

Issue 15- 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023

## PRINCIPAL REPORT

Hello everyone,

### Student Free Day – June 19<sup>th</sup>

Please note in your calendars the important dates which are listed in the newsletter every week. In particular, please set a reminder for the upcoming Student Free Day on Monday June 19<sup>th</sup> (last week of term). All teachers are entitled to two 'Professional Practice Days' and on this date, all our staff will be accessing one of these days at a common time. Teams of teachers will reflect on student progress and creating units of work for the upcoming term. Theircare will be running a program on this day for families that require care for their children.



### Working Bee

Another important data is on the Saturday of the weekend prior, with our working bee scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup>. Please click [HERE](#) to access a form to indicate your availability to attend and to provide details of any equipment / skills you are able to supply. We have a wide range of tasks to tackle which will give our school grounds another lease of life.

### School Improvements

I am pleased to share with our community news of significant school improvements which were endorsed by school council at the recent May meeting. The first is a resurfacing project for the front entrance of the school. The front entrance and pathway towards the ELC are currently paved with bricks. This was paved back in the 1990s and is now a trip and falls hazard. The asphalt area adjoining this path near the flagpoles is also cracked and uneven. To ensure this area is safe and reflects the high standards of excellence at our school, we will transform this area with a resin surfacing which was recently added to the area behind the wellbeing centre. This permeable surface will complement our heritage building and really add to the presentation of our school, while creating a safe pathway in and out of the ELC.

In addition, we will also be adding a new digital information screen to the side of the ELC. Our old sign broke some time ago and we appreciate how convenient a sign is for staying up to date with school events and information. Both these projects are tracking to be completed before the start of Term 3.

The toilet facilities at the front of the school remains a priority and a budget has been allocated to the replacement of the relocatable this year. We are awaiting information from the Victorian School Building Authority but are hopeful that this replacement will happen as soon as possible.

Enjoy a great weekend,

Ty Hoggins  
Principal

## CALENDAR

June 9	Cadbury Fundraising Money Due
<b>June 12 Monday</b>	<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b> Kings Birthday
<b>June 14</b>	<b>Office closed at 3.30pm</b>
June 17	Working Bee
June 19 Monday	Professional Practice Day <b>Student Free Day</b>
June 20	3/4B & 3/4S Incursion
June 22	3/4W, 3/4D & 3/4C Incursion

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following children a very Happy Birthday!

**27<sup>th</sup> May**  
Sebastian 01F

**30<sup>th</sup> May**  
Evelyn 01M  
Jagger 05B

**31<sup>st</sup> May**  
Hunter 00F  
Natasha 01P  
Jackson 3/4D



## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL REPORT

Hello everyone,

It has been another busy week at WPS. On Wednesday the Victorian State Schools choir group went to Lalor Secondary College for a hub rehearsal with the vocal coach and 3 other schools in our hub. The dance group have also been rehearsing at Ivanhoe Primary School and regularly at school during breaks.

Our Year 5 & 6 students were involved in a District Hockey 7's gala day, also on Wednesday at the Greensborough Hockey centre.

While these events were happening, students back at school were involved in the National Simultaneous Storytime event. This year's book was *The Speedy Sloth*, written by Rebecca Young and illustrated by Heath McKenzie. Our Foundation students walked down to the Whittlesea library, where they got to meet the librarians and listen to the story.

Yesterday, all students were involved in our annual First Aid and CPR training.

A team of educators from St. Johns Ambulance ran a session for every class throughout the day. It was a great opportunity for students to practice important life-saving skills.



### Policy

At this week's school council meeting, council endorsed several policies. Three of these policies were due for review and were endorsed with few or no changes to the previous policies. These include,

- SunSmart Policy
- Photography, Filming and Recording Policy
- School Purchasing Card Policy

These policies are available on our school website.

The additional policy endorsed by council was the 'Dogs at School' policy. This is a DET policy, adapted for our school context, within the parameters of the DET policy. The purpose of this policy is to explain to our school community the rules and procedures we have in place in relation to dogs attending our school grounds.

Within the policy, the following definitions are referred to specifically.

