

To say it has been a busy time for Principals around Australia is an understatement ! It has been a very challenging time as they try to develop new systems to accommodate Students and Staff undertaking remote learning / teaching. The school holidays were virtually non-existent for Matt but luckily we had some very special 'therapists' at school last week who were able to impart their wisdom to him. We also stocked up on 'essentials' to help us get through the days at school!



Louie & Stu catching up with Matt

Warragul & District Specialist School Newsletter

Term 2 Issue 7, Tuesday 21st April 2020

Dear Students, Parents & Carers,

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our entire school community for the tremendous effort you have put into enabling remote and flexible learning for our children. The transition to remote and flexible learning has been very fast and all of us have been learning very quickly how to best adapt to the new model. I appreciate how flexible everyone has been to keep their child's education happening during this term. Please continue to work closely with your child's teacher and remember to make the most of everyday tasks that present "teachable moments".

I also appreciate that for some families flexible and remote learning combined with social isolation can be difficult. Our staff will work with you to try to reduce the difficult times. Please reach out for assistance. Additionally remember that your NDIS package can be adapted to support your child during this time. If you have one, we encourage you to contact your case manager to look at alternative ways to utilise your NDIS package.

To assist in making the most of your contact with your child's teacher we ask that you observe some family protocols.

Family Protocols – Remote Learning Communication with Staff

1. Make contact with the class teacher by phone or text between 9 – 11am.
2. Teachers will respond to your emails within one workday.
3. Your child's teacher may request to have phone contact with your child. We ask that you be present during the phone conversation.
4. The school will be sending additional work home to you. Most of the time this will be by the school bus. Please observe social distancing when collecting the items.
5. If you have any concerns please contact the school office to speak with myself, Alesha or another member of the leadership team.

Within this newsletter, we have included a variety of photos highlighting how families are embracing flexible and remote learning. We encourage all families to contribute a photo demonstrating what learning from your home looks like to you.

Matt



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Juniors

Room 8

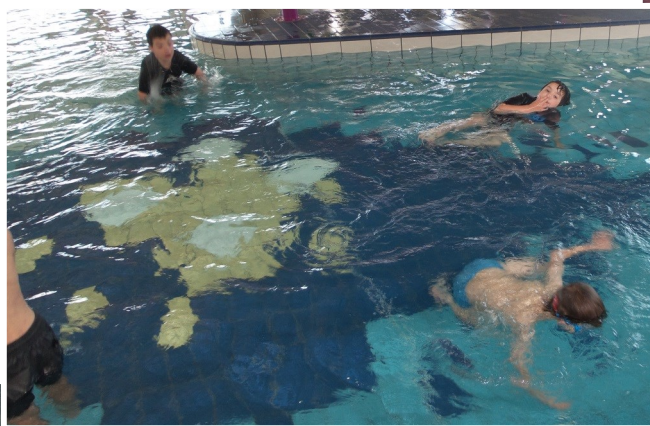
What an active group Room 8 students are!

In Term 1 they loved exploring the climbing equipment on the basketball court, challenging themselves to walk across the nets, hang from the bars and climb up the ladders.

On Wednesdays they started swimming at the Warragul pool and have been learning to do a pin drop entry up the deep end with April. They also rode bikes on Fridays.

After all these activities, they starting practicing yoga and relaxation with Sharon. This involved lying down listening to an App, focusing on breathing and relaxing bodies and minds.

Even though learning at home is very different, Bev and Sharon are helping the students to stick their schedule as much as possible - with some tweaking of course! The students (and Parents/Carers) are doing an amazing job!



