

Issue 8- 24th March 2023

PRINCIPAL REPORT

Hello everyone,

NAPLAN has concluded with the final catch up tests being conducted for students from Years 3 and 5. While we endeavour to catch up as many of the absences as possible, we are limited in resources and can't ensure every child who was absent for a test is able to complete that missed assessment. As of today, 402 online tests have been submitted, in addition to the Year 3 writing tests which were completed by hand. Well done to all our participating students for committing their personal best.



ANZAC Day is fast approaching and this year our Student Voice Team will take an active role in fundraising for the ANZAC Appeal. The Whittlesea RSL has kindly provided a range of items to be purchased here at school. All funds go directly to the ANZAC Appeal, changing the lives of our veterans and their families. The student voice team students will be active in selling the items (with teacher support) across break times and even before/ after school on selected

days. Please ensure any money sent with children is secured safely in an envelope or snap lock bag and consider handing any larger sums of money to a teacher for safe keeping.

Our school's participation in the ANZAC March through Whittlesea is a traditional activity which builds community pride and connection. We encourage you to consider allowing your child to march in their school uniform on April 25th. Please indicate your participation through the compass event. There is also an event on Compass for the day prior – April 24th. This event is a strategy to enable us to predict student attendance on Monday April 24th. This is a school day and all students are expected at school, but we realise that coming out of the term holidays and with ANZAC Day immediately following, some families may already know their child will be absent from school. With this information we can effectively plan for any adjustments required in our workforce.



STUDENT VOICE TEAM INITIATIVE

RAISING MONEY FOR THE ANZAC APPEAL

- Purchase badges ranging from \$1 to \$50 throughout Weeks 10 and 11.
- Sales at break times and selected days before and after school

ANZAC DAY
best we forget

CALENDAR

April 6	Whole School Cross Country
	Last day of Term 1- 2.30pm finish
April 24	Start of Term 2
April 25	Public Holiday ANZAC Day

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing the following children a very Happy Birthday!

26th March
Keira 3/4D

28th March
Aria 3/4W

30th March
Rhyder 00G

1st April
Chloe 06L

2nd April
Spencer 05V
Olivia 06P



School Council held lengthy discussions regarding the Uniform Policy. Thank you to the 150 respondents who put forward a range of views. These were well considered, and changes were endorsed. The new uniform policy is attached to this week's newsletter. Changes of note include:

- The wording of school shoes changes to include 'predominantly' black runners. This means black runners with small elements of colour including a logo or sole are now acceptable.
- References to hair colours have been removed from the policy.
- An addition has been made that references long hair. Students will be directed to tie back long hair when they are involved in high-risk activities such as sport or science experiments.

Generally, the remainder of the policy stays the same. The change in wording regarding shoes came from your feedback. The greatest positive endorsement was seen for this interpretation. Second most supported was keeping with the current expectation of 'all black' shoes. There was strong support for the inclusion of a reference to long hair being safely tied back at certain times and there was also strong support for removing any reference to hair colour. Your feedback for an affordable school windcheater was clear and we will work with Academy to include this item to the uniform list. Thank you once again, as council's decision was made through active collaboration and consideration of the community's views.

Enjoy the weekend,

Ty Hoggins and Rae Gittos
Principal Team



Uniform Policy

PURPOSE

The uniform dress code will foster student pride in their appearance and the recognition of belonging to Whittlesea Primary. Issues of equality, health and safety, and expense are also factors that contribute to the establishment of the dress code.

