

Friday 3rd February 2023

Issue 1

LINK LETTER



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Michael Kent - PRINCIPAL



Hello and a very warm welcome back to everyone to the 2023 school year. I hope you all enjoyed a fantastic holiday break as I have. A warm welcome to our new Prep families and those families that are new to WHPS. The Prep students have started school in brilliant style! Our Prep parents are to be congratulated on the way they have prepared their children for school, your efforts have helped to make this transition to school as smooth as possible.

Our Preps have enjoyed their first two half days at school this week. We look forward to welcoming them full time (with the exception of Wednesdays for February) from Monday.

We look ahead to an exciting year as the staff have been working hard to prepare a dynamic and engaging curriculum. All staff were involved in meetings and planning sessions prior to the students commencing school. We are excited to have all students back to school and eager to learn. The students have settled back into school amazingly well and it has been wonderful to see them all, chat with them and to hear of the fun times had over the holidays but also to hear the children talking so positively about what's in store this year. Even in the first few days the grades have settled back into school life extremely well and students have been actively re-establishing friendships and of course, are making lots of new ones! I look forward to the wonderful opportunities that lay ahead for our school this year.

Thank-you to all of you for your patience and understanding with our continued building works. Unfortunately, with many unforeseen circumstances the project has been delayed somewhat. Therefore, the progress has been stalled over the school holiday period. We expect that in coming weeks we will have the underground works completed and the concrete slab poured for the next stage of construction. During this time our access and playground spaces are considerably compromised but unfortunately this is out of our control.

As always, we are focussed on teaching and learning in the spaces that we have and in ensuring the health and safety of our community is maintained as a priority.

2023 Term 1

WELCOME BACK TO ALL WHPS FAMILIES & GUARDIANS

- **Tuesday 7th February**
Grades 3-6 Swimming Trials
- **Friday 10th February**
Round 1
Inter School Sport
@ WHPS
- **Thursday 16th February**
WHPS Parent Information
Evening

2023 Term Dates

Term 1: January 31 - April 6

Term 2: April 24 - June 23

Term 3: July 10 - September 15

Term 4: October 2 - December 20

As you know, we work extremely hard to provide the highest quality learning for all students at our school. In order for us to maximise on student capabilities we require your help. As parents and guardians, you have a crucial role to play within the learning framework. Your assistance at home in discussing school is an invaluable aspect of student learning. This provides opportunities for students to reflect and consolidate their understandings. As a minimum it would be fantastic to set aside some time each night to share a love of literacy. Reading to your child, reading with them, listening to them read to you and discussing the book (pictures, themes, characters, plot, setting, what might happen next etc..) are all helpful ways of engaging with your child around literacy.

Information/Open Evening

Please note the upcoming open evening on Thursday February 16th. The school will be open from 5.30-6.30pm followed by some social time from 6.30-8pm.

The Prep-2 team will present to parents from 5.30-6pm. The year 3-6 staff will present to parents from 6-6.30pm.

From 6.30-8pm the school buildings will close and the grounds available for families to enjoy some social time to meet some new friends and re-connect with existing families. We will have a BBQ on offer, some jumping castles and music on the night. We look forward to welcoming you all !

Compass

Please make sure that you have access to Compass as this is the main tool for school communications. This includes student permissions and general information. If you or anyone you know needs support in accessing Compass, please contact the school office.

Updating contact details/Medical

I ask all families to please ensure that you have up to date contact details at the office. This includes current address, phone numbers, emergency contact details etc...

Also, any students who have a medical condition must have up to date medical records at the office. Of most importance is to ensure Asthma, Diabetes, and Anaphylaxis management plans are up to date. These need to be signed off by your local doctor and a required to be updated annually. Please ensure ALL medication/Asthma Puffers/Epipens etc are delivered to the office, as records are managed regarding expiry etc. and then relevant medication is delivered to their classroom. Keeping track of plans/medication is so important to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students at WHPS.

WHPS School Council

Watsonia Heights Primary School is governed by our School Council. The Council is made of volunteers from our parent community and also from our teaching staff, including myself. Leigh Greenhalgh is the current President of our council. Below is some further general information as we will be running nominations and elections for the 2023 School Council over the next few weeks. You may be interested in joining our Council and inputting into our school's development over the next 2 years.

