



LEARNING IN ISOLATION, BUT NOT ALONE!

Our students are doing a fantastic job of adjusting to their new learning environments and schedules!

It has been a tricky time for all of us and students are reminded that they can contact their teachers for help through Google Classroom, via email or by calling the office during school hours on (02) 6033 1889.



What's Coming Up?

9 Apr	Last day Term 1
27 Apr	Staff development day
28 Apr	First day Term 2 for students



Principal's report

with Dr Joanne Bellette

Transition to online learning success

I've received a number of emails and phone calls this week congratulating our staff on their hard work in transitioning our students, and their learning, to online platforms. I'd like to add my fervent thanks to that chorus. Every day I see how hard my staff are working to ensure that teaching and learning at Corowa High School continues to be an enriching and challenging endeavour and how determined they are to ensure that our students are not disadvantaged by the changes forced upon them by the world around us. These thanks must also be extended to our students, the vast majority of whom have embraced this challenge and learnt a whole raft of new skills along the way. And finally, to the unsung heroes of online learning - our parents who face the daily challenges of motivating teenagers to engage in their learning whilst juggling home and work obligations. Thanks.

Class of the Week Award

In celebration of the amazing work being done across our school we are introducing a Class of the Week Award which will be awarded every Friday. Our Class of the Week will be announced on our Facebook page and will give you an insight into some of the amazing teaching and learning that is occurring and some of the incredible things students are creating and achieving. I'm looking forward to announcing our first Class of the Week in this newsletter and on Facebook this week.

Student attendance

Parents and students will be relieved to know that we are closely monitoring student attendance and engagement in their online learning. Simply logging on to a Google Classroom, but failing to complete work, is not sufficient. For students to be registered as 'in attendance'

at school they must engage in the classwork issued at the time specified on their timetables. Students who do not engage or complete the set work will be marked as having an 'Unjustified Absence' on attendance rolls. For this reason, it is important for parents to tell us if students are ill as this will change their roll mark from 'Unjustified' to 'Justified - Sick'.

Whilst our student attendance levels on our school site are low, it is always important to remind parents to only send your children if they are well. Any child who presents to school with cold or flu-like symptoms will be sent home.

Technology troubles? We can help!

For those students who are struggling to access technology, such as a laptop or internet, please contact the school and discuss your circumstances and needs. Our resources are increasingly limited, but we can endeavour to support you if we have an understanding of your circumstances. We can be contacted by either phone (02 6033 1889) or email (corowa-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au).

Keep an eye on mental health

Finally, on Wednesday 31 March we sent an email to all parents within our school community sharing a resource that listed all of the mental health support services available within our region. It is a timely reminder that we need to be aware of and support the physical and mental wellbeing of our children at this time. Should you have any concerns for your child, our school counsellor Jo Gurung will continue to be available every Thursday either on site or through phone consultations should your child need it. Please call the school to book an appointment.

Take care and stay safe.



Legends learning at home!

It's fantastic to see so many of our students stepping up and continuing their education at home!





Not all learning happens in the classroom

Or under the current circumstances, not all learning happens in the lounge room/bedroom/study. Check out Caleb and Clancy furthering their studies in Agriculture and Primary Industries. Keep up the great work, guys!

Socially isolated scones

As part of their continuing studies, Stage 5 Cooking in the Kitchen students were tasked to make lemonade scones at home this week.

They were also asked to upload photos of themselves baking the scones, cleaning up (have to keep the mums happy) and their final product.



Class of the Week Award:

Miss Layzel's Year 7 Japanese have taken out the first Class of the Week Award!

Students did an amazing job on their 'Travel to Japan' brochure, with some student submissions achieving the outstanding score of 50/50. Congratulations Miss Layzell and her Year 7 Japanese class!





We're still here for you!

Whether working from home or on site at Corowa High School, our staff are available to assist students between 8.30am-3.30pm. Call us on (02) 6033 1889 or send an email to corowa-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au.



Jasper heads home early

It is with sadness that we inform our school community that our exchange student, Jasper, will be heading back to Germany earlier than anticipated.

He has been a fantastic asset to our school and an outstanding friend to our students. We wish him all the very best with the future and hope that he will come back to visit us soon!



www.facebook.com/corowahighschool/

Learning and working from home

Mr Bowers

Where is your study or work space at home?

I am fortunate to have an office space in our back room. It is large enough that I can run a couple of computers on the desk and jump around to get some exercise when I need to move a little.

Do you have a special item or object you keep on your desk?

I have Paddie McGillacuddy. He is an Irish Leprechaun that I first met at the airport in Dublin. He travelled all around Ireland with us in 2018. He always makes me smile.

