



Monthly School Newsletter

April 7, 2022

From the Principal

I would like to express my gratitude and amazement in how every single person in our school community has handled our very first uninterrupted term since Term 1, 2020. This term has been the first in a very long time that we have not had to host remote learning or experience a period of snap lockdowns. This is significant because it means that we can really dig into what we are here for; effective and supportive learning. It is such a wonderful thing to be a part of.

However, it has still been a big term. We are definitely in a time of growth and change. Moving to one class has been new for all of us and we are definitely heading in the right direction. Our individual learning plans are evolving and will continue to be the focus for the year. Each of our students have, within easy reach, their goal sheets that we have developed and use to encourage understanding of personal learning needs and progress. Although still a little clunky at present, we are already starting to hear and see a shift in collective language, thinking and achievement.

It is great to see so many students called up at assembly each fortnight to receive value recognition awards, our trees will be laden with fruit for the C.A.R.E. that we show at our amazing little school.

Term 2 will also be a big one with the main focus being our Music Program which will be boosted by the successful application for a grant to participate in the Duet Music Program. We are lucky to have a music mentor teacher work with our school to put even more allegretto into our learning. Additionally we will hopefully see some changes with our shade sails being installed and basketball court resurfaced, It certainly will be a noticeably different look in the school grounds.

On Tuesday the 5th of April the staff got together to begin the work on developing a vision for our school and one of the big takeaways from the day was that we always want to be known as a school that cares for our students but also challenges all aspects of what makes us who we are. This really fits in with the current view of education within Victoria which is continual improvement. We will be continuing this work throughout the year and will definitely open the process up to the broader community.

Finally we finish the term at 2:30pm Friday the 8th and return on Tuesday the 26th. Have a wonderful and safe Autumn/Easter break .

Jason Horton

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Events

- End of Term 1 - **8 April (2:30pm)**
- Socks, Locks & Chocs Day - **8 April**
- Start of Term 2 - **26 April**
- Smile Squad Visit - **26 - 28 April**
- School Council Meeting **10 April**
- Lowanna Open Day - **4 May**
- Queen's Birthday Holiday - **13 June**
- End of term 2 - **24 June**



School Notices

Socks, Locks & Chocs

On Friday our end of term fun will be a day where we wear crazy socks or style our hair up into a craze of wildness. We are asking everyone to bring in a chocolate or Easter treat to get a raffle ticket and have a chance to win one of the donated items. Everyone will go home with an easter treat for the holidays.

Late Arrivals

Due to some changes in our program next term, it will be more important than ever to ensure you do everything that you can to ensure that your children are at school on time. Although we have had some specialist programs running in the first hour, these sessions are very important as they are designed to promote wellbeing and connection to the school and friends. Being late means disruption for everyone and does impact on student learning. Next term any late arrivals will need to be signed in by an adult and students are not to just be dropped off in the car park.

Compass

Keep an eye out for some information regarding our transition to Compass. We will provide you with instructions on how to use it, your user access information and details on how it will be used at our school. The biggest change for you will be that you will now be required to use Compass to notify us of any absences via the app and also need to sign your children in or out if they arrive late or need to leave early.

Head Lice

Continue to be vigilant in checking for lice or eggs regularly. We will be continuing regular inspections and sending notes home.

Covid-19

The department of education has advised that for at least the first 4 weeks of term 2 we will need to continue to wear masks and continue with the biweekly RAT testing. We have been provided enough RATs for this time so please make sure that you have some for use at home and test prior to returning on the first day of Term 2. For further information please read the attached letter.

School Ground Access

Parents are now welcome into our school grounds after some lifting of covid restrictions. Masks do not need to be worn outside unless you are unable to socially distance. So why not come in and wait for your kids and sit on our seats outside the classroom. Car parks are busy places so if you want to catch up with other parents come in and relax in the school grounds. Let's return our school grounds to a place of friendly community connection.

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School Value Awards

Our school values show we CARE.

They are:

C for Cooperation

A for Achievement

R for Respect

E for Empathy

Student Awards for March →



In the Classroom

We have had fun in **reading** using crystal balls to make **predictions** and we used the visual idea of Matryoshka Dolls to show how we **synthesise** while learning new information.

It is always my concern that when we roll out our **persuasive writing** units that the students become so proficient in the **art of persuasion** that they can convince us adults into anything. Hopefully you haven't had to field a bombardment of too many **persuasive arguments**. We looked at how arguments are formed to convince others.

Our focus for **Maths** has been wrapped up this term with looking at the properties of **irregular and regular 2D shapes** and the names and their meanings of **3D shapes**. We had a **language focus in the area of chance** and then examined some practical examples of problems that require an element of chance..

We also continue to offer **Music, Art, Health & PE, Science, and Humanities**. We are currently applying for a blended Japanese language program for this year which will be exciting.

Our **Wellbeing** focus is on a school value each week and combined with the **Rights, Resilience, and Respectful Relationships program** within our school.



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07/04/2022

Dear parents and carers

Thank you for your work in ensuring schools remained safe during Term 1.

The Victorian Government has announced it is extending the RAT screening program for the first 4 weeks of Term 2. Thank you to all students and families who have played their role in regularly testing – we know that hasn't been easy.

Your work has seen COVID-19 cases being picked up at the earliest opportunity, meaning less cases in our school and more time in the classroom for our students.

The testing recommendations will remain the same next Term for students and staff with:

- * Mainstream schools – recommended to test at home twice a week
- * Specialist schools – recommended to test 5 days a week at home due to the higher risk of severe illness for medically vulnerable children

RAT boxes are available on request. If you require more please contact the school.

As we approach winter and flu season, the vaccination of children aged 5 to 11 and booster shots for students 16+ remains the best way to ensure protection for students and staff. The Easter break is a good opportunity to get your child vaccinated ahead of this, with many options across GPs, pharmacies and the state run vaccination clinics.

If you have any concerns or worries about getting your child vaccinated, please get in contact with your GP or another health professional who can answer your concerns.

Thank you again for all your support over Term 1, we couldn't have done it without you.

Jason Horton

Tanjil South PS