



*Dear Salisbury Downs Community,*

*What a year 2020 has been! A challenging year for many, with so much tragedy, loss and heartache for families and businesses right across the world.*

*It certainly puts life in perspective and gives you an appreciation for our own current circumstances here in Australia. But in amongst all the negativity it's important to take a moment to consider the things that you are grateful for, proud of and that bring a smile to your face.*

*As Principal of our wonderful community, there have been many highlights this year:*

*Just this week, our students were outstanding in their performances on our concert day. The energy that they brought, and the quality of the performances was outstanding. It would have been great to have the community with us to celebrate the occasion but the recordings of these performances should be available shortly via seesaw for you all to see.*

*Our Year 7's graduated on Tuesday night, being able to share the occasion with a couple family members each (after it looked unlikely at one stage that guests would be able to attend). The students looked wonderful and spoke positively about their experiences at Salisbury Downs Primary School. It was a memorable night.*

*Earlier in the year we were able to convert some of our contract staff to permanent positions at our school. Mrs Tracey Horn, Mrs Staci McGauchie and Mrs Karen Bentley have all won permanent SSO positions. Miss Laura Kielczynski, Miss Karina Bacolo and Mrs Cheryl Wilson became permanent teachers at our school. Wonderful long term additions to our staff.*

*In Term 2, our school was recognised as the school that has achieved the most academic growth, over the last 12 months, out of all the schools in the local area. A great achievement and recognition for the hard work that all of our staff put in, to provide our students with opportunities to be successful.*

*We hosted a number of exciting school-wide events such as Sports Day and Colour Run, Wear Red for Heartkids Day, Swimming Lessons and Aquatics to name a few.*

*In 2021 we look forward to some exciting developments at Salisbury Downs Primary School. We are committed to expanding the technology available to our students, from 30 laptops currently in the school, to over 120 laptops in the primary years, with significant upgrades to our IT infrastructure.*

*We are also looking forward to some redevelopments of our staffroom facilities and our office facilities. Anyone who has entered these spaces, would understand how cramped and uninviting they are. Our plan is to be able to begin this work sometime in the first half of the year. Watch this space!*

*In staffing news, as is the case each year, we have some current staff who will no longer be with us in 2021. We wish the following staff all the best in the future: Mr Damon Adams, Mrs Ilona Atterton and Miss Sejla Kiveric will not be part of our staff team next year, but we thank them for the commitment and support that they have shown in their time with us.*

*A couple of new faces that you will see at the beginning of 2021 are Miss Amanda Batten and Miss Rebecca Jones. Amanda has been appointed in a new position, as Curriculum Coordinator and Blue Unit Teacher. Rebecca will be working 3 days in the Yellow Unit in Term 1, while Ms Teresa Wilkey continues her maternity leave.*

*Our Teaching Staff for 2021 will be:*

*Blue Unit Teachers: Steph Gangitano (B5), Steve Manhire (B1), Amanda Batten/Laura Timpano (B4)*

*Red Unit Teachers: Lynn McKenzie/Kerri Perkins (R6), Cheryl Wilson (R1), Gemma Stewart (R4), Danielle Brennan/Laura Timpano (R3)*

*Green Unit Teachers: Karina Baco (G4), Megan MacLeman (G5), Michaela Stephens (G1)*

*Yellow Unit Teachers: Victoria Tuit (Y4), Michelle Dunn (Y5), Laura Kielczynski (Y1), Kylie Carr/Rebecca Jones (Y5)*

*Specialist Teachers: Ben Princi (PE), Travis Renshaw (Science), Ilse Renshaw (Cooking and Gardening), Kathy Stanning (Learning Support), Sharon Matthews (Learning Support/Aboriginal Education Teacher) and Kerri Perkins (Literacy Support)*

*Leadership Team: Scott Mathews (Principal), David Bentley (Deputy), Cheryl Taylor (Wellbeing Coordinator), Amanda Batten (Curriculum Coordinator)*

*To finish off, I would love to say a huge thank you to our community who have shown great patience, understanding and support for the staff and students of Salisbury Downs Primary School, in what has been a particularly challenging year.*

*Yesterday in the office, we were talking about how amazing you have been in adhering to the restrictions and recommendations that have been in place.*

*It's not easy for many of you to stand at the gate and wave your child off, to not be allowed to attend the concert, volunteer in the school or to speak face-to-face with your child's teacher. But you've done it, like we've asked, and supported us in following the protocols set by the Department of Education.*

*The amount of thankyou's, gifts, chocolates, flowers and cards that members of our school community have passed on, has been overwhelming and extremely thoughtful. We really do appreciate it!*

*On behalf of the Salisbury Downs Primary Staff,*

*We hope that the Christmas break is one filled with laughter, love and positivity for you all, and we look forward to seeing most of you back in 2021, for what we hope is a less eventful year (in relation to COVID!).*

*For those who are not returning, all the best with your move to the new school and we trust that your time at Salisbury Downs Primary has been a positive experience.*

*Have a safe and happy holiday break everyone!*

*Scott Mathews (Principal)*

