



TECOMA TIMES

Tecoma Primary School Newsletter



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Principal : **Rohan Thompson**

Assistant Principal: **Di Double**

21st July, 2022

DATES TO REMEMBER:

JULY

Friday 22nd
Smoothie Incursion
Year 5's

Wednesday 27th
100 Days of Prep!
Prep Classes



Friday 29th
National Tree Planting Day
Whole School



AUGUST

Tuesday 2nd
Hoop Time
Grade 3 & 4

Wednesday 3rd
Melbourne Aquarium and IMAX Theatre
Grades 1 & 2

Step Into Prep
2023 Small Groups
Whole Day,
Various Times.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

WELCOME BACK

I hope everyone had a restful break and enjoyed the opportunity to share some time with their family and friends. Many I have spoken to did absolutely nothing which means they must have needed the rest yet others travelled north to try and get some warmth. Alas, heading north doesn't mean away from the bugs either.

We came back last Monday but already the early term bugs have hit with covid, "fluvid", coughs, colds, chicken pox and golden staph present at some time or another through the school.

I always start writing my newsletter piece on Monday and I had the latest departmental guidelines ready to go out but new ones landed on Monday night which you will have seen through our COMPASS feed. This was in relation to mask recommendations and isolation rules.

I would like to thank and acknowledge all staff members who, while having a break, did some planning to ensure that their classes were ready to return. After perusing the planning documents on our google drive, I can see that a great deal of curriculum has already been planned to engage our students. I'm confident this will be an excellent term for the students, and they will thoroughly enjoy the next few months.

It is time to reiterate the importance of the children attending school each school day when they are able, as every day matters. Of course, there have been many, many communications sent home to families over the past two years outlining the importance of staff and students staying home when unwell, especially when exhibiting Covid 19 or flu related symptoms. This message remains as pertinent now as in the past and must be followed by everyone; thank you!

It is true that we are still very much in the midst of the current pandemic, which has now gone on for longer than most of us would have anticipated. That said, our community have worked exceedingly well together over the past couple of years, adopting a collaborative mindset, and demonstrating commendable adaptability and genuine respect for others, which I'm sure will continue.

Over the holidays, several media outlets presented stories on the extreme stress that schools are currently under, especially in relation to maintaining effective staffing levels, and keeping as many programs running as possible.



Tecoma PS is not exempt from these pressures, and it has been very tricky to navigate through changes so far this year and I expect Term 3 will be no different. I do wish to acknowledge the unparalleled dedication,

I would also like to thank our school leadership team for their work last week in preparing contingencies for the term ahead.

As everyone may be aware, there is no longer a need to be vaccinated when attending state mainstream schools, with school staff recently who were stood down or resigned (over vaccination mandates), now eligible to return to service. Although many schools are presently working through this complex matter, it is not one that affects our school.

The communication sent home on Tuesday is that the government are now strongly recommending that students 8 years and above and adults in schools wear masks. Please check your compass feed for further details on that announcement.

Term 3 promises to be another great term filled with challenging learning opportunities, stimulating excursions, the Grade 3/4 camp, incursions and for some of our children, the State Schools Spectacular in September.

There is plenty to look forward to but let's take it one day at a time!

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE DAYS AND THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS AGREEMENT

Yesterday, schools were informed that The Victorian Government Schools Agreement, commonly known as the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) was passed by the Fair Work Commission.

This has been one of the most complicated and drawn out EBA processes I've experienced in my nearly 30 years in education. After 14 months of 'negotiation' between unions, primarily the AEU and the DET and recently retired Education Minister, James Merlino, the new EBA was approved by the Fairwork Commission. It commences as of this Monday, July 25.

The agreement states that teachers will be entitled to 2 further professional practice days in 2022, 2 professional practice days in 2023 and one professional practice day in 2024 and beyond.

The Department received very positive feedback from Principals in relation to the option for schools to hold a common professional practice day in Term 2, 2022 (we held ours on May 16). The Department set this up for use on the same day and not staggered days throughout the term, realising it was far easier than for one whole day than each school in Victoria to trying to find replacement teachers that are in very short supply as mentioned earlier.

