WANGALA PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Thursday October 10th, 2021

From the Principal

I'm so pleased that we are gradually returning to 'normal', having everyone back onsite learning in the classrooms. It has certainly been a long journey in and out of remote learning and having children in a mixture of remote and onsite learning, but we have all managed to keep up our learning during this time. We are looking forward to having everyone back in the classrooms in a few weeks' time for the home stretch of the year.

In looking forward to the 2022 year I am pleased to announce that I will be at the school for the full year while Mrs Black takes a year of leave. I can also excitedly announce that next year we'll be growing to three classrooms, with the addition of a new classroom teacher. We are currently working out what this will look like for the classes, but I can confirm the commitment to have smaller than average class sizes to ensure all of our students are given greater one-on-one, individualised learning opportunities after two years in and out of remote and disruptive learning. This will be an absolute luxury for our school and is something that will be highly beneficial for all Wangala students.

It has been a disappointment that we could not go swimming this week due to the current restrictions. We do, however, hold hope that we may be able to undertake a swimming program later in the year. We will let you know when we have confirmation if this is a possibility.

We were really pleased to take delivery of the artwork from Norm Stanley last week. This artwork will feature across our new school stationery, our website, and, most excitedly, in new items of uniform we're introducing. We look forward to sharing these with you in the near future. If you look closely at the artwork Norm has incorporated the story of Oberon South Primary School and the transition into Wangala Primary School through the central yarn circle with five objects either side. This represents the fifty years Oberon South Primary School celebrates this year. The yarn circles throughout the artwork represent the varying communities and groups who have been through the school and will come through the school in the future as well, with the 'U' shape objects representing people. The flowing lines through the centre of the artwork show our location, with Waurn Ponds Creek flowing through it, which we are not far away from. The artwork will soon take pride of place in our foyer, with elements of it to be used in some sign writing across the school.

Steven King

Dates to Remember

Wednesday 20th October
Geelong Cup Public Holiday – no school

Date change
Friday 10th December
'Glasses For Kids' assessment onsite for Prep – Year Three

Welcome

We welcome Sarah and Ho-man who are pre-service Occupational Therapists with Deakin University. They will be joining us each day for the first seven weeks of term and will be working with students across the school. This is a real bonus for us and will help many of our students in so many ways.

REMEMBER

This coming Wednesday is the Geelong Cup public holiday and students will not attend school.

Facemasks and other Covid Measures

As per the current guidelines, students in Year Three to Six must wear a mask at school while in the classroom. As mentioned in the recent Compass post, this may be quite foreign to some students, so we ask that you begin to help your child be as comfortable as they can be in wearing their mask. Across the school we have been opening the doors and windows to ensure there is sufficient ventilation to help. Thankfully the weather is a little warmer to allow this. The students have continued to be encouraged to thoroughly wash their hands, and to utilise hand sanitiser at intervals throughout the day. Thank you to our parents and carers for continuing to follow the guidelines limiting the adults onsite. Our office continues to be open and you can call us if you need anything. A reminder that students must be dropped off at the bus zone down on Kidman Avenue, and not dropped off up at the staff carpark.

Zones of Regulation

We have begun implementing and learning about the Zones of Regulation with our students. The Zones of Regulation framework and curriculum, teaches students scaffolded skills toward developing a metacognitive pathway to build awareness of their feelings/internal state and utilise a variety of tools and strategies for regulation, prosocial skills, self-care, and overall wellness. This includes exploring tools and strategies for mindfulness, sensory integration, movement, thinking strategies, wellness, and healthy connection with others.

Junior Class – Procedural Writing

The Junior Class are learning all about procedures this term. We will be looking at the features of procedures such as a goal, materials needed and numbered steps. We created cardboard rainbow collages on Tuesday and wrote a whole class procedure on how to make them.

Lap Club

Don't forget Lap Club has started up again. Thursday Mornings on the oval, beginning at 8:40am and finishing by 8:55am. It's not compulsory, but I'd love to see you there. Remember you don't have to run the whole time, you can walk and talk with a friend. The most important thing is that we're getting active and having fun! It's such a great way to start the day. Healthy Body equals Healthy Minds.

