

Issue 3- 17th February 2023

PRINCIPAL REPORT

Hello everyone,

The week concludes with an extremely hot Friday. At our school we regularly track the conditions and make decisions regarding programs. Today for instance at 1st break the temperature was approaching 30 degrees and we established a special club in the library. Over 50 students opted to come into the cool space and draw, read or watch sports on the big TV. For second break the mercury had risen above 35 degrees and in the interest of health and safety, all students remained indoors.



Our long-standing plan with two of the Kinglake schools involves Whittlesea Primary School hosting children from these schools when the state declares 'catastrophic' fire danger. Today was 'extreme' and the plan was not required. In the event of a catastrophic fire danger students from Kinglake will be accommodated at our school if they wish. This plan hasn't been enacted in the last five years it has been in place, but days like today are a reminder of how dangerous extreme fire conditions can be for our area and contingency plans are vital to keep everyone safe.

On Monday we host our first Breakfast Club for 2023. Thank you to Casey and our amazing volunteer team. Please complete the permission on Compass which you'll find under 'Events'.

In positive news, we have received interest from more than one party to take over the management of our school canteen. A thorough tender process will be conducted through school council and the canteen operator will be appointed this term. Thank you to those in our community that spread the word and helped us connect with interested parties.

Have a great weekend,

Ty Hoggins
Principal

CALENDAR

February 20	Breakfast Club starts 8am
February 21	Parent Student Teacher Conferences
March 2	Foundation Teddy Bear Picnic 4pm-5pm
March 6	Whole School Photos

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following children a very Happy Birthday!

15th February
Harvey 02K

16th February
Flynn 06L

19th February
Necati 3/4B

20th February
Ellie 02A

22nd February
Shenae 00F

23rd February
Jasmine 3/4C

24th February
Finn 02M



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL REPORT

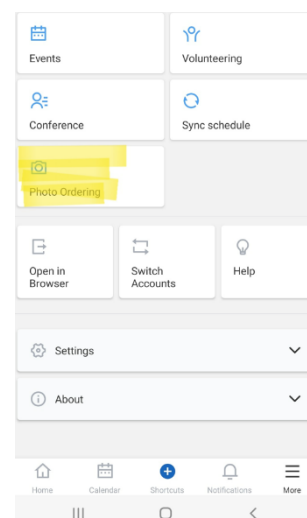
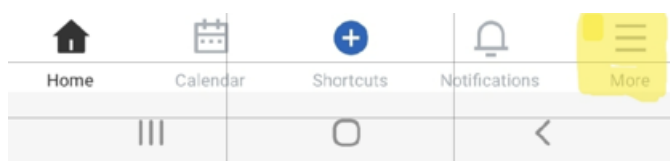
Hello everyone

This week we opened the outdoor libraries to the students. These libraries are a great place to read and relax during break time. Teachers have also taken classes out during eating time and learning time. Students can access these libraries before school, as well as breaks. It's great to see so many of our students embracing this new initiative.



School photos

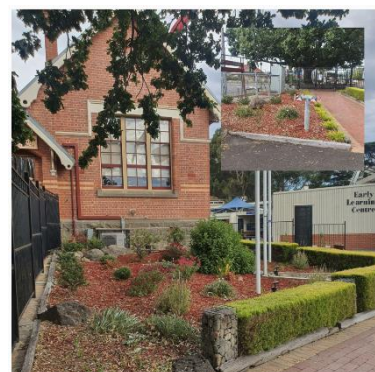
School photos will take place on Monday 6th March. If you cannot access the ordering system through the link provided on Compass, please use the hamburger menu (≡) on your parent dashboard on the app. You will find this in the bottom right-hand corner of your screen. This will navigate to a new screen. Choose 'Photo Ordering'. The MSP photography site may take a moment to load, once it does, follow the prompts.



Heritage Building Gardens

Many of you will have noticed that our gardens at the front of the school are becoming well established, some are even flowering. Our committed parent gardening group are in regularly on a Friday morning, weeding and maintaining these gardens so they continue to showcase our buildings and grounds.

We have noticed that some of the plants in the gardens, especially the flagpole garden, have been damaged or trampled. We ask that you monitor your children when they are entering and leaving the school grounds and that they do not enter or play in these gardens. Your support is appreciated.



Parent Student Teacher Conferences

A reminder that we will host Parent Student Teacher Conferences on Tuesday 21st February between 11:30am-7:00pm. This is a ***Variation to School Hours Day*** and students are only required to attend their PST conference time with you.

During your 15-minute conference, your child's teacher will share early learning progress. You will have the opportunity to hear about how your child has transitioned into the new school year and ask any questions you may have about how your child has settled, both organisationally and academically and socially and emotionally. To book a conference time, access your child's profile via the Compass App on your phone. If you do not have access to Compass, please call the office. If you find you are unable to make any of the available times, please email your classroom teacher via Compass to make an alternate time or call the main office.

