



Welcome and thank you for giving up your valuable time to support our school community.

As a society we continue to be at the mercy of the COVID-19 pandemic as it affects our professional and personal lives, though has been done with the safety and wellbeing of our school communities as top priority. St Nicholas Primary School will continue to work and support our parents, though ask for their understanding and support around restrictions which have been directed upon us.

As the St Nicholas community we should be extremely proud of the stability and normality the school day is providing to our students. St Nicholas staff continue to provide a relentless focus on learning, centred on wellbeing and making quality connections with our students. In the first five weeks of term three, our students have:

- Engaged in quality literacy learning which has placed an emphasis on the gradual release of responsibility.
- Learnt in contemporary spaces where the teachers now teach in a way that supports an open and team approach to learning (Campfires, waterholes and caves)
- Grown in their reading ability thanks to quality guided reading practices across the school.
- Upleveled their writing with wow words, sizzling starts and language which demands creativity and uniqueness in their writing.
- Acknowledged and celebrated our Grandparents through moving video.
- Investigated, critiqued and created the Deep Blue through Science week activities
- Run, hopped and jumped their way through tabloid games, designed to get our children moving to support an active and healthy lifestyle. This has been in response to restrictions imposed on annual athletics carnivals and will continue for the next 6 weeks after commencing with our Kindergarten students last Friday.
- Articulated where they are up to in their learning journey and where they need support moving forward, as part of parent teacher interviews. This is the first step in moving our parent teacher interviews to three way learning conferences involving the student, teacher and parents.
- celebrated Catholic Schools Week,
- Brightened the school with mufti days to celebrate the Feasts of Saint Dominic and Saint Mary of the Cross: Mackillop.

The cycle of improvement never stops. Whether we are discussing student learning, staff learning or St Nicholas as a whole, we must be present in the day, though have an eye to the future.

The planning for 2021 has well and truly commenced. Myself and/or members of the St Nicholas leadership team have met with all 87 2021 Kindergarten children and their families. This time consuming process is integral to supporting the transition of the student, articulating St Nicholas Schools culture and vision, while creating the founding blocks for a strong professional relationship with our parents.

On Wednesday 12th August I was required to provide the Catholic Schools Office with our preliminary projection of student numbers for 2021. We currently have 599 students enrolled for 2021 with full kindergarten classes (and significant numbers on a waiting list). Our numbers are a reflection of the esteem with which St Nicholas is held in the local community.

As outlined in recent newsletter addresses critiquing 2020 process and practices has commenced to ensure we too continue to learn and improve in 2021. Our parents will form part of this process with satisfaction surveys distributed on Monday 31st August.

John Clery  
Principal