** TRY YOGA AT HOME **

If you would like to try Yoga with your student you can try the **Smiling Minds** App (it is FREE and can be accessed on your phone or computer. You can also check out **CosmicKidsYoga** on YouTube. Yoga is a great way to de-stress busy minds (and provides a nice break for parents)





Learning at Home

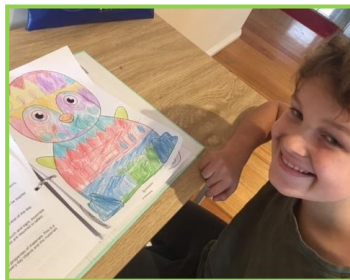
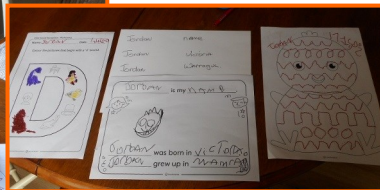
Learning from Home is '**different strokes for different folks**'. What works for some does not work for others - what is important is that it works for YOU! Maths, Literacy and Science can be learnt by playing board games, doing puzzles, cooking, gardening or doing a 'scavenger hunt' while out walking.

Here is a look at what some of our students have been doing at home.....



Jordan from Room 8 has embraced his remote learning and is staying on task! Although he really misses his friends, he has taken on the challenge of learning from home and is kicking goals! Well done to Jordan and his family.

Jordan also has new glasses - they are really helping him with his learning and they look great as well!

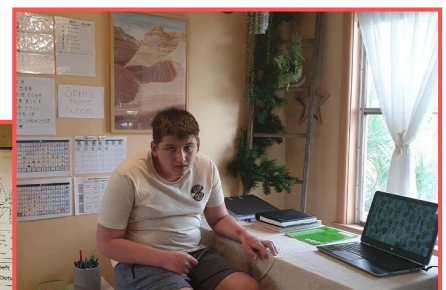
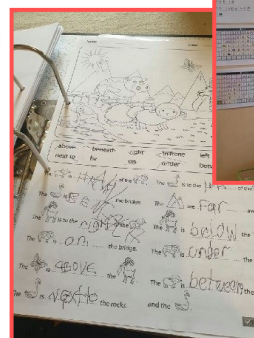


Jayden from Room 1 completed a fantastic project on Being **Respectful** - so fantastic to see our students still keeping our school values in mind while learning at home!

Jayden's mum set up a nice quiet learning space for him!



Seth from Room 10 is doing some fantastic remote learning! Despite the challenges Seth is a focused learner. His mum and dad are really pleased with his writing and he is trying his absolute best. Well done, Seth!



Seth particularly liked the visuals the speech team organised - a BIG thank you to Speech Therapists Steph and Bri.



Learning at Home



Ajay has been a great help around the home and has coped so well with the big change to his learning!

Senior student Ajay has had a busy week! Some of his activities have included: cooking (corn and ham fritters) as well as helping with dinners; making play dough (and helping amuse his little sister Evie); going for walks and building with Lego.

Ajay has been working on his Independent Living Skills and participating in many house duties and also creating great new routines (some with out being asked) such as: folding pjs, making his bed, opening blinds and windows, choosing clothes, unpacking the dishwasher and folding/putting away his clothes.

Well done Ajay and family!



William does an amazing job I the canteen each week, so at home he is making lunch for his family every Thursday to continue to develop his cooking skills. Williams family are very happy with their Thursday treats!



The happy customers! Those sausage rolls look yummy William well done!



Julie is very proud of the Room 10 boys - they have embraced home learning. Although they are missing their friends and normal routines they understand how important it is to continue their learning from home. Their parents are all doing an amazing job supporting them through these challenging times.

Jack from Room 10 completing some of his work - great to see his lovely big smile!



Student Awards

We are Safe, Respectful Learners !



PAIGE

Being a remarkable and resilient remote **LEARNER** - well done!



LILLIE

Being a remarkable and resilient remote **LEARNER** - well done!



MIKKI

Being a remarkable and resilient remote **LEARNER** - well done!



TROY

Being a remarkable and resilient remote **LEARNER** - well done!



DENZELL

Being a remarkable and resilient remote **LEARNER** - well done!