AIMS

- To promote equality amongst all students
- To further develop a sense of pride in, and identification with our school
- To provide durable clothing that is cost effective and practical for our school environment
- To maintain and enhance the positive image of the school in the community

GUIDELINES

- The wearing of school uniform will be compulsory for all students
- The colours of the school uniform will be navy blue and gold, with the exception of a navy and white summer dress and will consist of a combination of items from the designated uniform list
- Daily footwear will consist of only traditional black school shoes (Lace up or Velcro only, no slip-ons) or predominantly black runners.
- Socks must be plain navy, white or black – no logos
- Students may change into any appropriate athletic footwear for PE / Sport lessons, regardless of colour.
- Students will be directed to tie back long hair when engaged in activities deemed to be high risk by school staff. These include but are not limited to sport, science experiments etc. Students are encouraged, but not required to have long hair tied back at all times relating to hygiene and safety reasons.
- Hair accessories must be blue, gold, white or black only. Clear nail polish is acceptable. Students are also encouraged to wear a wristwatch. Smart watches with the capacity to make calls, text or take photos or videos are not allowed to be at school and should be treated as a mobile phone (refer to Mobile Phone Student Use policy)
- Piercings are to be limited to gold / silver sleeper earrings or studs to be worn in the ear lobe(s) only. No other forms of jewellery are acceptable
- Students participating in all school events (sport, choir, art and excursions) or representing the school in other activities must wear the designated school uniform
- Students will be permitted to wear their WPS House Wristband as part of their school uniform. No other form of wristband will be permitted

- A navy blue sun smart school hat with a school logo is a compulsory item during the designated period noted by the SunSmart policy and a navy blue or school / house branded beanie can be worn during Terms 2 and 3
- Items of religious or cultural significance may be worn; head scarves should be school colours
- A Whittlesea Primary School bag is compulsory for all students
- A special year 6 commemorative jacket will be offered for purchase to all students in year 6 each year
- Upon discussion with the Principal/Assistant Principal, special payment arrangements can be made for those parents who find it difficult to purchase uniforms items

If a child is not wearing school uniform, the following steps will be followed:

- 1) **Stage 1** - Entry added to Compass which generates an automatic parent notification
- 2) **Stage 2** – When repeated entries are noted teachers will call parents to ask for more information and to offer support in helping the student adhere to the policy
- 3) **Stage 3** - Referral to the Principal or Assistant Principal to follow up with a phone call or meeting
- 4) **Stage 4** - Letter home from School Council

IMPLEMENTATION

- The student dress code including details of uniform items and the place of purchase will be published in the newsletter at the start of each term. The policy will also be available on the school website www.whittleseaps.vic.edu.au
- It will be the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure their children are wearing the correct school uniform. A note must be produced to explain any deviation from the policy and given to Principal/Assistant Principal.
- The responsibility for the implementation of the School Uniform Dress Code rests with the Principal, Assistant Principal and classroom teachers.
- From time to time, parents may donate second hand uniform items that can be used at the discretion of the Principal and Assistant Principal.

RESOURCING

- The School Uniform Shop will be outsourced to Academy Uniforms for the term of the contract.
- All families will purchase uniform garments from the above-mentioned supplier and these items will remain unaltered in their appearance. Embroidered copies will not be permitted as it will be a breach of copyright and contract.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last reviewed and approved by school council on Tuesday 21st March 2023 and is scheduled for evaluation and review in March 2026.