As a result of this new agreement being approved by the Fair Work Commission Tecoma Primary School will be holding two more professional practice days in 2022.

No students will be required at school on these days.

As a leadership team and staff, we will look at the best way to utilise these days in relation to teacher planning, professional learning, moderating of student work and report writing. Once we determine the most suitable focus and timeline for these dates, we will present these dates to School Council. These dates will then need to be approved/rejected by School Council prior to the school community being informed of these dates if they are approved.

When selecting these dates, we try to give as much time as possible to enable parents to potentially arrange their work schedules. We are aware that this has an impact on families, however, please be assured we endeavour to inform you of these dates as soon as possible to provide you with time to make plans for the supervision and care of your children.

We thank you for your ongoing support.

As far as the implementation of the new agreement, while it starts next Monday, leadership of schools around the state are awaiting an implementation guide and briefings from DET regarding how it can be delivered. The new EBA contains a range of new industrial requirements. One of these is known as Time in Lieu (TIL). This requirement is a response to the amount of unpaid work teachers have done for many years for extracurricular events and after hours meetings such as Parent Teacher Interviews, camps, reports, etc etc.

It must be noted, in an industrial sense, by Unions and DET, extracurricular events are not part of a school's core work which is the delivery of the Victorian Curriculum.

Extracurricular events are additional and have been provided by schools, usually before or after hours through goodwill and to provide engaging opportunities for our students beyond that required by the curriculum.

It is certain, that due to the requirement of TIL, there will be fundamental changes to how, when and if schools continue to provide the current range of extracurricular events.

We will inform of you of any changes as they come to hand.

PREP NEXT YEAR

Today, we are sending out our Prep acceptance letters to those families that have enrolled for the 2023 Prep cohort.

Parents will also be receiving an invitation to the Prep transition programme that we are starting on Wednesday August the 3rd. There will be 5 x 50 minute sessions running throughout that day and parents are asked to book their child in for the session that is most convenient for them on that day. There will be a maximum 12 children per session.

The times are:

Session 1: 9:10-10:00am

Session 2: 10:10-11:00am

Session 3: 11:30-12:20pm

Session 4: 12:30-1:20pm

Session 5: 2:30-3:20pm

We ask that you book a place for one of these sessions by ringing the school (9754 2354) where our friendly office staff will place you in your preferred time.

We will then move to larger groups from August 17 onwards. No bookings are required.

We did our first look at our class structure for 2023 this week based on 430 children. If you won't be or you think it is unlikely your child/ren will be at Tecoma next year, can you please let us know. We can then take that into account when we look at our numbers.

COLD WEATHER CLOTHING

The cold winter weather has certainly set in. The last 2 mornings have required hosing the ice off the car before heading off to work. The majority of the holidays had beautiful sunny days but we also had very low temperatures. That has continued this past fortnight with the forecast of rain making it very cold outside for students before school and during breaks. At school, our priority is to provide opportunity for the students to play outside whenever possible.

In addition to playtimes, there are also a number of occasions when class activities mean that our students are outside for extended periods of time.

Please check with your children to make sure that they have enough clothing to keep them warm outside when it is very cold. It can only help in keeping those nasty winter bugs at bay.