BLAYDEN

Being a remarkable and resilient remote **LEARNER** - well done!



Denzell is always busy at school and home so is enjoying combining the two!



Lillie has been working very hard at a range of tasks at home including making a yummy batch of ANZAC biscuits.



Mikki is doing all of her favourite things at home and enjoying staying in her PJ's all day!



WORKING FROM HOME

Whilst our students have started Term 2 with their learning happening remotely, our staff have also been working hard at home to get everything ready and to help your learning run smoothly. Many staff also have children learning from home so it has been quite a busy time!



Rachel



Deb H & Ruben



Helen



Kelly



David

Some of our Junior Team members working hard in their homes, getting things prepared for you. Bev also brought a new printer and installed on her own - adding IT skills to her home learning list! Deb's dog Ruben LOVES her working from home (especially lunchtime).



Bev

Middle School staff working from home and at school: Jess is really missing all of the students and has been very impressed with their resilience in coping with the changes. In addition to working, Carol, Phil and Kylie are also busy managing their children's learning at home and Ange and Chris have children studying their VCE under very unusual circumstances! Unit Coordinator Chris and ES Coordinator Tina have spent the majority of their time at school getting things organised, now that things are up and running they will balance working from home and at school.



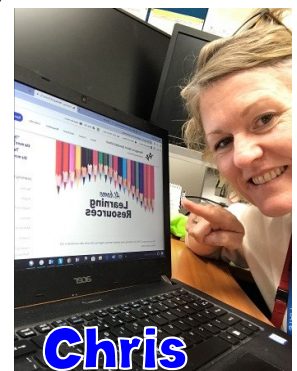
Jess



Ange



Tina



Chris



Carol



Kylie



Phil & Audrey



WORKING FROM HOME



Sandra

Currently working from the kitchen table as everyone else is working from home too! Miss you all, looking forward to being back in the classroom with the best class.!

- Sandra

Zoe is also busy with Billie being at home full-time now due to the restrictions. Billie is practising her ES skills helping out mum!

Senior Staff have had to make big changes to home learning for many of their students due to programs such as Baw Baw Skills, work experience and other external programs not running. Staff have had lots of meetings via WebEx and Zoom to come up with some great learning activities for our Seniors. It is particularly hard for students who are in their last year of school but they have been positive and are looking forward to returning when the restrictions are lifted.



Sue

Unit Coordinator Sue has also just started working from home after a busy week in at school. Sue will also be in at school some days.



Zoe & Billie



Toni & Hugo



Kerry



This is my first day working from home! Cheryl, Abbey and I have been working at school getting things sorted but will now balance working from home as well. It is very quiet at school and not as much fun without the students - we miss you all very much! It is wonderful getting the newsletter done today and seeing how well

everyone is doing. I have two very busy children at my house - Molly is studying for her VCE and Ben is in Year 9. Molly has had lots of online classes and study and even had to video herself making a speech (there were a few bloopers!). We are lucky today as Ben is making pasta as part of his Food Technology Studies. I'll show you a photo of the finished product next week!

It has been nice to be home to help support them today. Take Care,

Angie





Our OT team, Anne and Yvonne are in contact with families and will also be providing weekly tips to help out with learning at home. They will have are some great ideas that are easy AND lots of fun!

Top TIPS from OT

Tip 1: Creating new life for your toys & books

Do you have lots of toys and books at home?
Do your children hop from one thing to the next, not really engaged with them anymore?



Then, try putting some of them away for a month or more.
When you bring them out again, BINGO new appeal!!

How to do this:

1. Get your children to gather up the toys and books from around the house
2. (use your discretion with exactly how this works for you)
3. Tell them that x number of toys and books are going to take a break
4. Let the children help decide which ones will go into storage for now
5. Choose a week to bring these toys and books back into circulation
6. Repeat the process with another group the children help you select



Tip 2: When all else fails, just add water!



Water play, whether it's on the balcony, in the bath or out in the garden, is always popular!

