

The Junction News

Newsletter of The Junction Public School



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Term 4 – Week 10

Tuesday 15 December 2020

CALENDAR - TERM 4 – 2020

Week 10	Event
Tuesday, Dec 15	Year 6 Farewell Dinner – 6pm
Wednesday, Dec 16	LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS
Thursday, Dec 17	Staff Development Day
Friday, Dec 18	Staff Development Day

CALENDAR - TERM 1 – 2021

Week 1	Event
Wednesday, Jan 27	STAFF ONLY – Staff Development Day
Thursday, Jan 28	STAFF ONLY – Staff Development Day
Friday, Jan 29	YEAR 1 – 6 STUDENTS RETURN

Week 2	Event
Monday, Feb 1	Year 4 (2020) Great Aussie Bush Camp
Tuesday, Feb 2	Year 4 (2020) GABC
Wednesday, Feb 3	Year 4 (2020) GABC
Wednesday, Feb 3	Kindergarten 2021 start
Monday to Friday	Year 2 (2020) Swimming lessons

Week 4	Event
Tuesday, Feb 16	School Swimming Carnival – Years 3-6

Week 5	Event
Wednesday, Feb 24	Zone Swimming Carnival

2020

'What a year!

It's on the tip of everyone's tongues, all over the news and don't even start about social media.

A lot of you will have read 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' or seen the movie. This year has been just like walking through the back of the wardrobe and into another world. There have been heroes, villains and just ordinary children and adults, doing their best to live each day. And we did! I am thinking some of my student authors out there could use ideas from this year to write a book!

I was listening to our leaders' speeches a couple of weeks ago as they described their year and how they would look at moving forward in 2021 and it occurred to me, as it has over the last few months, that there is also a whole lot of good things that have happened this year as well – things we should reflect on and celebrate.

As our world got smaller during times of isolation, we began to be more grateful for the little things – the things we usually take for granted. Who could forget the Italians out on their tiny balconies singing and playing beautiful music every evening? In Newcastle we looked out on the spaces in our backyards and parks and were grateful we weren't trapped on high rise buildings.

We looked on in sorrow when some people got sick – and then we looked at our own families and were thankful they were well, even though many of us were communicating by Facetime. I know my own youngest granddaughter thought I lived inside the phone and would kiss me goodbye right on the screen. Once she sat the phone beside her so I could watch the Wiggles with her!

People around the neighbourhood talked and smiled more often as we knew we were all in this together.

At school our teachers and school leaders had to think and improvise on the spot to support all 547 students and their learning as well as support parents during a difficult time for all.

We were scared for a while though. How was it OK for all teachers and our students to be at school when everyone was instructed to work from home? There were so many unknowns. At the same time we had 5 pregnant staff at school. As a Principal this kept me awake at night!

So what happened? We were brave. We knew what we had to do. We just got on with it the best way we could. Our students of essential workers came to school and, as well as our students at home, learned a whole range of technical

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skills through necessity – skills that will help them build competence in secondary school and into the workplace moving forward. We stood at the gate each morning as our students bravely learned to come into school without their parents, or older brothers and sisters looked after younger brothers and sisters. Our school families stepped back from being in the school itself as the risk was greater the more people we had on site – the maths was clear – we already had 547 students and 40 + staff.

Something that saved us often was our senses of humour. I don't think the Aussie sense of humour can be matched anywhere. It was amazing how often I would hear laughter throughout the school (especially the staffroom) as we laughed at the craziest of things.

*Our wonderful canteen workers and clients from Response started signing in at the front office when we were able to open the canteen and we made many new relationships with people who usually just walked past the office, and they were **so** happy to be back and serving the students. A special mention here goes to Belinda Parker (P&C president), Ali Robinson (uniform shop) and Jen Whitehead (canteen) who helped us support the community during rapidly changing times.*

I could go on about all the things that went well and we used the growth mindset to get us through.... I'm sure a whole range of things have come into your minds from your own experience.

But – from the heart – I would like to thank our gorgeous students who stepped up and the wonderful parents who supported them (and us). I especially have a new respect and regard for my staff. At the beginning of this journey I pointed out that my own academic qualifications were the same as their's AND everyone's contributions were needed when decisions about the 'unknown' were made.

And together we survived this adventure.

This is where I usually recognise the people who have helped with today. As usual our wonderful office staff team, Tom, Miss Chaffey and her technology – she is experimenting with our newest piece of equipment today and Mrs Brown – thank you. But the rest of our Executive team, staff team and senior students have stepped up so often this year, I just couldn't begin to name names. We will be saying goodbye to some of our temporary staff at the end of the year, however we hope to see them again in the future. Our enrolments across Newcastle are down this year because we are not seeing our temporary overseas families joining us as they usually do at this stage of the year.

I would like to wish the whole Junction School Community a happy Christmas and we'll renew our hopes for a wonderful 2021."

