



TECOMA TIMES



Tecoma Primary School Newsletter

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Principal : **Rohan Thompson**

Assistant Principal: **Di Double**

29th October, 2020

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER

Monday 2nd
Curriculum Day
PUPIL FREE DAY

Tuesday 3rd
MELBOURNE CUP
PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Wednesday 11th
School Photos



PUPIL FREE DAY

A reminder that this MONDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2020 will be the third of our four School Council endorsed pupil free days for the year. No children will be at school here on Monday as staff will be onsite collating data and assessments for the end of year reports to be going home on Monday December 14.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

One of the hits and misses in 2020 has been our school photos. We had to postpone back in March due to date clashes that we had no line of sight on. Of course, then COVID came along and all dates were then cancelled. We did set a long term date of Wednesday, November 11.

We have been informed by the Department of Education that school photos can now occur outdoors. SchoolPix have confirmed they are ready to go on November 11, so you have 2 weeks to get the children in for those much needed haircuts! Please, as always, have your children in full school uniform for their photos.

Ordering for photos is done online on the SchoolPix website. Order forms will be available from the office, hopefully, next week. Families were all sent their unique code back in March. Please contact our school office, or SchoolPix direct (1300 766 055), if you need your code or wish to review what your ordered.

CLASS PLACEMENT 2021

Thank you to the parents who have taken the time to write to me regarding information or concerns they may have over their child's class placement for 2021. A reminder, the final date to send a letter to me on this issue is this Friday, October 30, 2020 at 4pm. Please refer to the guidelines I sent out in the last newsletter regarding what requests will be taken into account. Requests for specific teachers will not be considered.

PLANNING FOR 2021

Our enrolment as of October 26 is 450 students. Our numbers consist of 218 boys and 232 girls.

In this year like no other, it has been difficult to plan for 2021. We are currently sitting on 48 Preps, only 2 above what we had in August when we sent confirmation letters out. Across the state, according to meetings I have been in, Prep enrolments are down.

Either parents are wanting to hold their children back for another year of kindergarten or they are waiting for the Victorian government to allow school tours to occur to get a better feel for the school they will be enrolling in. At this stage, I am not sure whether onsite tours will be permitted this year.

It is making planning for 2021 quite difficult. With 48 Prep children, this would be two classes. Should we get towards 52 to 55, we could then consider putting in an extra class in Prep. This we may not know until December when hopefully all restrictions are lifted. Traditionally, we also get enrolments during the Christmas break.

As of Friday, we have been advised that transition programs can occur with no more than 10 on site, however the details are still to be sent to schools. We understand that this may include adults, although our transition sessions have not involved parents staying with their children. We would be hoping that we could get 10 children on site, but we also know that some children can be nervous and cling to their parent. This would mean we would have over the 10 allowed on site so there is still a little devil in the detail that needs to be sorted through.

We will contact all Prep 2021 families as soon as we have finalised details on how we will run the groups of 10.

At the moment, we are looking at:

2 Prep classes, (48 children)

3 grade one classes, (67 children)

3 grade two classes, (68 children)

5 grade 3/4 classes, (131 children)

3 grade five classes (69 children)

3 grade six classes (63 children).

This would also be supported by a post COVID support teacher. This would be both to cater for those children who need support post COVID but also provide extension as well. We hope to be able to run the Reading Room as we have in the past, but that will depend on whether we can have visitors on site.

As you can see, we are finalising what we can set up and afford for 2021 so if you are doing a sea change, chasing warmer weather, getting away from Melbourne's traffic or lockdown or moving to more traffic and an inner city life, can you let us know in writing as soon as possible.

2021 SCHOOL FEES

At School Council on Tuesday night, we passed the school fees for 2021. These will be sent out to you within the next fortnight.

We are pleased to say that our essential fees are all less than \$200 per student for the year. If you are a reader of the newspapers, you will have seen recent reports of prices parents are being charged in government schools, even after new rules were brought in 4 years ago about what can and can't be charged by schools. We can confidently say we abide by Department rules to the letter, hence our extremely low fees.

For students in Prep and grade 2 you will have optional items that is parent choice if their children participate. This includes swimming for Prep and camp for the grade 3 children.

Some parents have credit from this year as some optional items did not run due to COVID. The office will contact parents via School Stream if you have credits from 2020.

There is also a Voluntary Contributions component. This year, as a community of 450 children we reached \$22,000, which was an amazing effort that we greatly appreciate. The chrome books and iPads that we bought this year have had a big impact on student learning throughout Remote Learning, much more than we could ever have imagined at the start of the year.

With the same number of children at the school next year, we have targeted \$20,000 to go towards the Prep-2 playground and outdoor seating. If we could manage to get there, that would be an amazing effort.

