

Salisbury Downs Primary School



Courage Good Manners Friendliness Compassion Persistence Tolerance



Newsletter No. 11 Term 4 Week 6 Date of Issue: Friday 1st December 2021



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Wow, what a year we have all had.

One of the many character strengths we talk about at school is resilience and the pandemic has created a situation and a need to develop this in ourselves.

Everyone; children, parents and teachers have needed to be resilient, getting up and bouncing back from the many things that have been thrown at us all.

One of the other things that have come from the Covid experiences and the home schooling that came with it, has been people understanding that teaching is not an easy job.

I believe that a week or two at home supporting children with their learning, trying to understand the process of learning new things, keeping them on track and checking the work they have done has helped us move away from teaching being seen as a 9:00 – 3:00 job that people do because of the holidays to one of great appreciation.

Now magnify this to a class of 30 students, across 6 ½ hours a day, 40 weeks a year, supervising them when they play, planning programming and assessing across all subject areas and then analysing results to determine future learning, managing social and emotional difficulties and helping build the skills of self and social management.

Now provide authentic student feedback and set individual learning goals for each child, write their reports and meet with parents, service providers and support staff and attend the multiple meetings each week to bring this all together.

Make sure you get enough sleep and exercise to make the approximately 1500 decisions per day (4 per minute) for not only yourself, but for all of the young people in front of you.

Don't forget to practice for the end of year

concert, sports day and assembly items, make sure that the students have washed their hands and have eaten all of their lunch, put up the visual strategies to support the children who find following simple directions difficult, get the replacement tissues box from the storage cupboard and make sure the daily roll and lunches are done on time.

Don't forget meeting with leadership to have a professional development meeting and show the class program and make sure you get home at a reasonable time to see your own family.

Thank you to all of those parents who have realised just how complex and mentally exhausting the job of teaching really is and for your positive feedback and appreciation.

I would like to personally thank all of our educators and Salisbury Downs who do this day in and day out, every day, who put the challenges aside in their own lives to take care of your children, who are your most valuable assets.

Working in a school has been recognised as being one of the most challenging and tiring occupations but is full of "employees" who recognise that it can also be one of the most rewarding jobs you can do.

Thank you to all of the teachers, SSO, canteen staff, volunteers, Governing Council members, service providers, students and parents who have worked together to get us through these challenging times.

I am so lucky to work at such a supportive school community such as Salisbury Downs Primary School. Have a very Merry Christmas and a safe holiday break.



SALISBURY DOWNS PRIMARY SCHOOL 39 Paramount Road, Salisbury Downs 5108

Community Chat



To the community of Salisbury Downs Primary School.

What a year 2021 has been.

Our students have been very busy, involved in not only learning but a lot of fun.

This year has once again thrown challenges our way with COVID disrupting learning and community events at school, but our students have faced these challenges with courage and persistence.

The year started with our Anti-bullying Day involving the whole school.

We continued our Anti-bullying education throughout the year. We continue to educate and help our students with their social and emotional behaviours through our Play is The Way Program while encouraging a growth mindset and teaching mindfulness.

Our community has also had whole school events such as Aboriginal Cultural Day, Sports Day (Congratulations to the Redbacks), Colour Run and Harmony Day.

We also managed to raise over \$600 for the HeartKids Foundation and Dolly's Dream Foundation.

Our older students were involved in many SAPSASA events and we were quite successful both with winning some sports, more importantly representing the school positively while displaying our school values.

We had 232 students who participated in the Premiers Reading Challenge and we also had a fun Book Week.

At the end of term 2 many students enjoyed being part of our X-Factor and I must say, we are quite a talented school.

Our school year finished off with the End of Year Concert which was fabulous. Every class worked really hard and produced wonderful items. They should be very proud of themselves.

Next week we will have our Year 6 and Year 7 Graduations. We are very proud of our 2021 year 6 and year 7 students and wish them all the best on their next adventure of high school.

A huge thanks to our governing council for their continued support. They continue to fundraise through sausage sizzles and ice-cream days.

And finally a big thanks to our students and their families. We really do have a wonderful community that I am very happy and proud to be a part of.

I want to wish you all a safe and happy holiday and look forward to an exciting and productive 2022.

Cheryl Taylor
WELLBEING COORDINATOR





Graduation

There are two graduations this year. Year 6 students will graduate on Tuesday the 7th of December and year 7 students will graduate on Wednesday the 8th December. Both ceremonies will take place in the gym and will begin at 6:00pm. Formalities will conclude at 7:00pm with a photo opportunity before parents leave. The student dinner will be served at 7:30pm.

Students have been allocated two seats each for family members to attend. This allows us to meet our

Covid density requirements for community members in the hall. Any visitors inside the hall will need to QR code in and be wearing face masks. The two attendees can be any special people in the student's life. If you believe there is an exceptional circumstance requiring an allocation of more than two seats, please direct the inquiry to Mr Bentley. Again this will keep it fair.

Class Parties

Class parties will happen on Thursday the 9th December. Each class arranges their own celebrations and there will be different formats and requirements for each. Please stay tuned in to notices coming from your student's class teacher in relation to this. Any food arrangements will need to follow Covid guidelines and be handed out by adults.

End of Year Picnic

Unfortunately Salisbury Swimming Centre is closed this year and we are not able to engage in our traditional end of year celebration.

As an alternative the school has arranged an End of Year celebration at school.

From 9:00am on Friday the 10th December students and their families can engage in a fete type atmosphere, with food stalls, activities and fun options for students.