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

For Watsonia Heights there are two possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected Parent category and a mandated elected DET (Department of Education and Training employee category (teachers)).

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Further information about the nomination and election process are available at any time. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact me. Elections for the 2023/2024 School Council will take place during term 1. Further details about nomination forms will be availed with the next newsletter.

Swimming Trials

Please see the recent Compass post regarding the Year 3-6 swimming trials to be held on Tuesday 7th February at Yarra Swim school.

Volunteers

The school will soon be welcoming back visitors and volunteer's for the new school year. Please note that all volunteers must complete our volunteer documentation before attending the school events/activities. We ask volunteers to provide a copy of their valid working with children card and to complete the WHPS volunteers code of conduct each year. If you would like to volunteer this year (and we would love to have you here!) please come as see us in the office.

Please also note that on all occasions all volunteers must sign in and out of the office via Compass.

Canteen

A reminder that lunch orders commence next week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Cara would love to have your assistance if you can help out on any of these 3 days. Please contact her directly on: 0402451211

School Fees

Thank you to all our WHPS families who have returned their 2023 parent payment arrangements forms and/or paid already. Reminder that payments can be made via COMPASS, Direct Deposit or Eftpos at the office. Just a reminder for families who are eligible for CSEF, please attend the office to fill in a form for 2023. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the office on 9435 4617.

Assemblies

A reminder that our school assemblies occur every Friday at 3pm out the front of the school office. Please note that our Prep students won't attend the assemblies for the first few weeks of the term. The Prep team will notify parents prior to the Prep students attending.

Sunsmart

Please note the school's sunsmart policy that requires all students to wear their school approved, sunsmart hats until April 30th. Additionally, I remind all families that all uniform can be purchased through PSW (Primary School Wear) from the online or attended shop front in South Morang.

Year 1-6 Student Information

This week students in years 1-6 received a 'Getting to know your child' notice that allows parents to share some important information about your child. Please complete this and return to your child's teacher by Friday 10th February. This form helps staff to build a picture of your child.

Prep parents will have this opportunity during the assessment days that are held on Wednesdays during February.

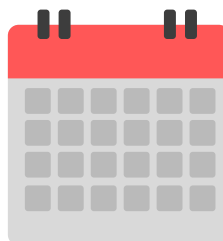
Term Dates 2023

Term 1: January 31 – April 6

Term 2: April 24 – June 23

Term 3: July 10 – September 15

Term 4: October 2 – December 20



A reminder that the school office hours are from 8.30-4.30pm. Outside of these times please leave a phone message or email the school.

Communication

As part of our communications this year we will be providing many opportunities to keep you all well informed.

Newsletter – will be published through Compass each fortnight commencing today.

Facebook – this will continue to provide you with up to date and pertinent information regarding school events and happenings. Simply search for Watsonia Heights PS and be sure to follow and like our page and turn your notifications on.

COMPASS – this will continue to be our main form of communication for information, online permissions, live attendance data, school reports etc.. We will also be using Compass as our online booking system for interviews throughout the year. This will include parent teacher interviews, student led conferences, etc...

Website – please access our website for extensive information around all things WHPS! <http://www.watsoniaheightsps.vic.edu.au>

Leaders

Congratulations again to our 2023 Student leaders. At WHPS we promote every student to be a leader and take control of their learning journey and also to lead the way in every opportunity that presents itself.

We do have some more formal roles within the framework of promoting leadership development for everyone.

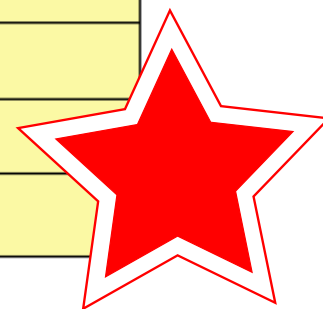
I congratulate the 2023 leaders and look forward to working alongside them to make WHPS the best place to be, grow and learn!



