

HEYWOOD *Education News*

The fortnightly combined newsletter of Heywood Consolidated School and Heywood & District Secondary College

Edition 11, August 6th, 2020

Remote Learning

Rarely do we experience a change to curriculum delivery as major as we have in 2020. The remote and flexible learning format in Term 2 posed challenges for staff and students alike ranging from connectivity and technology difficulties to family disputes about the need to remain invested in learning.

For some parents, the involvement in their child's learning was refreshing, especially for Foundation parents. Watching their children learn the alphabet sounds and put their first written words and sentences together was a delight in all aspects.

For others, feelings of frustration gave way to anxiety as their children became staunch refusers of learning engagement. The return to school in mid Term 2 brought relief. At that point, no one thought there would ever again be such a divergence from the "norm".

But here we are.... remote learning resumed again this week. This time, however, we can look forward to knowing how the technology works and forging ahead with innovative teaching and learning tasks.

Last Sunday, the Premier, Daniel Andrews, announced the return to Stage 3 restrictions which included the wearing of masks and resumption of remote learning. Unlike metropolitan schools which had one week to prepare, rural and regional schools across Victoria were allocated one day (Tuesday the 4th of August) to prepare learning plans and materials ready to commence online teaching on Wednesday the 5th of August.

Both Heywood schools are deeply committed to maintaining the integrity of quality teaching. This may mean that some information for families will be shared across a period of time rather than on the first day. Indeed, the Education Department is still preparing guidance notes for regional schools and we can only provide what information is currently available.

Over the next six weeks, until the end of Term 3, both HeyCon and HDSC will continue to share class or subject specific information through See-Saw and Skoolbag (HeyCon) or Microsoft Teams (HDSC).

Regardless of the school, it is imperative that students do not see this period as a holiday and remain engaged in their learning tasks.

In this newsletter we hope to clarify a number of important considerations that may contribute to a more positive outcome for our students.

Jodi May and Kelly Webster



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Farewell Mrs May

This month we farewell Mrs Jodi May as she and her husband Trevor move to sunny Queensland to begin a new life adventure.

Jodi's impact on the school has been seen most vibrantly in the commitment to Mindfulness, Peaceful Kids and the Berry Street Educational Model. Perhaps to be remembered as the long haired, motorbike riding, vivacious Principal – Jodi's passion has always been for the educating of young students beyond just the academic. The social emotional growth for each student was to be a hallmark of her five years as Principal.

She will be remembered as the Principal; who was always willing to run with any student during cross country, listen to student voice when incidents had upset them, introduced fidget toys, XO and wiggle wobble chairs to classrooms, and made endless amounts of slime and cloud dough with students. Jodi was always pushing teachers to get to know their students beyond the academic learning, and to make relationships with the entire school community.

We combine as a school community to wish Mrs May well on her future education career and hope that she takes a little bit of Heywood wherever life leads.

Sadly, COVID-19 prevented us from holding an open farewell function but we trust that you will take the opportunity to contact Jodi before her departure on the 17th of August.



Acting Principal

From Tuesday the 18th of August, Ann Hawker will take on the role of Acting Principal. She will guide the school through the remaining weeks of Remote Learning. Rebecca Siddall and Laura Hodges will share the role of Year 6 teacher during this time.



The Online Classroom

No two schools will approach online learning in the same way. Indeed, no two classes will use identical strategies.

At HeyCon, the use of See-Saw as an online learning portal allows teachers to share videos and documents along with the sharing of two way communication between families and school. In the F/1 cohort, online tasks include more hands on activities to build confidence and experience with letter formation while in the senior classes the use of WebEx allows teachers to lead a group in real time. This allows opportunities for questions and answers on the spot to clarify aspects of the curriculum. For both senior and junior students, families can see the work that is set for the children. Skoolbag is also used to share school wide information. Please check this App regularly for updates.

At HDSC, Microsoft Teams will be our online platform, where teachers can set work, hold meetings, chat and students can submit work. Students will follow their normal weekly timetable and teachers will be online and available during these times. Students will be able to contact their teachers through the chat via Microsoft Teams. Students in Years 11 and 12 will participate in online classes for the majority of their week. Students in Years 7 – 10 will have a combination of online classes and activities to compete and submit weekly.

Attendance

Remote learning is not a holiday. Students still need to be completing their study despite being at home. The Department mandates that schools record attendance each day and for this reason we need students to check in every day.

At HeyCon, attendance is recorded when a student makes a See-Saw submission or emails/phones/texts the school. This needs to be done by 2:30pm every day. **Your child will be marked absent if contact has not been made by 2:30pm.**

At HDSC attendance is recorded when a student attends their Homegroup meeting each morning at 8:50am via Microsoft Teams and during the day in every timetabled lesson. Students need to make sure that they have been in contact with their teachers by 10.00am each day. If teachers cannot contact a student or family, the your child will be marked absent.



Supporting Your Child

Families are not meant to be the teachers – you are the supervisors. If your child doesn't understand or is having difficulty contact the teacher to have the issue resolved promptly.

The most effective role you can play as parents during remote learning, is to support and encourage your child to attempt the set tasks, submit work that is of a quality standard and be resilient when the work might need additional input. Praise their success, reward effort, take breaks when you need them and nurture their mental health.

Using Technology

The best cyber safety advice suggests that parents take an active interest in what their child is working on while online. Keep the technology in an open environment – bedrooms are not appropriate for WebEx or online forums. Your child should dress appropriately if they are going to be online.

