

Issue 1- 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021

A reminder that face masks are now required when visiting the office or indoor spaces 😊

## PRINCIPAL REPORT

Hello everyone,

It's great to be back! Welcome to all our families, particularly those joining our school community. Our foundation students have made a great start to their time at Whittlesea Primary School and we extend a warm welcome to both them and their families. First day of school is always an exciting, yet daunting proposition, but our children excelled and their families should be proud.

Our mission this year is to achieve three key goals:

1. Learning, catch-up and extension
2. Happy, active and healthy kids
3. Strong connections - both within the school and with our community

These priorities come because of an interrupted 2020 and all schools across the state share the same goals within their strategic planning. To achieve these priorities, we have hit the ground running with so much happening across all aspects of the school. Tutors have been appointed and will start supporting students in classrooms over the coming weeks. We welcome back Deb Armstrong, an experienced educational leader who we have coaxed out of retirement! We also welcome Kate Alexander, Rachel Eaton and Lauren Blake to the tutoring team who will be joined by our current PLC leader – Louise Reid who will increase her time fraction this year. All of our tutors have a prior or current connection with our school or community and each will play a pivotal role in progressing the academic outcomes for our students.

Over the break a number of improvement projects were undertaken, highlighted by the upgrades to our gym. Over the year's parents have made contributions to our building fund, and it is these funds which allowed us to fully restore the gym floor including a deep sand, line marking and sealing. The new colours have given our gym a new lease of life and I'm sure you'll agree it looks great!



## OFFICE HOURS

Office opening hours  
8.30am- 4pm

## CALENDAR

February 12 <sup>th</sup>	5/6 Interschool sport
February 15 <sup>th</sup>	District Swimming Carnival
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	Chinese New Year Celebration



Our BYOD program is also off to a great start with students all setting up their computers and using them for learning. Thank you to Mr Leslie and Mr McAlley for all your hard work. Purchases can still be made through the Edunet portal for families of students across Years 3-6.



To commence the school year I have a series of topics to share with our community – all of significant importance. Please note the following:

### **Bushfire Action Plan**

Whittlesea Primary School has been reclassified as a ‘Category 4’ school. In the event that our district is declared ‘Code Red’ fire danger, the school will be closed as a proactive safety measure. While this is an unlikely event, our plan may need to be enacted on the rare occasion. All parents will be notified through Compass / TXT to inform them that Whittlesea Primary School will be closed due to Code Red fire danger. All students are to remain at home if this situation arises.

### **Annual Privacy Reminder**

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools’ Privacy Policy](#).

Please take time to remind yourself of the school’s collection statement. If you would like a copy please contact the office.

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools’ Privacy Policy – information for parents](#).

### **Supervision available before and after school**

A friendly reminder to our families that our students are to arrive at school from 8:35am each morning. Staff will be on duty to supervise students until they enter their classrooms at 8:50am. Our school day concludes at 3.15pm and staff will be on duty until 3:30pm. Any student who has not been collected from school will be taken to the Administration office and a phone call to the family will be made. Any student not collected from school by 3.30pm will be placed in After School Care operated by TheirCare and fees will be charged. If you are unable to collect your child by end of the school day, please contact the Administration office on 9716 2140. TheirCare also offer a before school program so early arrivers are adequately supervised.

### **Student Accident Insurance**

The Department of Education and Training (DET) has requested that the following statement is brought to parents’ attention. Parents are reminded that the Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. These costs may be recoverable where an injury is caused by the negligence (carelessness) of the Department, a school council or their employees or volunteers. Student accident insurance policies are available from some commercial insurers. These cover a range of medical expenses not covered by Medicare or private health insurance

## Personal Property

REMINDER – the Department (which includes our school) does not have accident insurance. Items of personal property that are lost, stolen or damaged at school is not the responsibility of Example School or the Department. Staff and students are reminded not to bring personal items of value to school. Insurance for BYOD devices is highly encouraged.

Welcome back for 2021 – we're excited for what we can achieve this year.

Until next week,

Ty Hoggins  
Principal

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL REPORT

Hello everyone

Welcome back to the 2021 school year. It has been so refreshing to see all of our students back at school, fingers crossed it stays that way ☺ Not only did they grow taller, they have returned full of excitement, sharing stories about their adventures across the summer break and keen to tell of their new experiences and interests.