Star of the Week



Foundation G Gordan	Awarded to: Jesse Hyde-Gerdtz For: working so hard this week on his letter formation. Keep it up!
Year 1F Fontana	Awarded to: Dash Reeves For: Putting in an amazing amount of effort when solving subtraction questions using a number line.
Year 1M Merritt	Awarded to: Bella Beardsworth For: using a story graph effectively to plot different texts. Great effort!
Year 1P Powell	Awarded to: Mia Bassett For: achieving her reading goal of segmenting and blending CVC words.
Year 2M Maxfield	Awarded to: Henry Charity For: making progress to achieve his goals and being a voice in class discussions.
Year 2A Avolino/Mondon	Awarded to: Emerson Fairchild For: doing her best to achieve her goal of identifying the author's purpose!
Year 2K Kaur	Awarded to: James Smith For: trying his best on his story about Pig the Pug. Well done, James!
Year 3/4B Barker	Awarded to: Monica D'Amico For: her outstanding effort towards achieving her writing goals this week and making her sentences more meaningful! Amazing Monica!
Year 3/4D Di Mauro	Awarded to: Lachlan Abbott For: his amazing effort in writing his narrative about the king and dragon. Well Done 😊
Year 3/4S Daniels	Awarded to: Eva Smith For: her excellent use of adjectives and adverbs in her writing. Well done Eva!
Year 3/4W Wright	Awarded to: Lottie Carrolan For: consistently putting in a great effort in all learning tasks. Well done, Lottie.
Year 3/4C Cowdery	Awarded to: Nella Kessler For: helping others succeed in writing and being a fantastic group leader. Well done Nella 😊
Year 5B Burgess	Awarded to: Jagger Hayward-Murphy For: continuing to develop a story with an intended audience and purpose, ensuring that he is following the seven steps.
Year 5V Vitale	Awarded to: Asha Abeling For: always having a positive attitude and following our school expectations. Amazing, Asha! 😊
Year 5T Tuppen	Awarded to: Logan Kendall For: Challenging himself in maths during our multiplication lessons. Well done, Logan!
Year 6L Leslie/McAlley	Awarded to: Branson Aponso For: Identifying different types of figurative language in texts he reads.
Year 6C Cummins	Awarded to: Alice Bowlen For: following the writing process to draft, revise and publish a captivating narrative.
Year 6P Panahinejad	Awarded to: Fionah Sparks For: outstanding enthusiasm to challenge herself in maths
PE Freeman	Awarded to: Koby Charles (2M) For: Amazing teamwork, perseverance and effort during PE.
PE BOOST Smith	Awarded to: Rebekah Briggs For: for excellent listening skills and helping others succeed during PE boost! Wonderful work!
The Arts Capobus-Thorpe	Awarded to: Dash Heal (5B) For: Always being a respectful student and trying his best to complete his artworks. Great Work Dash
STEM Gorski	Awarded to: Savanah Georgiou For: assisting year 3/4 students to interpret the origami instructions, modelling a positive and resilient mindset.



SPORTS REPORT

Week 10	SPORT	GOLD	BLUE
Friday 31 st March	Basketball	St. Josephs	WPS
	T-Ball	St. Josephs	WPS
	Cricket	Waterview Reserve	Walker's Reserve

Mental Health at Whittlesea Primary School

Good communication is always a two-way thing. Listening to children is as important as what you say to them and how you say it. This might not always be easy – especially when you're tired, busy or have to deal with complaining or conflict – but it's important to model good communication skills so your kids can learn from you.

Approaching communication as a conversation between family members helps kids develop skills for life, setting them up for strong, respectful relationships and feeling able to ask for support when they need it.

Communicating as a family

Talking together and discussing everyday things helps family members feel connected. It builds trust and makes it easier to ask for and offer support. Making time to listen and show interest encourages kids to talk and helps you understand how they think and feel. Listening actively helps to build relationships and communication skills.

To get your kids to talk more, take notice of the times when they do talk. Often this is while doing everyday things like household chores or while playing games together. Use these relaxed times to get a conversation going with them. Similarly, it's important to make sure that the adults in the family have relaxed times to talk together.

Top tips for communicating with children:

- **Make talking part of your routine.** Make time to chat with your kids every day. If your child wants to share something, give them your full attention and listen without getting distracted.
- **Let your child talk about whatever interests them.** Show respect for their interests, even if listening to a run-down of the world they've built in Mine Craft or their expanding Pokemon collection isn't the most exciting topic for you.
- **Talk about your interests with your kids.** Whether it's sport, music or cooking, sharing the things that make you happy is important too.
- **Show affection.** We communicate through our actions as well as words. Hugging and showing affection makes kids feel loved and content.
- **Reinforce that you're there for them.** Let your kids know that they can talk to you about anything. Setting this up early will help down the line as they get older and become more independent.

When things get tough

Talking about what's bothering us can be hard – for both kids and adults. We need to feel safe and supported, and trust that we'll be listened to and understood.

Asking how your child feels and listening non-defensively allows you to work together to solve problems. Blaming, judging or criticising will quickly shut down real communication and very often leads to arguments.

