

Mukinbudin District High School

An Independent Public School

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Dear Parents,

It has been a very mixed start for schools and students across the state as we have commenced our 2021 School year. In Perth & the South West school holidays were extended. In the Pilbara, schools started with the possibility of a tropical cyclone, and 38 schools, including some Wheatbelt ones affected by bushfire. There were even a couple of schools affected by flooding in the Goldfields. Out of over 800 government schools in WA, only 235 actually opened this week.

For Mukinbudin DHS, Week 1 has been a smooth and calm commencement, where we have been able to welcome our students back, and introduce a new group of Kindergarten students to the school. We also welcomed Mr Shan, who is here as part of the Department of Education Flying Squad, to teach Secondary Mathematics and Primary Digital Technology. He has been wowing the students with his amazing Maths skills and has really enjoyed getting to know the students. Ms Faithfull has also joined us as a Literacy Specialist one day a week.

After many things being placed on hold in 2020, 2021 will see the establishment and alteration of many programs and specialties. Some of these are related solely to MDHS, with many being effects of Departmental changes.

Early in 2020 we worked towards implementing a new timetable for Semester 2, 2020 which was going to be more reflective and in line with quality teaching practice. Due to the Department of Education working towards a change in DOTT time for Primary staff, the recommendation was for schools to hold off and implement the changes once the agreement was confirmed. Our new timetable has been written to cater for the new agreement, but mostly, to enhance the educational delivery times for students. We have also managed to extend the lunch break (except early close days) allowing for extra play and organised activities.

Our timetable now aligns with the majority of public schools, operating with five equal (1 hour) sessions. Learning times for Literacy and Numeracy are in the mornings, with primary teachers still having the ability to create flexibility within their classes to suit and fit their students' learning and needs. All classes incorporate some "brain breaks" and our morning session also includes 'Crunch and Sip'. We will continue to supply additional fruit for the first four weeks (February) for our Primary classes, and appreciate the wonderful donation received today of apples & oranges from Merredin Harvest Fresh Food to support this.

Students across the different sections of the school have communicated their favour in regards to the new timetable. They particularly like the longer lunch break, and the one hour after lunch. It is far easier to stay engaged for this time, and we hope to see less behavioural issues in the afternoon.

Our school day commences for all students at 8:45 am with a 15-minute session. For primary students, this will often incorporate Morning Fitness and a general check-in with their teacher. In secondary, this will be a check-in time and assist our students to be prepared for their day of learning. One day per week will also see our Year 5 – 10 students work through Wellbeing Journals as part of our Positive Behaviour in Schools (PBS) journey. Health & Well-Being for all of our staff and students will continue to be a school and department focus as we learn more from our worldwide Covid experiences.

We have also extended our provision of Breakfast club to 5 days per week. We continue to be supported by Foodbank WA, and also appreciate the donations from local businesses, individuals and the ongoing support of our P&C.

Our basketball courts were finally finished during the holidays, and they look great. We are currently waiting for the final parts of this project which will see a new fence installed.

I would like to thank the stellar efforts of Tony and Leonie Taylor, and Gaye Jones, who have all assisted us with some of our gardening during the break. We advertised three times for a Gardener in 2020 with no success, and thank the many other volunteers who have assisted. We also, unfortunately, had some interference with our reticulation and grounds over the break which is highly unusual for our community. It is also vital that only school staff utilise the watering system, as some “helpers” have been undertaking their service to our school, without appropriate permission placing the Department of Education at liability if any happenstance should occur.

We look forward to working with all families, and our wider community in 2021.

Kind regards,



Bruce Gibson
Principal