Memorial Plaque – Bryce Jackel

Last Thursday afternoon there was a small gathering of the family of Bryce Jackel, his extended family, teachers, and community members to unveil a commemorative plaque near the library.

Bryce Jackel was a teacher at The Junction Public School from 2009 till he passed away in 2017.

His sons Archie and Louie both attended The Junction during this time.

Bryce was a passionate teacher always there for the children in his care, always there for the families and always thoughtful about what more he could do to bring out the best in his students. He developed strong relationships with all his students, and they thrived under his teaching. It was a gentle, caring but focussed approach. Bryce very easily developed strong connections with the community and was very well respected by many families. He had a strong rapport with all his students and their families, and it was pretty evident to all that he really cared about kids.

Early learning and literacy were very important to Bryce and the school now celebrates that every year at Presentation Day with the Early Learning Award in his memory. From 2021 this award will be now known as the Bryce Jackel Early Learning Award to acknowledge this very special teacher.

The plaque reads:

In memory of Bryce Jackel
Teacher, Father and Friend

The best teachers are those who show you where to look,
but don't tell you what to see'

TJPS 2009 - 2017

Thank you..thank you - Charity Week

Charity Week was held at school from Monday 30th November to Friday 4th December.

During this fun filled week, students took part in a Games Day, Movie Day, Disco and Xmas Craft experience. They also finished the week with a great barbecue and sausage sizzle.

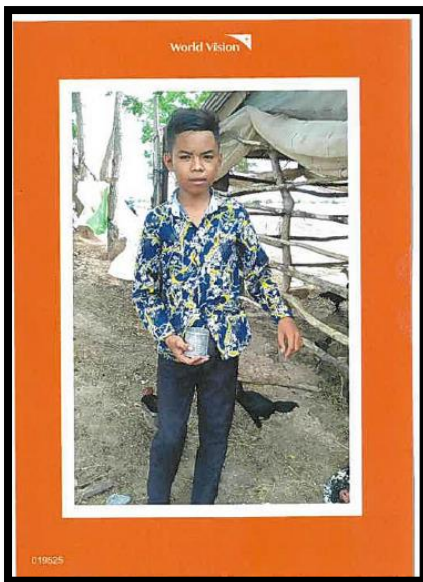
I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their support for Charity Week this year and for donating money to the cause.

This year we raised an astonishing \$6700, which I do believe is a record amount for Charity Day or Week.

It has been decided that the charities we will be supporting this year and the amount of money allocated will be:

- Samaritans \$1000
- Allambie Care \$1000
- World Vision (for sponsor child) \$1000
- Make a Wish Foundation \$1200
- Soul Café (local charity providing meals etc for the homeless) \$2000
- Jenny's Place (local women's refuge) \$500

Regards, Mark Alcock



Our World Vision Sponsor Child from Cambodia
.....Saravut Keo

2021 – BACK TO SCHOOL

If you are aware that your child/children will be absent on the first day back next year (Friday 29th January) or the following week (Monday 1st February to Friday 5th February) can you please advise the school office via Skoolbag, email or by phone the school office – staff will be back on Wednesday 27th January.

ALSO, IF YOU KNOW YOUR CHILD WILL BE MOVING SCHOOLS NEXT YEAR, PLEASE ADVISE THE SCHOOL OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

SWIMMING PROGRAM – 2021

Orange notes went home recently (Year 2 – 2020) for (Year 3 – 2021)

The swimming program will operate from Monday 1st February to Friday 5th February, 2021 (Week 2).

Please send your Orange Permission note to the office – this week if possible. Payment (\$37.50) is due Wednesday 3rd February. This is the perfect opportunity for students to have some intensive instruction just prior to our School Swimming Carnival in Week 4.

Year 1 and 2 students (2021) remain scheduled to attend their regular 9 day program in the first two weeks of Term 4, 2021.

SCHOOL SECURITY PHONE NUMBER: 1300 880021

Please save this phone number on your phones! Please report any incidents you may see or if you see anyone on our school grounds after hours.

Thank you for keeping our school safe!

THANK YOU TO OUR SCHOOL CANTEEN TEAM

Thank you to Jenni and her wonderful team of helpers who always make sure the students are well fed.



UNIFORM SHOP

At this stage, we have an enormous amount of second hand uniforms here at the shop. For this reason, the Uniform Shop is only accepting SECOND HAND 'SPORTS UNIFORM' ITEMS, Polo Shirts and Black Shorts. Don't forget you can email the Uniform Shop if you require second hand bomber jackets, shorts, tunics.

Email: tipsuniformshop@gmail.com

UNISEX UNIFORM UPDATE

Currently the Uniform Shop online store is out of the following sizes:

Unisex polos in sizes: 6, 8 and 10

Unisex shorts in sizes: 4 and 8

We are awaiting a delivery from S-Trend and have been advised it should arrive late December.

Once this order has been received and added to the store a SkoolBag message will be sent out.

Please note we are not taking pre-orders for these items.