

NUMBER 9

April 16th 2020

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

ON-LINE LEARNING

The first 2 days of on-line learning have been very successful. There are 3 major reasons for this;

- Our choice of Seesaw as our major platform has proven to be a very good one. It is filling our needs at this stage.
- Our families have been very patient and understanding. Any issues that arise are being overcome through communication between families and school. Parents are sticking to the guidelines provided and not overloading their children.
- The staff at Bolwarra have worked overtime to ensure that the wellbeing needs of all our students and families are being met. The staff have also spent many hours preparing lessons to go onto Seesaw.

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

In these unusual times we become even more reliant on those wise people in our community. Bolwarra is extremely fortunate to have 2 of these people who are willing to share their wisdom in our newsletter. Please take a few minutes to sit down, relax and read today's Chaplains' Corner at the end of today's newsletter.

SCHOOL WORK REQUIREMENTS

Please remember that during this Term students are not expected to complete a full day of work. Prep-2 students are doing 2 ½ hours and Grade 3 to 6 about 3 ½ hours at the most. The work doesn't have to start at 9am. Every family will have a different routine. For some school may be from 2pm to 5pm. We have deliberately started slowly to allow everyone to get into a routine that works for them.

If you believe your child needs more work (or less) please contact the class teacher.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Alex Jacobson who turned 12 on the holidays and Kelvin Moore who turned 9.

Tomorrow Jake Davies turns **21**.

Zach Price turns 8 on Sunday, Chantelle Shemeld 11 on Wednesday and Matilda Cashin 9 on Thursday.

SCHOOL COUNCIL AGM & APRIL MEETING

School Council will be meeting via Webex next Wednesday, April 22nd, from 7pm.

FLOURISHING AT BOLWARRA

Positive Relationships – Empathy & Compassion
Forgiveness

HOLIDAYS

A big shout out to Sherryn for inspiring our students to share their art work on facebook over the holidays.

A drawing of what Ava Jacobson could see out of her window.



Charlee Coates drawing of her dog 'Dusty'.

Anna Warrener with her picture of what she sees outside her window.

Jackson Warrener with a picture of his family



Claire Munday's picture of her cat, Snowsnug.



Hannah Rethus with Charlie and a picture of her horse

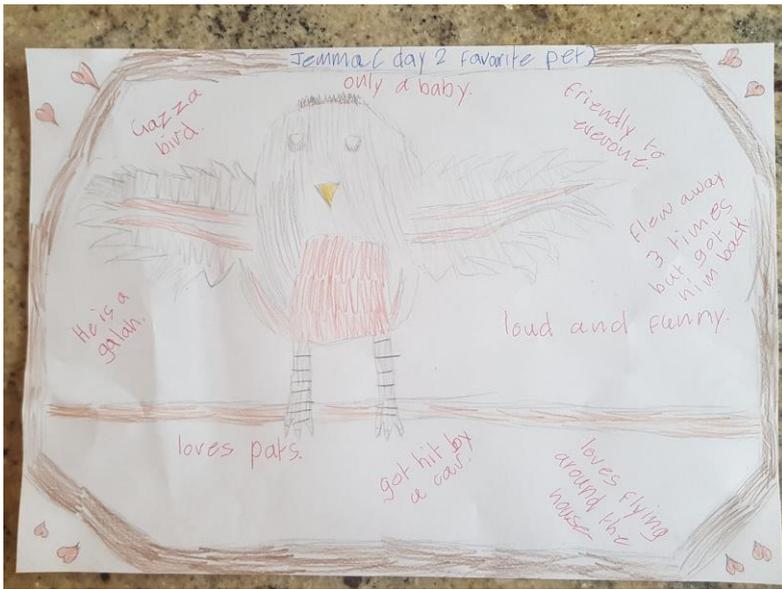


Callum Richardson with a picture of J.D. and the real J.D.

