

## ORANGE EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL



*Safe Respectful Learners*

Dear Parents and carers,

Over the coming days and weeks, I will try to maintain a steady flow of information particularly regarding any changes being made to regular school activities and systems. We continue to follow directions from the Department of Education as well as make school-based decisions as to how best provide for the safety and wellbeing of students and staff.

As you will be aware from the initial information note I sent out yesterday (Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> March), we have put in place several strategies including:

- Cancellation or postponing of special events, excursions, assemblies and external sports activities.
- We have changed the way students assemble at the end of morning, recess and lunch times.
- The bubblers have been restricted today and we have ensured all students have a drink bottle. A reminder to please ensure that your child/children come to school every day with a labelled drink bottle.
- Recess/lunch time eating areas have been spread out to support social distancing.
- Personal hygiene practices have been taught and reinforced, including supervised hand washing throughout the day. These lessons and reminders will continue, to build good habits with all students.

Today, I have implemented several further measures to support the wellbeing of our students and staff:

- All wet areas adjacent to classrooms have been supplied with hand wash and paper towel. Classroom teachers have been supplied with surface spray to wipe down desks, door handles, etc at the end of each learning period. Teachers have been instructed to have students wash hands at the end of the morning and before/after recess and lunch. I am also setting up systems to ensure our student toilets are constantly stocked with soap.
- Effective today, borrowing of books from the library will temporarily cease. Books may still be returned.
- Effective tomorrow Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March the *Stephanie Alexander Cooking Program* (Yr 3-6) and *Breakfast Club* will temporarily cease operation.
- **Effective tomorrow Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March the canteen will only take lunch orders. It will not be open for other recess or lunch trade (chips, ice blocks, etc).**
- I have also commenced limiting outside personnel's entry into classrooms. Please note that we are asking all parent/carers volunteers that normally support classrooms to have a well-earned break! Thank you so much for your support and we hope to be able to have you back in our school as soon as possible.
- We have also limited staff moving off-site to attend training and development, particularly involving gatherings of people from other schools.

A reminder that the following school events have been cancelled or postponed until further notice:

- School scripture (remainder of Term 1)
- Friday Assemblies (remainder of Term 1)
- Open Classroom visits (Week 9)
- Kindergarten Parent/Teacher Interviews – effective Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March (remainder of Term 1)
- Stig Wemyss Performance on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March
- Athletics carnival
- 'Go Pink for Connor' Fundraising Day – Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> March
- Easter Hat Parade/Raffle – Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> April
- PBL Assemblies – Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> April
- School Anzac Ceremony at Newman Park
- Excursions to Central west Gymnastics
- CWA Public Speaking

While it may seem that we are taking an overly cautious approach, as before I assure you that the safety of students and staff is my top priority. As soon as it is clear that outside circumstances have changed, I will look to return the school to more regular operations and programs.

Thank you in anticipation of your support and understanding of these measures.

Regards,  
Glen Bourke  
Principal OEPS

Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March