



Pindari Post : News From Mill Park Heights PS

5th August 2020



MILL PARK HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL VALUES:

RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, HONESTY & TRUST, CARE & COMPASSION, PERSONAL BEST AND TEAM WORK

OUR VISION:

Our students can be critical and creative thinkers who are resilient and valuable contributors to a global society.

OUR MISSION:

To ensure high quality instruction that maximises the individual potential and growth of all students.

Hello to the Mill Park Heights Community,

Each week I look forward to moving away from discussions around COVID-19 and consider highlighting other aspects to our school and community. Trying to focus on student learning, positive updates and achievements within the school are areas worth sharing and provide us with an opportunity to change our thinking and daily conversation. Yet I find myself again with another focus on the impact of this challenging virus and the immediate impact it is having on our school.

I sat with our Leadership Team on Monday afternoon and listened to Dan Andrews talk about the stage 4 restrictions and the absolute need for people to follow the guidelines over this next 6 week period. He stated very clearly that this was going to be tough and that this was going to be difficult. He was quite clear that if we didn't follow these directions we may be in for greater restrictions that may last anywhere up to 6 months. He talked about the fact that we are all in this challenge together and that we need to support each other if we are to make this work. This resonated strongly with me as both a family member and as a leader of our school. Both roles equally important and one I take extremely seriously. Trying to balance both roles are complex and consuming. No doubt I empathise with you all and respect the position you are in as you manage your families, workplaces and your own emotional health.

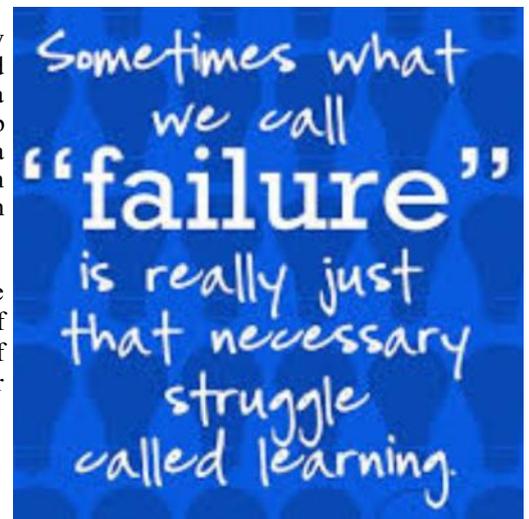
As of Wednesday, Stage 4 restrictions come into place at MPHPS. So what does this mean for all of us? We had sent out a bulletin on Monday outlining these changes in regards to onsite supervision, flexible learning and availability. One thing I would like to make clear – our staff are extremely important and should only be onsite if absolutely necessary. While we are mandated to provide onsite supervision for “permitted workers” we are no longer able to provide for families who are working from home or for those who have an adult at home during the day. We are waiting on a defined list of who fits into the “permitted work” category but please note, families who have booked supervision and those who may have previously qualified for this supervision may no longer be able to access this support. Our Admin team will be making calls over this next week and will be able to let you know if your booking request will be continued. Please do not be angry with the staff member, please do not vent your frustration to them and please treat them with the respect they deserve. If we are able to lower the student numbers, we are able to lower the staff numbers onsite. I am very aware that families are concerned about their needs and requirements, but this new stage means we need to think beyond this and we must consider the greater impact on all members of our community.

We will keep you updated with DET and DHHS requirements and aim to communicate clearly and consistently. Please keep in mind that we do not work like the school up the road, or the school your friend's children go to. We do not provide remote learning in the same manner and we are unable to provide the same presentation format. While email concerns around these topics come to me regularly I continue to reply that we are working in the format of MPHPS and at this stage this is the process we have opted for. I am sorry that some people are unhappy with this response, but I am not sorry about the hard work staff are putting in to provide the best support and education during this time of crisis. I have appreciated the many kind emails voicing support and sincerely thank those who have been public with this support via Facebook and Instagram.

On a very positive note, our Vimeo MPHPS virtual school tour has been extremely well received and we thank those of you who have passed this on to interested community members. We will be hosting 2021 Foundation Information sessions via WebEx on Wednesday 12th August at 7pm and Friday 14th August at 12.30pm to keep the momentum going. Interested community members will be able to book a place via CompassTix to participate in the session. If you are able to share this information with friends or family members interested in Foundation in 2021 please let them know.