Best wishes for a wonderful weekend with your family 😊

Rae Gittos
Assistant Principal

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



Star of the Week



Foundation F Fasone/Betty	Awarded to: Thomas Love-Finnigan For: being a great classroom helper by helping others succeed and being kind. Well done!
Foundation G Gordan	Awarded to: Summer Gilchrist For: sharing your letter knowledge during reading rotations. Keep it up!
Year 1F Fontana	Awarded to: Aubrey Taylor For: writing some amazing sizzling starts this week. Well done Aubrey!
Year 1M Merritt	Awarded to: Fletcher Cain For: using adjectives in his sizzling start. Fantastic!
Year 1P Powell	Awarded to: Tommy D'Amico For: doing his best to write an engaging sizzling start, which included a sound and action.
Year 2M Maxfield	Awarded to: Ryder Burton For: sharing his numeracy knowledge in the classroom and offering to help others succeed.
Year 2A Avolino/Mondon	Awarded to: Bodie Van Weenan For: making good choices and challenging himself in his learning!
Year 2K Kaur	Awarded to: Aurora Scott For: helping others succeed by nominating and presenting a speech about why another student should be our SVT representative.
Year 3/4B Barker	Awarded to: Kiara Brander For: her outstanding effort towards achieving her maths goal in place value by renaming two- and three-digit numbers.
Year 3/4D Di Mauro	Awarded to: Nate Williams For: his hard work and determination when working with 3-digit numbers
Year 3/4S Daniels	Awarded to: Eva Reilly For: For your focus on your writing this week.
Year 3/4W Wright	Awarded to: Angelissa Perinovic For: developing creative ideas during writing.
Year 3/4C Cowdery	Awarded to: Summer Farrell For: going above and beyond for all her learning tasks, particularly in writing. Well done Summer 😊
Year 5B Burgess	Awarded to: Judd Cornish For: consistently helping others succeed, and putting 100% effort into all he does.
Year 5V Vitale	Awarded to: Ethan Rowe For: doing his best with all his learning and always having a positive attitude. Well done, Ethan! 😊
Year 5T Tuppen	Awarded to: Kenzie Sutherland For: creating a strong character (personification) and an awesome sizzling start.
Year 6L Leslie/McAlley	Awarded to: Anakin Lamont For: Demonstrating improved skills in Numeracy and sharing his knowledge with his peers
Year 6C Cummins	Awarded to: Ruby Barker For: displaying virtue and serving as an outstanding role model to her peers.
Year 6P Panahinejad	Awarded to: Xavier Driver For: using efficient strategies in maths
PE Freeman	Awarded to: Jessie Tanoai-McMaster For: showing great determination and teamwork during PE class.
PE Leslie	Awarded to: Archie McDonald For: Showing determination during our Health and Fitness learning unit.
The Arts Capobus-Thorpe	Awarded to: Emma Lord and Melinda Gittos For: Helping a foundation student play in appropriate spaces at break. Great work helping others succeed.
STEM Reid	Awarded to: Bille-Rose Alway & Annie Watson For: showing teamwork, persistence and a problem-solving mindset while testing momentum.



Invitation

You're Invited



Thursday | 4-5pm
2nd March | Soccer Pitch

Foundation Teddy Bears Picnic

*Come along to meet our wonderful staff
and our Foundation community.*

*Bring along a picnic rug, snacks
and teddy bear.*

We look forward to seeing you there.





BREAKFAST CLUB RETURNS FOR 2023

SPECIAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST!

MONDAY FEBRUARY 20TH, 2023



We need additional volunteers.
Join our team from 7:45am - 8:45am
and support this great initiative at
Whittlesea Primary School

If you are able to assist, please call
the office on 9716 2140 or scan



8:00 am - 8:30am
Parent / carer permission required



WHITTLSEA PRIMARY SCHOOL PHOTO DAY



MONDAY 6TH MARCH 2023

Orders can now be made through your Compass Portal via your email link or under the **COMMUNITY** tab

PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW TO ENSURE OUR BEST PRICES!

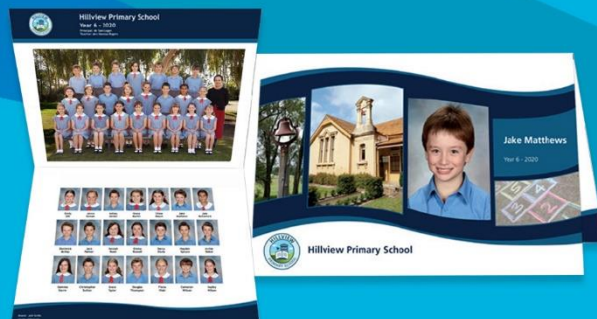
FAMILY PHOTOS



Family/Sibling photos are available for students attending school. Orders must be placed by **11:59PM** the day before photo day.

