

Issue 7 – 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

## PRINCIPAL REPORT

Hello everyone,

Whittlesea Primary School will go through the routine school review process in early Term 2. Our review was originally scheduled for last year, but due to COVID disruptions our original dates were rescheduled to Term 2, 2021.



Every 4 years all government schools conduct a review of their previous strategic goals, then set new priorities for the plan moving forward. As part of the process, we are conducting a thorough self-evaluation prior to our formal review dates in weeks 1 and 2 of next term. Through the self-evaluation, we consult with all key stakeholders to canvas their views on various areas of the school. Our staff have been completing surveys and feedback tasks relating to the 'Framework for School Improvement', part of the Education State model implemented by our state government. Our students are also contributing their views. Years 3 to 6 are completing a survey through Microsoft Teams and I am personally conducting additional focus groups to hear the student's opinions. Our F-2 students are being guided through a similar survey in class with their teacher's support. The early findings are both validating of our work so far, but also enlightening as to what priorities exist for different groups in our school. For instance, our students noted many ideas relating to the canteen and the over counter service at breaks. This is clearly something of importance to them. Our teachers have been extremely positive in their reflection on our wellbeing approach and the support around our positive behaviour support program.

Our priority remains the improvement in academic achievement and we have implemented many initiatives over the past 2 years in particular. Despite the interruptions of COVID, our school has commenced or completed the following key actions recently:

- Development of a thorough 'Literacy Plan', including the development of a comprehensive new reading model for instruction
- Coaching Program for teachers
- Introduction of the Fountas and Pinnell reading assessments, and curriculum resource
- Introduction of the Write To Read approach to support literacy development
- Revised and improved mathematics unit planning
- Implementation of Office 365, Teams and the introduction of BYOD to years 3-6
- Revitalised House Program with a renewed approach to student leadership including a core 'iLead' program for all middle and upper primary skills.
- The full implementation of SWPBS – School-wide Positive Behaviour Supports, including universal interventions such as the Golden Ticket System.

As you can see – we've been very busy and this is just a brief sample. Now I would like to invite our parent community to contribute to our self-evaluation by completing an online survey. In the next 24 hours you will receive a compass email/notification inviting you to participate in a parent survey.

## CALENDAR

March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Twilight Sports Night
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	End of Term 1 <b>2.30pm finish</b>
April 19 <sup>th</sup> Monday	Student Free Day
<b>April 20<sup>th</sup> Tuesday</b>	<b>Start of Term 2</b>

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following children a very Happy Birthday!

**21<sup>st</sup> March**

Alexis 5/6G

**23<sup>rd</sup> March**

Soraya 3/4C

Tyrone 3/4O

Zach 3/4F

**25<sup>th</sup> March**

Jackson 5/6G

**26<sup>th</sup> March**

Keira 2S

**28<sup>th</sup> March**

Aria 1JA

Imogen 5/6S

**29<sup>th</sup> March**

Roubi 5/6L



The feedback received directly informs our evaluation and assessment against our previous strategic plan and informs our future direction.

I encourage all parents to take the time to contribute to this thorough consultation process.

In closing, I hope to see as many of our families as possible at our Twilight Sports event next Wednesday. It will be a great opportunity to connect and celebrate our school community through an active, participation focused event. Bring your runners!

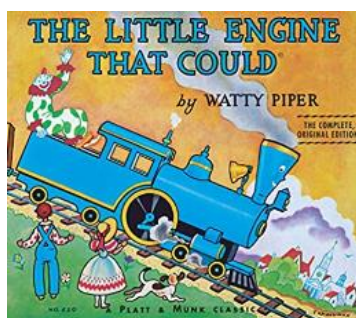
Until next week,

Ty Hoggins  
Principal

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL REPORT

Hello everyone,

Do you have favourite childhood book? Often, the books we enjoyed from our childhood are the ones we can still recite parts of, even all these years later. There are many reasons why we have memories of these books; perhaps it was the pictures, maybe it reminds us of our favourite teacher or perhaps it was the magic of the story and all the amazing places we went to inside our minds.



Throughout my early primary school years I remember reading and re-reading 'The Little Engine that Could' by Watty Piper. I remember having the 1976 Golden Book read-along that I would listen to at home on the old record player. The thing I remember most from reading and re reading this book is 'I think I can...I think I can...I think I can'. Originally published in 1930, this story is often used to teach children that through hard work and remaining positive (optimistic) you can achieve any goal you set for yourself. While times and technology have certainly changed, the joy and magic of reading these old favourites might be something you could share with your child at home.

