



Issue 1- 3rd February 2023

PRINCIPAL REPORT

Welcome back,

It is great to have students back at Whittlesea Primary School for 2023. A warm welcome to our new Foundation students and to families joining our community for the first time. The first day of school is a very special moment in a young person's life. It is equally as special for their proud families. This year I've had the pleasure of experiencing this myself with my child starting at his local school on Tuesday. While I was disappointed to not be here at Whittlesea Primary School for the first morning drop off, it was a memorable experience seeing my son start his journey through primary school.



The feedback from our Foundation parents has been that their children have settled in really well and are loving school! The pre-foundation program continues to provide a transition which prepares children well for daily school life. At Whittlesea Primary School we welcome feedback and will soon be distributing a survey seeking your views and opinions on the start of the 2023 year. Prior to this being distributed, feel free to make contact via email (Whittlesea.ps@education.vic.gov.au) or compass.

Canteen

Earlier in the week we sent information regarding our Canteen service. Our previous operator concluded their work at our school last year and we are currently searching for a new canteen provider to partner with our school. Our preferred approach is to enter a new service agreement with a registered business who can focus on providing a fresh and healthy food service to our students. We have found it difficult to find a business willing and able to partner with us and as a result, we will not have a canteen in place for the near future. We apologise for this interruption to a valued service, but it is important we find the right provider to meet our needs. Please contact the school with expressions of interest from those in our community who may be able to assist.

Assembly

Our first whole school assembly is scheduled for Monday, February 13th at 9am in the Gym. We hold these formal events twice a term to present key awards, share learning across the school and celebrate other major events. Parents / carers are more than welcome to attend. On the 13th we will welcome a special guest – Lauren Kathage, the state member for Yan Yean who will present our school leaders with their special badges.

Upgrades

We've been busy over the summer conducting numerous upgrades to the school. These include new surfacing around our heritage building, new carpet and lino to all of Block A and concrete cleaning and new line marking. The most significant improvement has been the addition of a new playground along the side of the oval. This project is almost complete and looks fantastic. All students will have access to the new equipment in the coming weeks.

OFFICE HOURS

Office opening hours
8.30am- 4pm

CALENDAR

February 13	Whole School Assembly
February 14	Foundation Info Night
March 6	Whole School Photo Day

Thank you once again for a great start to the year. Our dedicated teachers have worked hard to prepare their classrooms and programs for 2023 and we look forward to an exciting year ahead. Until next week,

Ty Hoggins
Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL REPORT

Hello everyone

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a happy new year and extend a special welcome to all our new families, joining us for the first time this year. Our amazing teachers have been working tirelessly to set up their classrooms and more importantly, working together in teams to develop an engaging curriculum for the start of the new school year. We look forward to a wonderful year of learning with all the children.



This year we welcome several new staff. Daniel Freeman joins our specialist team, teaching F-4 PE and 56 Interschool Sport. Daniel will also teach an additional PE Boost hour to the Foundation students. Mia Capobus-Thorpe also joins our specialist team, teaching the Arts F-6. Katalin Jaross will be working closely with our Wellbeing Leading Teacher, Betty Tzelepis, in a new role titled Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader (MHAWL). We also welcome Verena Smith, who is returning from a period of family leave. Verena will teach an additional PE Boost session to our Year 1 & Year 2 students. While not new to our school, Louise Reid will lead the STEM program across Years 3 to 6. Jake Leslie will class share in Year 6 with James McAlley, while continuing to teach Year 5 and Year 6 PE and Interschool Sport. Finally, we welcome back Jessie Liu from a period of leave in Term 4 2022, continuing with our Mandarin program in 2023.

The first of our outdoor book libraries has been positioned on the basketball court, with the second going in next week near the new shelter behind the gym. I hope to have all the books out in the libraries ready for students to start reading and enjoying during breaks next week.

Parent Student Teacher Conferences

Next Tuesday 7th February, I will post a Compass Newsfeed confirming the details of our upcoming Parent Student Teacher Conferences. Date/time/booking information will be confirmed at this time. Well done to all students on settling back into their classroom routines. It has been a fabulous start to the year, and we are looking forward to an exciting year of learning and working with you and your children.

Don't forget the Country Music Festival is on this Saturday. The Twilight Night will commence at 3.30pm at Walker Reserve, Laurel Street, with live music from artists. Rides in the carnival corner and food stalls available, so bring a rug, chair or picnic or purchase food from the stalls and enjoy the atmosphere of the night.

Best wishes for a wonderful weekend with your family 😊

Rae Gittos
Assistant Principal



BIRTHDAY LIST

Wishing the following children a very Happy Birthday!