School Captains	Max Morrison	Joanne Denton
School Vice Captains	Will Sharp	Julia Collins

	Banksia Blue	Wattle Yellow	Boronia Green	Waratah Red
House Captains	Campbell Beddome Myles Bishop	Kristian Corea Ari Gray	Satoshi Shoji Eoin Feeney	Freddie Robertson Jasmine Moreland

Library Captains	Aerynn Guerrero Mia Ritchie
Sustainability Captains	Evie Sullivan Dane Hollyoak
ICT Captains	Holly Brown
	Ruby Holliday
Wellbeing Captains	Mataya Howell Evie Bostock
Science Captains	Tuna Demirhan Thomas Campbell-Fraser
Mandarin Captain	Manni Michailidis Mia Coote
Performing Arts Captains	Isabella Li Talia Clough
Visual Arts Captains	Tao Bradley Lily Beadles



JSC

We will soon be establishing our 2023 Junior School Council team as we look to extend the profile of our student leadership and representation across the school.

Instrumental Music Program in 2023

The instrumental music program for students in Year 3-6 will commence next week. Please note for the 2023 school year all IMP questions should be directed to Adam Roach (IMP director) adroach1@hotmail.com or to the school contact Adrian Loricco: Adrian.LoRicc@education.vic.gov.au

Library Fund

Please be aware of the school's library fund. This is a great way to support the school and also provides a tax deductible donation. All raised funds will be directed back to the library for enhancements in this program including purchasing many texts for students to enjoy! Hopefully you can find the way to support this school program that benefits all of our students every week!

2023 Reporting Program

We have planned a comprehensive reporting program that will support you in working alongside your children and the school over the course of the year. This week you will have received a touch base form. This is helpful in gaining invaluable information from you, about your child. This supports us to prepare learning program and an understanding of your child as a person and a learner.

Term 1	Focus	Reporting focus
Week 1		Touch base parent reflection forms sent home
Week 3	Meet the Teacher	Information Booklet Sent home Information Night and Family Fun Night
Week 5	IEP Individual education plans	Shared via Compass for parent review.
Week 10	Student Led conferences (modified hours)	Reflection on goals, setting of Smart goals.
Term 2		
Week 5	Parent teacher Interviews	Progress reports between parents and teachers. Students are not required for these meetings Including IEP conversation/mtg
Week 10	Term 2 Reports	Reflects student performance over the semester
Term 3		
Week 3	Student Led Conferences (modified hours)	Reflect on learning goals showing progress of individual learning goals. Set new goals for semester 2. This Includes IEP conversations with parents & students.
Term 4		
Week 11	Term 4 Reports	Reflects semester 2 performance and an indication of progress made across the academic school year. IEP finalised and made accessible for parents via Compass.

OHSC-Out of Hours School Care- THEIRCARE



Any parents requiring OHSC in 2023 are asked to log on to the Their Care website via: <https://theircare.com.au>, Thanks to the Their Care team for providing a dynamic and engaging holiday program and supporting students in the early stages of the 2023 school year.

Camps Sports & Excursion Fund-CSEF

Eligible families are welcomed to apply for funding support supplied from the government. A payment of \$125 per primary school child is availed to those eligible parents/guardians. Please return your CSEF form to the office and provide relevant documentation/card to support your form, if you require a form please collect one from the office.

Every Day Counts

In the Victorian education system it is compulsory for all students to attend school each day of the school year. At times an absence may be unavoidable, however every effort must be made to ensure students attend school on time each day. Evidence tells us that students who regularly miss days of school are at risk of missing out on learning the basic building block in subjects and may experience long term difficulties with their learning. School attendance helps children develop social skills, such as friendship building, teamwork, communications skills and develops a healthy self-esteem. Please try to ensure that any appointments and holidays are made outside of school hours. To maximize on learning opportunities, we need all students here all day. If this presents a problem for you and your child, please make a time to see me.



All late arrivals and early departures need to be signed in/out via the Compass Kiosk at the school office by a parent/guardian.
It is not acceptable for a student to sign themselves in or out of the school.
Late passes and early leave passes are provided through the office.

Hot Days & Extreme Weather Days

On days when it is extremely hot the children will remain in classrooms and be supervised as they are on wet days.

