



# TECOMA TIMES

Tecoma Primary School Newsletter



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Principal : **Rohan Thompson**

Assistant Principal: **Di Double**

17th March, 2022

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### **DATES TO REMEMBER: MARCH**

**Friday 18th**  
*Wellbeing Warriors  
Incursion Grade 3/4's*

**Tuesday 22nd**  
*School Council  
5:00pm*

**Thursday 24th**  
*Book Fair  
Welcome Picnic  
Preps, Buddies and  
New Families only  
5.30pm on the oval*

**Friday 25th**  
*Book Fair  
Regional Swimming  
Select Students*

**Monday 28th**  
*District Tennis  
Select Students*

### **APRIL**

**MONDAY 4th**  
*Divisional Tennis  
Select Students*

**Wednesday 6th**  
*1000 Steps/RSL  
Excursion Grade 6*

**Thursday 7th**  
*End of Term 1  
3.30pm finish  
NO ASSEMBLY*

### SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER....

I hope this fortnight's newsletter finds you and your family well. We thank you for the care you are showing each other by keeping your children home when they are unwell and by undertaking the rapid antigen tests twice a week. It is greatly appreciated.

We would also like to extend our thoughts to any of our families that have connections with people who experienced the recent floods in QLD and NSW or part of the conflict happening in Ukraine. Please reach out if you or your child needs support. At times it is very difficult to understand what is happening in our world as an adult, much less as a young child. Please take care.

### GRADE 6 CAMP

Our grade 6 campers have returned safe and sound from the Coonawarra camp last week. There is no doubt they had a wonderful time away and will have spent the weekend catching up on much needed rest ... and telling stories! The staff at Coonawarra were most impressed, as were we, with our students and their willingness to take on the challenges, even in the rain, such as the giant swing, horse riding, ropes course, archery, the labyrinth, flying fox, canoeing and rafting.

We can only send children to camp with the support of staff and parents. A huge thank you to our teachers Monica Griffiths, Lisa Hoskins-Faul, Polly Swan and Megan Wilson for their planning and organisation to ensure that every child had a wonderful time and for spending a week away from your loved ones. It certainly is a huge commitment to take a group of children away for 4 nights and 5 days.

Thank you also to parent helpers Leigh Moxham, Luke Stephens and Bill Neasey who spent time away from their families and their other lives to contribute to the enjoyment and experiences of the students.

### 2023 PREP ENROLMENTS

We are currently experiencing strong interest in our school with parents booking tours, even at this early stage of the year. We have already accepted enrolments for 2023 and remind parents of students with siblings who will commence Prep next year to enrol as soon as possible.

If you know of any family or friends who may be interested in joining me for a tour, please encourage them to contact our School Office as soon as possible to book an appointment. Thank you.

### PLANNING DAYS

Whilst this year the numbers have enabled us to have straight classes, the strength of our school is our whole school practices in teaching and learning. This approach is based on collegiality and collaboration of the school's staff who share a responsibility for the students of the school.

During this week teams of teachers will be released to plan together next term's lessons, aiming to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes, as well as Integrated Studies (inquiry) units of work in line with our school's two-year scope and sequence planner.

Please be aware that in releasing class teachers to plan a rigorous curriculum together, the children will have other teachers (casual relief teachers or specialist teachers); Specialists - Monday 28 March, Year 1&2 - Thursday 29 March, Year 5&6 - Wednesday 30 March, Year 3&4 - Thursday 31 March and Preps - Friday 01 April.

### **EVERY DAY COUNTS!**

For the last 2 years for obvious reasons, the onsite attendance has been inconsistent to say the least. Snap lockdowns, circuit breakers and then extended lockdowns have made attending school on site on a consistent basis extremely difficult over the past two years. It's why now as we emerge out of COVID to a certain extent, it is crucial we get the children back to school at every opportunity, building their stamina to work through the day, giving them consistency with their learning and also their relationships with their peers.

Given that we have only been at school for a few weeks, further patterns of absence can become a real concern. We're obviously not talking here about a student who has had to isolate because they are a close contact or who has had COVID or is unwell. Regular school attendance is vital and missing school days can have a big impact on your child's future – missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. From Prep to Year 12 that adds up to 1.5 years of school! The table below covers how much might be missed over 13 years.