What do you like most about working from home?

I am still trying to work that out. At the moment it is proving very challenging as there is so many new things to get my simple little head around.

What do you miss most about school?

The students and staff. Corowa High is a great place to work.

What is something you are enjoying that you haven't had time for before?

I am finding when I need some exercise I can walk around the farm. Yesterday I re-discovered the back paddock!!!

Clancy Tomlinson

Where is your study or workspace at home?

I do my online school work mostly at my desk in my room.

Do you have a special item or object you keep on your desk?

I have a trophy on my desk from Under 14s football last year. It reminds me of how much fun I have when I play football.

What do you like most about studying from home?

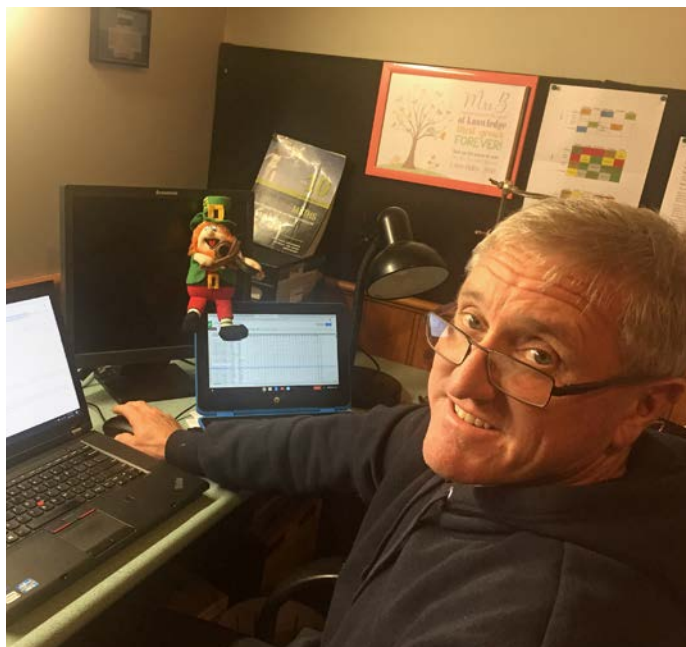
I like how I can get more of a sleep in and I also like how I can be a bit more relaxed.

What do you miss most about school?

I miss seeing my friends.

What is something you are enjoying that you haven't had time for before?

I enjoyed doing some watercolour painting the other day which is something I don't always have time to do.





2020 HSC is going ahead

The Higher School Certificate (HSC) is going ahead in 2020. A COVID-19 Response Committee is addressing developing issues as a matter of urgency.

A Technical Advisory Committee of assessment experts and stakeholders is working on a fair and equitable way to calculate a mark for cancelled components of the HSC.

Key dates and deadlines currently listed on the NESA website are subject to change due to the COVID-19 outbreak. NESA will continue to update you with exceptions and changes to relevant deadlines.

Advice to students

- Keep learning, do your assessments, make progress on your major projects.
- Look after yourself, whether you are at school or at home.
- Reach out to family, friends and your teachers if you need to.
- Go to UAC COVID-19 updates for information about entering university in 2021.

School-based HSC assessment

Schools must follow social distancing requirements when planning or undertaking school-based assessment tasks. NESA has given principals and system authorities the power to determine the number, type and weighting of tasks for HSC and Year 11 school-based assessment.

Processes, procedures and policies

Schools should continue to implement their assessment policy where possible, including administrative arrangements for illness/misadventure and substitute tasks. Given that most schools will make some changes to their assessment program, they should continue to ensure that students have adequate written notice of any changes to the school's assessment program or policy, and are aware of the details of the school's arrangements for illness/misadventure and substitute tasks.

HSC exam projects, submitted works and performances

The mandatory group performance exam in Drama and the mandatory ensemble performance exam in Music Extension have been cancelled for 2020. Detailed advice about cancellation of these components will be available on the NESA website soon. Other performance exams will be modified if they breach mandatory social distancing requirements.

The next meeting of the COVID-19 Response Committee will focus on major projects for Visual Arts, Design and Technology, Industrial Technology, Textiles and Design, English Ext 2 and Society and Culture.

Mandatory work placement in VET

Students are no longer required to undertake NESA-mandated VET work placements.

For further information, please visit the NESA website: <https://bit.ly/2yw2RvB>

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

We may be isolating ourselves, but we are certainly not alone in our experience of the COVID-19 virus and home study.

As such, we are asking parents (and students) to send photos of students learning at home. We would like to share these images with our school and local community through our newsletter and social media sites to ensure that students maintain their sense of belonging our school.

Send your pictures to corowa-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au or send via Facebook messenger.



