



Sheoak Grove Primary School

Newsletter

Week 9, Term 4

We have arrived at the end of our inaugural year! From February 3 2021 we will no longer be the New School in Baldivis. Pine View will take that title, and we wish Ms Heath and everyone involved at Pine View all the best for the exciting 12 months they have ahead of them.

We have had many highlights across our first year, too many to describe properly within the confines of this newsletter, but they have all been 'the first' and they've all been special. Importantly, we now have a springboard into the next phase of our school. We have an excellent foundation to build on, to develop our growth, our connection and the opportunities we give our students to shine.

2020 has been exceptionally challenging at times. On top of the specific tests that opening a school and establishing our programs and processes give rise to, we had 25% of our year severely disrupted due to the COVID pandemic. That forced us to modify the agenda for our inaugural year, to readjust and to re-evaluate what was achievable within the rest of the year.

It meant that, apart from the critical learning opportunities that occur in classrooms, things like swimming lessons, the Year 6 camp, incursions, carnivals and other really important events like Book Week and NAIDOC and had to either be heavily modified cancelled or postponed to another time. Of course that 'other time' was term 4, and we have had an extremely busy term as a result. The important thing is that we have done the things we focused on very successfully, and they have been very effective for our students.

COVID also gave us the opportunity to develop the connection we have with our parent community with some real urgency. We were only 6 weeks into our first term as a school when we had to confront the reality of online learning and all of the other components that

the situation brought with it. It gave our staff the opportunity to accelerate the way we developed our collaborative systems, to challenge and support each other and to build a wonderful staff culture that will launch the next phase of teaching and learning at Sheoak Grove, and welcome and support the people who are coming to join us in 2021.

Our parent community has been awesome through all of this too. When access to school wasn't possible, you understood, when things had to be postponed, you were patient, and when things had to be modified or even cancelled you were extremely accepting and supportive. Then, when we could get back to something approximating 'normal', you turned out in huge numbers to support everything we have done. That level of parental and community support has been simply amazing, and our entire staff has felt very much supported throughout the year. We value the connection we have with our community extremely highly, and sincerely appreciate the levels of support that we have received.

I am extremely proud of what we have achieved together as a school community in our inaugural year. I am proud of how we went about it and the connections we have made on the journey.

2021 will be another exciting year, full of opportunity and potential. We very much look forward to building on the sustainable foundations we have built together through the challenges that a rapidly growing school population brings.

Our Students

I want to congratulate our students on a wonderful first year at Sheoak Grove. They have done an amazing job in getting to know one another, in supporting one another and in getting down to work in their learning programs.

On average, we have enrolled about one new family into our school each week across the year and our students have loved the opportunity to welcome new children into their school. One of the really great things has been that everybody was a 'new kid' at some point this year, and our students have made sure that everyone has had the opportunity fit right in to their classrooms straight away.

Our students have formed our inaugural sporting teams, our first choir and have all enjoyed being part of our 'first' everything in 2020. They have represented our school wonderfully, grown together as a school extremely well and have been a real joy to have as our foundation students.

Of course we say goodbye to our inaugural Year 6 students this week at their own assembly. There were only ever supposed to be 6 or 7 students in this cohort, but we quickly grew to 17 through the year. Even so, it is a small group, and one we are very proud of. They have been a wonderful group to have as our initial leaders and role models for younger students. They took every opportunity afforded to them and did a fantastic job on their Point Peron Camp and other end of school opportunities they have had including their art piece, the orienteering day and the challenge they undertook to name our factions. Those names will be announced at our Book Award Assembly.

Congratulations to our Year 6 Student Leaders and Faction Captains for their work across 2020. They had many functions and assemblies to negotiate, including our official opening when they spoke in front of our Premier, our Minister for Education and our Director General along with a large crowd of dignitaries and community members. Their work has been much appreciated and has set a standard for others to follow.

We wish all of our Year 6 students the very best as they move on to their respective secondary schools and beyond.

To all of our returning students, we wish you a fantastic time over your holidays, a well-deserved rest and we look forward to seeing you back with us on 2021.

To those students who are moving to other schools through moving house or out of area situations or for any another reason, we say thank you for everything you have contributed to our school in our first year and we wish you the very best for life at your new school. You will always be foundation students of Sheoak Grove!

Our Staff

It is very appropriate here to pause and reflect on the year of outstanding work our staff have achieved together in 2020.

When they arrived on January 27 we still had contractors completing the buildings and surrounds. Very few knew each other and of course they didn't know the students and parents they'd be working with at all. They are an extraordinary staff who do amazing things in their classrooms, in their specific roles throughout our school and in our community.

Our teaching staff, our assistants, our administrative staff, psychologist, chaplain, library officer, cleaners and gardeners have become a strong and united team that work extremely well together to ensure our students have the best possible learning opportunities. It is not always advisable to single people out, but I would like to make special mention of our Deputy, Mrs Oliver, and our MCS Mrs Martin for the outstanding work they completed in administration roles before we got to our school site and the outstanding leadership they have provided to our school community in 2021.

At the end of this year we will say congratulations and goodbye to our chaplain Mrs Lewis who will have her first baby early next year. We thank Jemma for all of her hard work in setting up her role and being an important part of our Student Services Team. What a wonderful addition she has been to our team!