Going to school every day is the one of the most important parts of your child's education. Students learn new things every day and missing school puts them behind.

### ***Why regular attendance is so important***

- Teachers often present new concepts in a sequential way, so missing a day of school can mean missing out on the fundamentals. It's hard to make up this learning so keeping student absences to a minimum is essential.
- Friendships and socialising can also be interrupted when children are frequently absent, which can be distressing for children.
- Every day that a student misses is associated with lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

What we do know is that attendance patterns are established early in life and will often continue unless non-attendance is addressed.

### ***What you can do to support regular attendance.***

- First, there are always times when a student becomes ill, and in this instance they should stay home to recover. It's vital however that they are only away when genuinely sick.
- To assist with good health and minimise illness children need to have a good sleeping pattern, eat well and exercise regularly.
- Families are encouraged to think twice before giving children a 'day off' unless they are genuinely sick.
- If your child is experiencing any issues such as not wanting to come to school then please alert your classroom teacher. Working together on such matters is most helpful.

### ***What to do if your child has been absent***

Talk to your child's teacher and find out what work needs to be done to keep up with learning.

Remember, that every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher especially if the absence is longer than a couple of days.

5 days off per year is approximately a day off every 8 weeks.  
Just 5 days off per year adds up to 7 weeks of missed every 8 weeks schooling throughout your child's time at Primary School.

10 days off per year is approximately a day off every 4 weeks.  
10 days off per year adds up to 14 weeks of missed schooling throughout your child's time at Primary School which is about a term and a half of school.

15 days off per year is approximately a day off every 2 1/2 weeks.  
15 days off per year adds up to 21 weeks of missed schooling throughout your child's time at Primary School which is about two terms of school.

20 days off per year is approximately a day off every 2 weeks.  
20 days off per year adds up to 28 weeks of missed schooling throughout your child's time at Primary School which is nearly ¾ of a year missed of school over the 7 Primary School years.

Similarly being late to school can have a considerable impact over the whole school year. The table shows you just how much time can be missed through a year by being just a little bit late every day. Just as important as regular attendance is punctuality. Our music plays at 8:57am with the aim that students will be in class, organised and ready for their school day to start at 9:00am. If you are finding that you are regularly late, please take the time to look at the morning routines and see if there is something which can be changed to help you get your child to school on time each day. As well as the missed learning time, your child being late also impacts the other students in the class as teachers time is taken up re-introducing the learning tasks and means that your child is playing catch up from the time they enter the room. If the school can be of any assistance please feel free to make a time to see me to discuss the issue.

**5 minutes late every day = 3 days of school lost a year**

**10 minutes late every day = 6.5 days of school lost a year**

**15 minutes late every day = 10 days of school lost a year**

**20 minutes late every day = 13 days of school lost a year**

**30 minutes late every day = 19 days of school lost a year**

### **RIDING TO SCHOOL SAFETY**

Riding to school is a transport measure that works best for some families and is an enjoyable way for some students to travel to and from school. However, this has been overshadowed by reports of some students riding quite dangerously to and from school. If your child rides to school, we ask that you have a conversation about road safety and remind them that they need to be mindful of the general public when riding through dense pedestrian areas.

### **ROAD SAFETY**

Please remember to use our crossings, even if you have to walk a little out of your way. It sets a great example to our students and helps to keep everyone safe. Please don't run across Burwood Hwy. It isn't safe to do!

### **PREP STUDENTS TO FULLTIME**

Our Prep students will be attending school fulltime as of this week.

Thank you to all of our Prep parents for your support throughout the first six 'Prep-free Wednesday' weeks. This has enabled the teachers to perform some valuable testing and assess each child's entry level.

### **DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

#### **PUPIL FREE DAY**

School Council late last year approved **Friday April 8** as a pupil free day. This is the last day of term 1. No children are to attend school on that day and Out of School Hours Care will not be running on that day.

#### **SCHOOL PHOTOS**

School photos are scheduled for Tuesday May 17th. To look our best and show pride in our school, as in all other days, students must wear their full school uniform for school photos.

#### **THIS WEEK AT ASSEMBLY:**

There was no assembly this week due to the Labour Day Public Holiday.

See you around the school.

