

Dear Parents and Community members,

While the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, we want to assure you that we are following the advice of the Department of Education and the Department of Health and will keep you updated if or when things change. It is important that, as a school community, we apply common sense, factual information and a practical approach to the situation.

The current advice is that schools are to remain open, unless there is a confirmed case within the school. If there was to be a positive COVID-19 test at our school, the WA Health Department's Chief Health Officer would close our school temporarily while assessment and tracing of exposure is conducted.

Upon the school being notified, all families would be contacted immediately and provided with the relevant information. This contact may be during the school day, or before or after school. It is therefore important that we have up-to-date contact details, including email addresses; please notify the front office if these have changed.

Parents / caregivers would also be advised of the extent to which class-work can be completed at home during this temporary closure and will be provided with the details of how this would work.

A thorough school clean would be carried out to make the school safe for the return of students and staff.

While it is acknowledged that this may be a stressful time for our community, parents / caregivers are reminded that schools open and close all the time and that any school closure would be to ensure the safety of all students and staff.

As at 16th March, all families who return from overseas are required to self-isolate for fourteen days.

Students or staff who have been tested for COVID-19 should follow the advice of the Department of Health and stay away from school whilst awaiting results. Families who are required to self-isolate should email an Associate Principal for access to work packages for these students.

Work packages will only be provided to students who meet the criteria for self isolation or have a medical certificate indicating their child has an underlying medical condition that places them at significant risk. The Department of Education has indicated that parents who have chosen to keep their child home without seeking medical advice will not be provided with work packages as the priority for school staff is to maintain focus on classroom learning programs. In the event of a temporary school closure, further advice will be provided.

We have initiated a number of actions to support the safety and health of our community.

- Separate recess and lunch times are being held for Kindergarten, Pre-Primary to Year Two and Years Three to Six. This ensures there are less children together at any one time.
- Assemblies for the remainder of Term One have been cancelled. Assemblies in Term Two will be reassessed when the time draws nearer.
- Many of our events have, regrettably, been cancelled. We understand that many of our students will be disappointed and we share that sentiment. Where possible, some events may be rescheduled in the future.

## STAY CONNECTED



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The following events have been cancelled:

- Faction Athletics Carnival (20th March). School will continue its normal timetable on this day.
  - LADDs Beach Safety (scheduled for 21st March)
  - Carnival in Currambine / Food Truck evening (scheduled for 27th March).
  - Interschool Athletics Carnival (scheduled 3rd April).
  - Joondalup Lantern Parade for Year Four students (scheduled 4th April).
  - Anzac Ceremony (scheduled for 8th April).
  - P&C Colour Run (scheduled for 9th April).
  - School and Interschool Cross Country (Scheduled for 1st May and 22nd May).
  - Year Six Camp (Term Two). We are discussing alternative arrangements to provide the students with an experience in lieu of camp.
  - Winter Carnival (Term Two).
  - Belridge Secondary College Year 7 2021 Open Day (Scheduled for 6th May).
  - Ocean Reef Senior High School Year 7 2021 Information Night (Scheduled for 1st April).
  - Wanneroo Secondary College Year 7 2021 School in Action Tours (Scheduled for 24th and 26th March) and Specialist Program Evening (Scheduled for 31st March).
  - School Banking (closed for remainder of Term One, resuming date to be advised).
- Staff are re-enforcing the importance of hand washing and hygiene with all students. I would ask parents / caregivers to also re-enforce this message at home. Our school cleaners have been asked to ensure soap is checked and filled in toilets every day, which is the usual practice.
  - Together Towards Tomorrow Kindness Campaign. We've been thinking about ways to help our children and wider community to feel more positive by focusing on things we can control, such as being kind. Please follow our Facebook Page ([@CurrambinePrimarySchool](#)) as, in the coming weeks, we'll be providing ideas on how we can all make a positive impact in our community.

On a personal note many parents may not be aware I am a renal transplant patient and immune suppressed. I have been informed, given that I am in a high risk category for adverse impacts should I have contact with COVID-19, I must self-isolate for the remainder of the term. I must stress I am perfectly healthy but must self-isolate.

