

03 September 2021

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Dear Fun Fadden Families

Welcome to the end of our second full week of remote learning. I hope you are all doing well and beginning to find a rhythm to your new routines and are finding joy in this new world.

This week I can share with you some insights into our Year 3/4 students learning from home in all sorts of places. Our teachers are coming up with all sorts of inventive ways to engage our students and connect with their classes through special days and events.



One of these events in Year 3/4 was on Indigenous Literacy Day (Wednesday), where students took turns to read aloud pages from 'Dry to Dry: The Seasons of Kakadu', which was the 2021 Eve Pownall Award winning book for Information Books (Children's Book Council of Australia).

They also created some art after listening to the story 'Black Cockatoo'. Check out some that have already been handed in!



Unfortunately, due to the extension to lockdown and not knowing what Term 4 will look like yet, we will need to cancel some events that we had scheduled for the beginning of Term 4.

- **Year 3/4 Camp to Birrigai** (7th and 8th October) has been cancelled. For those families who have paid for camp already, please email Jennifer Wynne our Business Manager on jennifer.wynne@ed.act.edu.au with your bank details for a full refund. Our 3/4 Teaching Team will be working with Birrigai staff to develop a virtual experience with activities which would normally take place at Birrigai camps, for when students they are back to face-to-face learning.
- **Swim and Survive program for Kindergarten to Year 1 and the Aqua Safe program for Year 2** (5th – 8th October) are also cancelled. Any money which has been paid to Royal Life Saving will be refunded directly from them.

This week all teachers contacted 3 of their parents asking for feedback on remote learning. This information allows us to understand what you are experiencing at home and tweak things to better meet your needs. Below is a snapshot of some of the themes we have heard from families Preschool to Year 6.

How are you going? (Wellbeing focus)	Any areas that have been great?	Any areas that have not been easy to utilise?	Any thing that was interesting to note.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some parents struggling to balance/juggle work and school • enjoy the check ins and Meets • missing social interactions and friends • like the theme days • like that students are developing independence and confidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • small group Meets • daily class Meets • routine with ability to be flexible • range of activities are engaging • suggested timetables including brain breaks and mindfulness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balance of parent work commitments and schooling • managing more than one child • 10% of respondents report shy/reluctant children in Meets • use of the Google Classroom platform e.g. uploading videos, getting students to do the work (unmotivated) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • easier to use the platform this year • parents gaining insight into student work and ability

Please know we are listening and trying our best to match what families need. If you are struggling and are needing something different for your child. Please contact your child’s teacher or Executive Teacher and we will work out a solution with you in partnership.

Our P&C are also focussed on the wellbeing of our community. Please see attached a letter from Libby Werner-Gibbins P&C President, which provides information on the planned trivia night and meeting minutes.

Just a reminder that this week we invited students/families to participate in the “Thinking Outside the Box” challenge and we are looking forward to sharing the creations next week in the Weekly Wrap Up.

Next week we are also inviting families to “Fadden’s Family Trivia” - Thursday 9th September at 4.30pm. Families are asked to join a Google Meet at 4.15pm which will include a Kahoot quiz, questions start at 4.30pm. There will be pizza dinner for the top 3 families, delivered on Friday 10th September. Please see the attached the flyer for more details along with other pieces of information that we would normally include in our Friendly Fridge Reminders.

Last but not least I would like to wish all our fathers and significant males in our students lives, a very Happy Father’s Day. Mr Matthews has been working on a special Father’s Day video with a number of our students sending messages to their dads and talking about the significant impact they have on their lives. This video will go live on Sunday morning in our Google Classrooms, as well as an abridged version on our Facebook page. I encourage everyone to have a look.

Hope everyone is kind to themselves this weekend. As I have been saying to my staff, we are in this for the marathon and not a sprint.

Happy Father’s Day

Jo Jefferson
Principal

