



Dear Lara Primary School Families,

Firstly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to every family (returning or new) in the community and hope you are looking forward to the 2020 school year.

We are excited to work in partnership with you to ensure every student at Lara Primary School is actively engaged in rigorous learning experiences whilst developing social-emotional skills that will foster resilience, perseverance, empathy and the ability to collaborate and communicate in a diverse learning school community.

We also recognise that to be successful in school, our students need support from both home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a significant difference in your child's education. Together we share the responsibility for our students' success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities.

Please take note of some important information below:

Staffing:

I would like to introduce our new and returning staff who are excited to be part of the Lara Primary School team in 2020:

Annalise Cooper: Year 1-2 Teacher



Jenna Beaumont: Year 1-2 Teacher



Kerri Tate: Year 1-2 Teacher



Teresa Panczel – Art Teacher





Bushfires

As we return to school, we must acknowledge that our state, and indeed our country, has been irrevocably hurt by the bushfires and ensuing loss. No doubt many of you will have family and friends who have been personally impacted over the last weeks. If your child returns to school and requires support in the wake of the bushfires or the images that have flooded newspapers, television and social media, please let us know as soon as possible.

Bring Your Own Device Reminder:

Lara Primary School is aiming to become a technological rich environment. The Internet and Digital Technologies will be used extensively throughout the curriculum as part of a blended-learning approach to complement and enhance pedagogical practice and teaching and learning programs. Lara Primary School will use a variety of online services to develop 21st century teaching and learning skills and foster digital literacy, fluency and social responsibility in a safe environment.

With the above information in mind, we kindly remind all parents of students in grades 3-5 that the 'online services consent form' needs to be signed and returned to school to enable your child's iPad access to the school's wireless network. The IT technicians will work diligently over the next couple of weeks to ensure all iPads are connected to our network.

Coronavirus:

You may be aware of the outbreak of a novel coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.

The Australian Government has advised that there is no cause for alarm with respect to the coronavirus and that the risk to the Australian public remains relatively low.

The Department of Education and Training has consulted with Victoria's Chief Health Officer and Department of Health and Human Services to provide the following advice to parents, families and school communities.

Exclusion of well children or staff who have travelled to affected areas:

In accordance with national public health guidelines and current information about the coronavirus from the Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer, it is not a requirement to exclude well children or staff from school if they have travelled to Wuhan, China, or any other areas where there have been reported cases, unless the following applies:

- the person is a confirmed case of novel coronavirus; or
- the person is a close contact with a confirmed case of novel coronavirus in the past 14 days.

If you think your child or a family member may meet one of the above criteria, please contact the dedicated hotline on 1800 675 398. Please keep Triple Zero (000) for emergencies only.

Seeking medical advice for your child:

Please seek medical advice for any child who is:

- experiencing fever and respiratory symptoms (including but not limited to cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, body aches or fatigue); AND
- has recently travelled to Wuhan, China, or any other areas where there have been reported cases in the 14 days before of the onset of illness.

As with the above advice, please call the dedicated hotline on 1800 675 398 to discuss further actions.

More information

For up-to-date information, please see the Department of Health and Human Services website:

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/information-public-novel-coronavirus>

Policy Information:

During the ordinary course of your child's attendance at our school, school staff will collect your child's personal and health information when necessary to educate your child, or to support your child's social and emotional wellbeing or health in the school context. Such information will also be collected when required to fulfil a legal obligation, including duty of care, anti-discrimination law and occupational health and safety law. If that information is not collected, the school may be unable to provide optimal education or support to your child, or fulfil those legal obligations.

For example, health information may be collected through the school nurse, primary welfare officer or wellbeing staff member. If your child is referred to a specific health service at school, such as a Student Support Services officer, the



required consent will be obtained. Our school also collects information provided by parents and carers through the School Entrance Health Questionnaire (SEHQ) and the Early Childhood Intervention Service (ECIS) Transition Form.

Our school may use online tools, such as apps and other software, to effectively collect and manage information about your child for teaching and learning purposes, parent communication and engagement; student administration; and school management purposes. When our school uses these online tools, we take steps to ensure that your child's information is secure. If you have any concerns about the use of these online tools, please contact us.

School staff will only share your child's personal or health information with other staff who need to know to enable the school to educate or support your child, or fulfil a legal obligation.

When our students transfer to another Victorian government school, personal and health information about that student will be transferred to that next school. Transferring this information is in the best interests of our students and assists that next school to provide optimal education and support to students.

In some limited circumstances, information may be disclosed outside of the school (and outside of the Department of Education and Training). The school will seek your consent for such disclosures unless the disclosure is allowed or mandated by law.

Our school values the privacy of every person. When collecting and managing personal and health information, all school staff must comply with Victorian privacy law. For more information about privacy including about how to access personal and health information held by the school about you or your child, see our school's privacy policy:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/schoolsprivacypolicy.aspx>

2020 Staff:

I would like to share with you all our 2020 staffing profile:

Leadership Team

Principal: Joel Riddle
Assistant Principal: Carolyn Kent-Hughes
Assistant Principal: Abbey Lynch
Learning Specialist: Elisa Brislane
Wellbeing Coordinator: Erin Cassar

Administration Team

Business Manager: Judy-Anne Gillett
Office Attendant: Rosie Noonan
Executive Assistant: Marisca Van Der Zwaan

Specialist Team

Physical Education: Dan Pickles
Science: Ellie Wilson
Indonesian: Kayla Rideg
Visual Art: Teresa Panczel

Education Support Staff

Education Support Officer: Amie Bewley
Education Support Officer: Kerryn Hall
Education Support Officer: Jodie Knocker
Education Support Officer: Briony McLoughlan

Education Support Class

ICT Support: Lachie Scott
ICT Support: Steve Gnjec
Library Technician: Dawn Menzies
Building Maintenance: Mark Gibson
Music Teacher: Rod Whelan

Prep Team

Laura Chiavaroli
Jodie Towne
Sherridan Micallef
Jessica Tinney



Year 1-2 Team

Patrice Podbury
Andrea Newman
Michelle Thomas
Lyn Coller
Andrea Wirken/Kerri Tate
Jenna Beaumont/Annalise Cooper

Year 3-4 Team

Julie Bennett
Sue Hartshorne
Emily Bruce
Janet Volkov

Year 5-6 Team

Belinda Brennan
Demi Isles
Fiona Grills
Brendan Beck

Save the Dates in Term One:

February 7th, 21st, March 6th and 20th – Whole school assemblies in the gym.

February 20th – Parent 'Meet and Greet' conference. More information to come next week.

March 9th – Labour Day public holiday.

March 13th – Lara PS Family Picnic afternoon.

March 27th – Lara PS Walkathon.

Joel Riddle
(Principal)