This year we have welcomed Chinese teacher, Ms Jessie Liu, she is already planning our first celebration day for the year. On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February our school will celebrate Chinese New Year and all students are encouraged to wear **RED** or **GOLD** on the day. This could be a t-shirt, hair accessory, socks or any other item of red or gold that you have at home. There will be another reminder closer to the date so remember to check our school FB page and next week's Primary Post.



On the 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January, our staff engaged in a whole school conference, with a key focus on curriculum and wellbeing. In welcoming Kellie Redmond back to WPS, Kellie delivered key learning around our literacy instructional model and, more specifically, the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System (BAS) for Reading. Kellie returns to our school having lead the implementation of Fountas and Pinnell at Ivanhoe Grammar. Kellie's passion, knowledge and skill set in this area of literacy will drive the implementation of the BAS, which will replace our existing approaches to assessing Reading. Moreover, it will also provide a consistent, whole school approach to improving our schools Reading outcomes across F-6.

Further to this, at the end of 2020, in consultation with Kellie, our newly appointed literacy leader, our staff will be adopting a new approach to take home readers and recording reading at home.

Students in the Early Years will take home five books each week. These books will be selected based on our assessment data and should mostly be easy to read. We will encourage children to read these books many times during the week to practise building their accuracy and fluency. Reading books multiple times also supports students to develop a deeper understanding of texts. Students in the Middle and Upper years will home reading material will vary depending on their personal needs. Many children will continue to take home books as guided by their teachers. Children will also be encouraged to borrow books of interest from the library, including short chapter books as well as read material they have at home. We encourage all families to continue to read to their children no matter their age and engage their children in discussion about the books they read. Kellie will provide further information on the home reading program in the coming weeks.

On the third day, staff also participated in a range of electives offered by our staff with an interest/expertise in areas such as poetry, mindfulness, play-based learning and catering for students with additional needs in the classroom. These three days provided an opportunity for new and existing staff and their teams to connect after the break as well establishing norms and our schools strategic direction around curriculum and wellbeing for 2021.

Do you still need an item of uniform but find it difficult to get down to Mill Park during the week? Did you know NRU will deliver to WPS every Wednesday if you call and place a phone order and pay by credit/debt card by 12pm Tuesday? We also have school logo hats for sale at the office for \$15. Please see Belinda or Libby in the office if you need to purchase a school logo hat. Please remember school hats must have the WPS logo and are worn throughout Terms 1 and 4.

Olivia Tabone, from Lala Music, will be facilitating instrumental music lessons at school on Tuesdays this year. Lessons will commence next week. Lala Music offers tuition for a range of instruments including Clarinet, Saxophone, Keyboard, Flute, Trumpet and Percussion/Drums. If your child does not have an instrument, Lala Music can offer great prices on all instrument rental hire/sales. If you would like to learn more please call Olivia on 0419131868 or email [lalamusic2@yahoo.com.au](mailto:lalamusic2@yahoo.com.au) to check availability.

Finally, congratulations to all of our Foundation students on a great start to your learning journey at Whittlesea Primary School. We look forward to sharing this journey with you.

Best wishes for a wonderful weekend with your family 😊

Rae Gittos  
Assistant Principal



## BIRTHDAY LIST

Wishing the following children a very Happy Birthday!