Listening carefully to the other person's perspective and explaining your own feelings and views ("I'm disappointed that..." or "I'm upset that ...") rather than accusing ("You don't care..." or "You've upset me...") helps to defuse arguments and supports effective communication.

Dealing with difficult emotions

Modelling behaviour when you're feeling stressed or upset helps kids develop their own strategies for coping with their emotions.

You can say:

- "I'm getting too angry. I need some time out to think about this."
- "I'm feeling really tense. I need to take some deep breaths to calm down."

Being ready to apologise, listening to how the other person feels and showing you appreciate their position is a critical skill for building strong and supportive family relationships.

Admitting to having difficult feelings is not a sign of weakness or failure. Instead, it sets a good example by showing that everyone has difficult feelings at times and that they are manageable.

More Reading:

[5 Powerful Tips For Positive Communication With Children \(mylittlescholars.com.au\)](https://mylittlescholars.com.au)

[Young children and communication - Better Health Channel](#)

[Pre-teens communicating & relationships | Raising Children Network](#)

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.



What's Been Happening

This week we have been focusing on Spring Week. We have been making cute little flowers, Ladybugs, Flower Crowns and even going outside to do some bug catching.

The preps have been settling in really well with routine in the service. We have also been enjoying activities out in the sun and we are loving the arts and crafts activities outdoors. Kids have also been inputting their ideas to the program and menu and have been really busy enjoying some more new toys.

We would still love to get feedback from you on the service if you could please spare a couple of minutes before you leave

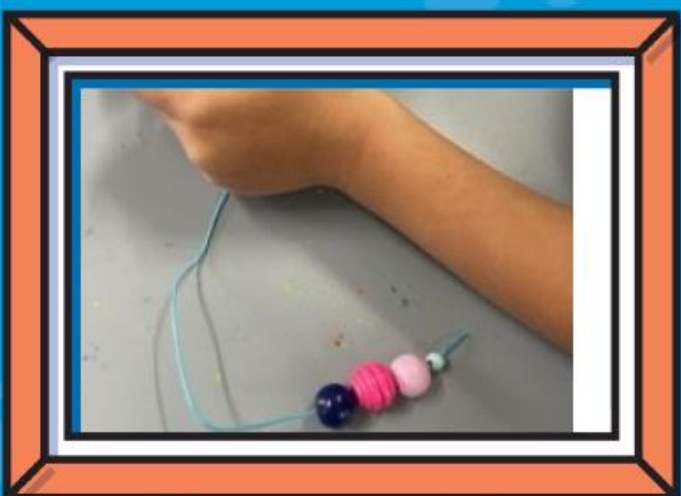
Childrens Quotes for this Week

We love catching bugs - Ted and Nathaniel
I love making necklaces - Arizona
I love loom band making - Harrison M

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



Please ensure children are still bringing in their hats and water bottles to the service



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

COMMUNITY NEWS



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City of
Whittlesea



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now!**

Make a difference in your community.

**School Crossing Supervisor positions now available.
Enjoy the benefits of permanent part-time work!**

There are so many great reasons to join the City of Whittlesea team as a Crossing Supervisor:

- Starting hourly rate of \$31.96 (work 40 weeks but be paid for 52 weeks a year)
- Work 15 hours per fortnight during school terms (Annualised salary paid 12.6hrs per fortnight)
- Paid public holidays that fall during school terms
- 10.5% superannuation (updated from 1/7/2022)
- Pro-rata sick leave
- Receive on-the-job training and uniform is provided
- Reduced price memberships available at Mill Park Leisure and Thomastown Recreation & Aquatic Centre
- Join the City of Whittlesea's active social club and attend organised events
- Health & Wellbeing Programs available



TO APPLY visit the City of Whittlesea website at www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/schoolcrossings

For further information please contact the School Crossing Team on 9217 2508 or email school.crossing@whittlesea.vic.gov.au



- 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.



City of Whittlesea



COME & TRY
First lesson
FREE

*Dance like
nobody is
watching...*



Ballet

Tap

Contemporary

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Jazz

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