

Issue 7- 17th March 2023

PRINCIPAL TEAM REPORT

Hello everyone,

Once again, we have some of our students raising money for The World's Greatest Shave. Congratulations to those who have our school's support in colouring their hair in support of the Leukaemia Foundation.



Assembly is scheduled for this coming Monday and all parents are invited to attend. Our Student Voice Team captains and class representatives will be celebrated through a badge presentation. We also have some of our Foundation students sharing their learning. Proceedings start at 9am so please make your way to the gym after drop off.

Thank you for the great response to our uniform consultation survey. I also appreciated the numerous comments that directly stated appreciation for seeking and hearing parents' opinions on this 'hot topic'. Before I discuss the general patterns in the 139 responses currently received – I want to address the current concerns with the polo shirts from Academy Uniforms. We heard off some parents experiencing poor durability, particularly relating to the stitching of the garments. These concerns were confirmed by members of our school council. I've had positive communication with the company and they've investigated the quality concerns which have been raised over the past few weeks. They have identified a manufacturing issue with the first batch of polo shirts. As a result, they have acknowledged that the stitching quality in particular, wasn't up to their normal standards and they've apologised for the inconvenience. Academy Uniforms have a strong reputation with contracts at numerous local schools. The issues are out of the ordinary and the company are determined to address concerns promptly. If you have a garment which has not worn as expected, please contact the team at Academy. Exchanges are available where appropriate.

Our uniform consultation survey has clearly highlighted the vast and varied opinions across our school community. For every response stating that the uniform is too strict, restrictive, and heavily policed, there were just as many with the directly opposite view. For some questions there was just as many 'strong supports' as there were 'low supports'.

OFFICE HOURS

Office opening hours
8.30am- 4pm

CALENDAR

March 20	Whole School Assembly 9am
April 6	Whole School Cross Country
Last day of Term 1- 2.30pm finish	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following children a very Happy Birthday!

21st March
Bonnie 3/4W

23rd March
Soraya 05T
Tyrone 05V

24th March
Tahlia 01M



That's the great thing about living in a free and open country – we're all entitled to an opinion and the right for that to be heard. I can assure you that all scores and comments are being collated and presented to school council for thorough consideration. Our aim is to create a policy that is representative of the community's expectations while also aligning with the departments overarching purpose for establishing a student dress code. The survey presented various options and posed open questions. I will, however, dispel some misconceptions that were raised:

- The implementation of the policy will never be based on a punitive (punishment) approach toward the child. Teachers need to speak with students who present out of uniform, but consequences will not be planned as part of an approach to implementing the policy.
- The suggestion of a points system is not a 'student facing' system. Students would not be given points or have points removed from them publicly. It is an internal tracking system that would allow us to monitor the frequency of a student being out of uniform. A certain number of points would prompt staff to initiate a call home or similar action so we can seek to learn more regarding the family's circumstances.
- Our first and primary approach is always to ask how we can help families and we regularly make personalised plans to support parents to be compliant.

Any policy, including uniform, requires our entire community's support. The revised policy won't achieve everyone's preferences, it simply isn't possible. It will, however, be representative of the feedback received. Our school council have a significant responsibility in creating these policies on behalf of the school community. It is important that our community endeavour to abide by the policy so we can rightfully focus on our core work – learning and wellbeing.

This week our Year 3 and Year 5 students sat NAPLAN. The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9, and is the only nationwide assessment that all Australian children undertake. It is a measure to see whether young Australians are developing the literacy and numeracy skills that provide the critical foundation for other learning, and for their productive and rewarding participation in the community. Well done to our students for their active participation throughout the week.

