



Week Ending December 18th, 2020

Discovering Doreen

From Glenn

There have been many descriptions of 2020 and not a lot of them are in any way positive. Bushfires, Pandemics, Economic Recessions, Business carnage, Educational challenges and many Mental Wellness challenges have meant that getting to the end of 2020 and back to a little normalness is quite a relief. Being the optimist, I always look for silver linings. I have seen some children really progress during the Remote Learning period, teachers try, develop and use new teaching platforms methods, and a lot of Resilience has been called upon. Resilience is a quality that is required and always mentioned in our society, but it is rarely practiced or called upon. We often jump in to make things easier or solve a problem. One thing Remote Learning did was call upon Resilience and there were many children (and adults) who excelled. Surviving 2020 has been quite an achievement and we all should be proud of that.

Despite the huge breaks in the year, much was achieved. We managed a camp, swimming, Bike Education, a Graduation and a brand new teaching platform. Our children have just been evaluated and we have been quite pleased with the results. We are at the moment compiling lists and groupings for our Tutor programs in 2021 which will support children who have been impacted by the Remote Learning process. Our Intervention program will also run in 2021.

On Wednesday night we held our first **Graduation Ceremony**. It was hugely successful and a fantastic experience for our grade six class and their parents. A HUGE thank-you to Janine Green, Cinthia Quinn, Rebekah DeBerardino, Steve and Abby Beck, Cassandra Smith, Carly Bloomfield, Jaclyn Delange, and to Nick and the staff at Bridges. There were speeches, videos, messages from the preps and presentations. It looks like it will become a new tradition and cut the concert shorter....to many people's relief including mine! This has been a positive from COVID. A link to the video footage and pictures will come via the email the children used for their Zoom meetings.

The dates for **commencement of school in 2021** have been published in the newsletter for a while now. Unless there is a major issue over the break, all will remain the same. If there is a change, SKOOLBAG will let you know. Someone will be at the school from 20th January onwards and my mobile will be active over the break if you need to make contact. Please feel free to visit school during the break to use the playground and if you notice anyone misusing it, please ring 000.

Thank-you for your support in 2020, it's been a difficult landscape to manoeuvre. I must say thank-you to my staff who have adapted to their professional expectations, as well as dealing with the same restrictions and challenges as everyone did. The "executives" of the Department of Education are still working from home, while teachers and Principals have been at school. I want to both congratulate and commend our students for their 2020 effort. They have shown resilience, determination and a lot of bravery to continue through the many challenges. We as adults new it would end and it was a short timeframe in our lives. For some of our students it was 50% of the life they could remember!

Have a safe, Merry and Happy Christmas and New Year. 2021 will be brilliant and we can return to what we value at Doreen Primary School. A school community that is in constant contact and all heading in the same direction. I can't wait.....after a holiday!

Diary Dates:	
TERM 1 2021	
1st Day Term 1 2021 (Teachers start 27 Jan)	28 Jan
Curriculum Day	5 Mar
Labour Day Public Holiday	8 Mar
School Photos	30 Mar
Last Day of Term 1	1 Apr
Dates are subject to change	

TERM DATES 2021:

- Term 1
27 Jan (Students start 28 Jan) - 1 April
- Term 2
19 April—25 June
- Term 3
12 July—17 Sept
- Term 4
4 Oct—17 Dec



This year's overall winners are

Red and Yellow house



DOREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL IS A



DOREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Doctors Gully Rd, Doreen 3754

Ph: 9717 3563 Fax: 9717 3902 Mob: 0418 366 286

E-mail: doreen.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au Website: www.doreenps.vic.edu.au