



# TECOMA TIMES

Tecoma Primary School Newsletter



1536 Burwood Highway,

Tecoma VIC 3160

Tel: 9754 2354

Email: [tecoma.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:tecoma.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

Website: [www.tecomaps.vic.edu.au](http://www.tecomaps.vic.edu.au)

Principal : **Rohan Thompson**

Assistant Principal: **Di Double**

9th June, 2022

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

### JUNE

**Monday 13th**  
Queen's Birthday  
Public Holiday  
No Students at  
School

**Tuesday 14th**  
Regional Cross  
Country  
Select Students  
  
Prep, Grade 1 &  
Grade 2  
Disco @ lunch time

**Wednesday 15th**  
Grades 3 & 4  
Disco @ Lunch time

**Thursday 16th**  
Movie Night  
Whole School  
In Classrooms  
6.15pm



The Resilience  
Project Parent  
Evening  
6.30pm—8pm

**Friday 17th**  
Grades 5 & 6  
Disco @ Lunch time

# PHASING OUT SCHOOL STREAM...

**AS OF THE END OF TERM 2,  
SCHOOL STREAM WILL NO LONGER BE USED AS OUR  
COMMUNICATION PLATFORM**

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH USING  
COMPASS.**

**ALL COMMUNICATION, INCLUDING ABSENCES,  
EXCURSIONS ETC. WILL BE DONE THROUGH  
COMPASS ONLY FROM TERM 3.**

**PLEASE REFER TO THE COMPASS PARENT  
HANDBOOK IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE.**

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

As you would be aware, next week, we are finally able to present The Resilience Project to our staff, our parents and our children. This has been two years in the making as we have had bookings that we weren't able to keep because of COVID.

The Resilience Project is running three sessions:

- one for children
- one for staff
- one for parents



We are running the parent session from 6:30PM to 8:00PM next Thursday night. So that we can get as many parents as possible to attend, our staff have volunteered to run the children's movie night at the same time.

**It is important that you do confirm your attendance so please do that through our COMPASS portal.**

The Resilience Project is based on three key strategies:

- Gratitude (appreciating what you have, not begrudging what you don't)
- Empathy (thinking of the needs of others/kindness) and
- Mindfulness (being present in the moment, not becoming distracted by unhelpful or negative thoughts).

Through their own unique experiences, the presenter will share engaging stories that link to the key program themes. He will also provide practical positive mental health strategies that can be implemented at school and also at home.

### PUBLIC HOLIDAY

A reminder that the **Queen's Birthday long weekend** is nearly upon us and

the school will be closed on Monday June 13th.

Have an enjoyable weekend!

### THE BUGS GOING AROUND

You will have heard from the children or known from your own experience with your family that across the state, the winter bugs have hit communities and school communities, affecting staff and child attendance. We have had classes of 9 children at some stages over the past 2 weeks.

The Age wrote a piece ([link below](#)) last week emphasising how staff shortages, and absent students remains a widespread problem at the moment.

Victorian schools: Primary and Secondary schools struggling with COVID and flu, teacher and student absences ([theage.com.au](#))

Support families can offer to the school, would be being patient and demonstrating understanding, when your child mentions that they had a different teacher today, that tutoring didn't happen, or, as a last resort, when we have had no other options, for example, with a class of 9, that we have split the classes.

Please continue to ensure that Rapid Antigen Tests are conducted on children when symptoms arise and that children who are sick do not come to school. Please also make sure that when a positive COVID case is identified in your family, the correct reporting procedures are followed to ensure authorities record the case and that the school is also made aware of this matter.

### COVID UPDATE

#### **RATs**

As previously reported, Rapid Antigen Tests will continue to be distributed until the end of term. There are kits available at the office.

It is recommended that Rapid Antigen Tests are used by students when symptomatic. Rapid Antigen Tests are also required to be used for five days if a student or staff member is an identified close contact of a confirmed case, and

they are attending or working at a school onsite. We will continue to notify families of COVID infections within their cohort and ask that you follow the above mentioned steps.

## **PCR**

If families decide to get a PCR test to verify the COVID status of a child within their household, we would kindly ask that the child who undertook the test remain home until the test has returned a negative result and they are well enough to return to school where it wouldn't be possible to spread the infection.