Rohan Thompson

**Principal**



# NEW PLATFORM COMING!!!!

**We are very excited to announce that  
we will be using Compass  
TOMORROW!!!!**



The Compass Parent Portal allows you to access up-to-date information about our school and your child. The Portal is accessible via the web and also via the Compass School Manager App (available via the App store on your device).

Within the Parent Portal are many different features including the ability to:

- \* Add Attendance Notes
- \* Communicate with your child's teacher
- \* View Semester Reports
- \* Book Parent Teacher Conferences/Interviews
- \* Consent for school camps and excursions
- \* Make school fee payments (this will be a feature to come)
- \* View School News Items

Information booklets will be coming home with your child today.



# Tecoma P.S. Grade 3 to 6 Inter-house Athletics Carnival

Our Tecoma athletics day was held at Sherbrooke Athletics Track on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March. Not only did Melbourne put on some great weather for us, but all Tecoma Primary School students achieved some great results.

Students participated in long jump, triple jump, shot put, discus, 100m, high jump and hurdles, with an option to also participate in the 1500m and 800m.

The team spirit was high throughout the day and it was great to see students proudly wearing their house colours.

Thanks to all the parents and Upwey High School students who assisted on the day and to all the parents, grandparents and family members who came along to support our school.

A very special thank-you to Sherbrooke Little Athletics Club, who were very generous, allowing us to use their equipment for the day. If your child or children are interested in participating in Little Athletics the Sherbrooke Little Athletics Club always welcomes any new athletes to their club.

To find out more information about Little Aths and how to join, go to their website

<http://www.sherbrookelac.org.au/jointheclub.html>

Congratulations on a fantastic day!





# STUDENT OF THE WEEK

GRADE	NAME	REASON
Prep K	Ocean L	Ocean, I am so impressed by the amount of detail you are always putting into your drawings. You take your time and use a variety of colours, which makes your work look spectacular! Well done!
Prep P	Lorna H	For excellent cooperation in trying hard at all times. Congratulations Lorna!
Prep Y	Hudson F	Hudson, you showed creativity in your thinking when coming up with a problem and suggesting ways that it could be solved. You developed your own unique idea and thought carefully to find a range of possible solutions. Fantastic work!
1W	April M	For being such an IT whiz. You quickly problem solved your way through logging onto Essential Assessment and then finding the correct page for Sunset Maths. April, you quickly assisted your peers and showed them how to log on! Amazing work!
2L	Pepper H	Pepper has been engaged during our Social and Emotional Learning sessions where we have unpacked our new school value of RESPECT. She has worked hard to be respectful to everyone. Well done Pepper!
2R	Charlie T	For your 'When I Grow Up' page, where you detailed what you want to be when you grow up (a vet), and what you will need to learn to achieve this goal. You also thought about how you respect your education by listening to and paying respect to others. Well done Charlie, you always show great respect!
2W	Sophie T	Sophie is always a very kind and respectful girl. This week, when Chloe felt sad because she lost a ring at school, Sophie gave her one of her own rings to make her feel better. It was such a thoughtful thing to do Sophie.
3H	Eddie H	Eddie put a great deal of effort into the plan for his persuasive writing piece about why people shouldn't litter. He used the 'Tricks of the Trade' to engage his readers and used emotive language to persuade them of his opinion. Well done Eddie!
3W	Harry P	Harry has really impressed me with his positive mindset during group work over the last couple of weeks. He is an excellent team member, is always inclusive, and encourages others to try their best! Your classmates are lucky to have you Harry! Well done!!!
4B	Isla F	Isla is an incredibly respectful and helpful member of our class. She is always willing to help others and does this without being asked. On multiple occasions, she has helped her classmates clean up and put their chairs up at the end of the day. We are lucky to have you in 4B Isla!
4D	James L	James has an amazing knack to be able to make connections with many different texts. His ability to explain and share with the class his Text-To-Self and Text-To-Text is incredible. Congratulations James. Keep up the great work.



