



Dear Parents/ Carers,

You might be inclined to create a minute-by-minute schedule for your kids. You have high hopes of hours of learning, including online activities, science experiments, and book reports. You'll limit technology until everything is done! But here's the thing...

Our kids are just as scared as we are right now. Our kids not only can hear everything that is going on around them, but they feel our constant tension and anxiety. They have never experienced anything like this before. Although the idea of being off of school for weeks sounds awesome, they are probably picturing a fun time like summer break, not the reality of being trapped at home and not seeing their friends.

Over the coming weeks, you will see an increase in behaviour issues with your kids. Whether it's anxiety, or anger, or protest that they can't do things normally - it will happen. You'll see more meltdowns, tantrums, and oppositional behaviour in the coming weeks. This is normal and expected under these circumstances.

What kids need right now is to feel comforted and loved. To feel like it's all going to be ok. And that might mean that you tear up your perfect schedule and love on your kids a bit more. Play outside and go on walks. Bake cookies and paint pictures. Play board games and watch movies. Do a science experiment together or find virtual field trips of the zoo. Start a book and read together as a family. Snuggle under warm blankets and do nothing.

Don't worry about them regressing in school. Every single kid is in this boat and they all will be ok. When we are back in the classroom, we will all course correct and meet them where they are. Teachers are experts at this! Don't pick fights with your kids because they don't want to do maths. Don't scream at your kids for not following the schedule. Don't mandate 2 hours of learning time if they are resisting it.

If I can leave you with one thing, it's this: at the end of all of this, your kids' mental health will be more important than their academic skills. And how they felt during this time will stay with them long after the memory of what they did during those weeks is long gone. So, keep that in mind, every single day.

Footnote: The letter above was written by a NSW Principal during a recent lockdown of their school. Ranfurly staff and I fully support the message it is conveying. We are very mindful that some days may not run as smoothly as we hope, and on these days you might have to find the easiest path. If this means that the learning program is not completed, then that's completely OK. It is better that it does not become a source of tension and stress at an already difficult time. 'You do what you can, when you can, and that's OK'.

*Cheers Mark*



## SCHOOL UPDATES

## SEPTEMBER 2021

|              |                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Mon 6-Fri 10 | Grade Preps, 1 & 2 Swimming |
| Wed 8-Fri 10 | Shrek Jr Performance        |
| Fri 17 Sept  | Term 3 ends                 |
| Mon 4 Oct    | Term 4 commences            |

## PRINCIPAL'S THOUGHTS

It is crazy how quickly things change! As we all adjust to Lockdown 7.0 restrictions, we take this opportunity to remind everyone that keeping everyone in our school community safe is our priority. We acknowledge the significant impact that these new restrictions will have on all of our Ranfurly families and recognise that some more than others will be going through particularly tough times. Please stay safe and stay connected to our wonderful school community. We are all in this together!

The staff really appreciated the steady stream of students that came yesterday to pick up their remote learning materials and if in Grades 3-6, their netbook devices. Thank you parents for making it happen! Our committed staff worked last Monday on getting the remote learning materials organised with a weekly plan of activities focusing on Literacy, Numeracy and other subjects that include specific lessons for your child to complete with your support. We sincerely thank our staff for their usual vigour, dedication and enthusiasm to get the remote learning activities to homes. **Next week's [Week 8] Learning materials will be available to be collected from the front gate this Friday 27 August 2021 between 8:00am—3:30pm.**

Our Prep classes for 2022 are now complete and this week, parents confirmed their child's placement for next year. That said, there are still a number of current families with their next child coming in 2022 who haven't returned their forms. Please be reminded if you have your child coming in 2022, it is vital that we get your enrolment forms in a.s.a.p. and we are then ready to provide transition activities to those enrolled when we are allowed to open the school up again.

Last Thursday's Ranfurly Athletics Sports ran very smoothly. The final results were:

|                     |              |                  |                |                    |
|---------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|
|                     | <b>COWRA</b> | <b>DAIRTNUNK</b> | <b>KULNINE</b> | <b>YERRE YERRE</b> |
| <b>HOUSE TOTALS</b> | <b>1120</b>  | <b>1306</b>      | <b>1144</b>    | <b>1005</b>        |

We are looking forward to the Mitchell family finishing their caravanning tour of the western & northern parts of Australia this week. The staff are looking forward to seeing Dennis next Monday to resume the role of Principal of our great school.

We continue to thank our parent community for your support.

Here's to good health, being safe and a quick resolution to the current Victorian situation.

*Mark and Mat*

## CARE & SUPERVISION ONSITE

If you believe you qualify as an authorised worker (with a permit) please email with a request to [ranfurly.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:ranfurly.ps@education.vic.gov.au) or phone the office on 5022 1299 before students attend the school's Care & Supervision

Breakfast Club is available before school. **All students must be at school before 8:45am** & report to the 5/6 Building. At the end of each school day, teachers will bring students to the front gate just before 3:15pm. WOW if booked in, operates from the 5/6 Building. Students in *Care & Supervision* must bring a water bottle, snack & lunch each day. Canteen is closed during lockdown. Students are encouraged (not mandatory) to wear masks. Students going to *Care & Supervision* are still expected to wear full school uniform.