expected they will arrive in approximately week 4 or 5. We will be beginning the process of collecting monies for these orders shortly. The design is fantastic. Well done Year 6 on the choice.