# STUDENT OF THE WEEK

GRADE	NAME	REASON
5G	Josie W	Josie has been pushing herself in all maths lessons and refuses to give up when something is hard. I have randomly called on her when asking the class questions and even when she is unsure, she will attempt to answer the question or work through it with the class. When exploring multiples, Josie was at first unsure of this concept but persevered and was able to try and succeed in an even higher level task. Well done Josie! Keep it up!
5G	Zoë G	Zoë always shows the utmost respect to everyone around her. She is kind and thoughtful in her interactions with others and can have constructive conversations with all of her peers, even if her opinions differ to theirs. During a discussion on the rules of ping pong in our class meeting, she suggested ideas on how to give everyone a go, even if they are not the most skilled in the sport. Despite others arguing her ideas, she continued to interact respectfully and constructively. Keep being an awesome role model Zoë.
5M	Sam I	Sam, you have settled so well into life at Tecoma. On our Belgrave Bike Ride, it was great to see you stop and help another person get their chain back on their bike. Your respect for other people, your level of attention and persistence to help someone out is such a wonderful attribute to have.
5M	Aiden W	Aiden, I loved the drawing and detail you included in the response to our class novel, "Dear Jo". You included lots of minor details, used colour effectively to create the final scene, making it easy to understand what was about to happen.
6G	Nathan W	It was so wonderful to see Nathan persevere at camp, even when the activities weren't in his comfort zone. Nathan gave everything a go, even when he was hesitant or unsure. I was so incredibly proud of you Nathan. Well done!
6S	Ruby C	Ruby, I was impressed with how you demonstrated resilience on camp, even though you were feeling unwell. You showed maturity and didn't complain. Well done.
Japanese	Victoria L	For her excellent understanding of the Japanese adjectives and her respectful manner. It is always lovely to hear your 'arigatou' at the end of the lesson, Tori-san!
Japanese	Joshua M	Well done Josh-kun for putting a lot of effort into the Bilingual Manga project! You have included Japanese phrases in your Manga very nicely. Great work!

# Book Fair is Back!

After two years we are very excited to be having Book Fair next week!

All students will visit the fair on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> to fill out “wish lists”. These lists will allow everyone to write down which book/s they might like to buy, then take home and share with you. If you decide to purchase the books on the wish list, you can do one of the following:

- **\*NEW\* Online payments!** This works kind of like a voucher. The students look through the book fair, fill out their wish lists and take them home, make the payment online (this includes inputting student name, grade, and what books the students want), then the student returns to school to collect the books from Mrs Tuvey at the Book Fair.
- Come to the Book Fair at the opening times to purchase them and look at the others yourself
- EFTPOS payments are preferred and are only accepted at the library – payments and orders cannot be taken at the office

There is no requirement to purchase any books written on a wish list, this list is simply so your children can share with you what they saw and would like to have.

All books sold help us to fill our School Library with even more books that students can borrow. This is the only fundraiser that we run for the Library, so every book you buy means more books to borrow and share with everyone!

The Book Fair will be open to families from **3.30pm on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March** and from **8.30am – 9am & 3.30pm – 4.30pm Friday 25<sup>th</sup>**

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me or speak with me at school on Friday. Any purchase requests after 4.30pm on Friday the 25th can be directed to Mrs Tuvey.

Happy Reading!

*Jennie*

[jennie.tuvey@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:jennie.tuvey@education.vic.gov.au)



## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

### CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Parent/csef.aspx>

### HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



# OFFICE NEWS



**HEADPHONES** Grades 3-6 require headphones in the classroom. If your child does not have a set, they are available to purchase for \$10 on the Qkr! app or you may provide your own. They must be over the head, not earbuds or Bluetooth.

**For the Prep - 2's**, if you have paid the 2022 Parent Contributions, the headphones are included and your child should have received a pair from their teacher. Alternatively, they are available to purchase for \$10 on the QKR app or you may provide your own. They must be over the head, not earbuds or Bluetooth.

**ABSENCES** If your child is not well or going to be absent, please notify the school via School Stream, email or phone ASAP that morning or before 10.30am on the day of their absence.

**This DOES NOT incorporate the OSHC.**

**A separate message to OSHC service will also need to be sent to them within the required time frames.**

**EARLY DEPARTURES** Please avoid collecting your child during recess and the lunch break (11.00am-11.30am and 1.10pm-2.00pm). When it is possible, please make appointments for your child outside of school hours. We understand this is not always possible.