**1<sup>st</sup> January**  
Franky 5/6RM  
Sylvia 5/6S

**2<sup>nd</sup> January**  
Verity 01C

**5<sup>th</sup> January**  
Kaden 00M  
Ryker 02D  
Callum 3/4M

**7<sup>th</sup> January**  
Brodie 01J

**8<sup>th</sup> January**  
Ryan 01C  
Joel 5/6L

**10<sup>th</sup> January**  
Lola 01C  
Emma 3/40  
Michael 5/6G

**12<sup>th</sup> January**  
Mackenzie 3/40  
Mia 5/6L

**13<sup>th</sup> January**  
Noah 00V

**16<sup>th</sup> January**  
Chaise 02S

**17<sup>th</sup> January**  
Taj 00P

**18<sup>th</sup> January**  
Kiarn 5/6G

**20<sup>th</sup> January**  
Riley 3/4W

**22<sup>nd</sup> January**  
Henry 00V

**23<sup>rd</sup> January**  
Tai 01M

**24<sup>th</sup> January**  
Ava 01C

**25<sup>th</sup> January**  
Monica 02D

**26<sup>th</sup> January**  
Grace 3/4C

**27<sup>th</sup> January**  
Henry 00V  
Rebekah 00V  
Rhys 3/4C

**28<sup>th</sup> January**  
Bentleigh 01M  
Heidi 3/4W  
Audrey 5/6RM

**29<sup>th</sup> January**  
Emerson 00V

**30<sup>th</sup> January**  
Cadence 01J  
Levi 02S  
Teianah 5/6RM

**3<sup>rd</sup> February**  
Charlie 01M



Peter Ackland - school chaplain



### School History 1991 – Time Capsule

I welcome new families to our school community. You have joined a school that has a lengthy history. As Victorian school number 2090, it opened its doors on this location in 1878 and has managed to stay in the one place all this time. After all, it had actually started earlier, roughly where IGA is now, in 1855 as a domination school (costing a penny a day to attend). If families were a part of our school community last year you would have followed this history series, continuing at 1916. It has taken all 39 Primary Post issues to reach 1990 by the end of 2020. The end now seems to be in sight and our school history series might arrive at the present before midyear.

1991 is actually a good place to commence again because it connects with the opening of a 25 year time capsule in 2016. Back when the capsule was buried, Principal **Tom Ward** (1986-1991) was officiating in his last year at the school. His departure may have triggered the idea of burying a time capsule and it was placed close to the old building, almost forgotten and certainly lost.



The photo's caption [from North Central & Whittlesea Review, December 6, 2016] reads, "**From the past:** Whittlesea Primary School student representative council members and principal Ty Hoggins prepare the time capsule for opening this Friday, December 9." They are holding up a one metre long large diameter sealed plastic pipe found under the 'cover plate' shown above. The news article went on to say: "The time capsule was located by Darren McCormick, a former student of Whittlesea Primary School who found it using his gold detector... Darren remembered burying it while he was a student in grade 5 in 1991."

The capsule revealed a collection of material from 1991, photos of each class and staff from that year, as well as a few newspapers and posters. A very interesting little book on 'school life' which was handmade by grade 3 and 4 students was probably the most interesting find of all and I will endeavour to unpack the contents of this book in the following four Primary Post issues.

To be continued...

## CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND APPLICATION

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you have a valid means-tested concession card, such as a Veterans Affairs Gold Card, Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible. There is also a special consideration category for asylum seeker and refugee families.

Payment amounts this year are \$125 for eligible primary school students. Payments are made direct to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions and sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

If you applied for CSEF through our school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year, unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

If you would like to apply for the first time, please contact the school office on 03 9716 2140 and ask for an application form.

You can also download the form, and find out more about the program and eligibility, on the Department of Education and Training's Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund web page.

Check with the school office if you are unsure, and please return completed forms to the school office as soon as possible.

## E-WASTE

### E-waste recycling made easy at Whittlesea Primary School!

To make recycling e-waste easy, we will be hosting an e-waste recycling skip from 29<sup>th</sup> January- 19<sup>th</sup> February to give you the opportunity to get rid of your unwanted E-waste. E-waste refers to any household appliance with a battery or cord.

When the skip arrives, you can put any small household electrical items with a cord or battery into it, such as: televisions, computers, laptops, tablets, printers, faxes, scanners, copiers, keyboards, speakers, monitors, gaming consoles, modems, set top boxes, routers, server, vacuum cleaners, toasters, hair dryers, hi-fi equipment, video and DVD players, electronic toys and other household electronic appliances.

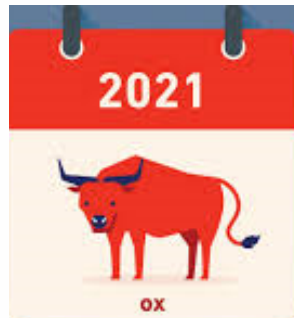
What will **NOT** be accepted in the skip:

- Any whitegoods - refrigerators, freezers, dish washers, washing machines, clothes dryers and microwaves.
- Solar panels

To get rid of whitegoods such as fridges, freezers and microwaves, book a free collection by phoning Kids off the Kerb on 9982 5600.

From 1 July 2019, the Victorian Government will introduce a ban on the disposal of e-waste to landfill which means e-waste can no longer be put in your bins at home. Take this opportunity to get rid of any unwanted e-waste items easily through our school.

# Chinese New Year



**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February**



**Year of the Ox**  
**2021**

To help celebrate the Chinese New Year, students and staff are encouraged to dress up in **RED** or **YELLOW** **(GOLD)** or a **Chinese costume**.