

School Council would like to express our warmest thoughts to the entire BNW community at this incredibly difficult time in our lives. In particular we want to acknowledge how challenging the current environment is for everyone and in particular for all of our children.

Last night School Council met via a video meeting to review and discuss all the regular subcommittee reports with a particular focus on the impact of the Coronavirus on our children, the school and the amazing community we are all part of.

It's just so heartening to hear how Buildings & Grounds are focused on how they may be able to provide facilities to support hygiene in our school setting. How the Curriculum Committee is gearing up for the potential of remote learning for our children. How the Wellness & Engagement Committee is focused on how to support families and children who may be at home in Term 2. That the Community Events Team are looking to pivot from fundraising in 2020 to community and cultural focused events for the rest of the year. How the Finance Committee is diving deep into what a new financial landscape means for the school, including family accounts, reduced fundraising and salaries for non-teaching staff. And how our amazing OSHC service can support a community in need.

Its times like this we really see the true spirit of community and for my mind there is no better example of this than on display at BNW and by your School Councillors. I want to be clear with all families, there will be changes to the school calendar of events for 2020. We desperately hope those changes will impact only Term 2, but we must be realistic and plan they may impact on Term 3 and possibly beyond. Our collective future is a little uncertain right now, which is all the more reason to (virtually) hold hands and think about our community.

We talked at some length about what an extraordinary effort the school's leadership team and teach team are doing in these very trying times. We also acknowledged the massive impact from the office team, OSHC team and Sprout team on the experience we all have of being part of BNW. They are all working under such difficult circumstances, and I think it's important at this time to spare a thought for their own personal circumstances, challenges and fears.

Your teaching teams are actively engaged in preparing for alternate realities of schooling being delivered face to face or via remote learning in Term 2. Rest assured the entire team is doing their utmost to think through how they can continue learning program for next term and provide the support you may need if children are home-bound for part of the term.

BNW and School Council will continue to our best around communication over the school holidays. We are mindful there is so much to say, and yet many of you may be feeling overwhelmed with information already. All I can ask is please reach out if you need to speak to someone. There are several methods to contact the school (check out the website for information), you are welcome to send an email to School Council (schoolcouncil@brunswicknwps.vic.edu.au), there is the Facebook parents user group (BNW Community) or you can always call me if you want to chat (0412 375 061).

In closing I am honoured to have been elected as the School Council President of this amazing school for 2020. Van Sowerwine is the Vice President, Matt Price is the secretary and Lilian Lim is the Treasurer. We are all only able to fulfil these office bearer roles because of the support of the rest of school council; Aaron Hemsley, Tanya Pittard, Stacey Roberts, Tash Colangelo and Nirvana Adey. The rest of School Council is comprised of some extraordinary human beings you are likely familiar with; Hannah Reid, Wendy White and Andrew Lang.

Please take care, please look after yourselves and please look after those around you. Our thoughts are with everyone.

Yours sincerely



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