**CSEF** application forms are now available at the office for the Camp, Sports and Excursion Fund.

## UNIFORM SHOP HOURS...

**Mondays: 9.00am—9.30am only**

**Thursdays: 9.00am—9.30am &  
3.15pm—3.45pm**

**Place your orders through the Qkr! App. Feel free to come in for second hand uniform after you have checked in with the QR code. Only 2 adults in the uniform shop at a time. Please wait in the corridor for your turn. As our shop is run by parent volunteers, please be patient. Thank you.**





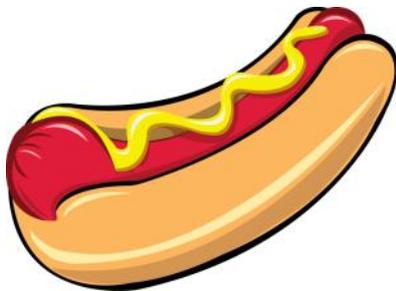
## Instrumental Music Lessons

Have you ever wanted to learn a musical instrument or singing? Tecoma Primary Schools team of instrumental teachers engage with the music you love, as well as reading and other musical styles.

**Piano, Drums or Singing**  
*Groove Foundations Music School*  
Jordan Scotney - 0408 881 395 - groovefoundations@gmail.com

**Guitar or Ukulele**  
Juan Aravena - 0402 688 836 - juanaravena@hotmail.com

**Violin**  
Piper Blake - 0412 318 831 - piperblake98@outlook.com



**LUNCH ORDERS AVAILABLE FRIDAY'S ONLY**

Orders must be done through the Qkr! App by 9pm the night before! Thank you.





**JOIN THE FUN!**

# BELGRAVE JFC AUSKICK CENTRE

**STARTS: FRIDAY MARCH 25TH**

**LOCATION: BELGRAVE JUNIOR FOOTBALL  
OVAL - 1A RESERVE RD, BELGRAVE VIC 3160**

**TIME: FRIDAY NIGHTS 5:30PM**

**REGISTER NOW**



**[HTTPS://WWW.PLAYHQ.COM/AFL/REGISTER/905952](https://www.playhq.com/afl/register/905952)**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL MEL ON 0403 337 563**



**UPWEY TECOMA JUNIOR FOOTBALL  
CLUB**

**Your Community Club**



**Boys/Girls - U9/U10 Mix Teams**

**Boys - U11/U13/U15/U17 Teams**

**Girls - U12/U14 Teams**

**FREE REGO FOR ALL NEW FEMALE PLAYERS**

(Excludes Auskick)

**Boys/Girls - Auskick - 5 - 12 Years Old**

**For More Info Please Contact**

**Brendan Ferguson (President)**

**president@utjfc.com**

**0405 536 033**

**Narelle Smith (Auskick Coordinator)**

**relle0810@hotmail.com**

**0401 239 938**

**WWW.UTJFC.COM**

**AUSKICK FRIDAY NIGHTS!**





# SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISORS

## RECRUITING NOW

Play an important role in your community. Ensure the safety of children and pedestrians and be a friendly face. Multiple opportunities available in a range of locations.

Flexible work options. Support your community between 8:00am to 9:00am and 3:00pm to 4:00pm Monday to Friday.

If you or someone you know is interested in these roles, call us today!

Call HOBAN Recruitment on 9325 3200



# COULD YOU FOSTER A CHILD?

We **URGENTLY** need **Foster Carers** in your area. Enquire now on how you can help change a child's life.

[Canifoster.com.au](http://Canifoster.com.au) | 1800 932 273

# PARAGON SUPERHEROES

Superheroes use their powers to help other people, not for their own personal gain. Superheroes change the world and achieve the impossible.

Join us for Superhero karate training! We offer classes for all ages, from 3 years up.

2 FREE TRIAL CLASSES

COVID SAFE SPACE

Our school aged superheroes learn that anything is possible through developing confidence, resilience, respect for themselves and others, self defence and so much more!

Call us now to book your free trial classes. Class caps apply - get in quick to avoid disappointment. 9754 5445 WALTER STREET TECOMA

[www.mykarateschool.com.au](http://www.mykarateschool.com.au)

Find us on Facebook

[facebook.com/mykarateschool](https://facebook.com/mykarateschool)