While activities will be free to students, they will need to pay for the food they can choose to purchase.

Students can bring their own food on the day as per a normal school day. The canteen will not be doing lunch orders. As usual the school will be offering a free sausage sizzle to our students. More information about this event will be sent home prior to the day.

We look forward to receiving our families on the day for this outdoor event. Please remember to QR code on the day.



FAREWELL

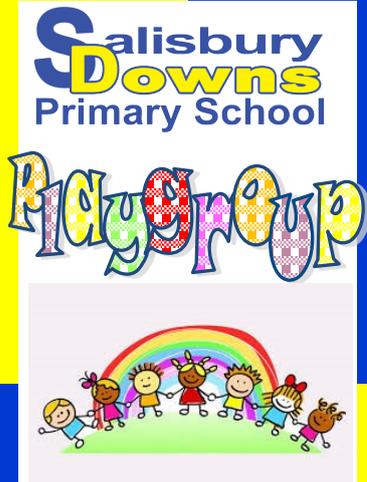
It's that time of year again where we farewell several members of our community. It can be a hard thing to say goodbye—we know that it's not a forever thing. Once a member of the SDPS community, always a member of this community.

Farewell, to our Graduating students this year, a larger loss than ever before—we wish you all the best as you continue your educational journey! Some of our contract teachers and SSOs have their contracts ending soon — we truly hope to see you all on site in 2022 in some way.

To these three, Steve Manhire, Steph Gangitano and Gemma Stewart. They will be leaving SDPS and going on to other adventures. Steve has been a member of the Blue Unit and our community for over a decade, he will be exploring options outside of education. Steph came to us as a student teacher and has since settled into the blue unit for the last three years, she is now going to high school herself. Gemma has been a member of our Red Unit for the last two years. Gemma has won a position in the Riverland, which takes her closer to family. Thank you for your service to our community.

We will miss you all and wish you all the very best for the future.





Salisbury Downs Primary School
Playgroup

Play Learn Connect
Free to attend.
Bring along a healthy snack!

In the Orange Room

Fridays 8.40 - 10.00am
(During school term)

Ages 0-5

For more information call 8258 7560

Coming Events

END OF TERM 4 FRIDAY
10TH DECEMBER AT 2PM

SAFETY CONCERNS

There are an increasing number of parents walking with their children or allowing their children to walk through the staff carpark. Our carparks, all carparks, should be considered a road. Please remind your children to keep to the paths when leaving the school grounds. Many children are of a height that drivers cannot easily see them and, although we encourage parents not to park in the staff carpark, we can have trades and couriers on site at the end of school time.

Thank you!

Christmas thoughts from Mr Renshaw.



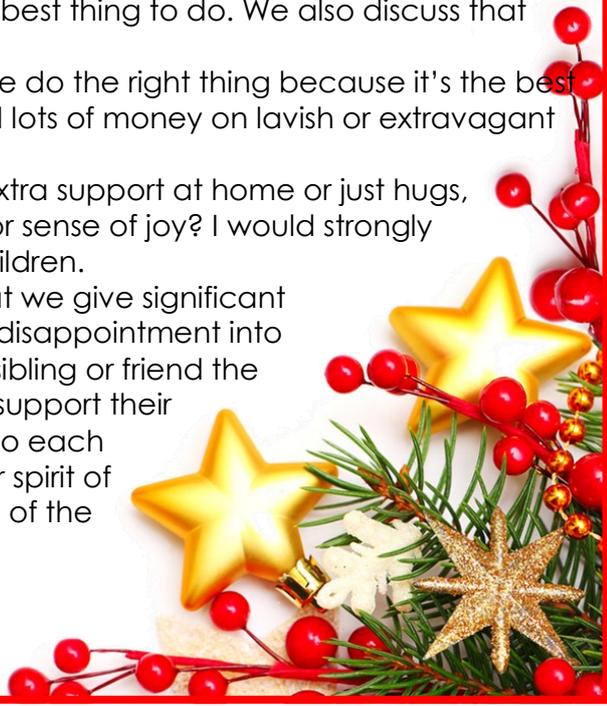
If you ask almost any child "what is Christmas about?" they are almost certainly going to tell you that it's about getting presents. In fact lots of our Christmas celebration is directly focused on idea of gifts. Extended shopping, layby, a tree that presents sit under, the mythical visit from Father Christmas etc. etc. Without doubt the burden of gifts has been escalated by the commercial gains experienced in the festive season.

But what is at the heart of it? The act of kindness in **Giving** the gift. We teach students that we do the right thing because it's the best thing to do. We also discuss that when we do good we feel good. So if we understand that Christmas is about giving, and that we do the right thing because it's the best thing to do and it makes us feel good, then do we need to spend lots of money on lavish or extravagant gifts?

Could simple presents, homemade, crafted or baked items, extra support at home or just hugs, be acts of kindness and giving that bring just as large a smile or sense of joy? I would strongly argue yes. It is also an important conversation to have with children. Often, we forget that in the tsunami of media expectation that we give significant gifts, some children can't and will carry a sense of pressure or disappointment into Christmas because they cannot give a parent, grandparent, sibling or friend the gift they want. This also puts pressure on parents to financially support their desire to give gifts. In reality we all have opportunities to give to each other every day. While Christmas is an opportunity to focus our spirit of giving and gratitude, it should be the act of giving not the size of the gift that is the focus.

Merry Christmas –

May it be joyous and full of love.



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