As we head towards 2021, we are continuing to move towards becoming cashless in that all payments be done via the Qkr! app. Parents have been taking advantage of this app more and more and it makes receipting and the tracking of cash far more streamlined. If you haven't got the Qkr! app or are not sure how to use it, please contact the office for details.

We thank you for your support of the school, not just physically with your attendance and support of your children but also financially. We can only run the programs and structures we run through having a supportive community.

CAMPS

At School Council on Tuesday night, we sought approval to begin planning for School Camps in 2021. In setting the dates for camps, due to the large numbers in those year levels, we have decided to not send our grade 5/6 all together to Coonawarra like we have in the past. It worked really well this year with the reduced numbers and was far more manageable.

In discussing our needs with our camp providers themselves, we will continue to run our camps in year levels where possible.

As mentioned earlier, if you are a parent of a child in grades 3-6 next year, you will see a \$50 deposit on your 2021 school fees in the optional category of the fees. This is confirming that you wish for your child to attend camp. If you put a deposit down for this years camp and it did not run due to COVID, you can carry forward that deposit to next years camp if you wish. The balance of the payment for camp will be sent to you in the lead up to your child's camp in 2021.

Year	Grade	Venue	Dates	No. of children
2021	3/4	Philip Island CYC	Aug 30 - Sept 3	131 ½ Mon- Wed ½ Wed-Fri
	5	Derby Hill, Maldon	May 25-28	69
	6	Coonawarra	May 31 - June 4	63
2022	3/4	TBC but most likely Fern Gully lodge	Sept	134
	5	Derby Hill, Maldon	May	65
	6	Coonawarra	March	69

UPDATE CONTACT DETAILS

With fire season fast approaching it is a good time to remind our families to ensure that all your details are up to date at the school. If you have changed address, got a new phone number or have a new alternative contact please contact the office to give us the details so that we are able to contact you if required.

IS YOUR CHILD STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL NEXT YEAR?

Parents of our grade 6 students will tell you that it doesn't seem that long ago that their child was starting school. The primary years seem to fly by and our grade sixes are already four weeks into their final term of primary school.

Secondary school can be a daunting thought for not only our students but parents as well. There are many questions, which I'm sure you have, which are not fully answered at information nights and orientation days.

The Department of Education and Training have developed an informative site, which provides hints and tips on how to support your child through the transition to secondary school. The site is <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/going-to-school/Pages/tips-starting-school.aspx>

See you around the school.

Rohan Thompson
Principal

1
STAY HOME WHEN UNWELL
The most important action to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, is to stay at home when unwell, even with the mildest of symptoms.

2
HAND HYGIENE & ADDITIONAL CLEANING
All staff and students will undertake regular hand hygiene and increased cleaning will occur throughout the school day.

3
DRINK BOTTLES
All students must bring their own drink bottle. Students cannot drink from drinking fountains at this time.

4
PLAYGROUNDS
Students can use playground equipment.
These will be wiped down as part of the enhanced cleaning program.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK



GRADE	NAME	REASON
Prep K	Kaspar N	Kaspar, your participation in class this week has been fantastic! You have taken an active role in Reading Group discussions and activities, and we enjoyed hearing you speak about your favourite book, "The Wonderful Wisdom of Ants". Thank you for giving us a funny insight into these powerful and helpful critters!
Prep P	Madeleine W	Awesome work Madeleine in completing your Recount about Mr Thompson and his pretend room in the loft. You started with a tremendous sentence to capture your audience's attention and then continued in an engaging manner to continue your story.
Prep W	Karah D	Karah always tries to be a helpful member of the Prep W community. Thank you Karah, for always volunteering to help with things in our classroom and looking out for others.
Prep Y	Evie M	Evie I couldn't be prouder of your effort in your recent recount writing piece, where you wrote about Mr Thompson and the secret door. You put so much effort into sounding out each word, using amazing finger spaces and some very interesting language! Your letter formation is getting so much clearer because of all of your practice. Keep it up Evie!
1D	Grace C	For working cooperatively with her team mates to successfully construct the biggest spaghetti tower in our class. Well done Grace.
1D	Neave H	For working cooperatively with her team mates to successfully construct the biggest spaghetti tower in our class. Well done Neave.
1D	Amber L	For working cooperatively with her team mates to successfully construct the biggest spaghetti tower in our class. Well done Amber.
1V	Hailey E	For putting creative ideas into your persuasive writing by including your point of view and using strong and emotive words. Fantastic work Hailey!
2W	Ollie S	Ollie showed persistence and team work in Science. His team created a very tall and strong tower of spaghetti and marshmallows, as we compared the properties of cooked vs uncooked pasta. Great work Ollie.
3/4G	Petra J	It is so lovely to have you back in our face-to-face classroom. Your participation in our discussions is just wonderful; our whole class enjoys listening to your entertaining stories. You are a confident speaker who can engage the audience. Well done!
3/4K	Leo G	For settling back into school with such positivity and giving everything your best shot! Thank you for always coming into the classroom with a smile on your face, and for always looking out for your friends too. Well done Leo! :-)
3/4M	Judd C	Judd has made a huge effort in all areas of his learning this week. He has been working hard on tasks, pushing himself out of his comfort zone and working through assessments and testing like a champ! So proud of you Judd, keep it up!