Personal Property at School

Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff, and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. Please note that the Department of Education and Training does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property. Further details regarding insurance options will be shared in next weeks newsletter.

Please note that Department has a statewide policy on mobile phone use in Victorian schools. Students are required to turn their phones off during school times and hand their phone to class teachers for safe keeping prior to the end of the day, when they will be returned.

Uniform/Belongings

Please be vigilant in clearly naming all uniform items and personal belongings (lunch boxes, sports equipment etc...) This allows us to return any found items to the rightful owner. The lost property cupboard is situated next to the office/GP Room doors, any found items will be placed there for collection.

Headlice

We have had some recent cases of headlice at the school. Please be vigilant in checking your child's hair. Additionally, in line with our uniform policy, hair longer than collar length is required to be tied up/back whilst at school.

Anaphylaxis

As you know this is a life-threatening condition for all whom suffer from it. As a school we have an obligation to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for all students. Therefore, I remind you of our school's Anaphylaxis policy that relates to all students. Watsonia Heights Primary is a NUT FREE school. Nuts are known as a severe allergen. To minimise risks, as far as is practicable Watsonia Heights does not permit nuts to be brought onto school grounds, or on school excursions or camps. This policy extends to all students and adults in the school community.

The following are discouraged: Nuts – including peanuts, almonds, cashews, pine nuts, hazelnuts, walnuts, brazil nuts, pecans, or any other type of nut. Spreads – such as peanut butter, Nutella, other choc/nut spreads, pesto, nut butters and peanut oil. Dried fruit and nut boxes and muesli bars containing nuts. Biscuits or cakes containing nuts, including flourless cakes with almond meal

- There should be no trading and sharing of food, food utensils and food containers.
- Drink bottles and lunch boxes should be clearly named.
- Children with severe food allergies should only eat lunches and snacks provided by the parent/guardian.
- Food products containing nuts as an ingredient will not be available through the school's lunch ordering service or sold at the school as part of special activities.

- Boxes and packages which have contained nuts (including tree nuts) are not to be used in classroom activities.
- The use of food in crafts, cooking and science experiments will be restricted to NUT FREE and NUT TRACE FREE as far as is practicable, depending on the allergies of particular children.

Please also note that in support of this policy parents are discouraged from sending along any food or confectionary for student birthdays. If you require further information, please contact myself or your child's teacher.

Asthma & Anaphylaxis

As part of our commitment to meeting our legislative requirements and the Schools Policy Advisory Guide, we require you to provide us with an updated Anaphylaxis and Asthma Action Plans for your child. These plans should be reviewed annually and approved by your medical practitioner.

Please follow the link below to the new Asthma Action Plan for Victorians Schools, which has been specifically designed for schools to identify asthma signs and symptoms, and respond accordingly using the asthma medication device your child currently has at school.

Once completed please return it to us as soon as possible with the appropriate medication and any other device aid i.e. spacer device. Please make sure the medication is in date and any items are labelled with your child's name.

<https://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/vic/about-asthma/resources/victorian-action-plans>

If your medical practitioner has informed you that your child has grown out of their asthma, they will need to provide a letter, on the practice letterhead to the school stating such.

School Zones

Children are our most vulnerable road users and to address this road safety issue school speed zones with lower speed limits were introduced many years ago.

Motorists should be aware that children in traffic are not like adults. They can be unpredictable and because they are small, they can be hard to see. Please take extra care and slow down when you drive past any school.

Research shows that slowing down helps to both avoid crashes and reduce their severity. According to the Monash University Accident Research Centre, an 11 per cent reduction in speed reduces road deaths by 40 per cent. Even a small reduction in travelling speed dramatically increases the chance of a child surviving a collision.

Read more about safety on our roads via the VicRoads website.

Please observe the parking restrictions and speed limits around the school. Local council and Victoria Police often patrol these areas. We have two pedestrian crossings that are supervised each day before and after school. Please use this service and ensure all children use these crossings.

Also please note that the staff carpark is not for parental use. This presents a danger to students and if parents use this space our staff will have nowhere to park! Parents are asked NOT to use the staff carpark space.

Never leave children unattended in cars

On hot days, it is important to remember that you should never leave your child alone in a car. The temperature inside a car on hot days begins to rise as soon as the door closes and within minutes the temperature inside can be double the temperature outside.

Leaving children in hot cars – even for a moment – can result in injury or death. Young children's smaller body size and underdeveloped nervous system places them at a much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration, and other serious health risks. Victorian legislation makes leaving a child unattended in a car a criminal offence.

Penalties have recently been increased and can include six months in jail. If you are travelling with a child in a car and you need to get out, make sure you take your child with you. No exceptions. No excuses.

Your child's safety is a non-negotiable.

Being aware of Potential Dangers

Schools are regularly informed of potential issues and dangers that surround our students when out of school hours. Whilst we haven't had any reported incidents, I remind everyone to be vigilant in considering your awareness. As a school we are focussed on providing a safe and secure learning environment and our care extends beyond the school grounds. Families are reminded of the regular need to continue educating our students of issues such as being safe around our streets. This includes being aware of traffic dangers (using crossings), stranger danger and being cyber safe.



Below are some helpful hints when considering what to tell your child about a stranger:

- Students need to know not to converse with unknown people.
- Tell your child not to listen to or be near a stranger—rather to move away or back inside.
- Tell your child to never ever go with a stranger—no matter what the stranger says.
- Tell your child that strangers may make up sad stories, like looking for a lost pet, needing help with a sick child, or needing directions.
- Tell your child that a stranger should never be believed, no matter what they say.
- Tell your child that strangers may offer treats, gifts or lollies for 'helping'.
- Tell your child that you will never send a stranger to collect them. Make a list of the only, known people, you would send to pick them up.
- Ensure your child know the routines of arriving and departing school safely and notify them of any changes to the 'normal' arrangements
- Tell your child to go immediately back inside and ask someone they know if unsure.
- Practice makes perfect

Having explained 'stranger danger' or protective behaviour you might breathe a big sigh of relief. However, let's not relax just yet. Research shows that kids often can quote what mum or dad said very well, but when placed in the situation, they more often still give in.

At home, role play certain situations with your child, such as pretending mum is sick and that a new person needs to take them home.

Role play or practice a variety of strategies or other scenarios.

Try a test in a safe environment at home, such as an unfamiliar friend at the front door trying to entice them outside to look at a sick, cute rabbit.

Research shows that kids often 'forget' after a period of time. Thus, a yearly family refresher course is very worthwhile.

Active, protective behaviour

- Teach your child never to wander off or go out of sight.
- Teach your child to always walk with and stay with friends—to never go alone.
- Teach and practice saying NO loudly and repeatedly, if they are unsure.
- Teach your child to yell HELP, as loudly and repeatedly as possible, until they are heard. Predators hate noise and attention.
- Teach your child to find a safe adult (a policeman or a mum with a stroller) or a safe spot (if they are fearful) such as a school, shop or safety sign. However, don't tell your child that all uniforms are safe as some predators may be wearing a uniform.

A healthy balance

- Assure your child that most adults are loving, caring and trustworthy.
- Discuss good, safe and friendly people in the world, to avoid fear of all adults.
- Remind your child of helpful adults, like firemen, teachers, police, doctors, etc.
- Remind your child of 'good' adults in their world, who can be trusted.
- Protect them from over exposure to graphic news stories.

Telling

- Encourage your child to 'tell' if they even think they came across a stranger.
- Encourage your child to 'tell' if they felt scared, unsure or uncomfortable ('yucky' with any adult).
- Affirm that you will be happy and praise them for 'telling'—that they won't be in trouble.
- Affirm that you will listen and believe them.

Basic protective safety for parents

- Always know where your children are.
- Keep your kids within your sight or supervision.
- Be alert to other people around you, but not paranoid.
- Be alert to Internet threats—research shows predators are increasingly luring more mature children through the Internet, such as online, through forums, chat lines, and message systems.
- Always keep young children's computers within your vision (not in their bedrooms), and under your supervision.
- Install a 'Net-Nanny' or Parental Control Software program on your computer.
- Teach your child to never ever give out personal or private information.

