



## 5. School Newsletter Update

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### **THE PEOPLE'S PLEDGE**

*We pledge to help bring humanity together with a common purpose - to help slow the spread of this virus enough to allow hospitals to cope and a vaccine to be developed, and to strive to ensure that this crisis brings out the best in us. To each do our part, we pledge to:*

**STOP THE VIRUS** at our doorstep - by washing our hands regularly, avoiding unnecessary close contact with others, staying home when we feel unwell and seeking medical advice early.

**PROTECT THE VULNERABLE** by offering love and assistance to those who need it most, and supporting humane policies to keep them safe.

**SPREAD WISDOM** by sharing reliable, factual information with friends and family, and countering voices of fear and demonization with love and connection.

*This crisis will mean that, for one of the few times in human history, many of us will have to stay home. Such social isolation could be the perfect breeding ground for fear and hatred to take hold of us. Or, if we choose to meet this adversity with love and determination, we could make it an unprecedented moment for humanity to come together as one. To care for each other, to be there for each other. We now have a common purpose, a common cause. Let's rise to it.*

This crisis will mean that, for one of the few times in human history, many of us will have to stay home. Such social isolation could be the perfect breeding ground for fear and hatred to take hold of us. Or, if we choose to meet this adversity with love and determination, we could make it an unprecedented moment for humanity to come together as one. To care for each other, to be there for each other. We now have a common purpose, a common cause. Let's rise to it.

The above stunning pledge was sent to me by the Chair of our Board, Lisa Jones. On Tuesday night as the staff gathered (1.5m apart) we collectively read this pledge and encouraged each other to 'rise to it.'

We encourage all families to share this pledge with their family and various networks during these trying times.

It was also wonderful to see this 'pledge' in action earlier in the week as one of our parents, Jo Stanley, did letter drops in the neighbourhood, encouraging families to look out and after one another during these times. In particular, those that may be in isolation.



Dear Families,

Whilst all staff are well-prepared in the event of a potential extended closure, it remains very much **'business as usual'** as the students embrace another full academic program delivered by their classroom and specialist teachers. In spite of some minor adjustments to our larger gatherings within the community and 'more' regular hand washing routines throughout the school, we commend the students and staff for not missing a beat and keeping things as 'normal' as can be under the circumstances.

Acknowledged by many members of our community during these uncertain times, we have remained measured and calm, first and foremost, for our students and families. In particular, families have greatly appreciated the quality and thoughtfulness of the reassuring communication currently being delivered. To that end, we could not be more proud of the collective response and leadership of our staff who continue to set this impressive tone. Be assured, the children have looked to the adults within our community to remain composed. As a result, the students have been adaptable, flexible, faultless and highly responsive to the sometimes daily changes to programming and adjustments where required to typical routines.

We also sincerely thank our families who have welcomed and supported these well-considered adjustments and measures put in place. In all instances we have proudly placed the well-being of all members of our community at the forefront of any decision. A notable decision last week was the postponement of the highly anticipated Year 6 trip to Canberra. Despite the initial disappointment from the students (although many had suspected the impending outcome), their exceptional manner upon delivery of the decision affirmed their growing maturity as our most senior student leaders and role models. These students continue to send a strong message to our students, as they readily adapt and accept these necessary changes, 'for the time being.'

Like most, they are just getting along with the business of school life, albeit with the healthy inclusion of regular hand washing and improved hygienic practices.

In light of all the above, we are also grateful that some families have chosen to keep their ill or potentially at risk children home for a period of time. Quarantine remains in place for any person who shows symptoms related to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and we thank families for this cautious approach in recent days.

Often working behind the scenes and perhaps not always noticed for their efforts; we simply could not have had a better team to manage much of our communication streams during this period. We thank **Claire Tobin** and **Sarah Nugent** for their exemplary leadership in rolling out a very clear and sensible (reassuring) strategy for our community. In addition, they have been so well supported by the various curriculum leaders, who continue to do a significant amount of work in preparation, should we be forced to close in the coming days. We are ready!

***I'm immensely proud of our staff,***  
**Simon Collis**  
**Principal**