



Newsletter 8
14.12.2020

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of our first year at Caversham Valley Primary School. It feels just like yesterday when we had our opening day and welcome to country. In between this time, much has happened and changed during the year. The school has grown to 360 children and currently there are 490 children enrolled for the beginning of 2021. However, with the opening of our state boarders it is likely that we will receive more enrolments and could be looking at beginning the school year with more than 500 children.

As we are all aware 2020 has certainly been a year of many changes and opening a new school with children from more than 60 different schools, towns, states and countries; as well as families from many different backgrounds and languages has been an exciting challenge. The impact that COVID-19 had on all of us, meant that our Foundation year was one with many twist and turns. However, throughout it all we have been able to meet every challenge and bond together as a school community. We faced these challenges firmly united and I believe this will hold us in good stead in the future.

Later this week the Semester 2 school reports for your child will be sent home via Connect. This report will provide you with information on how your child has progressed academically as well as socially. It is important that you read through this with your child as it is a starting point for further improvement. When you read through the report you need to take into consideration not just the grade your child has received, but also the comments written by their teachers. Discuss with your child if they are doing their very best every day and during every lesson; are they a good member of our school community; and do they follow our school values. One thing I can say is that every parent should be proud of their child and how they have faced very unusual circumstances with resiliency and maturity this year.

On Tuesday we see our first Year 6 children graduate. Although this is a relatively small group of children, they have set a high standard for all future Year 6 children to follow. They have proven themselves to be quality young people, with great humour, respect and care. I think everyone of us can be proud that they will be the first to take our school name into high-school. I wish each and every single one of them the very best.

On Wednesday we will hold our school concert for the year and the focus will be on 'Resiliency'. If our practice sessions are anything to go by, the concert will be a fun afternoon. We have had limited opportunities for the Caversham Valley Primary School to come together this year due to COVID-19, so we are looking forward to finishing the year with this event and all the staff and students are looking forward to you attending.



Thursday 17 December, is the last day for our students. It will be unusual to not have them around for nearly 6 weeks, however they do need and deserve the break from school. To those who will be elsewhere in 2021, I wish you all the best for your future. I am still planning to send out the draft 2021 class lists later this week. With so many children enrolling there have been many changes in recent weeks and in fact it was only two weeks ago another class had to be created to cater for our increasing number of students. The reality is the number of classes is also governed by the funding we receive.

The teaching staff have worked very hard on making the best possible decisions for the placement of each child. With the latest structure there are very few gaps available for any new enrolments. This means that there is a very high likelihood that classes will change once again before the start of the school year, or very early in 2021. This is unavoidable and totally out of our control as a school. With the rapid change in numbers and with so many children enrolling or leaving there could be a possibility that a name has been missed on a class list. If that is the case for your child, please let the school know. Currently the classes that will not change are the Kindy groups and the straight Pre-Primary classes. The teachers know your children very well in the school setting and they have made the best possible decision on class placements based on this knowledge.

There are many different people that need to be thanked at the end of any school year, let alone at the end of a school's Foundation year, or one that has been so disrupted as 2020 has been. The first group that I will thank is the incredible staff employed at Caversham Valley PS. Throughout the year they have taken on every challenge that has been placed before them. There has been so much uncertainty, whether that was student numbers; COVID-19; and the constant restructuring of classrooms. At every turn the staff have been caring and focused. I am very happy to state that we have incredible staff whether they be in the classroom, front office or around the school grounds. A big thank-you goes to the children that make our school a vibrant and joyful place every day. There has been much uncertainty for them in 2020, but they have shown great resiliency and developed independence throughout it all. They will definitely enjoy the large summer holiday break. And finally to our parents; thank-you for the trust you have put in the school and staff. For many families that enrolled at our school when we did not yet exist, was an incredible act of faith and throughout the year we have developed important relationships based on trust and respect. Next year, when hopefully routines return to some kind of normal before COVID-19, we look forward to continuing to build upon our relationships with families and the community. On behalf of the staff, we thank-you for facing this challenging year with us with humour, understanding and grace. We feel very privileged and lucky to be a part of this community!

On our school website, you will find many important dates for the 2021 school year, such as pupil free days, swimming lessons, and public holidays amongst many other events. Please take the time to have a look at these important dates for 2021.

I wish everyone an enjoyable rest and break over the summer holidays. I hope it is a wonderful time with family and friends and that you come back refreshed and ready for a new school year on Monday 1 February 2021.

George Craig
PRINCIPAL
CAVERSHAM VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL