

Issue 14- 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022

## PRINCIPAL REPORT

Hello everyone,

There has been some media coverage about staff and student absences from school and the pressure this has placed on operations and programs, particularly NAPLAN. I thought I'd share with you a snapshot of how Whittlesea Primary School has been affected and the measures in place.



In terms of student absences, we are seeing a significant number of children missing learning. Of note is the increased number of prolonged absences that stretch greater than one week. As a point of comparison, in years prior to COVID our school would see an average of 17 days absent per student each year. For 2022 our year-to-date average is over 20 days absent per student. Of course, these absences primarily relate to COVID infections, periods of lock down and associated flus and other illnesses that have been common, but the effect of an average of 5 weeks missed learning is significant. **If your child is well, please prioritise their attendance at school every day- and on time.** Every missed day forms a gap in learning that can lead to significant challenges along the learning journey.

Staff absences have been slightly higher than previous years. The greatest challenge comes with the reliable access to replacement teachers. Today for example, just two of our entire staff are absent. On other days this can be over 10 staff and with few replacement teachers available, particular measures become necessary. These include, leaders taking classes (yes, I have dusted off the whistle to lead PE on a few occasions), class splits and the combining of small classes. With high student absences it is not uncommon to see classes of less than 10 students and in these instances, we combine classes to form a richer learning community. The other impacts relate to tutoring and staff professional learning. In general, our school has managed these challenges extremely well and our dedicated staff have prioritised the students and their needs throughout the year.

Remote learning is a last resort measure. At no point this year has this been discussed or considered. It is highly unlikely we would need to enact remote learning in the current climate.

The NAPLAN test period has been extended to allow for these attendance challenges. Whittlesea Primary School has completed well over 90% of expected tests and with more scheduled catch-up tests today, we should complete this testing requirement.

A reminder that you can cast your vote in the federal election at Whittlesea Primary School this Saturday. I also look forward to seeing lots of students at our first Breakfast Club for the year. This Monday a team of staff and volunteers will cook up delicious pancakes as a special treat to mark the return of this great initiative, serving starts at 7:45am in the gym.

Have a great weekend,

Ty Hoggins  
Principal

## CALENDAR

May 25	Foundation Library Excursion
May 31	Foundation Minibeast Incursion
June 4	School Working Bee

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following children a very Happy Birthday!

**14<sup>th</sup> May**  
Judd 3/4C

**15<sup>th</sup> May**  
Skylar OOM  
Jed 5/6T

**16<sup>th</sup> May**  
Parker OOP

**17<sup>th</sup> May**  
Kenzie 3/4W

**18<sup>th</sup> May**  
Evie 1/2E



## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL REPORT

Hello everyone,

On Monday, our school celebrated the beginning of a new week with a whole school assembly. This was our first whole school assembly in the gym in over two years and it was lovely to welcome parents and carers of our Principal Award & Star of the Week recipients to come along and watch these being presented. Our leaders, Alannah, and Lincoln did a great job once again leading the assembly. Well done to Keagan Brown for raising awareness about Breakfast Club, commencing this coming Monday morning.



Michael Rode, our SRC captain, shared his reflections of the ANZAC Day, the dawn service, and the laying of the wreaths at the Cenotaph in Whittlesea. We presented the Athletics house cup to **Dhulin** and the Cross-Country house cup to **Korangorangeet**. Despite recent wins by both these houses, our overall house points leader is **Dugat**.



Over the past two terms, our teachers have been working in Strategic Plan Action Teams, focussing on key improvements for our school. The team I am working with is focussing on Community Engagement in Learning, with a specific focus on, i) how we share student learning, ii) how often and iii) in what format. We welcome your feedback on this topic through a short survey. This will assist the team to progress this work, with the view to showcasing student learning more regularly throughout the year <https://forms.office.com/r/xEi9ENEzQb> .

Today our Cadbury Freddo and Friends/Natural Confectionary fundraising boxes were sent home with the eldest child in each family. Please note the timeline below.



GOING HOME ON: **FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MAY (with the eldest child)**  
MONEY (and unsold chocolates) DUE NO LATER THAN: **FRIDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JUNE**  
PAYMENT OPTIONS: **COMPASS (in Events), PHONE, OFFICE via EFTPOS or CASH**

Please return all CASH money raised in the envelope provided. Ensure it is clearly labelled with your child's name, class, and teacher.

