



Moulamein Public School

2020 Term 3 Week 2

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Principal's Messages

Welcome to Term 3! We hope you enjoyed the holidays and ready for a more consistent term ahead (fingers crossed). We are still living in a COVID-19 world and making continual adaptations at school. Students, staff and families have displayed resilience, flexibility and creativity through this time and will need to continue to do so. However, students have returned to school and are settled, working hard and enjoying being back in their classroom. Teachers are back enjoying face-to face teaching again too!



Reports

Academic Reports are now being finalised for Semester 1. Due to the interrupted program, these reports will be modified and parents will receive a summary of achievement, rather than a comprehensive report. The grading of students using the A-E scale is not required. New students will not receive a report. Parent/Teachers interviews will be by phone mid-way through this term. More information will go home about this shortly. It is important to remember that parents are able to contact the school regarding matters at anytime during the year. Please just leave a message through the front office for your child's teacher and they will return your call.

Education Week

Education Week will be a little different this year. The theme for 2020 is 'Learning together', a celebration of the partnerships between students, teachers, parents and the community that have kept education going through these exceptional times. This year has shown us just how important public schools are to the community of NSW, and we have a lot to celebrate. Unfortunately, we are unable to have our usual celebrations. We cannot invite parents and carers into the school and classroom to be part of our celebrations. However, we have planned some great activities for our students. With the Learning Together theme, students will be working collaboratively to complete STEM (Science, technology, engineering and Mathematics) projects. Hands-on fun STEM projects completed on the day will be shared with parents on our Facebook page.

COVID -19 Restrictions

The Department of Education continues to deliver guidelines for schools to follow. These guidelines and restrictions are continually changing due to the latest health issues we are facing. The current restrictions are now in place:

- NSW border zone residents must self-isolate if they have travelled outside the Victorian border zone before re-entering NSW using a valid permit or if they entered Victoria other than for a permitted purpose.
- All students who live on the New South Wales side of the border, in a border town will not need to do anything different unless they have travelled outside the Victorian border zone. In this case they will need to self-isolate for 14 days before returning to school.
- All staff and students returning from Victoria must have a permit to enter NSW and are required to self-isolate for a period of 14 days.
- Non-essential adults are still not permitted on school grounds or at school events. This includes parents and carers.
- Parents need to social distance at pick-up areas and drop off zones
- Increased cleaning will continue.
- All suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19 should be reported to the Principal.
- Please DO NOT send your child to school if they experience any symptoms and are unwell.

Activities on hold until further notice:

- Kindergarten orientation
- School camps
- Interstate excursions
- Parent and Carer volunteers
- Large-scale sporting events and assemblies

Attendance

Parents of children from Kindergarten to Year 12 must ensure their children attend school every day. On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstances e.g. attending a funeral.

Parents must provide an explanation for absences to the school within 7 days from the first day of any period of absence. Where an explanation has not been received within the 7-day timeframe, the school will record the absence as unjustified on the student's record.

Each week we will be sending home notes if we have not received an explanation for an absence. Our school has made an enormous amount of effort to improve school attendance and we have seen it slowly increase.

After returning to school this term, we have not got off to the most positive start and our current absence rate is **below state average**. I cannot encourage you enough to consider and understand the link between poor attendance and poor academic growth and to consider this before you allow your child to miss a day of school.

We have many students who have an attendance rate under 85% and therefore notes will be sent home to follow this up and a Home Liaison Officer may become involved to try and support a family and finding ways of improving attendance. It is mandatory that this is followed up by law. Some parents will be receiving a note shortly regarding an unsatisfactory attendance rate.