## **Face Masks**

While recommended, face masks are not required in any school settings from 11.59pm 22 April 2022. Any students or staff members who wish to wear a mask may do so, including those who are medically at-risk. Household contacts attending school who are over 8 years of age are required to wear face masks indoors unless they have a valid exemption.

## **WARM CLOTHES**

With winter now here, all children must be dressed appropriately in a full school uniform every day, which includes warm school jumpers and normally, a waterproof coat or jacket. It's always great to see kids with beanies and even gloves, as we all know that we function at our best when we are warm and happy. Please ensure that all jackets and jumpers are clearly named as winter becomes a time when we see our lost property stocks gradually rise, which is always a shame given that school uniform items are not cheap.

Please note that the school holds a supply of excellent quality second hand clothing that can be looked through for purchase during Uniform Shop open hours.

## **PLANNING WEEK**

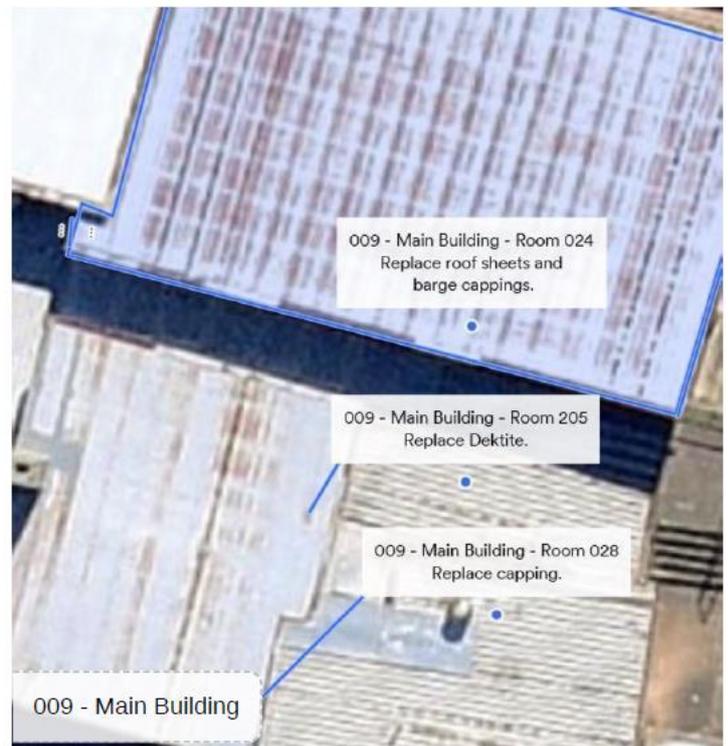
At Tecoma, all of our teachers work collaboratively in teaching teams to provide support and maintain collective responsibility for all students in their level. To support this work, this week we have had planning week where all teachers are released from their teaching duties for one day. This provides time for teachers to further analyse student progress and complete preliminary planning for the term to come. Over the next weeks and over the holidays, all teachers complete their term level planning which is then used as the foundation for weekly and daily planning throughout the term, ensuring that our teachers are prepared well in advance for another fantastic term of learning.

## **BUILDING WORKS**

Back prior to COVID, the school was audited for the condition of its buildings and grounds and the Department of Education allocates a level of funding to be able to meet the works required.

On Tuesday next week, these works will begin. The major area of work that will be done will be roofing and the majority of this will be around the Prep area. The worst of the roofing will be replaced and that is the eastern end of the Prep room directly above Miss Perushyn's and Mrs Young's teaching space.

This of course will be weather dependent and the builders will make the most of any break in the weather over a couple of days. If it looks like it's clear on Tuesday after our Queen's Birthday Monday Public Holiday, they will start then and we will need to relocate the Prep children. We will know more as we arrive on Tuesday but I ask our Prep parents to please be aware that we may need to relocate the children to either the hall or the central space of the Grade 1/2 building. As mentioned, this is very much weather dependent.



## STUDENT ATTITUDES TO SCHOOL SURVEY

Over the past two weeks, students from Grade 4 and 6 have completed the Student Attitudes to School Survey. The Grade 5's will complete it tomorrow afternoon. The Attitudes to School Survey is an annual student survey offered by the Department of Education and Training to assist schools in gaining an understanding of students' perceptions and experience of school. As a school, we use the survey results to plan programs and activities to improve your child's schooling experience.

## PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

As you would know, Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held for all parents on Tuesday June 21 (Webex) from 3.45pm to 6pm and Wednesday June 22 from 2pm to 8pm in person. This was sent out via COMPASS and bookings were available from Monday onwards.

We trust you were able to secure an interview time. If you haven't made an appointment or need assistance with the booking system, please contact the office. Once a time slot is filled, the time slot is automatically withdrawn to prevent double bookings.

I strongly recommend that all parents avail themselves to this opportunity to further enhance your child's progress at school. The positive partnership parents set up and foster with school has many benefits for the continued learning and engagement at school of their child/ren. This parent-teacher interview process not only ensures our communicative and collaborative processes continue to operate effectively, but also provides your child with the best opportunity to succeed.



## MID-YEAR REPORTING/PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Our teaching staff have been very busy over the past month writing mid-year reports for each student. It's an extremely busy time for teachers, the task taking around 40-50 hours, all of which is undertaken outside of the school day and on weekends. However, we know that this is an important opportunity for parents to be updated on their child's progress so it's undertaken with a high degree of diligence. Each report once drafted, goes through two rounds of proofreading to ensure we maintain our high standards. We are focused on reporting in a clear and concise style without too much teacher jargon. The reports will be ready for distribution on **Friday, 17th June**.

Features of our reports for those new to our school are :

- We report on your child's citizenship and we are doing this through the lens of our new school values. (Respect, Creativity, Personal Best and Resilience)
- A general comment space is included.
- Achievements and areas for improvement are in the one comment.
- We have a number of learning indicators for specialist reports (Japanese, Art, Music and Physical Education) along with effort and behaviour.
- There are no A-E scores. We focus on a growth mindset.

When you get the report, please remember that we have begun the process of writing reports in May. This is especially pertinent for parents of Prep children. A Prep child has been with us for 4 months, so unless we are totally satisfied they have made 6 months growth in their learning progression, we won't move them up the graph. It doesn't mean your child hasn't made growth, it's just they might not have shown 6 months growth in the 4 months they have been with us. This is but one example as to why you should take advantage of the parent teacher interviews on offer.

For most students, their progress in Reading provides a reasonable indicator of how they are progressing in most aspects of the curriculum which is why we have so much of a focus on developing sight vocabulary and regular reading habits. For Prep students in Victoria the reading benchmark for the end of the year is level 5, whilst for Year 1 students it is level 15. All students develop at different rates so this is merely an indicator of how they are progressing and it is far better for us to develop students' ability to expand their comprehension, expression and fluency, rather than merely just reading a certain level of book.

## 2023 SCHOOL ENROLMENT

Thank you to parents and extended family members, with a kinder aged child, who have already submitted their 2023 enrolment form. I continue to conduct tours and accept enrolments weekly.

Should parents have siblings attending our school next year, but have not yet enrolled, NOW is the right time to do so. Please contact Anthea, Marnie or Karin for an enrolment form. Thanks!



## **READING YOUR CHILD'S REPORT**

Could try harder . . . always does her best . . . lacks concentration . . . easily distracted . . . a pleasure to teach . . . or like mine "shows potential and ability but...."

Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar? Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents. Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Before you read the report, do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind:

**1. Are your expectations for your son or daughter realistic and in line with their ability?**

Expectations are tricky. If they are too high, then kids can be turned off learning. Too low and there is nothing to strive for. Pitch your expectations in line with your child's abilities. A quick check of your child's last report may provide you with a good yardstick.

**2. Do you believe that children learn at different rates?**

There are slow bloomers, late developers and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom, so avoid comparing your child to siblings, your friends' children and even yourself when you were a child. Instead look for individual progress.

**3. Are you willing to safeguard your child's self-esteem rather than deflate it?**

Self-confidence is a pre-requisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible. Regardless of the format, school reports should provide you with an idea of your child's progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child's report:

- Focus on strengths. Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.
- Take into account your child's effort and attitude to learning. If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading. Personal best is one of our school values for a reason.
- Broaden your focus away from academic performance to form a picture of your child's progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to their future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don't dismiss these as unimportant.
- Take note of student self-assessment. Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.
- Discuss the report with your son or daughter talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed, celebrate your child's efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way, you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.