Enjoy the late burst of hot weather over the weekend,

Ty Hoggins & Rae Gittos
Principal Team

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



Star of the Week



Foundation F Fasone/Betty	Awarded to: Hunter Gibson For: creating a wonderful 'fire fish' when we were learning about the letter Ff.
Foundation G Gordan	Awarded to: Saxon Deveson For: concentrating when using his scissors in tasks this week. Thumbs up!
Year 1F Fontana	Awarded to: Alyssa Tomarchio For: achieving being able to read 3 letter SATPIN words. Well done!
Year 1M Merritt	Awarded to: Thomas Doherty For: using tens frames to model subtraction from 20. Great work!
Year 1P Powell	Awarded to: Jemma Smith For: using interesting words when writing exciting endings
Year 2M Maxfield	Awarded to: Isobel Watt For: completing an engaging story of The Three Little Pigs from the Wolf's point of view.
Year 2A Avolino/Mondon	Awarded to: Kayla Kringle For: successfully describing and continuing number patterns and challenging herself to create her own!
Year 2K Kaur	Awarded to: Harvey Willoughby For: showing enthusiasm in asking and answering questions during class discussions. Well done Harvey!
Year 3/4B Barker	Awarded to: Tiernan Donis – Llewellyn For: continuously working hard to include using paragraphs in his writing and achieving his goal.
Year 3/4D Di Mauro	Awarded to: Brodie Gibson For: his amazing effort in Maths this week! Great Job Brodie 😊
Year 3/4S Daniels	Awarded to: William Watt For: his participation in class activities 😊
Year 3/4W Wright	Awarded to: Diamond Tohow For: putting in a great effort with bookwork. Well done, Diamond!
Year 3/4C Cowdery	Awarded to: Levi Oakley For: trying his best and persevering during NAPLAN this week. Well done Levi 😊
Year 5B Burgess	Awarded to: Callum Parker For: continuing to show excellent leadership skills and supporting his classmates and peers.
Year 5V Vitale	Awarded to: Giovita Goci For: her positive attitude for all learning tasks and her enthusiasm to always do her best in writing.
Year 5T Tuppen	Awarded to: Mercedes Marcu For: giving NAPLAN writing her best go. Well done, Mercedes!
Year 6L Leslie/McAlley	Awarded to: Alexx Cato For: Always going above and beyond to help others to succeed
Year 6C Cummins	Awarded to: Damian Brown For: outstanding growth in number and place value. Well done, Damian!
Year 6P Panahinejad	Awarded to: Charlie Graham For: her effective use of the writing checklist to improve her narrative text
PE Freeman	Awarded to: Taj Martin For: Fantastic teamwork, and taking pride in his PE performance.
PE BOOST Smith	Awarded to: Ryder Burton For: for great helping others succeed during PE boost, keep up the good work!
The Arts Capobus-Thorpe	Awarded to: Mercedes Marcu For: Doing a fantastic job applying finishing touches to her landscape artwork.
STEM Gorski	Awarded to: Chaz MacKenzie For: designing and creating structures in the STEM challenge activities.



SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

The following grants may be of interest and are made available through the Victorian Government and the City of Whittlesea.

\$250 Power Saving Bonus

The Victorian Government has announced a new round of the Power Saving Bonus program commencing on 24 March 2023. From this date, eligible Victorian households will be able to receive a new \$250 payment, including any households that received a payment through the current round. From 24 March 2023 apply [here](#).

Zero Waste Rebates

Want to choose environmentally friendly products and save money at the same time? City of Whittlesea households can now apply for a rebate on one of the three categories below.

Reusable nappy items (Items include: reusable nappies, reusable inserts, reusable swim nappies, reusable baby wipes, wet bags for reusable nappies, reusable nursing pads.)

Rebate: 50% of your purchase price up to \$100.

Reusable sanitary items (Items include: reusable sanitary pads, leak proof underwear, reusable sanitary cups, wet bags for sanitary items.)

Rebate: 50% of your purchase price up to \$50.

Composting tools (Items include: bokashi bins, grains and liquid, compost bins and compost aerator, worm farms and worms, and kitchen caddy.)

Rebate: 50% of your purchase price up to \$50.

Mental Health at Whittlesea Primary School

Following up from last week, I wanted to reiterate the importance of resilience in children. Resilience is **the ability to ‘bounce back’ after challenges and tough times.**

For children, challenges and tough times include experiences like starting at a new school or kindergarten, moving house, or welcoming a sibling into the family. They can also include serious experiences like being bullied, family breakdown, family illness or death.

Children build resilience over time through experience. You can help your child learn skills and develop resilience by having a warm, supportive relationship with them.

Resilience: why it's good for children

Children who are resilient can **recover from setbacks and get back to living their lives more quickly.** When children overcome setbacks and problems, it builds their confidence and helps them feel more capable the next time a problem comes up.

Resilient children are often good at solving problems and learning new skills. This is because they're more willing to try again even if things don't go the way they want the first time.

And when things don't go well and children feel anxious, sad, disappointed, afraid or frustrated, resilience helps them **understand that these uncomfortable emotions usually don't last forever.** They can experience these emotions and know they'll be OK before too long.

Resilient children are less likely to avoid problems or deal with them in unhealthy ways, like getting defensive or aggressive or intentionally hurting themselves. Resilient children are also likely to have better physical and mental health than children who struggle to be resilient.

Relationships and resilience

Relationships are the foundation of your child's resilience.

Your child's most important relationships are with you and their other main caregivers. Strong Relationships helps your child feel loved, safe and secure. This sense of safety and security gives your child the confidence to explore their world and to recover from any setbacks they experience.

Your child's relationships with grandparents, aunties and uncles, early childhood educators and teachers, and friends are also important. These family and community connections give your child a sense of belonging and the feeling that they're valued. These feelings help to build your child's confidence and resilience.

Children learn about resilience from watching how you and other important people in their lives respond to tough times and setbacks. When your child sees you try again, let anger go, or think positively in difficult situations, they learn that they can do the same

Building resilience in children

Children learn resilience through experience. Each time your child overcomes a problem, it builds their confidence in their ability to handle the next challenge.