Excursions- Cancelled for 2020

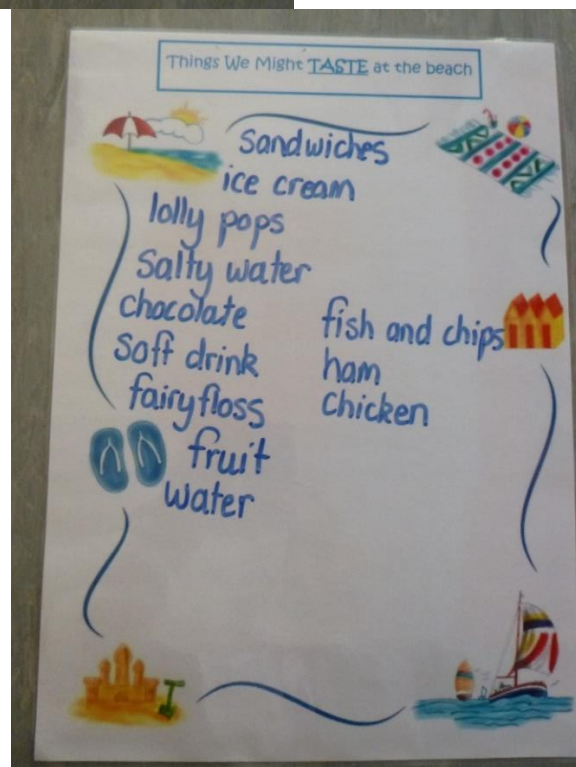
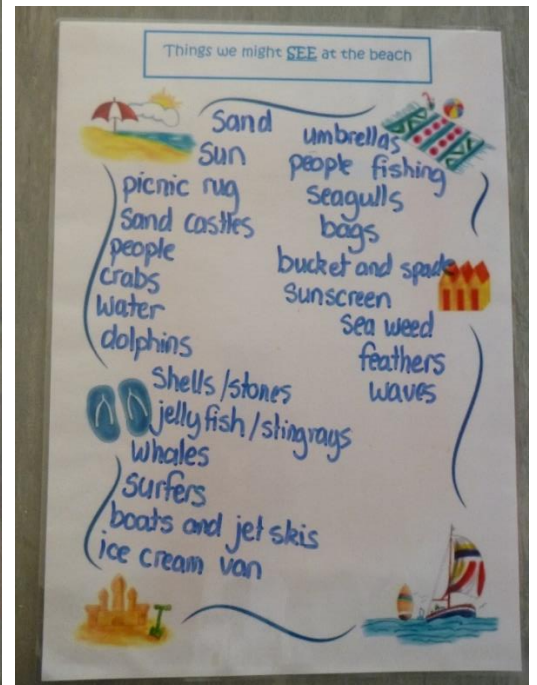
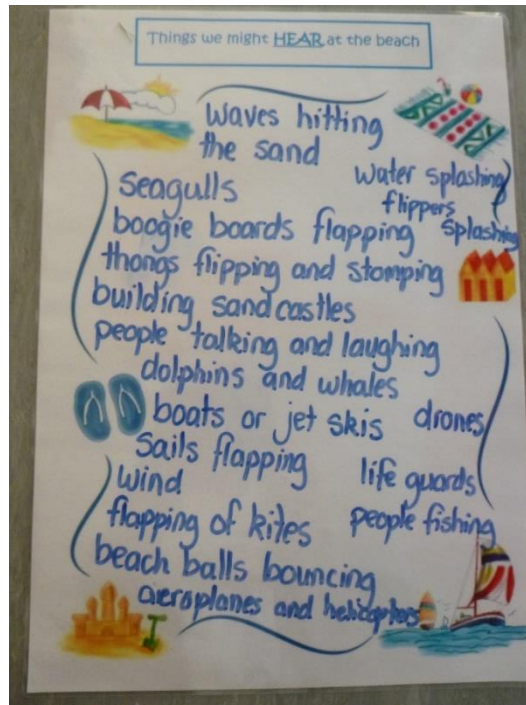
All excursions have been now cancelled for 2020 due to COVID-19. This is unfortunate, but a decision that had to be made for the safety of our students and staff.

Travel Rebate

This semester's travel rebate will be impacted by COVID-19. The rebate only covers the number of days your child/children attend school.

Kindergarten News from Mrs Mertz

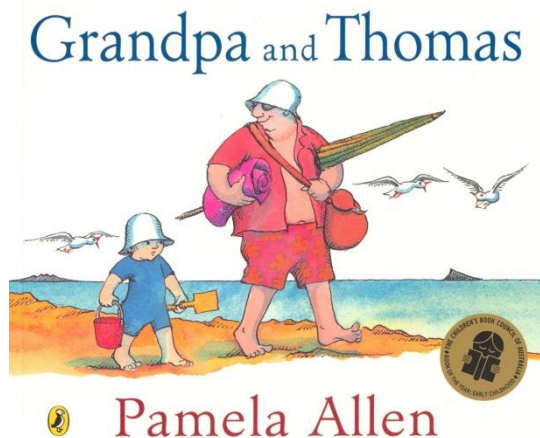
The Kinders have had a very settled start to Term 3. They are enjoying our new 'At the Beach' English theme and have already contributed to some classroom displays by discussing things we can see, hear and taste at the beach.



Our Word Wall is up and running with students making good use of it to write independent sentences.



Our first focus book is *Grandpa and Thomas* by Pamela Allen.



Students have loved joining in with the repeating line 'Swish, swash, swoosh sings the sea'. They have already completed some writing related to the book by recording what they like to do at the beach:

I like to jump at the beach. By Porscha

I like to eat ice cream at the beach. By Hannah

I like to build a sandcastle at the beach. By Rafael

I can see a big tiger shark at the beach. By Xavier

I like to eat at the beach. By Will

I like to ride on a kayak in the middle of the sea. By Chayse

I like to jump in the water at the beach. By Lewis

I like to walk on the beach. By Levi

I like to relax at the beach on my beach chair. By Hamish

I like to swim at the beach. By Willow

I like to jump in the water at the beach. By Dakota

I like to look at the lighthouse. By Maliyah

There was plenty of Maths fun on Friday when students got to use the Seesaw app on the iPads to create their own 2D pictures. They were very happy with their creations and I think they were pretty good too.