As mentioned above, interviews are being held on Tuesday June 21 and Wednesday June 22. If you cannot attend on this day, please make an alternative time to discuss your child's progress. We strongly recommend you meet your child's teacher to celebrate, discuss or clarify any issues that may have arisen out of the reports.

## **GROWTH MINDSET AND DINNER TABLE CONVERSATIONS**

by Anita Guyett BPsych (Deakin)

*I included this article in a newsletter about 4 years ago. I received some positive feedback at the time about the article so I've decided to run it again as we head in to report reading times and after two years of interrupted, on site learning. I think this also flows very nicely into next week's sessions with The Resilience Project.*

*Please read this in viewing your child's report. Anita Guyett has provided some very practical strategies that you can use with your children immediately.*

How often do you sit down to family dinner at home with your children, and ask "How was your day today?" or "What did you learn today/what did you do today?". The answers that you get back are likely "good" or "nothing".



## THIS WEEK AT ASSEMBLY

We didn't hold a formal assembly this week due to the freezing cold weather and at the moment, we are avoiding putting all the children into one spot, where possible, due to the bugs floating around at present. On nice mornings, we will continue to have our assemblies on the top basketball court otherwise, as we did on Monday, we will hand out the student of the weeks at the office with parents present and then conduct the assembly via Webex straight after that for the whole school:

Our school captains ran the assembly over Webex and we:

- Handed out some wonderful student of the week awards
- Heard about the whole school reward which is a kids disco that we will run over three days next week. This will happen at lunchtimes. The kids have earned this reward by collecting enough ping pong balls when trading in their schoolwide positive behaviour token. If you haven't seen the system in place, ask your children to come down and show you.
- Heard more from Junior School Council about "Sorry Day."
- Wished everyone a great week!

See you around the school.

Rohan Thompson  
**Principal**



THE STUDENTS HAVE SPOKEN....

*Our reward has  
been chosen!*

NEXT WEEK, WE WILL BE RUNNING THREE  
DISCOS OVER THE COURSE OF LUNCHTIMES  
AS OUR WHOLE SCHOOL REWARD!

SCHOOL UNIFORM IS REQUIRED, NO COST  
INVOLVED - JUST A FUN LUNCHTIME WITH  
THEIR PEERS, RUN BY THE STAFF!

TUESDAY LUNCH - PREP - 2  
WEDNESDAY LUNCH - 3/4  
FRIDAY LUNCH - 5/6

# District Cross Country



The District Cross Country on Friday 27th May at Llewellyn Park was a great success. We had fantastic weather for the cross country with no rain! Students from our school participated in 2km and 3km races. Tecoma's 32 competitors tried their best and achieved really great results. It was pleasing to see that all students from our school completed the long course. We had some stand out placings with the following students progressing through to the SSV Divisional Cross Country Carnival:

Ollie W, Josie W, Mason B, Mya C, Zoe G, Mason E, James D, Jack G, Lucy H, Cleo JB, Emily J, Lucas L, Tori L, Ella M, Ollie O, Jessica P, Heath S, Mikayla S, Jasper T-T and Ryland T.

We had a podium finish for Grace K placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 10 girls race!

All 20 of these students qualifying for Divisional Cross Country which was held at Yarra Glen on Tuesday 7th June.

I would like to make special mention of our students who were emergencies and came prepared for the day, just in case they were required to run. All of our runners earned valuable points towards our final score and I was very proud of our students.

The team spirit was high throughout the day. There was constant cheering flowing from the students and parents from Tecoma. All students who attended were well behaved and did a fantastic job representing our school.

Congratulations on a great day!

# Congratulations Tecoma Divisional

## Cross Country Runners

Congratulations to our Divisional Cross Country Team of Ollie W, Josie W, Mason B, Mya C, Mason E, James D, Jack G, Lucy H, Cleo JB, Emily J, Lucas L, Tori L, Ella M, Ollie O, Jessica P, Heath S, Mikayla S, Jasper T-T and Ryland T who ran at Yarra Valley Race Course on Tuesday 7th June. We had true cross country weather with a bit of rain and the temperature averaging around 8 degrees! Our runners put in a great effort competing against some very tough competition over both 2km and 3km courses.