Finally, further information regarding remote and flexible learning updates will come to you so be sure to check your Compass notifications daily. Please take care of yourselves, rethink the way you manage your daily lives and celebrate the joy of spending time with your family. Again on behalf of the staff, I thank you for your support and willingness to make the best of a tough situation.

Cheers, Chris Beare, Principal



VISIT OUR WEBSITE ON www.millparkhtsps.vic.edu.au

EMAIL: mill.park.heights.ps@education.vic.gov.au



Our school community letter that was previously sent out to our parents

Dear parents, carers and students

Earlier today, the Victorian Government announced that, on the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer, regional and rural Victoria will move to Stage 3 restrictions and metropolitan Melbourne will move to Stage 4 restrictions to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

These requirements apply to all schools across the government, Catholic and independent sectors and across all metropolitan Melbourne and rural and regional Victoria. The changes to schools' operations will come into effect from Wednesday 5 August, following a student free day on Tuesday 4 August, and are likely to apply until the end of Term 3.

As outlined in the Chief Health Officer's advice on Friday, schools remain safe places for staff and students – but these steps are critical measures to reduce the movement of students and families across the state. There are implications for our school, and for families in our school community. A summary of what the changes mean for schools is below.

METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE

PREP TO YEAR 10

- ◆ Prep to Year 10 students will continue with remote and flexible learning.
- ◆ The criteria for students that can attend on-site has changed as follows:
 - * **children whose parents are permitted workers.** The Victorian Government will provide further advice about this over the coming days. (Please note if you are working from home and do not meet the permitted worker list we will no longer provide onsite supervision.)
 - * **vulnerable children in out of home care, children known to child protection and other agencies** and children the school identifies as vulnerable
 - * **children with a disability** who also fit one of the above two categories.

TIMELINE

- ◆ Monday 3 August will be a 'normal' day of school under current arrangements, with students attending on site learning asked to take all their necessary learning materials home.
- ◆ Tuesday 4 August will be a student-free day across Victoria to enable teachers, especially in rural and regional Victoria, to prepare for flexible and remote learning.
- ◆ Wednesday 5 August will be the first day of new arrangements for schools across Victoria

STAFFING

- ◆ MPHPS will ensure sufficient staff are available for necessary on site supervision however we can only limit staff numbers with your support in keeping students at home. Families will be contacted and many previous arrangements and requests will now be cancelled to support Stage 4 restrictions.
- ◆ Staff not required for on site supervision will work from home.

I will provide an update soon about arrangements for remote and flexible learning at our school.

Thank you for your understanding and support.



YEAR 4, 5 & 6 NETBOOK PROGRAM PAYMENT OVER DUE

Term 3 Netbook payments now overdue please make payment via compass.

This is a very important notice, for the program to remain successful, it is imperative that you are timely with the instalment payment of \$75.00 or the annual payment as outlined in the Lease Arrangement

Document. We appreciate your understanding and prompt payment to bring you accounts up-to-date.

If you have already made payment thank you.

BULK BILLED COUNSELLING

Available at **MILL PARK HEIGHTS PS**

- This service is available to all students
- Students may be eligible for up to 10 bulk billed sessions with us, providing they have a valid referral (Mental Health Care Plan) from a GP
- We are available on-site at the school every Monday and Wednesday

To make an appointment, please contact Kate Stimpson at Mill Park Heights Primary School on 9436 8866.



A Super big thank you to one of our parents who kindly donated 30 x 500ml bottles of hand sanitizer for use at our school. She also expressed her gratitude to our staff 'for taking good care of our children' and that she 'wanted all teachers, staff and children to be safe from COVID19'. Thank you Jaymi (mother of Skylar in 3C) for your kind words but most all your donation to try and keep us safe.



MESSAGES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Personal Goods Brought to School at Owner's Risk: *The DET does not hold insurance nor does it accept responsibility for private property brought to school by students, staff and visitors. Please do not bring any unnecessary or valuable items to school.* Student Accident Insurance Arrangements: *The DET does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs, unless the injury is caused by the negligence (carelessness) of a Department or school council employee or volunteer. Students Accident Insurance is available privately at low cost.*

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