Congratulations once again to all of our wonderful students on making such a positive start to the school year.

STRIVE

Once again, I welcome you all back to the 2023 school year and I look forward to seeing you in and around the school.

Warm Regards

Michael

Success Teamwork Respect Individuality Visionary Effort !!

Dear parents,

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Nadia Hoson and I'm excited to be the new school counsellor for Watsonia Heights Primary School. Prior to completing my counselling studies, I worked as a primary school teacher where I gained experience in working with children and their families from diverse cultural backgrounds, with varied needs, ability levels and learning styles. Realising that mental health support and well-being was where my passion lies, I completed my Master of Counselling at Monash University and have been working in a private practice supporting children and families to improve their well-being and overcome social and behavioural issues.

I particularly enjoy working with children who may be experiencing issues with low self-esteem, anxiety, emotional, social, learning, and behavioural difficulties. I also use a friendly, collaborative, and understanding approach and believe strongly in cooperating with children, parents, and teachers to develop effective strategies which empower children's well-being, increase their confidence, create resilience and help them meet their social, learning and well-being goals.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I look forward to working with you all and getting to know your children throughout the year.

Nadia

Respectful Relationships amongst our community

The WHPS school community has demonstrated incredible solidarity and resilience throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Being back in our classrooms with extra health and safety measures is another big transition, but it's the very best one for our children's education. As we navigate these changes to onsite learning, including required mask wearing for some students, it's more important than ever that adults in our school community treat each other with respect and kindness.

The Department of Education and Training has released a new policy that describes the positive behaviour expected from parents, carers, and other adults in Victorian school communities. The policy sets clear standards of behaviour to create a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment for students, staff, and adults.

There are also other resources to support safe and respectful relationships in our school community, including information about getting involved in the school, advice on how to raise a concern or complaint, and parenting support resources. You can find the new policy and these resources [here](#).

You may also see a new poster up around our school, promoting positive behaviour.

For more information on how to engage positively with our school, please contact me.

Privacy Collection Notice
Information for students, parents and carers

The Department of Education and Training (the Department) values your privacy and is committed to protecting the personal and health information that schools collect.

All school staff must comply with Victorian privacy law and the Schools' Privacy Policy. This notice explains how the Department, including Victorian government schools (schools), handles personal and health information. On occasion, specific consent will be sought for the collection and use of information, for example, for a student to receive a health service. Our schools are also required by legislation, such as the Education and Training Reform Act 2006, to collect some of this information.

Throughout this notice, 'staff' includes principals, teachers, student support service officers, youth workers, social workers, nurses and any other allied health practitioners, and all other employees, contractors, volunteers and service providers of the school and the Department.

On enrolment, and during the ordinary course of a student's attendance at a school, schools will collect information about students and their families for the following purposes:

- educating students
- supporting students' social and emotional wellbeing, and health
- fulfilling legal obligations, including duty of care, anti-discrimination law and occupational health and safety law
- communicating and engaging with parents
- student administration
- school management
- supporting policy in relation to student education and wellbeing.

If this information is not collected, schools may be unable to provide optimal education or support to students or fulfil legal obligations.

For example, our schools rely on parents to provide health information about any medical condition or disability that their child has, medication their child may take while at school, any known allergies and contact details of their child's doctor. If parents do not provide all relevant health information, this may put their child's health at risk.

Our schools also require current, relevant information about all parents and carers so that schools can take account of safety concerns that affect their children. Parents should provide schools with copies of all current parenting plans and court orders about or that affect their children and provide updated copies when they change.

When parents enrol their child in primary school, they will be asked to provide personal and health information in several ways, including via the Enrolment Form, the School Entrance Health Questionnaire (SEHQ) and the Early Childhood Intervention Service (ECIS) Transition Form.