The top 12 place getters in each age group now progress and compete at the Eastern Metro Regional run this coming Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June at Yarra Valley Race Course. Congratulations to Josie W, Mya C, Mason E, Cleo JB, Emily J, Lucas L, Tori L, Ollie O, Jessica P and Heath S who have all progressed through to the next round of competition.

We proudly had a podium finish for the day with Mya C placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 9/10 girls race!

Well done everyone and good luck next week to our 10 progressing athletes.



# THANKYOU!!

We would like to thank Holly Deans, Amy Yates and Louise Adams for all the work they have put into our vegie garden during the semester. These ladies have weeded, tidied, personally donated items and sourced donation from local suppliers. Our Environment Leaders have continued the upkeep of our new look garden during lunchtime garden club almost every day. I have had many compliments over the term on how fantastic our garden is. Many saying they have never seen it looking so good. We are truly grateful for your support, donations and time that you have put in assisting us with this much needed project.



## YARRA RANGES COUNCIL WINTER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

*Family fun in your community!*  
*For children aged 0-12 years and their families.*



Wednesday 29th June - Yarra Glen  
Discover native bees and make an insect habitat for your garden.

Friday 1st July - Monbulk  
Come along to a Zoo Party performance, but watch out for cheeky monkeys!

Monday 4th July - Yarra Junction  
Join us for a T-RIFFIC T-Rex Tea Party performance.

Tuesday 5th July - Mt Evelyn  
Bring along your teddies for a special teddy bear story time and teddy hunt.

Thursday 7th July - Kilsyth  
Enjoy a superhero performance with a superhero unlike any you've ever met!



For up to date information on activities, events and programs for families and children in the Yarra Ranges like and follow Yarra Ranges Families on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/yrrfamilies](http://www.facebook.com/yrrfamilies)



Yarra Ranges Council is a Child Safe Organisation

Covid safety protocols in place at all events.



Booking is essential as places are limited. For further information and to book, visit:  
[www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Community/Family/School-holiday-activities](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Community/Family/School-holiday-activities)  
If you require support to book please contact Michelle Lehmann at [earlyyears@yarraranges.vic.gov.au](mailto:earlyyears@yarraranges.vic.gov.au) or call 1300 368 333



*It's never too late to join!*

Women's only (Kid friendly) Bootcamps

**6.15pm Mondays**

**6.00pm Tuesdays**

@ Tecoma Primary School Basketball Court

All fitness levels

**\$5 each session**

Contact Rick

Email: [hoggfit@gmail.com](mailto:hoggfit@gmail.com)

Or you can find us on Facebook

1:1 PT also available

## UNIFORM SHOP HOURS...

**Mondays: 9.00am—9.30am only**

**Thursdays: 9.00am—9.30am**

**&**

**3.00pm—3.30pm**

If you are unable to visit during these times you can place your orders through the Qkr! App. Also, feel free to come in for second hand uniform. As our shop is run by parent volunteers, please be patient. Please wait in the corridor for your turn. Thank you.



# GOOD-BYE NOELEEN

Noeleen will be sadly retiring from Tecoma Preschool at the end of this Term. We would like to thank her for her 20 years of service by holding an afternoon tea. We know many school children spent time with her in their kinder year..... If you wish to pop over and say thankyou and goodbye..... Details below:

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>**

**June**

**2-4pm**



Tecoma Preschool

**Tecoma Preschool**



**LUNCH ORDERS  
AVAILABLE FRIDAY'S  
ONLY**

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



# FAMILY FIESTA

29 JUNE - 2 JULY  
monash.edu/family-fiesta

Presented by



# BELCOMA

Est. 1929

## NetSetGO!

- Boys & girls aged 5 to 10 years old
  - Learn basic netball skills without the pressure of competition
  - Great for motor skills, social skills and team building
  - Get involved in team sport and club life
- NOW RECRUITING FOR TERM 3**

Contact [belcoma.president@gmail.com](mailto:belcoma.president@gmail.com) for further information



# 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

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

COVID SAFE SPACE

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)

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