I have asked Mrs Harmer-Watkins to step into the role of Principal and Ms Terri Million to step into the role of Associate Principal. A relief teacher will take over TA47 while Ms Million is undertaking the Associate Principal role.

I will of course be in daily contact with my senior staff while I am in self-isolation to support our school community. Should parents have any concerns they are most welcome to email me at [geoffrey.smith@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:geoffrey.smith@education.wa.edu.au).

### Temporary Changes to Canteen Menu

Our wonderful Canteen Staff are under additional pressure as they are catering for our split and staggered recess and lunch times. As a result, there are some minor, temporary changes to the menu to help manage the additional workload. The School24 menu has been updated to reflect these changes. Thanks for your understanding.

## WA Positive Behaviour Support

The Western Australian Positive Behaviour Support Program (PBS) is being implemented into Currambine Primary School over the next three years. The first step in this process is to identify three to five key values to promote to our students and our school community. As part of this process, staff have worked through a process to identify ten potential values for our school.

We are now seeking input from students and parents through a survey. All students in Year Four through to Year Six will have the opportunity to complete a survey on the values and we are keen for all our parents to also share their views. The link below allows parents to rank the ten values in order and I invite all families to do so prior to 3rd April. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JR2B9N3>

## Server Replacement

The school's terminal server, which manages our databases, email correspondence, text messaging service and telephones, needs to be replaced. As a result, on Wednesday 25th March (from 3pm) and Thursday 26th March (all day), the school will be without our regular access to email, telephones, Connect and text messaging. However, we have plans in place should we need to contact the school community urgently during this time. I ask parents / caregivers to be understanding of this and to use the following numbers if you need to contact the school:

0409 648 049 - For urgent queries only please.

0408 934 134 - Should your child not be attending school due to illness or an appointment, please send a short SMS text message (including student name) explaining the absence.

## P&C Association AGM

The P&C Association hosted its AGM on Monday evening of this week. The Association elected the following parents to the senior positions of the P&C Association

President	Mike Bush
Vice President	Claire Ilhein
Secretary	Natalie Gaddie
Treasurer	Laura Butler
Fundraising	Kerry French
P&C Executive Committee	Peta Tait, Krystalie Walther, Andries Nel

Thank you to all parents who stepped up to a leadership role. The P&C have discussed the need to management fundraising events in line with the requirements of the Health Department to limit the risk associated with COVID 19 and this will see changes to the usual fundraising activities in the school

## Dogs on the School Grounds

Can I remind all families that dogs are not allowed on the school grounds to ensure the safety and welfare of all students. Dogs should remain outside the fence line of the school and students should meet parents with pets at gates. Your understanding with this matter is much appreciated.

## School Photos

School Photos have been conducted over the past three days and I thank Mrs Head for the organisation of this program. Orders must be submitted online before 25th March and the material sent home a few weeks ago will support parents with this process. Please contact MSP Photography on 9240 8000 for further details.

Geoff Smith  
Principal

## Additional COVID-19 Information

### How to minimise the spread of COVID-19

- Frequently wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or using an alcohol based hand gel.
- Refrain from touching mouth and nose.
- If coughing or sneezing, cover your nose and mouth with a paper tissue or flexed elbow.
- Dispose of the tissue immediately after use and perform hand hygiene.
- Avoid close contact with anyone if you, or they, have a cold or flu-like symptoms (maintain a distance of at least 1 metre).

### COVID-19 Symptoms

People with COVID-19 may experience:

- fever;
- flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat and fatigue; or
- shortness of breath.

For the latest health information and health related enquiries please visit [WA Department of Health](#) or access the helpline 1800 020 080.

### COVID-19 TESTING

The WA Chief Health Officer, Dr Andrew Robertson, has advised people should not go to be tested for COVID-19 to either COVID Clinics or GPs unless they are currently experiencing symptoms and meet the testing criteria.

To be eligible for testing people must:

- be currently experiencing symptoms such as fever, cough or sore throat AND have
- returned from overseas travel in the last 14 days
- OR be currently experiencing symptoms, and be a contact of a confirmed case

OR be currently experiencing symptoms and believe they have been in close contact with a person infected with COVID-19.