

Sheoak Grove Primary School

Newsletter

Week 2, Term 1 2021

We finally got back to school this week after a false start in Week 1. It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back and see our Kindergarten students for the first time as they get themselves settled into their new learning environments.

We have grown by three classes this year and have a number of new staff join us to start 2021. We welcome everyone who is new to Sheoak Grove into our school community and we hope you have all enjoyed your introduction!

COVID Restrictions

Thank you to all of our staff and parents who have adhered to the restrictions we have faced this week. Some adults did have exemptions for masks, but most were able to work around that. We will continue to adhere to the restrictions that come from our government and the guidelines that subsequently come from the Department of Education.

I think we all expect the Premier to announce the next COVID management phase over the weekend. When that occurs we will communicate how they will be interpreted for our school on Connect and through our Facebook page. Please keep an eye out for that.

New Staff

This term we have formally welcomed six new staff into our school.

In our Early Childhood block, **Katy Nicholson** has joined us to teach our Pre-Primary class in ECE 5. **Lisa Wilkinson** has joined Rosie Paine's Kindy class in ECE 1 as our Education Assistant while Wendy MacKenzie is on leave.

In Orange Block we have welcomed **Samantha McPherson** who has joined us from Rockingham Lakes Primary School to teach our year ones in Room 7.

We have two new staff members in Blue Block. **Nicola Edwards** is teaching our year 2/3 class in Room 10 and **Kahlia Lewis** has our year 4 class in Room 12.

We have expanded our specialist programs this year to cater for our growing population. **Amanda Oliver** has joined us in our Music program on Thursdays and Fridays. Tam Lee will spend more time in our Visual Arts program and Mr Pilling has now joined us full time in our Physical Education program.

We welcome all of our new staff and we're really looking forward to the contribution they will make to our school community.

School Enrolments

Our initial planning seems to have been able to absorb our new enrolment growth so far in 2021. Our school census date is today, so next week we will be able to forward our final planning for the year with more accuracy. At this stage, we don't expect to have to reshuffle our classrooms, however this can never be guaranteed in our context, given the rate at which we continue to grow. When and if this changes, we will communicate our plans as clearly as possible to our school community.

Connect

Connect is our primary source of communication for parents. To access Connect, parents need a 'P number' to log in and then can create their own password. Parents new to our school should have received initial login in details via email this week. If you are new to our community and didn't receive it, please contact our office.

Once you log in you will be able to see the Connect pages of the classes your children are in. You can switch between your children to see different communications, and you should also be able to do that for your children who attend other public schools.

The Connect Now app is available for your phone through the relevant app store. Please turn your notifications on so that you never miss important information from our school.

State Election

Sheoak Grove Primary School will be a polling place for the Western Australian Election on March 13. The electoral commission will use our Covered Assembly Area for this purpose. The car park at the back of the school will be open for our community to use.



Parents and Citizens Committee

This year we are looking forward to a new P&C Committee being formed. We will hold an Annual General Meeting in the coming weeks. The date and time will be communicated to our school community very soon. All of our office bearer positions will be vacant and we encourage parents to consider nominating for them. Information about each position and a description of each role within the Committee will be available with the meeting details.

In 2020 our P&C raised a tremendous amount of funds to support our school in its infancy, and held fantastic events to help us

celebrate our first year of operation. Again, we thank our outgoing Executive Committee and everyone who took a role on our P&C last year. We are looking forward to our new play facilities being confirmed and placed in our school to cater for our growing student population.

We are looking forward to another successful P&C year in 2021.

Before School Arrangements

We urge all of our families to join us in Tamworth Square before school each morning.

It is important that all staff are able to complete their preparations for the day, and just as importantly, we want to keep building our sense of community and connection. Students and families are welcome to use the play equipment that is available from just outside our Covered Assembly Area each morning on the grass in Tamworth Square. We can also use the playground between our Orange and Blue Blocks and our Basketball courts.

The ECE playground is not a supervised area before school, and as such we urge parents not to congregate in that area before the handbell sounds at 8:30 am.

We look forward to a great but now greatly shortened, first term. I'm sure we all have our fingers crossed that COVID-19 doesn't restrict us again, but please be assured we have our planning in place to cope with all of the outcomes we can reasonably expect.

I look forward to seeing you all throughout our school soon.

*Craig Stanners
Principal*