



TECOMA TIMES

Tecoma Primary School Newsletter



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Principal : **Rohan Thompson**

Assistant Principal: **Di Double**

5th October, 2023

DATES TO REMEMBER:

OCTOBER

Friday 6th

*District Summer Sports
Years 5&6*

Wednesday 11th

*Swimming Starts
Years 5&6*

Saturday 14th

*Referendum Day
BBQ & Cake Stall*

Thursday 19th

Regional Athletics

NOVEMBER

Thursday 2nd

Curriculum Day

Friday 3rd

Curriculum Day

Monday 6th

Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 7th

Melbourne Cup Day

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

HOLIDAYS:

Welcome back to the school for the final term of 2023. I trust you had a great holiday with the children, hopefully being able to get away somewhere especially with the absolutely magnificent weather that we encountered over the majority of the 2 weeks. I hope you were able to make the most of it.

Judging by the amount of black and white around the school and magpies swooping while out walking, Collingwood must have won the Premiership. As far as I'm concerned, cricket season started when my team went for a months holiday at the end of August, though some might say it started earlier than that! Always next year!

Talking to our staff and some families, the consensus was it was nice to stop, especially after 2 days of school production in the last week.

The holidays absolutely flew by. It's that final recharge we need before we begin the sprint to the finish line of 2023 which is the 20th of December. Please see those details further down in this edition of the newsletter.

Looking at our term overview, there is a lot that we need to get done so please keep an eye out on COMPASS for notifications that come in. The process for sending back forms is so much easier so please make it a priority that if your child needs to attend something or is required to attend something, fill out the form as soon as you get it online so that we aren't having to chase up on it.

STAFFING AND GRADE STRUCTURES FOR 2024:

I cannot believe we are at this time of year, but we are now looking at structures for 2024.

Throughout November and early December, we will be working on our class structures and student combinations for next year. Changes in student numbers and staffing combinations usually cause us to reshape our proposed class structures several times throughout this term.

We have several staff placements that may or may not be a part of our 2024 staff team, with various interview processes to occur.

At this stage, we hope to hold **17 classes** next year for what is expected to be **around 400 children**. However, we need definite numbers across all levels before we make that decision.

Due to this, it is vital that we are made aware of any circumstances that may impact on our enrolment numbers. **Please let us know urgently** if you intend to enrol a child at our school, if you are aware of people in our community who will be enrolling or if you intend to transfer to another school. We desperately require this in order to establish

grade structures for the start of the new school year. If you will not be at Tecoma in 2024, please notify the school office in writing as soon as possible.

What are the criteria that we use to make up class lists?

Factors influencing class structure are:

- the educational needs of the students;
- the projected number of students in each year level;
- the ratio of girls to boys;
- the number of teachers employed at the school; and
- resources and facilities.

Factors which are considered in the placement of students include:

- academic performance – judgments over time
- work habits eg ability to work independently
- behaviour
- gender balance
- social network /friendships
- social maturity
- special needs eg twins, siblings.

What is the process for placing students into classes?

Based on the criteria listed above, teaching staff and administration meet mid-term 4 to establish classes for the following school year.

Teachers ensure each new class has:

- a balance of academic ability
- gender balance
- socially balanced groups

During this process, changes and adjustments are made over several weeks. Each change may trigger a chain reaction of other changes.

Proposed class lists are submitted to the myself and Assistant Principal Di Double for final ratification.

At this stage, the new classes will be announced on the proposed Orientation Day, December 12.

With this in mind, parents are now invited to write to me about any additional information that will help us in determining a placement for your child.

2024 GRADE PLACEMENT REQUESTS

Parents are now invited to write to me about any concerns they may have for their child's educational needs for 2024.

Please note, requests for particular teachers will not be considered as the best interests of all of the children and the effective management of the school must be taken into account.

Letters will be considered up until 4pm, Wednesday November 1, 2023.

Letters received after this date will not be accepted unless in exceptional circumstances. These letters are to be addressed directly to myself with all details and information provided kept in confidence.

While I have letters on file from previous years, I will only be taking into account letters I receive this year. Often friendship concerns become outdated as the children grow in maturity and have developed new friendships. However, if you have information from previous years that you feel I need to know that is relevant in regard to your child's placement, please include this in your letter. Please don't assume I know!

As you may understand, the allocating of children to classrooms is a very complex task and one that requires patience and a great deal of thought and manipulation. Please assist us to make this process as smooth as possible by taking note of the requests as outlined. Please also be aware that requests are indeed requests and does not mean it will automatically happen. We have decided, on balance, in previous years to not grant some requests. This is done with all the information that we have at our disposal and every decision will be made for the betterment of all children.

Should you wish to discuss any concerns with 2024 grade placements, please contact the school office to arrange a time for a chat.

EXTREME & CATASTROPHIC FIRE DANGER DAYS

Our school is one of many schools across Victoria that is a Bushfire at Risk school. Like all Bushfire at Risk Schools, we are closed on any declared Catastrophic Day.

Information about the current and expected Fire Danger Ratings can be found in weather forecasts on daily news programs, published on websites and in newspapers, broadcast on radio and on the CFA website.

With fire season fast approaching and in some places already here, it is a good time to remind our families to ensure that all your details are up to date at the school. We know that a number of families circumstances have changed recently and we require the most up to date records to ensure we can contact you. 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.