The Enrolment Form is used to collect information that is essential for the purposes listed above, and requests information such as:

- Emergency contacts – Individuals parents nominate for a school to contact during an emergency. Parents should ensure that their nominated emergency contact agrees to their contact details being provided to the school and that they understand their details may be disclosed by the Department if lawful, e.g. in the case of emergency communications relating to bush fires or floods.
- Student background information – Information about country of birth, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, language spoken at home and parent occupation. This information enables the Department to allocate appropriate resources to schools. The Department also uses this information to plan for future educational needs in Victoria and shares some information with the Commonwealth government to monitor, plan and allocate resources.
- Immunisation status – This assists schools to manage health risks and legal obligations. The Department may also provide this information to the Department of Health and Department of Families, Fairness and Housing to assess immunisation rates in Victoria, but not in a way which identifies students.
- Visa status – This is required to process a student's enrolment.

All schools may use departmental systems and online tools such as apps and other software to effectively collect and manage information about students and families for the purposes listed above.

When schools use these online tools, they take steps to ensure that student information is secure. If parents or carers have any concerns about the use of these online tools, please contact the school.

School staff will only share student and family information with other school staff who need to know to enable them to educate or support the student as described above. Information will only be shared outside the school (and outside the Department) as required or authorised by law, including where sharing is required to meet duty of care, anti-discrimination, occupational health and safety, and child wellbeing and safety obligations. The information collected will not be disclosed beyond the school and Department without parent consent unless such disclosure is lawful.

When a student transfers to another school (including Catholic, independent and interstate), personal and/or health information about that student may be transferred to the next school. Transferring this information is in the best interests of the student and assists the next school to provide the best possible education and support to the student. For further detail about how and what level of information is provided to the next school, refer to the: [Enrolment: Student transfers between schools](#)

Schools only provide school reports and ordinary school communications to students, parents, carers or others who have a legal right to that information. Requests for access to other student information or by others must be made by lodging a Freedom of Information (FOI) application.

To update student or family information, parents should contact their school.

For more information about how schools and the Department collect and manage personal and health information, or how to access personal and health information held by a school about you or your child, refer to the: [Schools' Privacy Policy](#)

ACROSS THE AP'S DESK.....

Tony Ryan - Assistant Principal



Hello Everyone and welcome back to WHPS for another year! We also extend a warm welcome to any new families joining us for the first time in 2023. I hope that everyone had a great holiday period and that it provided some great family time together. It has been fantastic catching up with our students and hearing about all the fun things they have been up to and highlights from the holiday period.

It has been a very positive and settled first week of the school year. The students, families and staff should be congratulated on how well prepared the students have been for their return. There has been lots of positive vibes around the place, as our students get used to new classrooms, teachers and classmates and this has provided a great opportunity to renew old friendships and establish new ones.

Our Prep students had an exciting morning on Thursday with their first half day of school, after some students had been participating in assessments across Tuesday and Wednesday. This is always an emotional time with the excitement of starting school being mixed with the difficulty of saying goodbye to parents / carers for the first time. The prep students settled beautifully and have made a really positive start to their primary schooling.

Sad News:

The school received some sad news this week upon hearing of the passing of Stella Stringer. Stella worked in our school for a number of years across a couple of different periods in her role as a DET speech pathologist. Stella supported the language development of a great many of our students and was a valued staff member of our school. She will be sadly missed by our community and we extend our condolences to her family and the wider Banyule school network that knew and worked with Stella.

Occasionally I receive information about parenting programs that I believe may be of interest to members of our community. I received the below details about the Tuning In To Kids program. My understanding is that the program runs over six weekly sessions and there is a \$120 cost associated with participating. Please see details below if you are interested.



Tuning in to Kids™, shows you how to help your child develop emotional intelligence. This six session Tuning in to Kids™ program is for parents of children aged up to 9 years.

Sessions: Wednesdays 9.30am to 11.30am - 22 February, 1 March, 8 March, 15 March, 22 March, 29 March (all sessions face to face)

Topics covered

- Improve talking to and understanding your child
- Help your child learn to manage their emotions
- Prevent behaviour problems with your child
- Help your child deal with conflict

Wednesday 22 February 2023 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM (UTC+11)

LOCATION

HealthAbility, 917 Main Rd, Eltham VIC 3095

CONTACT DETAILS

. Further details and booking process can be found at <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=1010880&>

I hope everyone has had a great start to the term and we look forward to a really positive year. Have a great weekend.

Tony.