



Letter to Year One and Two Parents
regarding a change
to the Year One and Two House Carnival

Tuesday 1st September 2020

Dear Parents,

Below is a short letter to remind you of **the change to the House Carnival arrangement** for children in **Years One and Two** in Week 9 of this term. We have settled on trialing a **separate mini-carnival here at school** for these year levels, on **Tuesday 15th September from 8.45am - 10.30am**, rather than have them join Years 3-6 students at Ern Clark Athletics Centre in Cannington on Thursday the 17th September.

The main reasons for this change are as follows:

1. Anecdotally, children of this age level typically find a whole day at the carnival very long, tiring and for a number of children, quite stressful, sitting amidst all the noise of cheering and chanting, with little to do once their races and games are over. Older children are simply better equipped to manage this kind of day.
2. By holding a carnival just for these year levels, there is more time and scope for children to participate in a few extra events here at school. If the weather is not good, this scenario also gives us a couple of other options.
3. Children will have the athletics experience and then be back in their classroom and outdoor play area with their teacher, to enjoy the rest of the day together engaged in developmentally appropriate learning activities.
4. Parents of Year One and Two children often have younger siblings - it is therefore anticipated that coming to school will be more convenient for them, rather than a trip to Cannington.
5. With Phase 4 COVID restrictions in place, we are planning as though these will continue. By only taking Years 3-6 we will have fewer family groups to physical distance, on what is a relatively narrow grassed area for spectators anyway.

We appreciate that for some families with children in Years One/Two **and** older year levels, this change may be difficult if parents wish to attend both. We always remind children that while it is lovely to have our parents attend events, many parents won't be able to attend for a variety of reasons and that, if this is the case, staff will all be there to cheer children on and to support them to have fun regardless. So, if you can come to both, great. But if you can't, then please try to model a calm, caring and common-sense approach, avoiding catastrophizing or feeling guilty :)

While this change is a little more effort for us as a staff, as always, our decisions are made with the children's very best interests at heart.

We look forward to seeing some of you there on the day and further information, including a program, will be sent home next week.

Regards,

Tania Thuijs

Principal, St Emilies