It doesn't really matter the time of day or the weather, children will rarely resist an invitation to play with water.

How to set this up:

1. Find a plastic storage tub
2. Add some old plastic containers, drink bottles, spoons and funnels
3. Have some food colours and bubble mix handy too, if you like
4. Choose your play space and time
5. Just add water

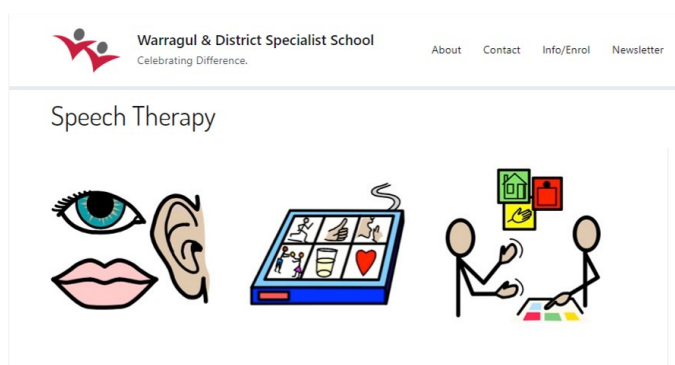


WORD OF THE WEEK:



Location of 'can' on homepage of Proloquo2Go.

'Word Of The Week' Resources can be found on the school website this week.



Learning Areas

The Arts

English

Health and Physical Education

History

Mathematics

Science

Cooking Programs (Design and Technologies)

Virtual Tours Across The Universe

Miscellaneous Links

Zones of Regulation

Speech Therapy Resources

Learning From Home Packs






MODELING AAC

What is “modeling: using Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) mean?

- Using the communication system while you talk to show how it can be used.
- For example: if you said “Let’s go outside”, you can model “go”, “outside” or “go outside”

Modeling tips:

1. Don’t worry about **making mistakes in** front of your child. This will teach them how to navigate through their communication system and problem solve! 
2. **Start small!** You can pick a time of the day for when to model. The next page has ideas of what you can model when you are getting dressed. More ideas are on the school website.
3.  **Involve everyone at home.** This is a great way to increase interaction and motivation!
4. **Don’t expect a response.** Modeling is about exposure to the language on the device.
5. Use the **paper copy** of the device. This may make modeling easier to begin with. A Proloquo2Go homepage was sent home in Learning Pack 1. More pages can be found under ‘Speech Therapy Resources’ on the school website.
6. Stick to **keywords**. You ‘can’ pick the word of the week to focus on. For example: when you say “we can video call grandma”, you can model the word ‘can’ on the device.
7. **Make it fun!** Talk about engaging, motivating topics. Get silly, make jokes and make using the AAC system rewarding! 



Go you, you can model!



AssistiveWare Core Word Classroom

CORE WORDS AT HOME

GETTING DRESSED

Make getting dressed for the day less stressful - talk about it and build language!



| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CORE WORDS | Verbs Describe Quantity Prepositions Questions Pronouns Time | want, go, do, like, help, stop, need, get, put, give, take, look, can, wear not, all done/finished, different, good, big, little, fast, slow, clean, dirty more, one on, off, in, out, up, down what, where, when, which I, you, it, we, that, this now, late, later, next, first, then, after, today, tomorrow |
| NEEDS & WANTS | like it, not like it what one? which? that is big, this too little is it clean? is this dirty? this is not clean! get clean one get up, get going put on, put in, put down take out, take it off give me that, get me that do that later, do this now | SOCIAL INTERACTION |
| EXAMPLE WAYS TO USE THE WORDS | want, don't want want different no more all done/finished not that stop, stop that need help I/you need help. I do it, my go don't want wear that | what next? you are slow! slow down! too fast! please go fast! go faster! we are late! first __ then __ do that after, not do that now you look good! what do you want to wear? can I wear this today? can I wear that tomorrow? |