Here are some ways you can build your child's resilience:

- Support your child but try not to solve every minor problem or disappointment. For example, if your child doesn't get invited to a birthday party or didn't get what they want for their birthday, you could talk about how they feel instead of trying to fix the problem.
- Avoid predicting and preventing problems for your child. This might mean letting your child hand in homework that's wrong or not replacing a broken toy. Overcoming small challenges builds your child's resilience for bigger setbacks.
- Help your child to identify and manage strong emotions. For example, your child might be worried about a family member who's sick. You could say, 'I can see you're really worried about Grandpa. It's OK to be worried. But remember we're doing everything we can to help him get better'.
- Encourage your child to have another go when things don't work out the first time they try something. Praise your child for trying, no matter the result. You could say 'I'm proud of you for finishing the race' or 'Well done for giving it another go'.
- Build your child's self-compassion. Self-compassion helps your child deal with disappointment, failures or mistakes by being kind to themselves. In turn, this helps them to move on from difficult experiences.
- Make it a habit to recognise and acknowledge when things are going well. For example, during family meals you could each share one positive thing from your day.
- Help your child to develop problem-solving skills in an age-appropriate way. For example, if a child at school says or does something unkind to your child, brainstorm how your child might respond next time.
- Find a positive role model who has experienced similar challenges to your child. For example, your child might find support in an older friend whose parents have separated or who has lost a family member.

Children develop resilience over time, so try to be patient and supportive while your child works out how to respond to challenges. You might want to make everything all right for your child, but sometimes your child has to go through uncomfortable feelings so they can work things out for themselves

SPORTS REPORT

Term 1 Fixture 2023

Week 9	SPORT	GOLD	BLUE
Friday 24 th March	Basketball	Laurimar P.S	Mernda Park Primary
	T-Ball	Laurimar P.S	Mernda Park Primary
	Cricket	Laurimar P.S	Waterview Reserve
Week 10	SPORT	GOLD	BLUE
Friday 31 st March	Basketball	St. Josephs	WPS
	T-Ball	St. Josephs	WPS
	Cricket	Waterview Reserve	Walker's Reserve

PREMIERS' READING CHALLENGE



The Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge is now open and Whittlesea Primary School is excited to be participating. Last year, a new application was introduced that offered a range of exciting features including:

- access to a library catalogue (including book images and blurbs)
- a modern user-friendly interface
- rewarding students with badges as challenge milestones are achieved
- the option for students to mark books as a favourite, give them a star rating or complete a book review

The 2023 Premiers' Reading Challenge began on the **1st of March**, and is open to all Victorian children from birth to Year 10 in recognition of the importance of reading for literacy development. It is not a competition; but a personal challenge for children to read a set number of books by **8th of September, 2023**.

Children from Foundation to Year 2 are encouraged to read or 'experience' 30 books with their parents and teachers. Children from Year 3 to Year 10 are challenged to read 15 books.

To read the Premier's letter to parents, view the booklists, upload books for verifying and for more information about the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge, visit: <https://vprc.eduweb.vic.gov.au/home>

Please see the 'Access Guide' attached for further information about how to log into the Premiers' Reading Challenge.

If you would like a new copy of your child's login details, please contact their classroom teacher or Samantha McCormick.



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.



Message for Our Prep Parents

Preps will be dropped off to their classrooms in the morning after the session and collected by a TheirCare staff member in the afternoon to ensure they are safe along with other children who attend the service and are waiting to be collected by a parent, guardian or caregiver.



Parent Feedback

We are seeking more feedback from our families. If you could please spare a couple of minutes to give us your thoughts on the service it would be appreciated. Thank you to the parents who have done this already.

This week's theme was focused on Lego. The children were engaged in creating their own Lego man/woman, creating their own Lego maze, animals and we even had a little competition within small groups. We have also been building the Lego bricks from Woolworths and creating a farm. Last week we focused on No Bullying Week and had great conversations around how this may look and what we can do if we see this type of behaviour. We had great conversations around keeping our hands and feet to ourselves and using kind words to one another. We have created new wall displays and a pledge that reflects on what we have spoken about and also created a wrinkled heart display to remind us on things we may say but don't mean and can reflect on this wall on how other people may feel seeing this.



We still have a few jackets, water bottles and hats to be collected in the room. Please feel free to come in and have a look or collect if your child has left these behind.



Designing our Lego man/woman



Holiday Program Booking is Now Open

Get ready for our exciting holiday program with the theme Wild Child with lots of fun in and out of the service. We are lucky to be heading to the MCG, Bundoora Farm and watching the Super Mario Bros movies with heaps of other fun planned activities. Remember to book in early to help our team plan and ensure your child has an amazing experience when at the service. We have flyers in the room on our parent sign in and out desk if interested please come and collect one.



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

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COMMUNITY NEWS



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- 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

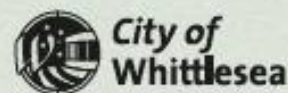


free



Scan the QR code to register

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





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