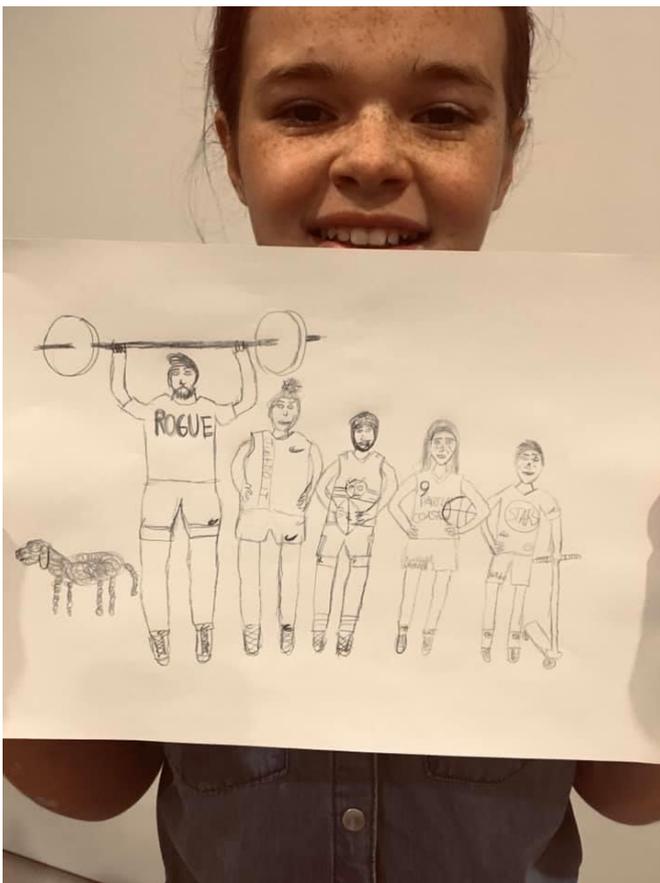
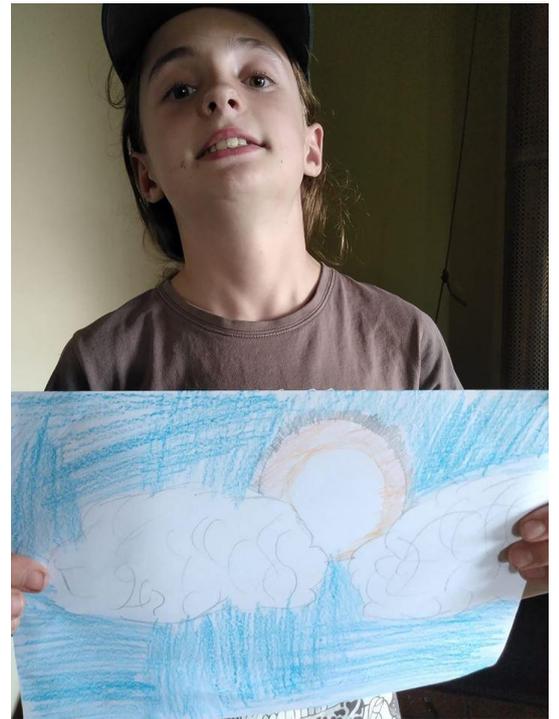


