

## Foundation Day– 8th February 2021



## From the Principal's Pen

Welcome to our first edition of our school newsletter- "Whispering Tree". This is a special edition to celebrate our school's opening this week. During the school year, "Whispering Tree" will come out in Weeks 3, 6 and 9 of each term.

Wow, what a great first week we have had here at Yarralinka! It has been great to see the smiles on our students and I have been super impressed with how they are transitioning to our school. I would like to thank everyone for all your support in the lead up to our opening. Our staff have done an impressive job getting things ready for our students and I would like to extend a special thank you to each of them.

This week, as a whole school, we have been focusing on teaching the students routines and expectations. Some of these topics have included how we line up, packing up equipment and taking turns in games and activities. Through these activities we are trying to develop the ability for our students to do things independently.

During play time our students have been exploring our new playground. They have been riding the bikes around the bike track, making sand castles and climbing over our nature playground features. Our school uniforms look fantastic and they will really set us a part from other schools in the local area.

Below I have listed some general reminders for families.

**\* Labelled belongings-** We ask that all items that belong to your child (e.g. hat, water bottle, library bag, lunch box etc) are labelled with their name. This allows us to return items to students when they are lost or misplaced.

**\* Food at school-** When packing your child's lunch box, they will require food to eat at three designated times throughout the day. The first item should be some fruit or vegetables to eat during crunch and sip time, provided in a separate container. Crunch and sip occurs during our first teaching block and is designed to refuel the mind while we are learning. The second food time is the child's main lunch, which is eaten at 11:00am. The final item is your child's afternoon snack which is something small like some fruit or yoghurt that is eaten at 1:15pm. Be advised that Yarralinka Primary School is a "Nut Aware" school and we ask that families do not pack any nut products in children's lunchboxes.

**\* Third party forms-** This week the school sent out third party consent forms to be completed. These are

required to be completed due to changes in Department of Education policy. All forms should be returned to the school as soon as possible.

**\* School Stream-** The School Stream app is what the school will be using as one of its main communication methods with families. This app is free to download from your phone's app store. Once it has been downloaded, you will be asked to create an account. After creating your account search for our school by clicking on the add profile button down the bottom. An approval request will then be sent to the school office for actioning prior to you being able to access the functions of the school app.

**\* School start and finish times-** This week we have been using a staggered start time due to the current state government restrictions that are in place. Once these restrictions are lifted, all families will be able to drop off students between 8:30am- 8:45am at our classrooms. The school day finishes at 3pm, with school gates being opened at 2:50pm.

**\* Parking-** We encourage as many families to walk or ride to school as possible. This has many social, health and environmental benefits. If you do need to drive to school, we ask that you park in one of the two onsite car parks. The bays at the front of the school on Yarralinka Road are a kiss and drive set up and are not designed for people to park in or to leave their vehicle.

Yarralinka is on the Department of Education's bushfire risk register. This means we are required to have a separate plan in place to manage the threat of bushfires. With the recent fires in the Perth hills, it is a timely reminder of ensuring we prepare as best as we can. As part of this plan, we will be having an evacuation drill next Tuesday, 16th February 2021. During this drill we will be practising going to our onsite safer location. An onsite safer location is a place in the school that can fit all students inside a building in case there is a threat of a bushfire nearby. Our designated onsite safer location is Bottlebrush 1, 2 and 3 classrooms.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the school gates!

Kind regards  
Chris Burgess

