

# HEYWOOD *Education News*

The fortnightly combined newsletter of Heywood Consolidated School and Heywood & District Secondary College  
Edition 14, September 17<sup>th</sup> 2020

## Good News

The announcement on Tuesday afternoon that schools would be back on site earlier than expected was welcomed across both school communities.

These announcements followed the relaxation of restrictions for regional Victoria. However, there are some important restrictions remaining in place for the time being:

- We must all continue to wear masks
- We continue to follow the guidelines set by DHHS
- At this stage, visitors to schools are limited to those engaging in essential services.



Online learning will remain in place for students who have not yet returned to on-site learning. The Department has made it very clear that unless a student (NOT family members) has medical reasons for not returning to school, then the school does NOT have to provide online learning.

It is very important that ALL students return to school for Term 4 as this will allow everyone to settle back into onsite learning before 2021.

Further information will be available in the coming weeks and both HeyCon and HDSC will continue to keep families informed through their usual respective channels.

### HeyCon Return to School

Regional primary schools (Foundation – Year 6) will return on site from Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> of October. HeyCon school staff met on Wednesday morning to unanimously decide to have all year levels return on this day. **All HeyCon students will now be expected back at school on Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> of October.**

### HDSC Return to School

For regional secondary colleges, VCE and VCAL students can attend onsite from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October to complete the GAT (Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>) and other essential assessments.

All year levels will all be returning to onsite learning next term however this return will be staggered. During week one learning will continue to be offered on-line for the whole week. Week two will see us return to school as per below:

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October: Year 11 and 12 students return  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October: Year 10- 12 students return  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October: Years 9 -12 students return  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October: All students return

### Early Finish

A reminder to families of students attending on-site.  
The last day of term on Friday will be an early finish.  
**HeyCon 2:20pm and HDSC 2:30pm.**



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## From The Principals



Looking back over the term, we started off with students onsite completing their learning, with some restrictions. And then we returned to Remote and Flexible Learning. But now we look forward to Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> of October, when all students are expected back onsite.

Heywood Consolidated School celebrated R U OK? Day last week, and I hope you had the chance to watch the video by our School Leaders on our Facebook page. Our mental health is particularly important through this challenging time. Please make sure that you are asking for (or giving) the opportunities for others to express how they are coping at the moment.

Also, please take the time to check out our Transition video on our Facebook page. It gives a brief summary of what happens (normally) at school. If you know of any kindergarten students interested in attending Heywood Consolidated School in 2021, please forward the link.

It has been a very challenging time personally. As much as I love teaching in the classroom and I enjoy giving students the opportunity to thrive, I am excited to take on the position as Principal of Heywood Consolidated School. In my opinion, we are a great school and I want everyone to know how great we are. We have fabulous students, amazing teachers and a brilliant community, and over the next five years I want HeyCon to flourish!

I would like to say thank you to Mrs Jodi May for the leadership and support she has shown me and the HeyCon staff over the past five years. Her lasting impact on Heywood Consolidated School will be her passion for staff to develop strong relationships with students and broaden our knowledge through the Berry Street Education Model. We wish her well for her new life in sunny Queensland and hope she continues to see the positives in all that she does.

For the students, staff, parents/carers and community of Heywood Consolidated School, I hope that you are able to enjoy the holidays. Please remember to stay safe and follow the restrictions so that we can all be back for Term 4.

**Ann Hawker, Principal, HeyCon**

### End of Term

Term 3 has seen the leaders of HDSC split our time between keeping on track and planning for 2021. I would like to thank all involved. In particular, the work of our leadership team of Mr Schintler, Mr Prevett and Ms Latham. We will continue further discussions into next term when the task will be recruiting quality staff for the start of 2021.



Thank you to everyone for doing such an extraordinary job during Remote Learning 2.0. I feel, and have heard, that it has run more smoothly and more students were online most of the time. Well done to our staff, students and families. To our Year 12 VCE students, make sure you use the upcoming break as a continuation of your revision processes. You will get an extra-long break after exams!

I would like to thank Ms Rose Wombwell for her time and support this term. I hope she has enjoyed her time with us learning about secondary schools. I would also like to congratulate Ann Hawker who has been appointed HeyCon Principal. Well done Ann and I'm really looking forward to working with you to make education in Heywood the best in the area.

### Student Leadership

There are strong correlations in: the culture of a school, the level of student voice in the everyday operation of a school and the long term decisions made. We have made good progress in the area of students giving feedback to staff on their teaching practices. However, we need greater input from our students. We are starting the process of choosing student leaders for 2021. Ms Puche will let everyone know more about this early next term. When you get the opportunity, make sure to challenge yourself through a leadership program and grab it before someone else does! Over the last year we have had a number of students involved in many such programs.

### Around the school

Whilst most students have been learning from home online, there has been some work happening at the school. Students would remember that they returned onsite this term to find Rooms 4 and 8 repainted. Now each room has technology in it, whether it be an electronic whiteboard or screen. We have had all the asbestos removed from our eaves, being replaced with new lining. We are working our way through the school, making it a better place for all students and staff.