Of course we will lose Mrs Donaldson very, very early in the new school year who will be leaving when its time for her new bundle of joy to be born too. We say au revoir to Mrs Donaldson, along with all of our best wishes and congratulations. We look forward to second semester when she plans to rejoin us.

Of course that means we can officially welcome our new staff to Sheoak Grove. We announced the appointment of **Ms McPherson** and **Miss Lewis** in our last newsletter. I am very happy to announce that **Ms Katy Nicholson** will join us in our Early Childhood Team, **Mrs Nicole Edwards** will join us in our junior primary area and **Ms Amanda Oliver** is joining us to become one of our Music teachers as Ms Lee moves into more of a Visual Arts role. We welcome all of these teachers and we very much look forward to the contributions they will make to our school community.

We thank every one of our staff members for their fantastic work throughout 2020, and really look forward to their work in 2021 – but not until they have had a wonderful, relaxing and thoroughly well-deserved holiday!

Our P&C

I really want to express our most sincere appreciation for everything our P&C has done over our initial 12 months together.

It hasn't been an easy year, but the P&C has been fantastically effective in its fundraising ventures. On Wednesday, at our Book Award Assembly, our P&C will hand over a massive cheque to our school as a result of their hard work. I won't spoil that announcement here, but I will say that it is way, way beyond an amount that could have possibly been realistically proposed at the start of the year.

We have had two presidents over the course of 2020, with Adrienne Turner and Renee Hewitt both serving in this role. I want to say a most sincere thank you to both of them for their hard work and commitment to the role. To everyone who has served as an office bearer, and

executive member or as a general member, we want to acknowledge your efforts and thank you for your commitment and drive.

Our current office bearers are all stepping down from their positions at the end of 2020. Thank you to Renee and Nakira Burkala for extending their time as president and vice president throughout the last term. That saw us through a very busy time! Thank you also to Tracey Boswell who has served as Treasurer all year and who will be moving schools with her family in 2021.

As is usual for P&Cs, we will be calling for nominations for our office bearer positions and places on the executive at the P&C AGM in February. Thank you to the outgoing executive for ensuring everything is in place to comply with all of the policy and financial requirements for the new P&C to begin smoothly in 2021.

Our School Board

In 2020 our inaugural School Board had a mountain to climb in our school's first year, helping to write and endorse school policy and procedure, reviewing our progress from semester to semester and importantly, drafting of our first School Business Plan.

We are privileged to have such a talented group of parents and staff on our foundation Board, and I want to publicly acknowledge each and every member's efforts across the year. I thank them for their commitment to our Terms of Reference and to our school Community. They often met late, did extra meetings and worked with our staff on a School Development Day to progress the Business Plan.

In particular, I'd like to thank Mr Jared McEntee for his leadership as our Board Chair. It is an important and critical position in any school, but even more so in the context of a school's foundation year. His work is very much appreciated. We are looking forward to the next installment of our Board in 2021.

Enrolments & 2021 Class Lists

As noted in our last newsletter, we continue to experience a large increase in enrolments across our school for students from within our Local Intake Area. These enrolments are continuing late in the year and we expect new enrolments right up to the opening day of the new school year.

This makes planning for the start of the school year problematic. While we have three different versions of our class structure and the associated class lists that go with them, which one of those structures – or indeed a new version altogether – we start with depends solely on the number of enrolments that come into our school. That being the case, we plan to have our class lists available for our community on January 27, the day that booklist orders are available for pick up from our Covered Assembly Area.

This limits the amount of change that students may experience when they return to school. Thank you for your understanding with this issue.

Booklist Collections

Ziggies will have our Booklist orders ready for collection at our school on Wednesday January 27 between 12:45 and 1:30 pm. They will be available for collection in the Covered Assembly Area.

Uniforms

Our School Board has endorsed our Dress Code to begin the 2021 school year. The full dress code will be on our website very soon, and a summary will be available on Connect the same day.

Nell Gray have advised us that there are some changes in protocol of ordering and receiving

uniforms at their superstore in Jandakot for January. This is obviously the busiest time of their year, and that necessitates some minor changes. The information sheet in regard to that is available on Connect.

Ella Rocks with Baldivis Gardens

Congratulations to Ella McEntee who represented our school at the Baldivis Gardens PS Book Award assemblies last week. Ella is the only student at Sheoak who participates in the School of Instrumental Music program (SIM) and as such can't study instrumental music at Sheoak Grove.

Baldivis Gardens generously offered to let her join their program on Fridays where she plays the flute and she has been playing with their band all year.

It was fantastic to be able to go across to Gardens to see her play, while wearing our uniform, for their school community. She did an amazing job and she can be super proud of her commitment to do that every week and pursue her music talent. We thank Baldivis Gardens for hosting Ella and supporting us to make sure she could continue to learn and foster her talent. It is much appreciated!





We hope all of our parents can join us for our Book Award Assembly on Wednesday morning, but if not, please remember it will be streamed live on Facebook so you, grandparents, uncles, aunts and friends can see it where ever you might be.

Thank you for being on the journey with us this year. We are all looking forward to seeing everyone who is joining us in 2021 back through the school gates again in February, and to those who are leaving us, we wish you all the very best in your new school communities.

We wish everybody a fantastic Christmas period and a very happy and prosperous 2021. We hope everyone has a safe and wonderful holiday and that you all get to spend the time with the people that matter to you most.

Best wishes,

Craig Stanners
Principal