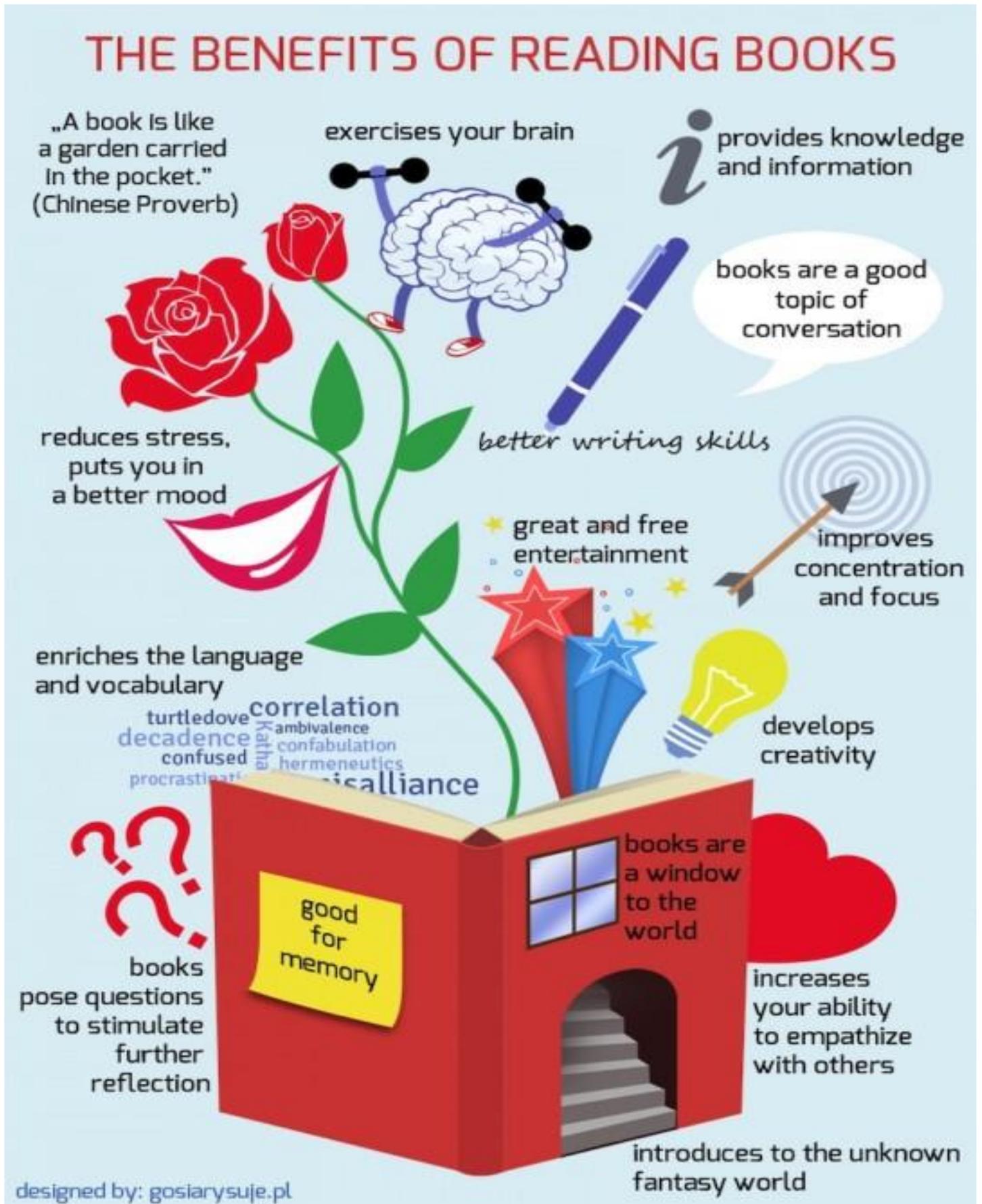
IF YOU NEED.....

Masks.....we have a limited supply but we ask children to bring their own in keeping with this weeks recommendation

RATS..... Rapid Tests will continue to be distributed to our community and if you run out, please come to our office and we can provide more. If a child tests positive they need to isolate for 7 days as normal. Please notify our office of when they get a positive test result so we can mark our attendance roll accurately. Any siblings who test negatively can still attend school providing they have no symptoms and have a negative rapid test each morning before coming to school. They must also wear a mask when they are indoors at school.

READING

I saw this recently and thought it was worthwhile sharing about the importance of reading. It might be worth sharing with you child.



