



CATTAI PUBLIC SCHOOL

PELICAN POST



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Term 3 Week 2 — 22 July 2021

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Learning from Home: some tips and tricks

Last time we had COVID impact student learning I posted a note to parents with some tips and tricks. I have read over and revised my earlier post and wanted to share. All with the goal of not being too 'life coachy' but more just wanting to offer some tips and advice for things that I know some of our parents (me included) have been trying:



Prioritise: Start with the English and Mathematics activities first as they are the most important. If your busy COVID-19 schedule only allows for 4 tasks to be completed make sure they are English and Mathematics tasks.

Lots of breaks: Break up the day by scheduling in break times between tasks. Working 1-to-1 is very mentally taxing on both you and your child. Breaks help to pace out the day and avoid burn out.

Rewards: Have planned rewards for completing a certain amount of tasks. In my house hold this is negotiated before hand and after every two tasks have been completed. Some examples could be: Short TV break, playing with a favourite toy, going on phonics hero or even just some time hanging out and talking (Which can be a big bucket filler for kids given how busy we all are). Whatever the reward may be the key is that your child chooses so they are more motivated to complete the tasks and have something to look forward to.

Flexible planning: Although each task is set to a certain day, there is nothing to prevent you from skipping ahead and going back over tasks. Using weekends to catch up on a task or two when your partner is home to help might also work. Let's face it, we are all stuck at home and using this time to catch up on a few tasks could help stem the boredom factor over weekends.

Quality over quantity: Take the needed time to explore each concept and go into detail if needed. Don't feel rushed by time pressures as some of us may have more time now than we ever have. Or you could be the complete opposite situation so doing less is a great use of the minimal amount of time you have.

Ask for help: The staff and I are more than happy to help out in what ever way we can. Feel free to either send messages via google classroom or call the front office. You wont be the first and you certainly wont be the last. As a general rule if you have been stuck on some thing for more than 5 minutes then you probably should have already called.

Parent wellbeing: Make sure your planning into your day activities for your own wellbeing and mental health. I've always said to my staff, if you had to choose "It's better to teach a thrown together lesson but be well rested and happy. Than to teach the most amazingly planned lesson with having had no sleep and being stressed out". We a far more effective teachers/parents when we look after ourselves. Know the things that bring you calmness, happiness and help to destress you and actively plan them into your day.

Take care
Robert Hawkes
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CATTAI PUBLIC SCHOOL

TERM 3 CALENDAR

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Wk	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
W1 Jul	12 Staff Development Day	13	14	15	16
W2 Jul	19 Henny Penny Chickens Arrive 'Postponed until students return'	20	21 Super Hero Day 'Cancelled'	22	23
W3 Jul	26	27 Spelling Parent Information Session 'Postponed'	28	29 Education Week Open Day 'Postponed' P&C Meeting 'Zoom'	30
W4 Aug	2	3	4 Cupcake Day 'TBC'	5	6 Phonics with Families 'Postponed for now'
W5 Aug	9	10	11	12 Healthy Harold 'TBC'	13 Parent Assembly (C3) 'Virtual'
W6 Aug	16 3 Way Conference Week 'May need to be done as phone conferences like last year'	17	18 Zone Athletics 'Likely Cancelled TBC'	19	20 Zone Athletics 'Likely Cancelled TBC' Phonics with Families 'Postponed for now'
W7 Aug	23	24 Book Week 'TBC' Possibly Virtual.	25 Hawkesbury Dance Festival 'Cancelled'	26 P&C Meeting 'Zoom'	27 Term 3 Excursion 'TBC'
W8 Aug/Sep	30	31	1 Cupcake Day 'TBC'	2 Learning Dispositions Parent Information Session 'TBC'	3 Phonics with Families 'TBC' P&C Bingo Night 'TBC'
W9 Sep	6 Stage 3 Camp 'TBC'	7 Stage 3 Camp 'TBC'	8 Stage 3 Camp 'TBC'	9	10 Parent Assembly (C1) 'Virtual' Netball and Futsal Gala Day 'TBC'
W10 Sep	13	14	15 MMVWaC Academic Challenge 'TBC'	16 SRC Rewards Disco 'TBC'	17 Colour Fun Run 'TBC'

New P&C Funded Play Equipment and BMX Track Upgrade

Over the holidays we had two exciting projects completed on our school grounds. The first, was the instalment of our timber play equipment. Andrew Smith from Timber creations has installed some beautifully hand crafted timber pieces. The second, was an upgrade to our BMX Track. I want to thank Scott Warner from Limitless Tracks for his work on the BMX Track. He has really next levelled the look of our track and will be amazing for BMX lessons and lunch times when we are all back at school again.





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The P&C have approved a contribution of \$10,000 from our fundraising efforts to go towards the new Surface Pro Minis. These will be ready and waiting for the children upon their return.

Meeting ID: 685 9946 0173

IMPORTANT DATES / REMINDERS

Cake Day: Wednesday 4th August — King, Locock, Hawkes, Slawski and Powe

Next P&C: Our next P&C meeting will be the on 29th July — 7:00pm via Zoom, <https://nsweducation.zoom.us/j/68599460173?pwd=ZEMzWi9aWkg1UkRrREJ4NHNPNEFwZz09>

Meeting ID: 685 9946 0173 Passcode: 990689

Save the date: Bingo Night 3rd September