

## Principal's Update

15 March 2021

Dear all

We have reached week 8 and with lower temperatures becoming the norm (particularly in the mornings) I can feel that autumn has arrived and that the Easter break and autumn holidays are just around the corner.

In fact we only have two full weeks of school ... this week and next and then week 10 is only three days for students. While the term has been a somewhat shorter term it has been a very busy term and I am sure everyone will be ready for a holiday.

The last two and a half weeks of term for all years 7-12 are filled with assessments. We have been discussing in Year Assemblies about planning, organisation and not leaving things till the last minute.

Also for each Year Assembly we have a focus. The previous topic related to "Vapes". Paul Dillon provided sound advice regarding vapes to Years 10-12 and I have passed on that message to the junior years. While there are only a small number of children who purchase or use vapes, nevertheless it is a concern that tobacco companies are targeting such young children. Tony Gahan wrote an informative article in our last High Flyer about this matter.

My most recent topic for discussion relates to discrimination. As we know there are several forms of discrimination identified in law: age discrimination, disability discrimination, sexual orientation, religious discrimination, national origin, sexual harassment and race or colour.

At Mosman we take pride in our inclusivity and this is reflected in our non-uniform policy where students can be comfortable in what they wear to school. We also support the "Better By-stander" and anti-bullying policy and generally our students are happy at school.

Each year group also has a strong wellbeing team to support them if things go awry. Furthermore, we have an Anti-Racism Contact Officer, Mrs Gail Papiolos who is available to support students. Mrs Papiolos is located in the TAS faculty.

There has been much in the media recently about the issue of consent. Our school vision includes empowering young women and men by educating them about their value and their worth as important members of our society. We are very conscious of the important role we have as educators, to ensure students are well informed. The school provides education and support around consent and related matters starting in Year 7. These programs are mainly run through the PDHPE curriculum as well as student wellbeing initiatives and the Year 11 Life Ready Course.

I believe that families also have an important role in ensuring their sons and daughters are fully cognizant of their rights and responsibilities regarding this very complex issue of consent in sexual relations.

The following is a short animation that you might like to share with your son or daughter regarding consent:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=.607HC5OYdU>

Finally in week 9 a reminder that Akoosticum will be happening in the school hall on Thursday 25 March. It is a ticketed event and in the last High Flyer there was a link to purchase tickets. Also in Week 9, the Year 7 Parent Teacher night will take place on Tuesday 23 March from 4.00-7.00pm. This will be the first time we have trialled Zoom; so hopefully all will go well.

Just a reminder that the last day of school for students is Wednesday 31st March.

Best wishes

Susan

Susan Wyatt  
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