



# Friends Learning Together

# Newsletter

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019

## Principal's Report

Welcome back to the 2019 School Year! We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and have enjoyed the fabulous January weather.

In the last couple of weeks teachers and staff have been planning and preparing for the New Year – creating colourful and engaging new classroom areas to welcome back your children as they walked through the door on their first day. I think our staff have been just as excited to start the New Year with their new grades as the children!

I would like to stake this opportunity to send out a special welcome to our new prep students and their families and wish them many happy years ahead with us. I would also like to welcome our other new students and their families to Frankston Primary School, I am sure our whole school community joins me in welcoming you all to our fabulous school and I trust that your time with us will be positive and enjoyable.

### New Staff

It is also a pleasure to welcome our new staff to Frankston Primary School.

- Brooke Lindsay is joining our 1/2 Team as a new graduate teacher and is very excited to have her very own class.
- Kate Marino is our Performing Arts and LOTE (Languages Other Than English) teacher. Kate is high experienced in both of these areas and we are very excited to have such an experienced teacher replacing Sally Gange-Moore whilst on 12 months leave.
- We are welcoming Cate Townsend to a new role in First Aid this year. Cate will be in First Aid Monday – Friday 10am – 3pm.
- Welcome back to Bronwyn Green who has returned from family leave into the 5/6 area.
- Welcome back Mel Stone who will be taking up the Learning Support Role.
- We are welcoming Michelle Scott to our front office administration team.

We are certainly very excited for all of our new staff members to be joining us – completing our team of highly committed and passionate staff, bringing the best possible education to all of our students!

### 8.50am Bell Time

We would like all of our students set up in class and ready for their day of learning at 9am every morning. ***To enable this we are asking all of our students to arrive at school for an 8.50am bell.*** This first bell is a signal for teachers and students to enter their classrooms and prepare for the day (changing readers, handing in notices, taking down chairs, organising learning needs such as books, folders and supplies etc) in order for their first lesson at 9am.

It is important to note that there is a staff member on duty from 8.45am – 9am. And after school from 3.30pm to 3.45pm. Students are not supervised outside prior or after these times and should be dropped off / or arrive and picked up close to these times. We ask that parents make arrangements for their children's safety around these times or please use the before and after school service Camp Australia provide if required.

## **Attendance**

Students attending school **on time and every day** (unless unwell) is vitally important to ensure strong foundations and learning for the whole child – socially, emotionally and academically.

Student absence from school should be minimal so they can learn and benefit from all of the learning opportunities that school provides – ideally students should be absent from school no more than 10 days for the whole school year. We are looking forward to seeing all of our students at school on time and at school every day!

## **Kiss and Go Car Area**

The Kiss and Go marked area out the front of our school drop off and pick up area is a quick Kiss and Go area. This area cannot be used for longer parking and leaving your car to enter the school. We understand that parking around school times can be difficult as we have many families entering the school zone in cars at the same time, however we ask that parents and carers follow the Kiss and Go process and this is to help a faster flow through at drop off and pick up times.

## **Working with Children Check – for all visitors and helpers**

In order to adequately discharge our duty of care as a school, we are legally required to take reasonable steps to minimise the risks of reasonable foreseeable harm to our students.

Schools and school councils are bound by laws that require a Working With Children Check (WWC Check) for adults undertaking child-related work in a school, and must adhere to Department policies regarding suitability checks for employees, visitors and volunteers.

Schools and school councils are also required to establish and implement school-level policies and procedures to assess and verify the suitability of adults who engage in child-connected work.

Working with Children Checks are required by law only for people who engage in child-related work, unless an exemption applies (e.g. parent supervising their own child, Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) registered teacher, police officer).

\*\* Our school policy specifies that all parents, carers, visitors to school, employees and school contractors who attend the school through work or to assist with child-related / centred activities, have a WWC check.

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE – *As a school we require all parents and carers assisting with school-related activities to have an up to date Working With Children Check* \*\***

If as a parent, carer or volunteers you require to attain a Working With Children Card or Renewal – please see instructions on the following website: <http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/>

For a full copy of this school policy – please see our school website.

### **Uniform Swap, Sell and Donate**

Our Term 1 Uniform Swap, Sell and Donate is organised for next Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February – 3pm – 3.30pm. Thank you to our parents who organise and assist with this great opportunity for our families!

### **PARENT & CARER – SCHOOL / TEACHER COMMUNICATION & INVOLVEMENT**

This year we shall be focusing as a school on building our Parent & Carer – School / Teacher Communication and Involvement.

#### ***Parent Communication Forums:***

This term to date we have organised two parent forums:

##### *Meet the Teacher:*

- P – 2 – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February
- 3 – 6 – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February

##### *Parent Information Evenings:*

- P – 2 – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 6 – 7 pm
- 3 – 6 – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 6 – 7pm

Please pop these dates into your diaries and schedules to hold the date, and look out for further information coming out very shortly.

#### ***Team Newsletters:***

Also look out for Team Newsletters, coming home to families at the end of Week 2 and Week 8. These shall also be published on our school website this year in order to enhance access and communication with our parent and carer community.

#### ***Parent and Carers as Partners Association:***

We look forward to holding valuable Parent and Carers as Partners Meetings this year with the final approval for our association commencing at the end of last year.

Our first scheduled for this year is Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 9 – 11am. This will consist of the Annual General Meeting – including electing Office Bearers, setting meeting dates for the year, and discussing future agenda items. Hope to grow this association – again, pop the date in your schedules and diaries and hope to see you there. Further information in regards to nominating for Office Bearer positions shall come out shortly.

#### ***Lastly***

Thank you to all of our parent and community for assisting us with such as smooth start to the year – we look forward to working with you and your partnership in providing the best possible education and educational experiences for your children here at Frankston Primary School.

***Renée Kennedy***  
***Principal***