### **Definitions**

- An assistance dog is trained and certified by a registered organisation to perform tasks or functions that help a person with a disability to alleviate the effects of the disability.
- A wellbeing dog is a dog that has been suitably trained to provide animal-assisted wellbeing programs under the control of his/her handler.
- A handler is a volunteer in the school who is responsible and in control of a wellbeing dog while on school grounds and when facilitating the animal wellbeing program.
- A pet dog relates to any dog that is privately owned in the community for companionate reasons, rather than as a support function that requires specific skills or training.
- A stray dog is any dog that is not accompanied by their owner.

### **Assistance dogs**

Whittlesea Primary School understands its obligations under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth) and the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* (Vic) and will make reasonable adjustments for members of our school community with a disability who require an 'assistance animal' to help alleviate the effects of their disability. Assistance animals are permitted to attend our school with their handler. Our school Principal can lawfully ask a person to produce evidence that an animal:

- is trained specifically to assist a person to alleviate the effects of a disability (e.g., seeing eye dogs, hearing and physical assistance dogs and)
- meets standards of hygiene and behaviour appropriate for a school environment.

We understand that in some circumstances, students may require an assistance animal to attend school to help them to participate in their educational program. Whittlesea Primary School will consider a request by a student with a disability to allow an assistance animal to attend school with them on a case-by-case basis. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact the Principal.

### **Pet dogs**

Whittlesea Primary School is not a public place, and the Principal has the authority to permit or decline entry to school grounds and impose conditions of entry.

### **Dogs Prohibited (General)**

Whilst Whittlesea Primary School understands that many families in our school community keep dogs as pets, to ensure that our school remains a safe and inclusive place for everyone, pet dogs are not permitted on school grounds under any circumstances.

Our school community is diverse and may include people that are allergic or uncomfortable around dogs. We are also conscious of the health hazards that may be posed by dogs. We ask that families please leave their pet dogs at home or safely tether them outside school grounds when attending our school or school events.

### **Dogs Permitted (School Discretion)**

Whilst Whittlesea Primary School understands that many families in our school community keep dogs as pets, to ensure that our school remains a safe and inclusive place for everyone, we have in place several rules that we expect all families to follow if they wish to bring their pet dog onto school grounds.

### **Share Time**

When sharing a new puppy in classrooms, the following guidelines must be adhered to.

- the teacher must know the breed of dog and its age and refer the request to the Principal/Assistant Principal for approval
- once the visit is approved, the teacher must provide a copy of the Dogs at Schools policy to the parent/carer and nominate a day/date
- all visits must occur at 3.00PM
- one week before the visit, the classroom teacher should notify parents via Compass, including information about the breed, age of the dog and date and time of visit. Teachers should ask parents to make contact should they not want their child involved
- pet dogs must be leashed at all times and in the control of (held by) a responsible adult (i.e., parent)
- children must only pet the dog on the withers or back. Children are not to put their hands anywhere near the ears or face of the dog
- pet dogs must not be tied up on school grounds or left unaccompanied
- families that bring dogs to school that exhibit signs of aggressive behaviour, bark, or jump will be asked to remove the dog from school premises immediately.

The Principal has the authority to prohibit certain dogs from school grounds or modify this policy to ensure the safety and wellbeing of staff, students and members of our school community at any time.

### **Stray dogs**

Unaccompanied or stray dogs sighted at our school should be reported immediately to the Principal. School staff will contact municipal authorities and/or Victoria Police for assistance in managing and removing a stray dog from school grounds, and ensure staff and students remain safe at school.

We appreciate your understanding as we implement this policy moving forward.

### **Cadbury Chocolate Fundraiser**

Thank you to all the families that have returned their Cadbury Chocolate Fundraising money. A reminder that you can pay via the Compass event or in person at the office.

***A reminder that money raised but be returned by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June.*** If you cannot sell all your chocolates, please return them to the office, we may have other families that can support with this.

### Victorian State School Spectacular

The Victorian State School Spectacular is only a term away. Our dance and choir groups have been rehearsing every week at school and attending hub rehearsals with local schools also involved in the performance. We are looking forward to this exciting event. Tickets go on sale from 11am on Wednesday 7 June. Tickets are available through Ticketek: [www.ticketek.com.au/spectacular](http://www.ticketek.com.au/spectacular) or 132 849. Ticketek is the **ONLY** genuine sales outlet.



