

3rd November 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

I hope you have enjoyed the long weekend and the lovely weather that has accompanied it. It almost seems like we are nearly back to normal life with all students now back at school and restrictions around metropolitan Melbourne looking like easing even further in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, it is still important that we are vigilant, particularly in the school environment where we have over 500 people on site both in and outdoors.

I want to reassure all parents that our policies and processes here on campus are designed to minimize any Covid related risks. Every indoor space is ventilated and hand sanitizer is readily available by every classroom door. Staff are continually reminding students about Covid safe behaviours and as you know we are staggering the dismissal of students to further assist with everyone's health and safety.

Additionally, all NCC staff and students aged 12 and over are required to wear masks. Although this is probably one of the most inconvenient and annoying rules that we need to follow, it is nevertheless one of the most effective ways of protecting the health and safety of everyone. Mask wearing is therefore something that we must be vigilant about on campus here at Northside. This includes wearing masks properly (over the mouth and nose), not touching the front of the mask and always carefully removing and replacing it when eating or playing sport during the day. In rare circumstances, a student may have a lawful reason for not wearing a mask such as being affected by a relevant medical condition, including problems with their breathing, a serious condition of the face, a disability or a mental health condition. If you believe your child falls into one of these categories, it is essential that you contact the school to discuss this with us.

On related matters, you may have heard further media reports about the Goodstart Early Learning Centre on Plenty Road where a positive case was recently reported. A number of our families were contacted late last week by DHHS and potentially identified as secondary contacts. I have spoken with a number of these families and have been pleased to hear that they have followed DHHS advice and been tested. All returning negative results. There have been no further positive cases related to this one case and I believe the Goodstart centre will be reopening tomorrow pending final clearance from DHHS. I hope this news reassures any of you who were concerned about this developing situation.

I am looking forward to an enjoyable end to what has been a challenging year and although we won't be able to gather together for our annual celebration evening in early December, there will be a creative and enjoyable alternative for everyone to enjoy. More news to come on this in the coming days and weeks.

Let's all continue to stay safe and keep our eyes on Jesus.

Grace and Peace

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Damian Higgins', with a stylized, flowing script.

Damian Higgins
Principal