Leading the way for children during the COVID-19 pandemic

If you're like me, the news of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has your head spinning and your heart pumping. That's only natural as life as we know has taken a seismic shift in recent days.

International travel bans, cancellation of sporting and cultural events, shopping frenzies and talk of school closures continue to dominate the airwaves. Terms such as social distancing, self-isolation and social lockdowns have entered our vocabularies and may soon become part of our daily lives.

Coronavirus is having an unprecedented impact on our daily lives, and will probably do so for some time. While keeping ourselves and children healthy and safe is our main concern, it's also essential to address the anxieties of children and young people during these changing times. Here are some ideas to help inform, reassure and keep children and young people safe.

Build on what your children know

Children and young people have already been exposed to a great deal of information about corona virus through media, digital means and direct social contact. Their understanding will vary depending on their age and also the quality of their information sources so you probably will need to help kids process what they already know.

Casual conversations with teenagers and older children can be useful ways to glean their understanding. You could ask questions like "What are you hearing about Coronavirus? Is there anything you're not sure about?" Younger primary age children may need a more direct approach with parents addressing their specific concerns without giving too much information that can overwhelm them.

Check your own thoughts and feelings

Check your own frame of mind and emotions about COVID-19 before talking to kids. Most children are astute mood detectives and they'll gauge their safety by the way you communicate with them. If you tell a child, "You've got to wash your hands or you'll get infected," you are communicating your own anxieties, making it difficult for them to maintain a healthy state of mind. Have a think about how you can frame your instructions and their importance in a way that doesn't heighten your child's anxieties.

Stay informed

It's difficult to work out fact from fiction, correct from incorrect, information from exaggeration when the news is changing so fast. However you need to educate yourself

about the virus itself, including how it's transmitted and how to stay safe. Get information from trustworthy sources such as The Australian Government Health Department website and the current federal government corona virus information media campaign.

Answer questions truthfully

It's important that parents and teachers answer children's questions honestly in age-appropriate ways and within context of what is happening at the given time. If their sport or hobby has been temporarily cancelled empathise with their concerns, while helping them maintain a sense of perspective.

Initiate positive action

One way to reduce anxiety and allay children's fears is to involve them in planning and preparation for their personal and group safety. Positive activities such as maintenance of personal hygiene, greeting people with an elbow tap and getting plenty of sleep can help restore a sense of control, that is so important for their wellbeing.

Find refuge in rituals

Regular rituals such as mealtimes, bedtime stories and regular one-on-one time provide both an anchor to normality and a sense of connection for kids at times of change. Consider reconstituting favoured family rituals at this time if they have lapsed due to lack of time, or lifestyle frenzy.

Look outwards

In difficult times there is a tendency to look inwards, which is a natural protective strategy. The alternative is to establish a sense of connection and community spirit by focusing on generosity and togetherness. Help children see past their own needs and look for ways to assist others whether it's shopping for an elderly neighbour, helping a younger sibling occupy themselves, or planning an indoor movie night for the whole family.

The Coronavirus presents many practical challenges to parents and other important adults in the lives of kids. Staying calm, keeping informed, and adjusting our own habits are just some of the challenges we face. However a significant challenge is one of personal leadership. That is, during these difficult times we need to be civil to each other, look out for each other and be mindful of the common good in everything we do. In this, we can all take a significant lead.

By Michael Grose



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CLEANERS REQUIRED

Joss Facility Management are looking for cleaning staff to work at local Government sites across regional NSW.

PPE, Training and Uniforms provided.

Applicants need to provide a valid Working With Children Check upon application and successful applicants will be required to undertake a pre-employment medical prior to commencement.

Please contact Joss Facility Management via email on cleaning@jossgroup.com.au

How to Handrub?

RUB HANDS FOR HAND HYGIENE! WASH HANDS WHEN VISIBLY SOILED

Duration of the entire procedure: 20-30 seconds

1a

Apply a palmful of the product in a cupped hand, covering all surfaces;

1b

Rub hands palm to palm;

2

Rub hands palm to palm;

3

Right palm over left dorsum with interlaced fingers and vice versa;

4

Palm to palm with fingers interlaced;

5

Backs of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked;

6

Rotational rubbing of left thumb clasped in right palm and vice versa;

7

Rotational rubbing, backwards and forwards with clasped fingers of right hand in left palm and vice versa;

8

Once dry, your hands are safe.

www.health.nsw.gov.au

Practise simple hygiene by washing hands regularly

1 Wet hands

2 Apply soap

3 Lather & scrub

4 Rinse hands

5 Turn off tap

6 Dry hands

Spend 20 seconds washing your hands.

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