SUNSMART

A reminder that as the UV levels increase at this time of year, we need to be Sunsmart! The Cancer Council recommend a combination of sun protection measures:

1. Slip on some sun-protective clothing that covers as much skin as possible.
2. Slop on broad spectrum, water resistant SPF30+ (or higher) sunscreen. Put it on 20 minutes before you go outdoors and every two hours afterwards. Sunscreen should never be used to extend the time you spend in the sun.
3. Slap on a hat – broad brim or legionnaire style to protect your face, head, neck and ears.
4. Seek shade.
5. Slide on some sunglasses – make sure they meet Australian Standards.

Our Sun Smart Policy specifies that all students must wear a sun smart hat whenever they are outdoors at school or on excursions. Please support our Sun Smart policy by providing a 'sun smart' hat for your child. Hats are available for purchase at the uniform shop.



PUPIL FREE DAYS THIS TERM

A reminder of what was published in our last newsletter of term 3.

- Pupil free day on Thursday November 2, 2023. This day will be used for staff professional learning on site around early years literacy and school wide positive behaviours.
- Pupil free day on Friday November 3, 2023. This day will be used for staff professional learning around the implementation of the new school strategic plan
- Professional Practise Day on Monday November 6, 2023. This day will be used for report writing purposes.

For those of you familiar with the calendar, that Monday leads into the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday on Tuesday November 7, giving our parent and student community a 6-day break before the final run to the end of term. Start making your holiday bookings!

This concludes all pupil free days in 2023.

FINAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE YEAR:

One date that our community look forward to is the final assembly of the year due to the fact that we farewell our grade six children for their final day of primary school after a 7 year journey. The date and time for this is Wednesday December 20 from 1.45pm – 2.30pm.

Please put all this in your calendar.

THIS WEEK AT ASSEMBLY:

We started the term with an assembly in the hall.

- We had a presentation from Sherbrooke Athletics Club who have been running for 54 years. If you have an up and coming athlete in your household, Sherbrooke have been a wonderful supporter of our children over many years, with our school using their facilities for our athletics teams tryouts.
- We reminded the children about the need to wear hats this term and we also wished the grade 5-6 children well for their summer sports day on Friday.
- We heard some wonderful weekend achievements from children who had been to a “joeys” camp over the holidays and also some local footballers.

See you around the school. Have a great term everyone. It’s going to be busy and it’s also going to fly!

Rohan Thompson

Principal

REFERENDUM

As you all know, referendum voting day is being held across the nation on Saturday October 14. Our school is a polling place for the referendum and we will take the opportunity to hold a sausage sizzle and cake stall on this day. Election day stalls like these are always a great fundraiser for our school.

We are currently seeking volunteers to run both stalls. If you are able to help, please use the following link to register your details. Come and have a great hour or two with our school and local communities.

<https://volunteersignup.org/XPKJR>



GARDEN CLUB HELPERS

We are looking to develop a parent/grandparent garden club to assist us in maintaining our amazing *veggie patch*. If you have a green thumb and are free one morning a week, we would like to coordinate a small group to turn over beds prior to our Thursday Leadership program, ready for the students to plant seeds and seedlings. This could happen any time during the week. Please contact Mrs Langford in room 17 in the 1/2 building if you are interested.



Head Lice

We currently have a few cases of head lice at school. Head lice don't discriminate and will quickly spread from one host to another. **Just a reminder that if your child has head lice, they cannot attend school until they have had one head lice treatment.** These are readily available at chemists and some supermarkets. To help prevent the spread, you can tie back long hair and remind your children not to put their heads close to other students.

If we are all vigilant, we will help stop the spread!

THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS!

Thank you to everyone who came and supported our school production. It was a huge success, I'm sure you will agree!!!

Photo orders and video orders are available through the office.

Photo orders are completed on a paper form and the video is done through a Q code.

Photo orders will close at the end of October and video orders need to be completed as soon as possible please.

If you happen to have any costumes at your house please return them as soon as possible.

Thanks,
Sally Connell.



CAKES, SLICES, BISCUITS, JAMS, CHUTNEYS etc.



Referendum Day – Saturday 14th October

**Are you a budding MasterChef, Baker or maybe
you're brilliant at Preserves????**

Well, we need your help.

**As part of our big fundraiser, we are having a
Home Produce Stall and we need your donations.
So, get your favourite recipes ready...and let's sell
some homemade yummys.**



They can be dropped off at the office on Friday

13th October.

***(No fresh cream
please)***





**BECOME A TIGER
THIS SUMMER!**



REGISTRATION DAY

**10AM-11:30AM @ THE CLUB
(CHOSEN AVE, UPWEY)**

**SAT
OCT
14**



AGES 4-6 - WOOLIES BLASTERS



AGES 7-8 - SUPER 7'S



AGES 9-11 - FAST 9'S



ALL PROGRAMS START NOVEMBER 2023!



For more info:  **juniors@upweycc.com.au**

UPWEY HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

2PM - 4PM

SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER

GET DRESSED UP
& JOIN US FOR SOME
HALLOWEEN FUN



TRICK OR TREAT IF YOU DARE



GAMES, FUN & MORE
MAIN STREET SHOPS & PLAYGROUND UPWEY