Does your child repeatedly read the same books over and over again? Did you know re-reading is an important strategy for improving reading comprehension, including fluency? There are many benefits to re-reading books;

- When a child re-reads the same text they memorise and comprehend more than when exposed to many books and many new words, ultimately increasing their vocabulary
- Phonemic awareness development – re-reading books strengthens the understanding of the pattern, rhythm and pronunciation of the text.
- Re-reading books provides an opportunity to develop a deep understanding of a book's plot or character development, something not possible by reading a book once. Exploring the text and illustrations helps children delve into the story's message and make new connections, preparing them for more complex books.
- Developing memory is an important reading strategy for comprehension and assists to develop vocabulary, reading fluency and accuracy. Reading a book without pausing or waiting for an adult to reveal an unknown word is confidence-boosting. Often, when a child gets to this point, they will move onto new books with new challenges. *Remember, greater confidence develops into a lifelong love of reading.*

Re-reading is just one of the strategies teachers use in the classroom to develop reading comprehension and this is just another way you can support your child when reading at home, even if for some books, it is over and over.

I hope we get to see some of you at Mernda Bunnings this Saturday for our community Sausage Sizzle. The weather is going to be great for a spot of gardening or your next DIY project.

Best wishes for a wonderful weekend with your family ☺

Rae Gittos  
Assistant Principal



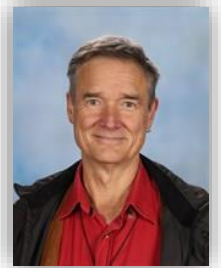


## SCHOOL CHAPLAIN REPORT

Peter Ackland - school chaplain

### School History 1992 – Master Plan 1

Yvonne Scott (1992-1999) took up the School Principal post during 1992 at a time when great changes to the school were about to happen. She took up the batten from Tom Ward to carry out what was already in the pipeline three years earlier, the masterplan.



It was around this time that Mrs Woods had become willing to sell her property. The acquisition of this land was essential for building a large complex providing a gym, music room, canteen, staffroom and library. Once the PE facilities were operational, the existing multi-purpose building would be removed from its far off position at the southern corner of the school grounds. The acquisition of 'Woods Paddock' (as it was called) also allowed for a staff carpark which included parent drop-off and visitor parking. This would take a lot of pressure off the Anglican Church carpark which the school had been renting. The new carpark could provide for the dental van and M.A.R.C. (mobile library) vehicle. This southern entry point to the school would also offer easy access to the bus bay on Plenty Road.



The historic building (old school and residence, 1878 & 1901) was to be converted into a staff/administration building. Its character and charm had be preserved. This building would be the central feature of the masterplan with all new buildings reflecting its architectural features and character.



To be continued...

# ★ Star of the Week ★

Foundation V Vitale	Awarded to: <b>Ellie Osbourne</b> For: doing her best and concentrating when doing all learning. Fantastic Ellie 😊
Foundation P Perry	Awarded to: <b>Liana Dakis Fisicaro</b> For: showing enthusiasm and pointing to the words as she reads
Foundation M Merritt	Awarded to: <b>Zophiee Loats</b> For: trying her best when counting during maths. Great effort!
Year 1JA Fontana/Kaur	Awarded to: <b>Ariah Crocker</b> For: doing her best when spelling unfamiliar words.
Year 1F Fasone	Awarded to: <b>Lola Mathews</b> For: writing an interesting beginning to her story. Well done!
Year 1M Maxfield	Awarded to: <b>Alexia Duncan</b> For: making a great effort to write the beginning of her narrative.
Year 2CR Cook/Redmond	Awarded to: <b>William Watt</b> For: reading fluently using punctuation and expression
Year 2D De Luca	Awarded to: <b>Kayla Sandow</b> For: being a big independent year 2 and writing a brilliant piece titled 'Where Are All the Characters?'
Year 2S Smith	Awarded to: <b>Levi Linton</b> For: extending his maths skills when playing 'Hit the Target'
Year 3/4W Wright	Awarded to: <b>Cadil Tohow</b> For: reading aloud with fantastic expression
Year 3/4M McCormick	Awarded to: <b>Jagger Hayward-Murphy</b> For: doing your personal best when writing a narrative. Well done Jagger!
Year 3/4O Overton	Awarded to: <b>Billy Cartledge</b> For: demonstrating a passion for learning
Year 3/4C Cummins	Awarded to: <b>Elayah Carter</b> For: a fantastic effort across all learning. Well done!
Year 3/4F Fawcett	Awarded to: <b>Mitchell Cain</b> For: Mitchell has received STAR of the week for demonstrating leadership and initiative by volunteering to pick up rubbish during break time. Wonderful work Mitchell! Awarded to: <b>Jada Smith</b> For: Jada has received STAR of the week for demonstrating leadership and initiative by volunteering to pick up rubbish during break time. Wonderful work Jada!
Year 5/6S Powell	Awarded to: <b>Mikaylah Edwards</b> For: using her learning time effectively and taking risks with her thinking.
Year 5/6RM Reid/McAlley	Awarded to: <b>Eleana Banks Wild</b> For: being a leader during Interschool Sport and helping other's succeed. Well Done!
Year 5/6G Gorski	Awarded to: <b>Hunter Stephenson</b> For: attempting challenging numeracy problems with a confident mindset and confidence.
Year 5/6P Panahinejad	Awarded to: <b>Mia Caminto</b> For: asking outstanding questions to clarify the meaning
Year 5/6L Leslie	Awarded to: <b>Joel Sharkey</b> For: showing tremendous growth in Numeracy