While the Department requires that learning is communicated online, we understand that this is difficult for some families in regional areas. Please contact your teachers if you are impacted by the technology or connectivity issues.

Positives and Negatives for Online Learning

Some students find the traditional classroom too restrictive. The shift to learning from home can offer a more relaxed pace and self directed learning. A family can build in breaks for wiggling, dancing, running and jumping in a time frame that is more suited to the family needs.

Equally many students thrive on routine and structure. At home these students will rely on you to create these new routines. This can be challenging for families especially when parents themselves are working from home.

We recommend you develop a timetable on school days that best suits your family needs. You might like to base your timetable around their regular classroom timetables. In Term 2 we noted that some families chose to rise early and tackle their learning early using the afternoon for outdoor activity or family interest. Others preferred to enjoy a slower morning pace using the afternoon to focus on tasks.

Importantly, don't create a battle about the learning. Sometimes its more important to take a break, do something of interest, and then return to the learning later. Remember cooking, building, constructing, reading, craftwork are all learning focussed.



Visiting the Schools

Sadly, at this time, families are not allowed on site except for official appointments. If you need to collect or drop off any items please make an appointment with the office at either school.

Communication

Regular and open communication will be another key to success in this learning format.



Heywood Consolidated School

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School mobile phone: 0417 271 297
(text or call)

See-Saw – using your family code

Emailing your teacher directly

Heywood & District Secondary College

Phone: (03) 5527 1303

Email: Heywood.sc@education.vic.gov.au

Investigations in F1W

Play is an important part of a child's life. It encourages them to use their creativity while developing their imagination and physical, cognitive, and emotional strength. Play is important for healthy brain development. It is through play that children, from a very early age, engage and interact in the world around them. At school, play is also an important part of our day. It helps calm students ready for learning.

This term students have been experiencing all of these things and more. They have been learning and investigating in our streetscape passageway. Some have been shopping at the supermarket, buying pizzas at the pizza shop, booking holidays at the travel agent and posting letters at the post office. They have also been putting out fires at the fire station and doctoring patients at the hospital. While others have been constructing items with boxes, playing with play dough or discovering life in the safari. Here are some comments from the students about why they like investigation:

I can use my imagination - Sienna

I can create different things out of boxes - Tom

I can build new things using my imagination - Floyd

I can make different stuff - Oliver

It is fun to play with the dolls. I like to play 'mums and dads' - Amirah

In F1W we really enjoy investigations and enjoy choosing where we want to investigate and what we want to complete there.

Melinda Watson



Thank You

Firstly, I would like to again thank our families for supporting the school, in allowing our teachers and staff to get ready for online remote learning to begin again next Monday the 10th of August. As you already know we are using Microsoft Teams this time. This platform allows staff, students and families to use the one platform for all communication. Students will be able to meet with their teachers and other students in their classes more easily and complete and submit work online. The platform can also be downloaded onto students' phones, allowing them to take photos of their work for ease of submission to their teachers.

If you reside in a 'blackspot' and are unable to work online, please give the school a call to work through other options. However, the first option is online learning!

For students who do attend school, there is a new request form on our website that needs to be completed and sent through to myself by midday on the Thursday of the week prior. Students who attend school:

- will be supervised, completing tasks set by their teachers in Microsoft Teams,
- must wear full school uniform,
- must bring food and water with them, as they will not be allowed to leave the school grounds (they can still order lunch),
- need to have all equipment they may need for the day and
- must be at school on time, sign in, sanitise and wear a mask at all times (unless eating or drinking).

If you have any concerns about your child's learning or wellbeing, please give the school a call. We are here every school day.

Kelly Webster

Year 9 Ski Camp

After a long 10 hour drive from Heywood to Bogong our Year 9 camp students were able to settle into their accommodation dorm, explore the camp venue, get fitted with ski gear for the days ahead...and have an early night!

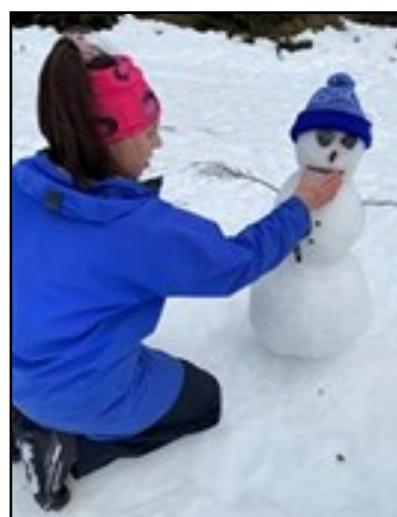
Due to un-seasonally warm weather the cover of skiable snow this year was quite limited, however the students were able to strap on the cross-country skis for two full days of skiing. On the third day, students were given the opportunity to choose an activity: skiing, canoeing, rock climbing, bush walking or mountain bike riding on the high plains.

In addition to alpine skiing, this camp teaches our students about many contemporary issues that present in today's society. Sustainable life actions ranging from power consumption, using renewable energy, water conservation and preserving our natural environment are all important issues that we need to manage and all of these issues were taught to our students in many different contexts.

Each session, the evening meal or the night programs had a different theme. From 'Meat Free Monday', Indigenous food, 'an hour without power' and the viewing of documentaries highlighting powerful stories about resilience – our students were challenged to engage with, and reflect about these contemporary issues.

Despite the significant travel required to get to and from Victoria's Alpine region, this camp was a great opportunity for our students and a great success!

Jeremy Prevett



Child Safety

Both Heywood & District Secondary College and Heywood Consolidated School consider the safety of children as being of paramount importance. Both schools have zero tolerance of child abuse.