2nd January
Verity 3/4C

3rd January
Willow 00G

5th January
Kaden 02A
Ryker 3/4S
Callum 05B

6th January
Hugh 00F

7th January
Brodie 3/4D

10th January
Lola 3/4S
Emma 05T
Eden 3/4C

12th January
Tyler 01P
Mackenzie 05V
Kruz 05V
Riley 06P

13th January
Noah 02A

17th January
Taj 02A
Zack 00G

20th January
Riley 05T

22nd January
Henry 02M

23rd January
Tai 3/4W

24th January
Ava 3/4B

25th January
Monica 3/4B

26th January
Eden 01P
Grace 06C

27th January
Henry 02M
Beka 02A
Rhys 05T

28th January
Bentleigh 3/4W
Heidi 06C

29th January
Emerson 02A

30th January
Cadence 3/4W
Levi 3/4D

1st February
Addalyn 00G

2nd February
Rilee 01F

3rd February
Charlie 3/4B
Xavier 05V

★ Star of the Week ★

Foundation F Fasone/Betty	Awarded to: Shenae Magro For: Congratulations Shenae for demonstrating our school expectations and doing your very best with your self portrait.
Foundation G Gordan	Awarded to: Freddy Duncan For: being so brave at school dop off. Great work!
Year 1F Fontana	Awarded to: Harvey Moore For: Putting in an amazing effort when learning how to rule a margin and write the date in our books.
Year 1M Merritt	Awarded to: Kaylee Brear For: having a positive attitude towards her learning and always trying her best. Keep it up!
Year 1P Powell	Awarded to: Tyler Pearse For: having a great start to year 1, by doing his best to learn new routines and getting to know his new teacher.
Year 2M Maxfield	Awarded to: Aliyah McCawley For: making a great start to the year and contributing to all lessons with great ideas.
Year 2A Avolino/Mondon	Awarded to: Taj Martin For: being a good friend and helping others feel better!
Year 2K Kaur	Awarded to: Isabelle Towt For: being a positive role model while helping others succeed in their learning.
Year 3/4B Barker	Awarded to: Ivy Millar For: demonstrating our school expectations and helping her classmates have a successful first week.
Year 3/4D Di Mauro	Awarded to: Kai Polanske For: a positive start at WPS and for being a kind classmate.
Year 3/4S Daniels	Awarded to: Nate Griffin For: helping his peers to succeed and trying his best during every task.
Year 3/4W Wright	Awarded to: Bonnie Cullen For: consistently achieving the 'A' in 'STAR' - Ask and Answer Questions. Great job, Bonnie!
Year 3/4C Cowdery	Awarded to: Jasmine Liddle For: a positive start to year 4 and for doing her best with her job application writing piece.
Year 5B Burgess	Awarded to: Riley Allshorn For: having such a positive start to Year 5 and demonstrating team work skills when working in groups to solve problems.
Year 5V Vitale	Awarded to: Jett Dyer For: demonstrating persistence when completing problem-solving tasks. Fantastic, Jett! 😊
Year 5T Tuppen	Awarded to: Sophie Williams For: always following the expectations we have set for our lessons this week. Well done, Sophie!
Year 6L Leslie/McAlley	Awarded to: Tahlia Dixon For: starting the year with a positive approach to independent learning, in particular in your writing about the Penguin and the Cat.
Year 6C Cummins	Awarded to: Brandon Burton For: helping our class succeed by installing our new furniture. Thanks for your help, Brandon!
Year 6P Panahinejad	Awarded to: Taylor Love For: her outstanding organisational skills
PE Freeman	Awarded to: Jake 34D For: Trying his best to succeed by finding a good learning space.





Mental Health at Whittlesea Primary School

Dear Families,

My name is Katalin Jaross, and I am going to be working as the Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader at Whittlesea Primary School in 2023. I have had many opportunities throughout my career to work in a variety of educational settings, including kindergarten, childcare and various school settings. When I am not at school, I like to spend my time painting, playing music and baking.

This week, I have been spending time in classrooms and getting to know your wonderful students! I have heard wonderful stories, participated in intense rock, paper, scissor, competitions and learnt the rules in the sensory space!

My Role as a Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader is to build whole-school capability with Mental Health and Wellbeing, and Social Emotional Learning. During the coming weeks, I will be completing some online training which will help build my capacity. In the future, I will be working with teachers to help build professional knowledge and to improve practice in this area.

I will also be helping some families whose students may need extra care in their journey through primary school. It may be simply checking in on some of them, building relationships and being around for them if needed.

Finally, my role involves a research component. The pilot program is run by the Melbourne Graduate School of Education (MGSE), and the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI). The pilot is called Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHIPS).

Please come say hello if you see me in the yard before and after school! I am always keen for a chat, and I am looking forward to meeting you in the coming weeks!

Have a wonderful weekend and stay safe!

Katalin

SCHOOL PRIVACY POLICY

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, found on our website [Whittlesea Primary School \(whittleseas.vic.edu.au\)](https://whittleseas.vic.edu.au)

For more information about privacy, see: [Schools' Privacy Policy – information for parents](#). This information also available in nine community languages.

UP COMMUNITY CARD FUNDRAISING

United Petrol have teamed up with Whittlesea Primary School assist with the schools fundraising. With the Whittlesea Primary School UP Community card, you'll receive a 2 cents per litre discount at participating United service stations and a 2 cents per litre rebate will be provided to Whittlesea Primary School. So this means you'll enjoy great savings on your fuel, whilst supporting Whittlesea Primary School when you fill up at a participating United service station.

Register here: <https://www.unitedpetroleum.com.au/fuel-discount-cards/up-community/whittlesea-primary-school/>

You now have the choice of a digital or plastic fuel discount card.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

THE
EDUCATION
STATE

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

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

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



COMMUNITY NEWS



SUNDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2023
ALL ABOARD SKATEBOARDING SESSIONS

WHITTLESEA **SKATE PARK**

3:30pm - 5:30pm

35 Beech St, Whittlesea

FREE sessions, equipment provided | All ages and abilities welcome



Book Here



Register using the QR code or at skatepark.ymca.org.au/all-aboard