### **When is the 2023 Victorian State Schools Spectacular?**

The 2023 Victorian State Schools Spectacular will be held on Saturday 9 September. The performance times are 1:00pm and 6:30pm.

### **Where is it held?**

John Cain Arena, Melbourne Park

### **How long is the performance?**

The show is approximately 2hrs 45min (including a 30-minute interval).

### **Do I need a ticket?**

You need a ticket to attend. The performance is fully reserved, allocated seating. We recommend purchasing tickets as soon as possible to choose your seats.

### **How much are tickets?**

Adult: \$40                      Concession: \$30                      Child (U15): \$20

(a \$6.30 service fee per transaction applies on all purchases)

There is no 'pre-sale', and there is no codeword or special link required.

Ticket prices have not increased in the past 10 years.

### **Mass Dance Seating Recommendations**

Whittlesea Primary School will be positioned on the floor (dance) in quadrant 3. It is suggested that the most suitable view of quadrants 3 will be from the following seating sections. These sections should be visible on the Ticketek seating map when patrons are making an online purchase.

Quadrant Three (Southeast)

Sections 8, 9, 10, 31, 32, 56, 57, 58

### **Mass Choir Seating Recommendations**

Whittlesea Primary School choir will be singing Part 1. It is suggested that the most suitable view of our students performing in the choir will be from the following seating sections. These sections should be visible on the Ticketek seating map when patrons are making an online purchase.

Part One

Section 9, 10, 31, 32, 33, 56, 57, 5

### National Sorry Day

In closing, we would like to acknowledge that today is National Sorry Day. Australia marks National Sorry Day on the 26<sup>th</sup> May each year, remembering and acknowledging the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were forcibly removed as children from their families and communities, otherwise known as the Stolen Generations. This annual event commemorates the Stolen Generations and is part of the ongoing efforts towards reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Today and throughout the coming week, students across our school will be talking about these events during learning, also acknowledging Reconciliation Week and Mabo Day, held annually on 3rd June to celebrate the life of Eddie Koiki Mabo

Best wishes for a wonderful weekend with your family.

Rae Gittos

Assistant Principal

# ★ Star of the Week ★

Foundation F Fasone/Betty	Awarded to: <b>Charlee Moore</b> For: Consistently doing her best and creating an amazing sloth craft. Well done!
Foundation G Gordan	Awarded to: <b>Serenity Driver</b> For: always doing your best and practicing the correct letter formations. Keep it up Serenity!
Year 1F Fontana	Awarded to: <b>Lincoln Baxter</b> For: his learning in Maths this week making equivalent values of coins.
Year 1M Merritt	Awarded to: <b>Baylah Crocker</b> For: improving the number of high frequency words she can read. Great effort!
Year 1P Powell	Awarded to: <b>Caleb Richter</b> For: trying his best to write down the sounds he hears, and finding words on his word list.
Year 2M Maxfield	Awarded to: <b>Eden Murphy</b> For: great improvements in all of her classwork.
Year 2A Avolino/Mond on	Awarded to: <b>Beka Briggs</b> For: using the 'call to action' technique, while practising writing endings with impact for persuasive texts!
Year 2K Kaur	Awarded to: <b>Chloe Bordignon</b> For: showing a huge improvement in automatically remembering the 400 Oxford high frequency words. Amazing work Chloe!
Year 3/4B Barker	Awarded to: <b>Aria Hickling</b> For: for continuously challenging herself in mathematics and working towards her fraction goals. Well done, Aria!
Year 3/4D Di Mauro	Awarded to: <b>Niran Wild</b> For: his effort and persistence with writing his persuasive essay, "Why children should have basic adult privileges". Great Job Niran 😊
Year 3/4S Daniels	Awarded to: <b>Hunter-Rose Scott</b> For: Amazing effort with her fractions work this week, great effort :)
Year 3/4W Wright	Awarded to: <b>Tai Vuillermin</b> For: presenting persuasive reasons and convincing explanations during writing sessions.
Year 3/4C Cowdery	Awarded to: <b>Sarah Hallam</b> For: always trying her best and approaching every learning task with a positive attitude 😊
Year 5B Burgess	Awarded to: <b>Dash Heal</b> For: continuing to do his best and always being reliable and respectful.
Year 5V Vitale	Awarded to: <b>Jesse Osborne</b> For: using his initiative in the classroom and being a positive member of 5V. Well done, Jesse! 😊
Year 5T Tuppen	Awarded to: <b>Maison Kringle</b> For: persisting with his persuasive writing, focusing on using a powerful rhetorical question to draw readers in.
Year 6C Cummins	Awarded to: <b>Archie McDonald</b> For: working incredibly hard to make outstanding growth in fractions. Fantastic work, Archie!
Year 6P Panahinejad	Awarded to: <b>Charlee Morley</b> For: using effective persuasive techniques in her writing to engage her readers.
PE BOOST Smith	Awarded to: <b>Harvey Moore</b> For: supporting others during our PE boost games and displaying great team skills, well done!
STEM Reid	Awarded to: <b>Eva Parker</b> For: using a range of skills such as sequencing, conditions and loops during coding sessions. Great work 😊