## YEAR 3/4 CAMP

The Year 3 & 4 2021 Camp is Coming!



That's right! It's a camp year and all students in Year 3 & 4 have the amazing opportunity to enjoy this experience.

As is our tradition, we are heading to one of the best school camp facilities around: **Camp ADANAC**. ADANAC is located in beautiful Yarra Junction. Students have a wonderful time kayaking, raft building, water trampolining and racing down a giant waterslide!

We will leave Whittlesea on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October and will return on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October. So that makes 3 days and 2 nights of amazing adventures!

Further details will be coming out shortly, with payment plan options for families available early Term 2. Stay tuned for more details!



From your camp organisers, Mrs McCormick and Mr Wright

## YEAR 6 GRADUATION POLO/HOODIE

We have had a number of families inquiring if it is possible to order additional Grade 6 graduation uniform. After speaking to our supplier, we have been informed that this may be possible.

Please [click here](#) to complete the expression of interest form.

**PLEASE READ**



**SRC Fundraiser!**

# **Out of Uniform Day!**

**When: Thursday the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, 2021.**

***Please wear casual clothes and bring a gold coin (\$1 or \$2) which will be donated to The Royal Children's Hospital.***

**Let's raise lots of money for the children! 😊**

**Thank you for supporting our event! 😊**

**By Kaven, Emma L, Summer, Jonah,  
Dylan and Emma R**





# SPORTS REPORT

## Round 6 Fixture- 19<sup>h</sup> March

Home Team	Away Team	Tennis/Tee Ball Venue	Cricket Venue
Whittlesea P.S Cougars	St. Paul's	Whittlesea P.S	Walker Reserve
Mernda Park P.S	Whittlesea P.S Panthers	Mernda Park P.S	Waterview Reserve North

### Hot Shot Panthers Tennis

Panthers Hot Shot Tennis versed Mernda Central Primary School on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> of March. A wonderful day was had by both teams.

The Panther Girls and Boys overall set scores were no indication of the close games that were played. Our scoring and professional umpiring was a credit to our Panthers positive mindset towards the game.

Our serving accuracy has improved, and all players hit forehand and backhand shots over the net. Both teams are using placement of the ball as a strategy, it was fun watching each set and the scores were always so close.

Once again, our opponents commented on the Panthers positive attitude and comradeship, even stating that they would like us to return for a fun tennis session.

### Fun Facts About the Australian Open

- Ken Rosewall is the youngest and oldest player to win the championship
- First Ever match was played in a cricket field
- Longest Match is 5hrs and 53 minutes



Cheers,  
Mrs Gorski



# TWILIGHT SPORTS

**COME DRESSED IN  
HOUSE COLOURS!**

**WED.  
MARCH  
24TH  
4:30PM-  
6:30PM**

Due to COVID restrictions, attendance is limited to immediate family of currently enrolled students. Unfortunately, extended family who do not reside with current students (grandparents etc.) are unable to attend.

All attendees must be registered prior to the event. Please complete your registration to attend by scanning this code



**RUNNING  
RACES**

**SAUSAGE  
SIZZLE**

**MINOR GAMES**

**ZOOOPER DOOPERS**





## WHITTLESEA PRIMARY SCHOOL HOUSE BEANIES

Our school 'House' beanies are available for purchase at the office for \$15 each. Get in quick before it gets cold!



# COMMUNITY NEWS



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FOR  
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 **TOPLINE TENNIS**

 **ANZ HOT SHOTS**



**Granite Hills** **Nature Discovery Walk**

**Sunday 28 March**

**105 Hunters Road, South Morang**  
(Entry via Hunters Road, Mernda)

**10am-2pm**  
(Start your walk anytime between 10am and 12pm)

Enjoy a walk amongst the majestic trees of Granite Hills, and learn about nature. Along the trail children can do nature activities and get a stamp for their nature passport, learning about the trees and the animals that live here.

- 1.8KM HILL WALK
- WEAR STURDY SHOES
- BRING COINS FOR A BARBECUE

**FREE EVENT**

**GET ACTIVE**

**NATURE PLAY FUN**

For more information please contact us on 9217 5542