The **Red Zone** is used to describe extremely heightened states of alertness and intense emotions. A person may be elated or experiencing anger, rage, devastation, or terror when in the Red Zone.

The **Yellow Zone** is also used to describe a heightened state of alertness and elevated emotions, however one has more control when they are in the Yellow Zone. A person may be experiencing stress, frustration, anxiety, excitement, silliness, the wiggles, or nervousness when in the Yellow Zone.

The **Green Zone** is used to describe a calm state of alertness. A person may be described as happy, focused, content, or ready to learn when in the Green Zone. This is the zone where optimal learning occurs.

The **Blue Zone** is used to describe low states of alertness and down feelings such as when one feels sad, tired, sick, or bored.

We encourage all parents and guardians to engage in conversations with their children at home about their feelings and discuss what colour zone they might be feeling in.

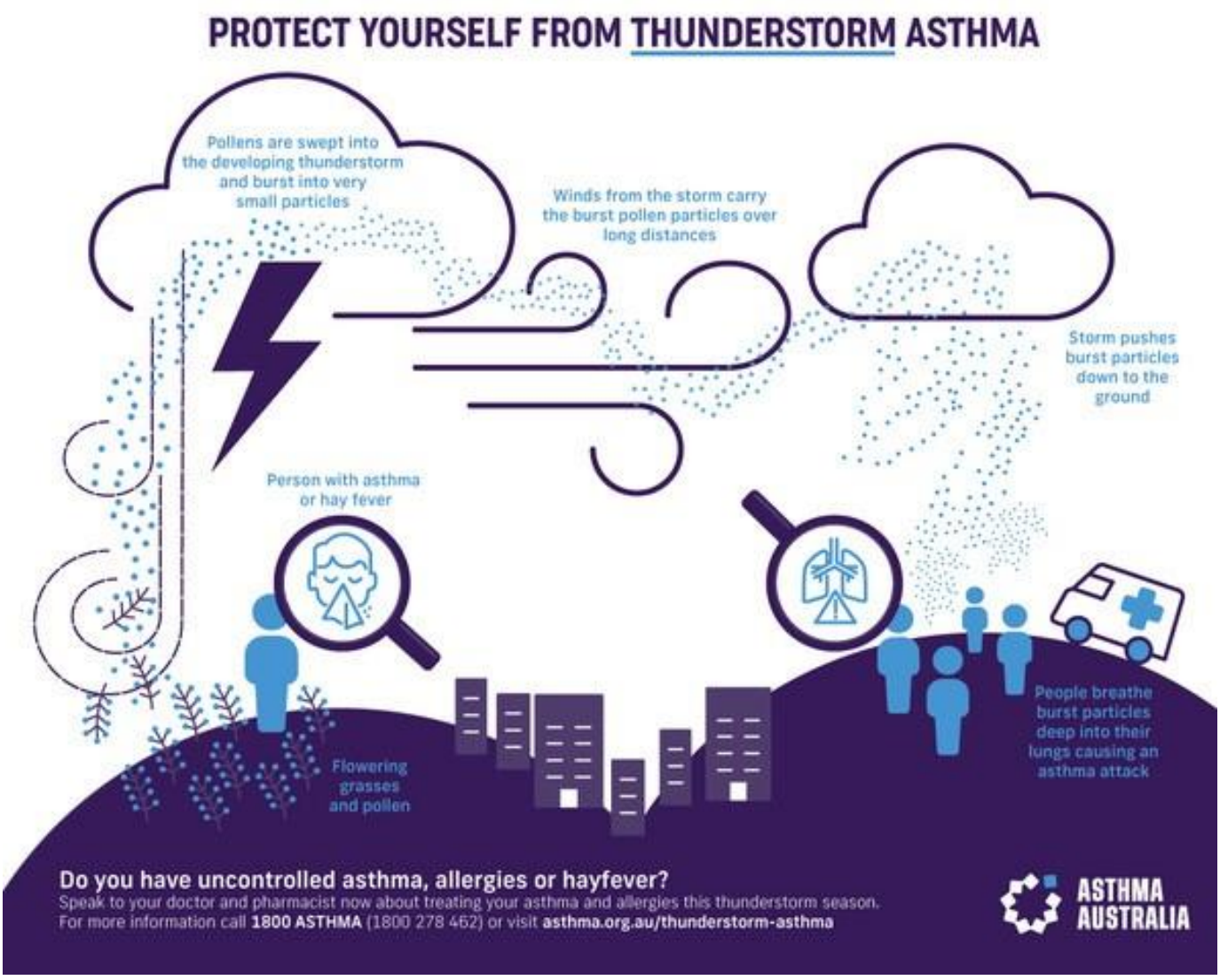
Physical Education and STEAM

It's been so lovely to get back to having face to face teaching this week and see the kids for their specialist classes. The new giant sized soccer goals have been getting a workout. I was so impressed with everyone and the positive attitude they have returned with.

