



**Helena Valley**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

# ValleyVIEW

THE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

2020

# 1

Term 1/ Week 8  
26 March 2020

## FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 22nd June P&C AGM 6pm in the School Library  
Kindy Photos

Friday 26th June P&C Meal Deal  
Movie Character Dress up day

Monday 29th June Room 7 and 8 Virtual Assembly

Wednesday 1st July Reports go home via email

Thursday 2nd July Last day of term for students

Friday 3rd July School Development Day

MONDAY 20th JULY DAY ONE of TERM 3



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## From the Principal

Dear Families,

Wow! What a term! What a success!

Schools have not seen this kind of upheaval in daily practice – well actually it has never been seen in our lifetime.

We have been very fortunate that COVID-19 did not play out the way it was predicted in Western Australia. The risk analysis and response to the virus by the State Government, the Health Department, the Department of Education and in turn Helena Valley Primary School ensured the safety of our school community during this time.

It has been a privilege to work with staff, students and the families to provide an environment both physical and online to continue the educational focus for our students.

If we listen to the experts we would take away the message that this is not the last time we will be required to respond to a pandemic. Helena Valley Staff have taken away many lessons from this time and know that we can do things differently in the future. We are currently working with the School Board to review practices that can be changed for the better. Some of these changes *may* include:

- Greater use of technologies to communicate events with parents e.g. Assemblies.
- Kiss and Drive options.
- Online Canteen and Uniform orders.
- Utilising WebEx to hold meetings with parents when they can't make it to the school.
- Continuing enhanced hygiene practices.

As a community we underestimate the staff's ability to 'roll with the punches'. Not all schools have been graced with such committed and focused staff, where they would daily be faced with the challenges of making changes set out by the Health Department or the Department of Education. Families have rallied around staff and have shown their appreciation daily.

I would like to thank staff and families for their efforts and support.

The biggest and most successful lesson to come from the modifications made to cater for COVID restrictions was the change in students.

Parents and staff can be very proud of the way students have adapted to the change in school life. Staff have seen a massive shift in students:

- Independence
- Resilience
- Behaviour

This is one area staff will continue to focus on with students.

We are aware that we have missed or modified many events this term and hope that term 3 starts to see the rescheduling of events. While these events will go ahead, they may not run as they have traditionally been run.

Events on the calendar for term 3:

- HEC Science Challenge
- School Cross Country
- Interschool Cross Country
- Athletics Carnival
- Learning Journey
- Edu-Dance lessons

Staff have requested that we use some of our School Development Day in term 3 to hold parent meetings, as we missed out on this opportunity at the end of term 1. Information will be made available closer to the date.

Attached is the email from the Mundaring Shire, who assessed the Maguire Road Kiss and Drive earlier this week. We passed with flying colours and have been granted permission to continue the Kiss and Drive permanently.

Reports will look significantly different this semester, as the Department of Education have stated that no grades are to be given, however effort and comments for all areas taught must be provided.

Take Care from the HVPS School Admin Team

## Review of Kiss and Drive email

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From: Shane Purdy <ShanePurdy@mundaring.wa.gov.au> On Behalf Of Shire of Mundaring  
Sent: Wednesday, 17 June 2020 12:47 PM  
To: WILKINSON Tamala [Helena Valley Primary School] <Tamala.Wilkinson@education.wa.edu.au>  
Subject: Helena Valley Primary School Kiss & Drive Approval

Dear Tamala

I refer to your recent discussions and on-site meeting with the Shire's Engineering Technical Officer, Ms Raelee Armstead, regarding the temporary Kiss and Drive arrangement for the Maguire Road location for Helena Valley Primary School during the COVID 19 period.

Raelee has advised of the school's highly organised procedure for the Kiss and Drive she observed last Monday on-site. The arrangement included 6 teachers in high visibility vests, traffic cones in place to divide the pick-up area from the through road way and parents calmly and orderly proceeding in a single file to the head of the line to collect their children whom were already gathered and released by teachers. The process, all completed within approximately 20 minutes, was very efficient and safely done.

I congratulate you and your team on such a well thought out and professionally run process in the collection of the younger cohort of the school. The safety of children around schools is of utmost importance and can be a difficult matter to address as parent motorists are not always compliant of desired protocols, however this arrangement makes compliance easy.

In view of the above, I am very happy to support and approve this arrangement on a permanent basis. Should you wish to reconsider or further modify arrangements we will gladly assist.

Regards,

Shane Purdy  
Director Infrastructure Services

## Business Plan Update

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### Leadership

Leadership team have been focussed on providing staff with clear direction in regard to our school's response to COVID. We have continued to work with our School Board and liaised with Mr Dave Fry, School Board Chair throughout these changing times. The Admin team have worked hand in hand with Mrs Katie Price, Vice President of our P&C in answering and responding to questions posed on the P&C Facebook page. We have appreciated and are humbled by the support and positive support from our community during this time.

### Learning Environment

Staff have continued their professional learning with the CMS program. The last day of this program will be on the School Development Day, which is on 3 July. As things are returning to normal staff are beginning to conduct case management meetings with identified students and their families.

Keep an eye out in term 3, as we will be able to offer a variety of different programs to cater for our top 10% and bottom 20% students.

### Teaching

The teaching staff continue to meet weekly in their collaborative groups to plan the students learning for the year group. School-wide practices remain an important focus in each classroom. Staff are continuing to review school-wide data and are seeing pleasing results, particularly in our Writing. Book Week has officially been moved to 17-23 October and NAIDOC has officially been moved to 8-15 November.

### Relationships

Throughout the changes implemented due to COVID-19 staff have continued to work together, as well as keeping families updated by using various forms of communication. Many staff have enjoyed the Kiss and Drive, being able to meet and greet the students, as well as getting to see parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and other family members, even dogs. Thank you to all families who have taken the time to provide us with feedback.

### Resources

At the end of 2019 the State Government allocated money to our school in 3 Phases for a new High Priority Maintenance and Minor Works Program for public schools.

Phase 1 has been completed.

Phase 2, which is \$165,000.00 will include replacement of vinyls, carpets, painting to classrooms inside and out, external painting of Admin and Library and the changeover of some lights in classrooms to LED.

During the holidays we are having the Junior Girls and Boys Toilets patched and painted.