



Wollongbar Public School

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Principal: Jennifer Thomas



Education
Public Schools

Wollongbar Catch Up Week 11 Term One

Hi Everyone,

Congratulations, we made it, and with everyone, as of this moment, COVID-19 free. What a great thing for our community.

It is one of my tasks as Principal to report to the COVID-19 WHS Hotline any suspected cases, as identified by a doctor. It is important that you know that we have procedures in place, in the event of a positive test, to inform everyone as soon as possible. In the event that the Department of Health notifies me that someone in our school community has tested positive for COVID-19, the Executive team and I have documentation, day or night, which enables us to trace possible contacts for the Department of Health. It would be expected that possible contacts would be informed and a message would be sent to the school community, long before the social media rumour mill takes over.

This term our teachers flipped two hundred years of teaching practise and in the space of a week put in place new practices so that your child could learn safely, remotely and online. They are awesome.

We (you and us) have all been way out of our comfort zone on this unexpected learning journey. This is really hard isn't it? It is important that you know that **we have been listening to you** and in Term Two we will be varying the learning experiences, reducing the amount of work that we set, and we will try and make it clearer the activities that we would like you focus on and what you can leave out if it is too hard or too challenging in your context.

We will begin filming explicit teacher led lessons for the children to follow, and we are buying more teacher aide time to start to do more individual and small group Zoom Meeting support. We will provide the teaching aides needed for these lessons. We are buying more casual teacher time so that teachers can make greater personal connections, including doing letterbox drops. We'll let you know when we are leaving them at your letterbox so that the children can step out the front door if they want and give us a wave and say hello.

What is important is that we all find our tempo: this is a marathon, and we have been told that this will continue deep into Term Two.

Don't forget that children need life skills. Count yourself highly successful if, on the other side, your child can make their own bed, tie their shoelaces, tidy their room, plan meals, have some new recipes up their sleeve, cook from the pantry without a recipe, do the vacuuming, clean the bathroom, help in the garden, exercise regularly, lose an afternoon reading for pleasure etc. Be as chill as possible- you know best what is right for your context.

The first day of Term Two for teachers is Monday 27 April. The Office will be closed and staff will not be available to take calls on that day. All staff are enrolled in Livestream professional learning: *Overcoming Struggle and Uncertainty* with Dr Adam Fraser.

We have employed a casual teacher for Tuesday 28 April in the Learning Hub, the first day that the school is open for the children of essential workers, because all permanent staff will be spending time producing and packaging work for the children.

Again, we ask that you do not send your children to the school site, unless you are an essential worker, until notified that is safe to do so. This is a Workplace Health and Safety request: caring for the safety of staff and other people's children.

Stage Three families, we let you know last week that we have been able to secure an alternate camp in Term 4. We will make personal contact next term with the families of children not going to see if they would like the opportunity to take part. Because there isn't as much travel time involved and the *Coffs Coast Adventure Camp* is a more expensive camp the Stage Three Camp will cost more. We are VERY aware, however, of the added financial pressure and uncertainty that many families face at this time and the school will cover any additional costs. It is very important to me, to everyone, that our children finish 2020 thinking it was, in spite of everything, a most wonderful year.

My message to the staff is the same for you. Please take the time to relax, recuperate and reconnect with yourselves and your loved ones. If you do find yourself wobbling, and that would be normal in these extraordinary times, there are many great agencies such as Lifeline and Beyond Blue who can offer you support. Please take advantage of their services.

Please look after yourselves and isolate and stay safe. We will all reconnect, in some form or another, in Term Two.

Regards,

Jennifer
Principal

Wollongbar P&C

The P&C wishes everyone a safe holidays and a happy Easter.

You can reach the P&C team via wollongbarPC@hotmail.com,
<https://www.facebook.com/wollongbarPC>



Message from Commonwealth Bank

The health, safety and wellbeing of our communities and our people remains our highest priority. Due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding coronavirus, the School Banking program will remain on hold. We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed with any updates including how we will be managing Dollarmite tokens for students.

In the meantime, here are some handy online resources for parents who wish to maintain momentum with their child's financial education:

- [Start Smart](#): these resources have been created to improve children's money management skills, and is aligned to the Australian Curriculum and the National Consumer Financial Literacy Framework.
- [The Beanstalk](#): offers videos and fun activities for children to learn about money.



COVID-19 impacts and Store Trading Hours Update

Store trading hours will now be adjusted to opening:
Tuesday-Friday - 8:30am-5pm
Saturday – 9:30am -4pm

This means our store will be closed on Sunday and Monday until further notice.

Any questions please email us on:

Service@theschoollocker.com.au
Ballina@theschoollocker.com.au

Stay healthy and Safe

Sincerely

The School Locker Ballina Team
6/26 Boeing Ave
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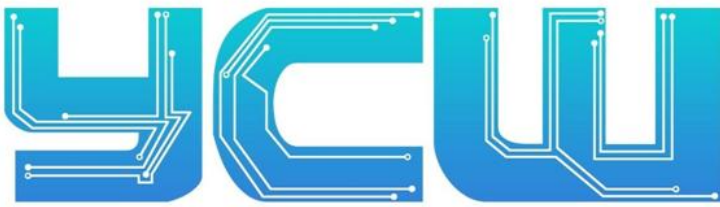
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