Here are some photos of a floating and sinking task that the year 3 to 6 students participated in this week. We learnt that adding a large amount of salt to water allowed the egg to float. This was because the salt changes the density (thickness) of the water allowing objects to become more buoyant and float more easily.

Sunsmart Expectations

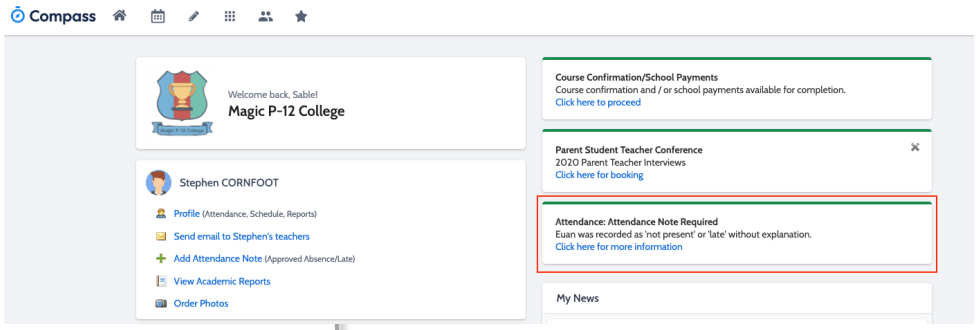
A reminder that as a SunSmart School, all students and staff at Wangala Primary School are expected to wear their hat when outside. Broad-brimmed or bucket hats (available from the office) are the only acceptable hats. Caps will not be accepted under the SunSmart guidelines. Please ensure your children have a suitable hat to wear. Students without their hat will be required to sit in a shaded area whilst outside.



Attendance Reminder

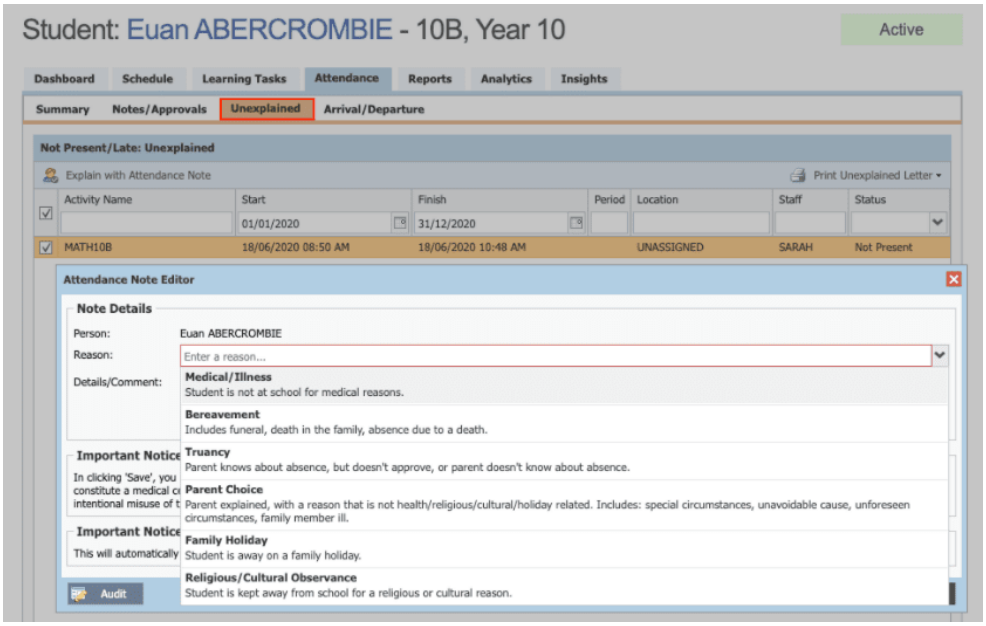
Please remember that, if your child is to be absent, you must inform the school of this. You can call the school number on 5243 2997 and select option 1 to leave a voice message explaining the absence. You can also use our Compass system to put in any absences. You will also be required to add any absence notes to Compass where no explanation has been provided via our voice message system. See below the information on how to do this.