Parents with 3 or more children can receive a concession with our **Premium** or **Classic** packs. To take up this offer, please contact us prior to photo day.

GROUP STYLE



We're here to help.

9466 7331 | admin.nem@msp.com.au


msp
photography

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

Lost Property

We have lots of bottles and lunch boxes, jumpers, hats that need to be collected. Please feel free to pop in to have a look if your child may have left anything behind to collect. We have also sent to the office school hats and jumpers so please check in there also

Menu

Our weekly menu follows Nutrition Australia's guidelines and is created with the children and families. All Cultural needs are considered and any dietary requirements are to be discussed with the program. BSC meals include cereals, wholemeal bread, milk, water and fruit. BSC meals include fresh vegetables and fruit along with suggested food from the children

Be Sunsmart

Please also remember to bring hats whilst we do a lot of outside play

Whats Happening



This Week the children have been working really hard to get back into the routine and set of things at Before and After School Care. We have been super busy talking to the children every day to keep the room fun and engaging and also getting to know out new preps. This week our theme was focused on Valentines and we made super cute cards, i love you to pieces craft, made heart glasses and cute bookmark making.

BOOKINGS NOW OPEN

Next Tuesday 21st Feb we have our pupil free day and our theme is National Pancake Day. Please insure to book in if needed on this day as we will have lots of fun



Valentines Hearts
Messages



Parent Feedback



Located near our sign in and out desk we have a parent feedback box. We know this is nothing new but we would appreciate if you all could take a few minutes to let us know your thoughts, any suggestions, ideas and even feedback from the children so we can make sure we take the time to reflect and how we can improve the service. This means a lot to us so please help us out by letting us know





TIMES

Before School: 6:45AM - 8:45AM
After School: 2:30PM - 6:30PM

CONTACT HEAD OFFICE

 1300 072 410
 info@theircare.com.au

CONTACT SERVICE

 0447 542 696
 whittlesea@theircare.com.au

16 February 2023

Dear families

Being part of and contributing to the community is very important to all of us at TheirCare. We are excited to launch an exciting new initiative called WeCare across all TheirCare services in 2023.

WeCare has been developed to facilitate connection between TheirCare children with their local community. This rewarding opportunity allows for children to learn about charities or local groups, get involved, and make a difference to their world.

In addition to learning about charity groups, through discussions and programming ideas, WeCare also encourages positive behaviour in children. Guided by outlined behavioural goals at the start of term, all children at the service will have the opportunity to earn stickers that go on a chart. Once a service reaches the goal of 100 stickers, a \$50 donation will be made on behalf of the children at the service.

Each term, each region (up to 12 services) will select a charity of their choice. By running it across a region, it means that we can donate a substantial amount to each. All the services in that region will work collaboratively towards earning stickers to contribute to the donation. The children will know that they are working as part of a larger group, beyond their own service.

In recognition of their efforts, we have organised a certificate and small prize for the child who earns the most stickers. This will be presented to the child in assembly.

This term, Unicef has been selected for the North Region 1

We are so pleased to be able to launch this exciting initiative and together with the children and Educators, to make a significant contribution to the local community.

Best wishes

Coordinator -Sarah Young

Area Manager -Tayla Falvo -North Region 1

Mental Health at Whittlesea Primary School

I just wanted to open a conversation around being anxious and having anxiety. I have done a bit of reading this week myself and came across some useful information from The Royal Children's Hospital that I thought would be valuable to share and give us an opportunity to reflect. Feeling worried or anxious sometimes is normal. But some children have excessive or repeated fears, worries and anxious feelings that can last for weeks or more. These strong feelings can interfere with typical daily activities, such as going to school or seeing friends, which children may try to avoid.

For parents, it can be hard to spot the signs of anxiety as it can show up in a variety of ways. It can be difficult to know what a 'normal' amount of worry is, and when to seek further help. Avoiding a situation that makes your child anxious may seem best, but it can quickly become a pattern that is hard to break.

Signs of anxiety (primary school aged children)



It is important to note that **many children will show these signs from time to time, and they may not be related to anxiety**. When these signs appear frequently, in an ongoing pattern for over three weeks, a GP can arrange a referral to a pediatrician, child psychologist or other mental health professional to assess and support your child. Diagnosis and treatment of an anxiety condition or disorder in a child can be provided by a trained and experienced health professional.

How to help your child at home

If your child is showing ongoing signs of anxiety, you can support them at home in the following ways:

- Encourage your child to talk about their feelings and let you know when they get overwhelmed. It might help to explain these feelings are common – we all feel worried or scared sometimes.
- If there is a particular situation your child finds challenging, support them to gradually do the thing that makes them anxious. For example, if going to a crowded shopping centre makes them anxious, start with short trips to the local shops, building up to visiting a shopping centre in a quiet period.

