



Department of Education
PRINCES STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL

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COVID 19 – Coronavirus update

16/03/2020

Dear parents

Last night the Minister of Education sent information to all schools in relation to the Department of Education's strategy of social distancing for the effective control of COVID 19. This strategy included the cancellation of all assemblies and presentation nights; excursions; travel; fetes; fairs; concerts (with audiences); all sports carnivals; school camps (both local and interstate); and parent teacher meetings. The prevention measures have an impact on activities at Princes Street as outlined below.

Effective immediately the following activities have been cancelled:

- SPSSA Primary Interschool Athletics Carnival;
- Grade 3/4 Mount Wellington excursions on Thursday and Friday;
- Prep excursion to the Sustainability Centre at Mount Nelson;
- Grade 5/6 excursion to The Marine Discovery Centre at Woodbridge;
- ECE Tabloid Sports Carnival;
- Harmony Day Activities;
- SPSSA Champion's Athletics Carnival;
- 3/4 Open Classrooms Morning;
- Kinder excursion to Fern Tree;
- Grade 5/6 Spring Beach Camp;
- Prep excursion to Botanical Gardens;
- All school assemblies planned for the remainder of this term;
- Grade 5/6 Options Program.

Launching into Learning (LIL)

- At this stage all LIL activities have been cancelled until further notice, this includes Wednesday LIL session as well as their planned excursion to Legacy Park later this term.

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden

- All cooking activities associated with the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden have been put on hold until further notice.

We are also limiting the size of groups working together. At this stage we are ceasing our Buddy Class program where two classes work together.

Another big focus is continuing to ensure our staff and students follow health and hygiene practices. Good hygiene practices need to become habit not one off in times like this. It is important that we work together to ensure that it becomes a habit for children, from a very young age:

- Children need to know how to wash their hands properly before eating any food;
- We need to work together to teach children the importance of food hygiene and not sharing food or drinks.
- Continually remind children to sneeze/cough into a tissue and immediately discard into a rubbish bin, and then wash your hands; If no tissue is available then sneezing or coughing into your elbow.
- We are currently preventing the use of the water bubbler access for drinking.
- Ice cream orders through the canteen need to be made online. Recess/Lunch time sales that involve money changing hands have been suspended until further notice.

It is very important that students who are unwell do not come to school and medical advice is sought as required. If your child is away please notify the school through the normal channels, even if they are being kept home as a precaution.

The school is also doing its best to try to keep surfaces clean on a regular basis. This is very challenging. We also have concerns about students sharing implements in their classrooms and we are trying to put strategies in place to minimise infections passed on due to this. In many of our classes students share pencils, pens, etc. ***We are asking for your help. We would like each student to bring a pencil case to school so we can supply them with their own writing implements.*** They can then have their own equipment in their own pencil case to eliminate sharing, especially for our younger students.

There is a Skype meeting being held tomorrow morning for principals with the Secretary of the Department. I will provide an update following this meeting as well as any other updates or new advice that is received as it comes to hand.

Yours sincerely

Ricky Oates
Principal