Parents can approve their children's unapproved absences or late arrivals. Youy will receive an alert on your Compass home page letting you know that your child/ children was marked late or absent and there is no note/approval on the system for it.



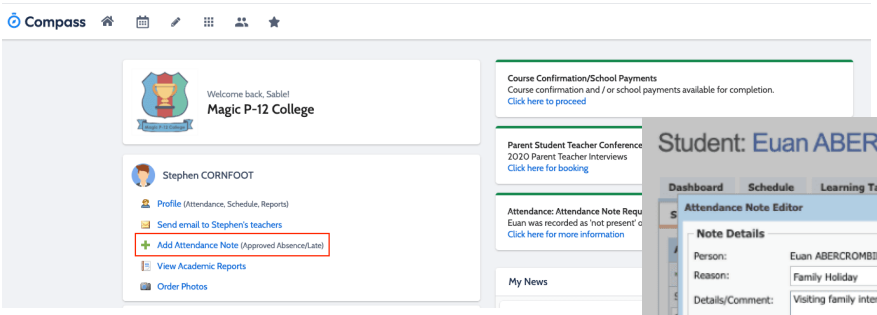
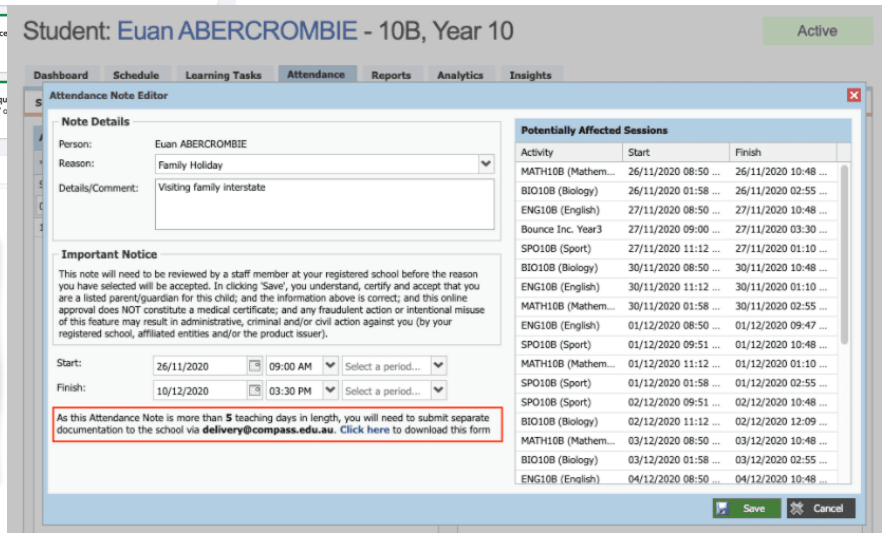
Clicking on this notification will allow you to add a Note or Approval for one or more absences.

To add a note or approval, you can select one or more of the absences listed, add in further details, and then select the "Explain with Note/Approval" button. Parents have a modified list of the options that the school has when adding a note/approval. Please note that parents cannot edit their note/approval once it's been saved and will need to contact the school if changes need to be made.



Adding a Note/Approval for a future absence:

Parents can also enter notes and approvals in advance if they know their child is going to be absent from school. To do this, from your homepage, you can click on the 'Add Attendance Note/Approval' link listed underneath the name of the relevant student.



This will take you to the Attendance screen with a pop-up window to enter details of the note or approval. Parents can then select the applicable date range – in the future if required.