

Welcome to 2020

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the 2020 school year. I love being out and about in the school and as I've walked around the playground already this year it's been lovely to see so many warm and smiling faces both from our existing and new families. I look forward to catching up with you personally and speaking about your holiday break. I hope that everyone enjoyed some time off over the Christmas/summer school recess and I'd like to extend a warm welcome back to everyone.

It's hard to escape the fact that we've started our school year with some community concern regarding the recent outbreak of the novel coronavirus in China. Please be assured that the NSW Department of Education is taking advice from the Australian Government Department of Health to ensure we are responding to the situation appropriately. Their advice is that students and staff should not attend school if:

- over the last 14 days they have visited the province of Hubei in central China
- they are under medical assessment or
- have been diagnosed with the Novel Coronavirus or
- have had close contact with a confirmed case of the Novel Coronavirus.

All other students are expected to be at school and require a medical certificate if they are absent. Please contact us if you require further information.

At Punchbowl Public School we pride ourselves on delivering quality teaching and learning programs that are research based and are proven to lift the learning outcomes of your children in the areas of literacy, numeracy, wellbeing and the creative arts. Our teachers are experts in their field and have been hand-picked and then strategically placed so that learning is challenging and delivered to suit each individual student's needs.

This week I have been spending time each day in your children's classrooms and it's exciting to see that already, teachers are undertaking Best Start, reading, writing and numeracy assessments. We will be inviting you to the school in the coming weeks to our 'Meet the Teacher' event. I encourage everyone to attend this important meeting so that we may plan your child's learning year together. At Punchbowl Public School we pride ourselves on working collaboratively with parents as partners in learning. We look forward to building even stronger relationships with you in 2020 so that your child can achieve greatness by becoming the best they can be.

Organisationally, in the primary school this year, we have established 23 classes and we have 2 support classes for students with Autism. Of course, our preschool and early intervention classes are running as normal and we're very pleased to announce an increase in total enrolments in 2020. Our preschool classes are at capacity and this is no doubt due to the well-deserved reputation of the outstanding teachers and educators leading programs in there.

As a staff we are extremely excited about 2020 and the successes and challenges it will bring. Our overriding aim is always to keep your child and their learning at the centre of everything that we do. We are proud of what we have to offer you as a community and we hope you support us by spreading the good name of the school far and wide.

If you have any concerns, questions, or queries during the year please remember that your child's teacher is the first person to contact. If they are unavailable please ask for the Assistant Principal and in cases that are extremely urgent, please don't hesitate to contact the office and make an appointment to see a Deputy Principal or me.

We are all here to help and work together with your child/ren as the number one priority.

Once again, welcome to 2020.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dace Elletson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dace Elletson
Principal
31 January 2019