# SPORTS REPORT

## Term 2 Fixture 2023

Round 5	SPORT	GOLD	BLUE
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Soccer	WPS	Mernda Central College
	Netball	WPS	Mernda Central College
	AFL	Walker's Reserve	Mernda Central College

Round 6	SPORT	GOLD	BLUE
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Soccer	WPS	St Pauls of the Apostle
	Netball	WPS	Painted Hills
	AFL	Walker Reserve	Mernda Recreation Reserve

Round 7	SPORT	GOLD	BLUE
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Soccer	TBA	WPS
	Netball	TBA	WPS
	AFL	TBA	Walker's Reserve



*Wominjeka, Our service philosophy at Whittlesea Primary School is to make the students the centre of everything we do. We facilitate lifelong development and growth of the children so that they achieve their full potential as individuals. We strive to develop and support the emotional, social and physical wellbeing of the child. We create positive environments for their learning and curiosity and we also encourage the children to be important members of the local and wider communities. Parents, students and staff are strongly encouraged to work together in partnership recognising our shared values of community, confidence, honesty, excellence and respect. We also include our key values which are Safety, Education, Nurturing, Stimulating and Empathy within the service.*



## Whats been happening

Last week we had our Theme Based on Frozen. The children loved creating there snowflakes, making there own Elsa crowns, Book marks and even playing dress up to get into the characters with singing along to songs.

We also put on an Mothers Day table for our Mums/ Special Person/ Grandparent to celebrate Mothers Day and hoped the Mums loved there gifts we made and special treats to take home with them. The children got very busy creating beautiful cards, Handprint with poem, Writing about there mums, Drawing a portrait of there mum and other fun crafts.

We have been focusing on getting children back into routine and getting ideas for next Term on what the children would like to do



## Brrr Its Getting Cold

Please make sure the children have jackets, beanies as the cold is approaching and the children still want to play outside. Please Keep in mind by 5PM the children will be indoors as its darker and beating the cold at this time



## Family Pictures

We would love to ask if we could have some family pictures to go up on our display wall in our room. Our Family Tree is looking bare and we would love to see familys and the children up there



### TIMES



Before School: 6:45AM - 8:45AM

After School: 2:30PM - 6:30PM

### CONTACT HEAD OFFICE

 1300 072 410  
 [info@theircare.com.au](mailto:info@theircare.com.au)

### CONTACT SERVICE

 0447 542 696  
 [Whittlesea@theircare.com.au](mailto:Whittlesea@theircare.com.au)

# Mental Health at Whittlesea Primary School

Self-regulation is a skill that is developed over time and requires patience, support and gentle guidance. Here is a handout on self-regulation which you might find to be of use!

## What is self-regulation?

Self-regulation is the ability to understand and manage your behaviour and your reactions to feelings and things happening around you.

It includes being able to:

- Regulate reactions to strong emotions like frustration, excitement, anger and embarrassment
- Calm down after something exciting or upsetting
- Focus on a task
- Control impulses
- Behave in ways that help you get along with other people.