See you around the school!
Rohan Thompson
Principal



STUDENT OF THE WEEK TERM 3 WEEK 1



GRADE	NAME	REASON
Prep K	Bodhi C	Bodhi has had a great start to Term 3. He has been displaying our school value of personal best by helping others, answering lots of questions and giving all learning activities a go. Well done, Bodhi. Keep up the great work!
Prep P	Evelyn L	Evelyn always works very hard in class and does her very best work in everything she is presented with. She did so well when learning about A.M. and P.M. and working with these new concepts.
Prep Y	Emmerson C	Emmerson, it is so wonderful to see your confidence growing when you are reading and writing. You are trying so hard to sound out your words, and are using your voice to help you hear the different sounds! Fantastic work!
1V	William H	William, you have returned to school in Term 3 with such a positive attitude! You give every learning task your best effort and your confidence has grown so much. I love seeing all the improvements you are making in your learning! Keep up the amazing work William!
1W	Aurelia B	For always making sure our classroom is kept in a neat and organised manner. Aurelia, you always help out even when you're not asked. We are so lucky to have you in our class! Keep up the positive energy.
2L	Kaspar N	For being a great friend by staying inside to play with Charlie, who is currently in a wheelchair, during recess. Thank you for your kindness to others Kaspar.
2R	Emily B	Emily, I am so impressed with the determination you have shown when practising your reading. You worked very hard in the Reading Room last term to improve your skills, and now you are taking on the challenge of more difficult books in a new Reading Group, the Rosie Group. Amazing effort Emily!
3H	Chloe G	Chloe has had a great week back and worked to her Personal Best. This award is also to congratulate her for being a fantastic Student Action Team Rep for our class. She never missed a meeting and came back able to share lots of information about what had been discussed. This shows how seriously she took on the responsibility. Well done Chloe.
3W	Malachy N	Malachy's approach to maths last week was something to behold! During our lesson on Place Value, he contributed his thoughtful ideas many times during class discussions, worked quietly and collaboratively with his partner and he completed his work to a personal best standard. You're a star mate! Keep it up.
4D	Abigail G	For creating an informative presentation about bowling. Abigail engaged her audience and was able to speak clearly. I look forward to seeing the many wonderful things you will create during Genius Hour! Congratulations Abigail.
4D	Charlotte P	For creating an informative presentation about swimming. Charlotte's presentation was well researched. She was able to engage her audience and answer questions throughout her presentation. Congratulations Charlotte.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK TERM 3 WEEK 1



GRADE	NAME	REASON
5G	Adah E	For approaching every learning task with enthusiasm. Adah has had an amazing start to Term 3 and should be proud of her work ethic. She displays a positive learning disposition and is a fabulous role model in 5G.
6F	Charlie E	I have loved the way that Charlie has begun Term 3. Each day, Charlie is working hard to ensure he is on top of all work, and has been fully engaged in our emerging Market Day unit. It has been so wonderful to see the ideas flourish Charlie! I can't wait to see what you and your group achieve this term!
6S	Leo G	Congratulations on a great start to Term 3 Leo! You have shown a real determination and eagerness to learn and I can tell you are putting in a lot of effort to be organised. Your focus in maths has been great to see too. Keep up the awesome work!
Music	Lydia H	For her beautiful piano playing in Music. Your talent and confidence is inspiring Lydia.
Japanese	Lexie B	For her great patience and perseverance during the green Hiragana Belt test. Congratulations for passing the green belt test Lexie-san!

KIDS EAT FREE!* every **TUESDAY** throughout winter!

*Conditions apply. See our website for details.