- Make a practical plan together for coping with anxious feelings in the future, such as breathing techniques or reassuring phrases to focus on.
- Take time out to have fun together and take the focus off feelings of anxiety.
- Help your child to have healthy routines that include enough good-quality sleep, regular outdoor exercise, eating well and avoiding excessive screen time.
- Prioritise your child attending school. Attending and participating in school will help your child develop important skills and knowledge to help them learn, as well as building their social and emotional skills.
- If you are a parent or caregiver with anxiety, it is important to also care for your own mental health and seek help when you need it.

Useful resources

- The Brave Program: An interactive online program aimed at 8–12 year olds to help them overcome worries and learn coping strategies.
- Fear-Less Triple P Online Course: A toolkit to help your child manage anxiety and become more emotionally resilient.
- Cool Kids Program: An interactive online program aimed at 7–12 year olds to help them overcome anxiety and build confidence.
- The Beyond Blue Child Mental Health Checklist: A general tool to check your child's symptoms and whether to get professional help.
- Kids Help Line: A free, confidential 24/7 online and phone counselling service for young people.
- Smiling Mind Kids Care Packages: A series of calming activities and audio recordings for children based on mindfulness meditation.
- Mental health and wellbeing toolkit: Advice to support student mental health and wellbeing, aimed at students, parents and caregivers, and schools.
- Parentline: A free phone counselling service where you can discuss parenting challenges and get support.

For more information

- Beyond Blue: Healthy families: Anxiety (6–12 years)
- Raising Children's Network: Anxiety and fears in children (0–8 years)
- Raising Children's Network: Generalised anxiety in children (3–8 years)
- Raising Children's Network: Anxiety: the stepladder approach (3–8 years)
- Healthdirect: Anxiety in children

I hope you have found the information relevant and useful. If you have any further questions or can think of ways I can further support you, please come and see me or your child's classroom teacher!

Have a wonderful weekend, stay safe!

Katalin

SPORTS REPORT

5/6 INTERSCHOOL SPORT FIXTURE

ROUND 2			
Date: Friday February 24th			
Home Team	Away Team	TBall & Basketball Venue	Cricket Venue
Whittlesea Gold	Hazel Glen College	Whittlesea PS	A.F. Walker Reserve
Mernda Central College B	Whittlesea Blue	Mernda Central College	Mernda Central College

COMMUNITY NEWS



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TOPLINE TENNIS



Listen

Children Collectively Caring



Credit: Sylvia - Grade 5/6 from Whittlesea Primary

ART EXHIBITION

23 January – 1 March

Open Monday - Friday, 9am-5pm

Great Hall, Civic Centre, South Morang

arts.whittlesea.vic.gov.au



**City of
Whittlesea**



- SAVE THE DATE -

Resilient Communities

Workshop Series

Build your skills in the art of sustainable, climate-resilient living and community connection with the Resilient Communities Workshop Series.

The workshops run throughout the year and will look at a variety of subjects, including keeping backyard chooks, seed saving, mending fabrics and mindfulness. Participants will have opportunities to create items and take them home, and those who attend every session will be entered into a prize draw at the series end.

Community Climate Conversations

Wednesday 8 February, 6pm-7.30pm
Online

Keeping Backyard Chooks

Saturday 11 February, 10am-12pm
Ganbu Gulinj Community Centre,
55 Macedon Parade, Wollert

Home Food Preservation

Saturday 4 March, 10am-12.30pm
Kirrip Community Centre,
135 De Rossi Blvd, Wollert

Seed Saving

Saturday 29 April, 10am-11.30am
Fountain View Room,
25 Ferres Blvd, South Morang

Coming Back to Life: Connection in Times of Crisis

Saturday 6 May
10am-2pm (includes lunch)
Fountain View Room,
25 Ferres Blvd, South Morang

Thrifty Gardening

Wednesday 21 June, 6pm-7.30pm
Online

Energy Matters: Beat the Heat and Kill the Chill

Thursday 13 July, 6pm-7.30pm
Online

Basic Mending and Textile Repairs

Saturday 19 August, 10am-11.30am
Location TBD

Discovering Biophilia: Mindfulness and Observation in Nature

Saturday 30 September
10am-12pm
Fountain View Room,
25 Ferres Blvd, South Morang

Urban Foraging 101

Saturday 7 October
10am-12pm
Fountain View Room,
25 Ferres Blvd,
South Morang

Series Wrap up Celebration and Showcase

Saturday 25 November
10am-12pm
Fountain View Room,
25 Ferres Blvd, South Morang



free



Scan the QR code to register

We recognise the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Wilum Clan and Taungurung People as the Traditional Owners of lands within the City of Whittlesea.



City of Whittlesea