## Why self-regulation is important

As your child grows, self-regulation helps them:

- Learn at school – because self-regulation gives your child the ability to sit and listen in the classroom
- Behave in socially acceptable ways – because self-regulation gives your child the ability to control impulses
- Make friends – because self-regulation gives your child the ability to take turns in games and conversation, share toys, and express emotions in appropriate ways
- Become more independent – because self-regulation gives your child the ability to make appropriate decisions about behaviour and learn how to behave in new situations with less guidance from you.

## How and when self-regulation develops

Children develop self-regulation through warm and responsive relationships. They also develop it by watching the adults around them.

Self-regulation starts when children are babies. It develops most in the toddler and preschool years, but it also keeps developing right into adulthood.

For example, **babies** might suck their fingers for comfort or look away from their caregivers if they need a break from attention or are getting tired.

**Toddlers** can wait short times for food and toys. But toddlers might still snatch toys from other children if it's something they really want. Tantrums happen when toddlers are overwhelmed by strong emotions.

**Pre-schoolers** are starting to know how to play with other children and understand what's expected of them. For example, a pre-schooler might try to speak in a soft voice if you're at the movies.

**School-age children** are getting better at controlling their own wants and needs, imagining other people's perspectives and seeing both sides of a situation. This means, for example, that they might be able to disagree with other children without having an argument.



**Preteens and teenagers** are better at planning, sticking with difficult tasks, behaving in socially appropriate ways, and considering how their behaviour affects other people. For example, your teenage child might think about your perspective when they're negotiating with you about their curfew.

## Helping children and teenagers learn and practice self-regulation

Here are some practical ways you can help your child learn and practice self-regulation:

- Work on your child's skills for understanding and managing emotions.
- Use calming down strategies for toddlers, calming down steps for pre-schoolers and school-age children and calming down steps for pre-teens and teenagers.
- Plan for challenging situations where it might be hard for younger children to behave well. For example, 'The shop we're going to has lots of things that can break. It's OK to look, but please don't touch'. Give your child a gentle reminder as you enter the shop. For example, 'Remember – just looking, OK?'
- Involve pre-teens and teenagers in problem-solving and negotiating difficult situations. For example, 'I'm working all weekend, so I know it'll be boring for you. Let's figure out how you can make the most of the time'.
- Praise your child when they show self-regulation and manage a tricky situation. For example, 'You were great at waiting for your turn', or 'I liked the way that you shared with Sam when he asked'.
- Try to model self-regulation for your child. For example, 'I'd really like to keep gardening, but if I don't clean up now I won't get you to soccer on time'. Or 'Let me write that on the calendar so I don't forget'.

## Problems with self-regulation

From time to time, different things can affect your child's ability to self-regulate.

For example, **tiredness, illness and changes to your child's routine** can all affect your child's ability to regulate their reactions and behaviour. Also, some children have great self-regulation at childcare, school or sport, but find it hard at home. Other children struggle in busy, noisy places like shopping centres. And as children get older, self-regulation might be challenging if they have a lot of assessment tasks or relationship difficulties.

Although these challenges with self-regulation are fairly typical, it's a good idea to **speak with a professional if you're worried** about your child's behaviour or you're having trouble with your child's behaviour as they get older. For example, you could talk to your GP, your child and family health nurse, or your child's child care educator or teacher.

Consider seeking professional help if your child:

- Seems to have more tantrums or difficult behaviour than other children of the same age
- Is behaving in difficult or out-of-control ways more often as they get older
- Is behaving in ways that are dangerous for themselves or others
- Is difficult to discipline and your strategies for encouraging positive behaviour don't seem to be working
- Is very withdrawn and has a lot of trouble interacting with others
- Doesn't seem to have as many communication and social skills as other children of the same age.

Please get in touch if you would like some support to support the young people at home!

Katalin

# COMMUNITY NEWS



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*City of*  
**Whittlesea**

# **Coffee with Council**

**Drop in and have a free cuppa  
and chat about issues that  
are important to you**

**11am – 1pm  
Tuesday 30 May  
Café 59 on Church  
59 Church St, Whittlesea**