**GET THE
GANG
TOGETHER!**

BAM BAM
ITALIAN EAT IN + OUT

445 Belgrave-Gembrook Rd
Avonsleigh VIC 3782

03 5968 4717  



STUDENT OF THE WEEK TERM 3 WEEK 2

GRADE	NAME	REASON
Prep K	Ahlia L	Ahlia, I admire the way you are always so enthusiastic about sharing your thoughts and ideas during our class discussions. No matter the topic or the time of day, your hand is always the first in the air. Keep it up!
Prep P	Orin H	For a spectacular effort in being able to read and spell all the Golden and Blue Words! Now you are up to the Red words. AWESOME WORK Orin!!!
Prep Y	Lydia H	Lydia, I am so proud of how you have overcome some nerves when sharing your amazing thoughts and knowledge with the whole Prep class when we are on the learning floor. You are showing so much more confidence and we all love hearing your ideas!
1V	Jack N	WOW Jack! You were on fire during our Writer's Workshop session with using your ideas to create a logical and sequential story. You used excellent words and just kept on going and going! I was truly amazed and proud. Keep up the hard work Jack!
2W	Stazie I	I loved Stazi's enthusiasm for everything at school. She quickly made some good friends when she arrived at the start of the year and takes a great interest in everything we do, including joining up for guitar lessons. She is a keen volunteer for jobs in class (especially looking after Frankie!) and is a great member of our school community. At the moment she is working hard on her handwriting. You're a ripper Stazi.
3H	Amber L	Amber worked hard during addition lessons last week and was able to use both the split and compensation strategies to solve problems. She showed her working out, worked carefully and found the correct answers. Well done Amber!
3NP	Jack P	For your hard work in maths when using the compensation strategy for subtraction. Jack, you challenged yourself and did a wonderful job of explaining your thinking. Well done.
3W	Xavier F	Xavier has really impressed me with his contributions during our Literacy rotations. When he is asked questions about the text, he consistently uses evidence to back up his ideas and he is learning to apply his knowledge of the world. Super effort Xav!
4B	Henry J	For having improved confidence with his reading. Henry has come so far and continues to grow. He always puts in 100% effort and it is paying off. Keep up the fantastic effort Henry!
4R	Robbie S	For making a marvelous map during our Math lesson. Robbie showed great creativity when creating his map, ensuring it was beautifully presented and included all the elements of a map. It was so realistic and looked like a place I would like to visit. Well done Robbie.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK TERM 3 WEEK 2



GRADE	NAME	REASON
5G	Isabel L	For demonstrating excellent intrinsic motivation to always achieve her personal best. Isabel employs many mature strategies to complete her learning tasks to an excellent standard - always concentrating on her own personal best and how this can be achieved. Isabel, you are smashing your goals in all areas of your learning. I am so very impressed with all of your efforts.
5M	Isla Y	What a great effort you put into learning about percentages Isla. It was wonderful to hear you explain how you worked out 10% of different prices. You were really confident and applied this thinking to other problems. Keep it up Isla.
6F	Isobel V	Isobel has worked collaboratively in her group for Market Day, demonstrating her personal best in all her interactions and activities, as well as working together to come up with some wonderful ideas for her stall. Well done Isobel. I am looking forward to seeing what you and your group create!
6G	Amy G	Amy is an all-round superstar. She displays her personal best in all tasks, both in and out of the classroom. Amy's personal best is also evident in her crocheting expertise....so very impressive. Keep up the wonderful work Amy!



AFL Victoria is offering an opportunity for **EVERYONE** to participate in more Auskick fun in 2022! Whether you missed out on this year's Community Auskick program or you just want to extend your time in Auskick or maybe you are new to our game and want your first football experience, Auskick+ is for you!

Auskick+ is a 6-week program that will be run by AFL Victoria and will teach participants the fundamentals of the game, paving the way for continued growth and skill development over the coming years. The program cost is \$55 and all participants will receive a unique Auskick+ pack.

To get involved, register to your closest Auskick+ Centre below!

Auskick+ in the Yarra Ranges!

Mt Evelyn & surrounds



Upwey Tecoma & surrounds



Woori Yallock & surrounds



Hi Families,

I put a Compass Newsfeed out asking for PET soft drink/soda water bottles.

I need about **450 of them before next Friday 29th July** for National Tree Planting day.

I'd also like to ask for a handful of parents to volunteer for an hour or two over the day to help with digging holes and mulching. The kids will do the actual planting and placing a protective bottle over each plant to protect it as it grows.

Thank you for your help with this,

Deb Langford.

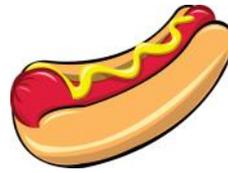
UNIFORM SHOP HOURS...

Mondays: 9.00am—9.30am

**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.



LUNCH ORDERS AVAILABLE FRIDAY'S ONLY

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



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