**Kelly Webster, Principal, HDSC**

**Child Safety** - Heywood and District Secondary College and Heywood Consolidated School consider the safety of children as being of paramount importance. Both schools have zero tolerance of child abuse.

## Kinder to School Transition

We are planning our transition program for next term. We are hoping students will be able to visit HeyCon to prepare them for 2021.

Transition is an important developmental stage for school readiness and during this time families are an important part of this transition. Families are able to share knowledge of their child so that the school has an understanding of each child.

Families can support their child during this transition time by:

- Having conversations about starting school,
- Sharing bedtime stories.
- Playing games and activities and going on outings. Talk to your child while completing these,
- Encouraging imaginative play and play based activities,
- Encouraging self-help skills for example; taking off a jumper or opening a food wrapper,
- Encouraging good sleeping habits and healthy eating, and
- Limiting screen time.

Please ensure that you have your child's enrolment papers and all associated documentation handed in and most importantly be involved in this process. Ask questions as required and take all opportunities to be involved in the transition process.



*Pictured above at right: transition begins with stories and activities as we get to know your child.*

We are all looking forward to meeting our future 2021 students.

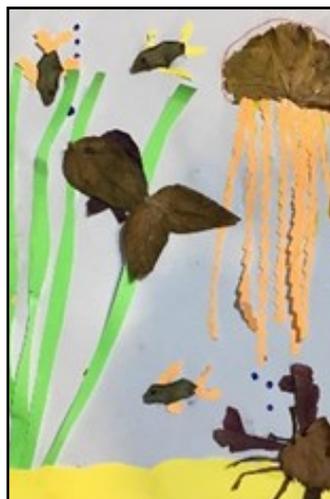
**Melinda Watson, Transition Coordinator, HeyCon**

## Art During Remote Learning

Wow we have creative students at HeyCon. With a focus on creating art with what you have at home, the garden has proved one of the best places to be inspired. Students have been making collages, portraits, headdresses, stick figures and leaf monsters to name some of the creations made during remote learning.

Sometimes the simplest things can make for the most interesting creations if you use your imagination! With a little guidance from me and some help from parents and carers, students have created so many wonderful art pieces. I would like to thank all parents and carers for filming, collecting, photographing and encouraging your child in the art making process during remote learning. Below are some of the fantastic art creations using the garden for inspiration.

**Michelle Cope, Art Specialist, HeyCon**



# Heywood Kindergarten News

## Greens

The children's hard work, diligently looking after their vegetable patch has paid off. We celebrated harvesting some broccoli by cooking it to share for our lunch. While not everyone was eager to taste it, we were all learning an important lesson about where our food comes. Along a similar vein, we have also noticed the fantastic efforts from families in making sure children bring a well balanced lunch box. Children's health, concentration and mental well being also benefit.

## Group Time Gatherings

Gathering as a group is a lovely part of our day and helps us create a sense of community. Children practise active listening, respect for each others' perspectives and enjoy the opportunity to contribute ideas around a shared topic of conversation. We also regularly engage with music, movement, rhyme and story.

## Name of the Day

Every child has a turn at having their name feature as the mystery name of the day. We identify and label the individual letters of each name and count the syllables. It is a way for children to have their moment of fame (with some literacy learning thrown in for good measure).

## Book of the Day

Each child brings a favourite book from home and we read it as a group. Children show such pride in sharing something special from home and books are usually always associated with a memory of connection and intimacy. Usually a discussion follows to extend on the story and help children process the narrative.

## Weather Report

Using a wall calendar to guide us, a daily weather report is also a consistent part of whole group time. Children are taught the days of the week, the months, the dates, the year, the season and the weather conditions. They are encouraged to practise observation skills, taking their cues from what they see and feel outside. This assists in developing recall skills as educators invite individuals to report back the information to the group based on what they remember or have learnt. In order to appreciate diverse ways of communicating, children are also taught the associated sign language for the days, months and seasons. Last week we introduced another perspective during our weather reports by exploring Indigenous weather knowledge as guided by the Gariweld calendar. We will learn a little more about reading the country and the six distinct weather periods recognised in this cycle.

## Poldy

Our lovely scarecrow puppet who usually visits with the children at home, is now shadowing children at kinder for the day instead. Educators take photos of children spending time with Poldy while they go about their favourite kinder activities and we collate these into stories for their portfolios. Children practise oral language while sharing their Poldy adventures with the group. Cheeky Poldy is still up to his old tricks, making the children laugh as he manages to find himself in some very interesting situations.

## Winter Weather

While the wintery weather continues, please be sure to send some warm, spare clothing to each kinder session. It is warm inside so they don't need to be rugged up indoors.

However outside playtime is always on the agenda - no matter the weather. Weather is often a perceived barrier to outside play. It is easy to decide to stay indoors when it is raining, windy or cold, but with the right gear and mindset, it is almost always worth the effort to get outdoors. The world changes with the rain and puddles provide endless opportunities for fun and exploration. Last week we saw such joy as the children felt the rain on their faces, discovered gushing drain waterfalls and tasted the fresh raindrops on their tongues as they fell from the sky. The photos at right really tell it all.

**Corina Bell, Educator, Heywood Kindergarten**