All money raised from this fundraiser will pay for the purchase and installation of two new flag poles that we anticipate will take place in the coming weeks. In early term three we are planning for a Welcome to Country/Smoking Ceremony for our new flag poles and the unfurling of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags.

Finally, well done to all students who participated in the Bridge Inn District Cross Country event at Bundoora Park on Wednesday. We have several students that have progressed to the next round, and we look forward to hearing of their achievements in the coming months.

Best wishes for a wonderful weekend with your family 😊

Rae Gittos  
Assistant Principal

# ★ Star of the Week ★

Foundation P Perry	Awarded to: <b>Molly Kempen</b> For: outstanding stretching of some tricky words in her writing.
Foundation M Merritt	Awarded to: <b>Baylah Crocker</b> For: stretching her words and writing the sounds she hears. Great effort!
Foundation G Gordan	Awarded to: <b>Willow Rossiter</b> For: becoming an active member of our Foundation community.
Year 1/2JA Fontana/Kaur	Awarded to: <b>Tyler Williams</b> For: showing an improvement in recalling individual letters and sounds and reading CVC words. Amazing work Tyler!
Year 1/2P Powell	Awarded to: <b>Audrey Cusinato</b> For: completing her Oxford word lists. Well done Audrey.
Year 1/2M Maxfield	Awarded to: <b>Alex McLaren</b> For: her excellent effort with her morning handwriting tasks.
Year 1/2E Barker	Awarded to: <b>Abigail Blake</b> For: For her excellent effort in maths and challenging herself with her number patterns.
Year 1/2B Burgess	Awarded to: <b>Isabelle King</b> For: continued excellence in writing and spelling using the 7steps.  Awarded to: <b>Lincoln Cilia</b> For: continually aiming to do his best and producing excellent quality work.
Year 3/4WM Walsh/McCormick	Awarded to: <b>Xavier Bills</b> For: for showing persistence while completing a narrative piece or writing. Well done Xavier.
Year 3/4D Di Mauro	Awarded to: <b>Levi Linton</b> For: Completing his 500 Oxford Word List. Amazing effort 🤔
Year 3/4L De Luca	Awarded to: <b>Hanah Elsey</b> For: always being organised and following instructions!
Year 3/4W Wright	Awarded to: <b>Harrison Birthisel</b> For: outstanding commitment to the WPS Weekly Spelling Program.
Year 3/4C Cummins	Awarded to: <b>Jada Smith</b> For: always working hard towards her personal learning goals. Great job, Jada!
Year 5/6G Gorski	Awarded to: <b>Harper Pitts</b> For: always assisting other students to succeed in the classroom and the playground, a positive role model.
Year 5/6RM Reid/McAlley	Awarded to: <b>Xavier Dundas</b> For: Outstanding effort throughout all regular learning tasks
Year 5/6V Vitale	Awarded to: <b>Damon Gibson</b> For: doing his personal best with all learning tasks. Keep it up, Damon! 😊
Year 5/6T Tuppen	Awarded to: <b>Heidi Gallenti</b> For: Always trying her hardest to complete set work to a high standard.
Year 5/6P Panahinejad	Awarded to: <b>Campbell Willoughby</b> For: her outstanding persistence during learning
PE Mr Leslie	Awarded to: <b>Hunter Rhead</b> For: Showing great effort whilst both attacking and defending for his team in Invasion Games
PE Mr Leslie	Awarded to: <b>Tahlia Dixon</b> For: Demonstrating her shooting skills and her ability to move into open space when participating in Invasion Games



# SPORTS REPORT

## 5/6 Winter Sport Round 3 Fixture

HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	SOCER/NETBALL	FOOTBALL
<b>Whittlesea Blue</b>	Mernda Central B	Whittlesea P.S	A.F Walker Reserve
Hazel Glen College	Whittlesea Gold	Netball- HGC Soccer- TBA	Hazel Glen College

## District Cross Country

On Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> May, students from Years 3-6 travelled to Bundoora Park to compete in the District Cross Country Championships for the Bridge Inn North District. After braving a passing shower or two Whittlesea Primary School finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall for our district. Every student should be proud of how well they represented our school and for giving their best effort. Well done to the following students who will be going on to Division Cross Country:

Xavier Leeson  
Branson Aponso  
Isabelle Carey-Szwaj  
Amber Hall  
Indira Multani  
Dash Heal  
Callum Parker  
Giovita Goci

Thanks to Miss Vitale, Mr. Wright and our parent helpers on the day, without their help this would not have been able to go ahead.