Tommy with a picture of Rodger and the real Rodger

Jemma McFarlane's favorite pet



Henry Stirling's drawing of clouds



Zeke Roos 3D art work

Lou Impey's drawing of her family

Clancy Stirling's view of the clouds



Daniel Goode's drawing of a Teddy Bear

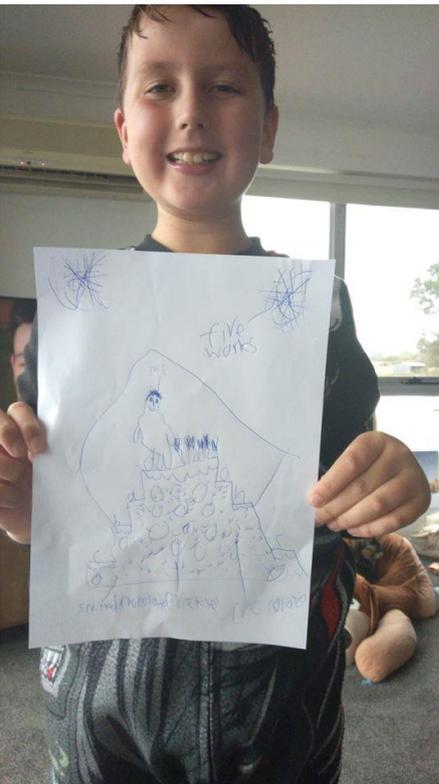


Hunter Jennings exercising with his cat



Shakiah and Gori Stellini's homemade pizza

*Chad Daniel drawing of his dream
Birthday Cake*



*Seth and Zach
Price with
their cow*



Ed Thomson's pet – Dan

Paddy Impey wearing his homemade Tie Dye shirt

Charlie and Makayla Arnold wishing everyone a happy Easter



FLOURISHING AT BOLWARRA

**Positive Relationships – Empathy & Compassion
Forgiveness**

Chaplains' Corner – What the virus is teaching us

What strange and difficult days we are passing through right now. The coronavirus is a most unwelcome global visitor. For all sorts of very obvious reasons. There's one complication that hits us where it hurts. The simple truth is this: we all like to be in charge of what's going on. We like the final say. We never like circumstances running our lives. We get a great deal of satisfaction from coping with whatever life delivers. And all of us probably do pretty well most of the time.

But our unwelcome guest, the virus, has upended that. Totally. It's hit all of us hard. We are wired to be social creatures. But social distancing has messed that up. We depend on security. But job losses, or reduced hours of work dump immense insecurity right into our laps with no easy way out. Most of us like routines and structures in our lives. Oops, they're up for grabs. We like life to be predictable. But that's gone out the window too. So, where to from here? Consider....

- **Like never before, we need to be a community** – This is what our school has always been about. Now the virus requires the meaning of "community" to be redefined. It's not just about getting along together. It's now about being there for each other in every way possible.
- **So, we now need to work out what this really means** – One suggestion: it means putting your hand up if you're going under. Too proud? Forget it. It's about working out how to make sure we're still alive tomorrow. Make sure someone you trust knows about your struggle.
- **We have to think again about being a flourishing school** – Flourishing is all about becoming the best as mums and dads, as children and young people, as teachers, as friends. And it's when the chips are truly down, as they are now, that we still have to flourish. Definitely.
- **So, what does the virus now teach us about flourishing?** – Think about it. Fire in a phone call to a friend you're worried about. A "How are you going?" call. Write a note to your neighbour. Spend real time with your partner and kids. Turn the TV off. Talk. Share. Listen.
- **There's another tough lesson in all of this** – It's about accepting a situation which doesn't have easy answers. There's no vaccine yet. So, there's no choice but to accept what is and to do our best, holding our chins up, hoping and praying that tomorrow will be kinder.
- **To accept is the key to managing** – We stop making the "if only" statements. There are now new issues: like, how do we keep peace alive when we're living on top of each other? Like, how do we find outlets which bring us relief in the middle of all that's not going for us?
- **Recognise the hidden enemies** – Financial stress is a huge worry for many now. Be wise about your spending. Talk to your bank, your landlord, make use of government support. And if there are still stresses, it's time for that trusted friend to be wheeled into your situation.

Put your best instincts to work. Yes, we're all anxious. But be thankful for those working hard to help: our teachers providing on line support for your children – a whole new ball game for them and for your family too. Give thanks where it's due. Encourage those around you, young and old. As you cope with your issues, make sure you're being present to others who are doing the same.

John – stay in touch please revsimmo@gmail.com, 0428 780 421, Andreena 0428 233 082