STUDENT OF THE WEEK



GRADE	NAME	REASON
3/4W	Akira G	Akira has been concentrating really hard on his handwriting so far this term. He is starting to develop well-formed cursive writing which he more consistently places correctly on the lines. Your pen licence is not far away Akira, keep it up!
5G	Jack D	For being a wonderful, kind and caring buddy to Rory. When constructing waterproof rafts with Rory, Jack demonstrated enthusiasm, creativity and a sense of community. Jack and his buddy worked collaboratively to create a well-structured raft while enjoying each other's company and reconnecting after having remote learning apart.
5M	Jasmine D	Congratulations on the way you have settled into life at Tecoma Jasmine. It's been wonderful getting to know you and your friendly, easy going nature, which has drawn others to you, with some good friendships already borne.
6F	Jasmine T	Jasmine has impressed me so much with her desire to read and complete Hollowpox by Jessica Townsend. She has read 3 other books to ensure she was ready and has smashed through it! What an amazing bookworm - well done Jas, I am glad you loved it!
6F	Emily D	Emily has impressed me so much with her desire to read and complete Hollowpox by Jessica Townsend. She has reread the two previous books to ensure she was ready and has smashed through it! What an amazing bookworm - well done Emily, I am glad you loved it!
6R	Jed F	Jed, you did a fantastic job writing and presenting your speech about a learning experience. It was well organised and connected with your audience. Great Effort!
Art	All of 1D!	1D were a delight to teach. They were courteous, respectful and kind to their classmates. All students carefully painted their clay works and packed up calmly and quickly.
Music	Holly P	For her ongoing enthusiasm with all things Music. Your smile is infectious.
Japanese	All of 2R!	For participating in every activity in an orderly manner as a class during Japanese lesson. Excellent effort!



Don't forget to look your best!

Wednesday November 11

Full School Uniform Required.



schoolstream

Please make sure you have “Push Notifications” on in your School Stream app to receive newsletters, newsfeeds and messages from our school. We often use this to send parents individual messages but often don't get a response as they didn't know there was a message for them. Please click on [this link](#) or go to this link for info on downloading the app:

<https://www.schoolstream.com.au/download/>

Thank you!! 😊



Saints Junior Cricket Season 2020/21

Get ready for a Summer packed with action and plenty of fun

Playing opportunities for ages 5-16, with players of all abilities and experience welcome.

Join us at St Johns Tecoma Cricket Club, a fun and inclusive family club that plays their home games at Talaskia Reserve in Upper Ferntree Gully.

Registrations are now open, only \$5 required to sign up with our standard fee of \$100 once the season is confirmed, this may be reduced if the season is reduced.

Discount on playing shirts for new players!

Register at: playcricket.com.au under St Johns Tecoma Cricket Club

Any enquiries please contact our Junior Co-Ordinator Gerald Tingay on 0421 899 017 or geraldtingay@hotmail.com

Girls Cricket

St Johns Tecoma CC is the only team within the FTGDCA that offers an all-girls team experience. Playing on Sunday mornings this provides our young female players an opportunity to develop their skills. There are also opportunities for these players to play additional games within mixed male/female teams on Friday Nights/ Saturday mornings.

For enquiries on our girls cricket please contact Kristen Elder on 0404 029 381 or kee@hotmail.com

Woolworths Cricket Blast

Uniting kids through fun and exciting game-based activities, Junior Blasters is all about fast-paced fun, friends and being part of a squad. Perfect for the real young boys and girls (Age 5+) wanting to start playing with their mates. The Blasters program is \$75 payable direct to Cricket Victoria upon registration, using the above link..

All kids get their own Blasters Pack and wear the colours of their favorite Big Bash heroes.

Parents join in the fun!

All equipment supplied

Form & Practice

Olinda & Mt Evelyn

Physio & Reformer Pilates

- Sports Physio
- Reformer Pilates
- Clinical Exercise & Strength Classes
- Back / Neck Pain
- Headaches & TMD
- Post Operative Rehab
- Knee and Hip OA + GLA:D
- Women's & Men's Health Physio
- Orthotics
- Massage & Myotherapy

9751 0400

for timetable and pricing
formandpractice.com.au

We've rebranded
Physio