## FOUNDATION SCHOOL ENTRANT HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Foundation Families

By now, you will have received your child's School Entrant Health Questionnaire. Thank you to all those families that have already submitted these.

The Primary School Nursing Program is a free service offered to all children attending primary schools in Victoria. Primary school nurses visit schools throughout the year and provide children with:

- the opportunity to have a health assessment
- information and advice about healthy behaviours
- a link for children and families to community-based health and wellbeing services

The Primary School Nursing Program is designed to identify children with potential health-related learning difficulties and to respond to parent/carer concerns and observations about their child's health and wellbeing.

Consent must be provided for these assessments to occur at school. Please return your School Entrant Health Questionnaire by next Monday 23rd May to ensure your child does not miss this opportunity. The school nurse will attend our school early next term.

If you have any questions or concerns you wish to discuss, please call me at school on 9716 2140.

Betty Tzelepis - Student Wellbeing Leader



## CAMP PAYMENT PLAN INSTALMENTS

### 2022 Camp Instalment Dates

#### Year 3/ 4 Camp

~~Payment 1: \$73.60 25th March~~  
~~Payment 2: \$78.20 29th April~~  
**Payment 3: \$73.60 27th May**  
Payment 4: \$78.20 24th June  
Payment 5: \$78.20 22nd July  
Payment 6: \$78.20 19th August

#### Year 5/6 Camp

~~Payment 1: \$71.88 25th March~~  
~~Payment 2: \$77.87 15th April~~  
~~Payment 3: \$71.88 13th May~~  
**Payment 4: \$77.87 10th June**  
Payment 5: \$71.88 8th July  
Payment 6: \$77.87 5th August  
Payment 7: \$71.88 2nd Sep  
Payment 8: \$77.87 30th Sept



# Book Sale!



Whittlesea Primary School will be holding a  
MASSIVE children's preloved BOOK SALE in  
2022!

**Right now we are looking for preloved  
children's books.....**

If you have any books that are ready for a new  
home please drop them into the school office.

**Thank You!**



# COMMUNITY NEWS



WE SPECIALIZE  
IN LESSONS  
FOR  
BEGINNERS

**TENNIS  
LESSONS**

LOCATION: WHITTLESEA TENNIS CLUB  
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**SPECIAL OFFER!!**

ENROL NOW & RECEIVE A  
**30% DISCOUNT**  
AND A NEW RACQUET FOR  
**FREE!**



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EMAIL: [BRAYDEN@TOPLINETENNIS.COM](mailto:BRAYDEN@TOPLINETENNIS.COM)

 **TOPLINE TENNIS**

 **ANZ HOT SHOTS**





**RISU CARE**  
NDIS REGISTERED



## REGISTERED NDIS PROVIDER

1. Assistance with daily personal activities
2. Assistance with daily life tasks in a group or shared living arrangement
3. Development of daily living and life skills
4. Household tasks
5. Participation in community, social and civic activities
6. Community Nursing care
7. High Intensity Daily Personal Activities
8. Implementing Behaviour Support Plans
9. Assistance with Travel/Transport Arrangements

We Support the  
**ndis**

## WORK AS DISABILITY WORKER

Do you want to make a difference in people's lives by working as a Disability Support Worker in this rewarding and meaningful position that allows you to give back to the community? Come join the supportive RISU Care team that thrives on positive outcomes.

We will help you advance your career in disability and community services by providing training on professional development and offering flexible shifts to fit your schedule.

You can apply for various positions as a Disability Support Worker, Cleaner, or Gardener by emailing your resume to [admin@risucare.com.au](mailto:admin@risucare.com.au) or visiting [www.risucare.com.au](http://www.risucare.com.au) and clicking the Careers tab in the upper right corner to fill out the online form.

If you are unsure about your eligibility for the role or how to start, please feel free to call us for a quick chat; we are happy to help.



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