



TECOMA TIMES

Tecoma Primary School Newsletter



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Principal : **Rohan Thompson**

Assistant Principal: **Di Double**

22nd February, 2024

DATES TO REMEMBER:

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 27th
District Swimming

Thursday 29th
Clean Up Tecoma Day

MARCH

Friday 1st
Bushwahzee

Wednesday 27th
Morning Munchies

Easter Raffle Drawn

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A HUGE THANK YOU

I'd like to begin this Tecoma Times, by thanking everyone for stepping in to look after the safety of our kids while the footpath works were being done last week. Parents popped in to tell us that the path beside the kinder had been blocked off, which left our kids having to cross the school car park and walk along the road, with only a few bollards and one flimsy line of tape between them and the busy traffic on Burwood Highway. A call to arms saw staff and parents banding together to make sure our kids were able to safely make it to the crossing at the end of and the beginning of each day.

A quick 'SNAP SEND SOLVE' landed at the Yarra Ranges Council, resulting in an apology as to what had occurred and an explanation as to the reason for the delay in the works (due to the weather conditions in January, which delayed the concrete pouring). The paths are safe now and look fantastic. Have you noticed the flower stamped into the contrasting squares along the path? It is the Wonga Wonga Vine (*Pandorea pandorana*), which I have it on good authority, is the flower that is on our school logo.



'GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CHILD' MEETINGS:

I hope you were all able to catch up with your child's classroom teacher on Monday evening.

I know the teachers were excited to meet you all and were keen to share information regarding the successful transition of your child into their new level of schooling, and to hear any background information which you needed to share with them about your child. If you were not able to make it, but would like to meet with your child's teacher, please contact them so they can make a time to meet with you.

WELCOME PICNIC (TAKE 2)!

Apologies for postponing the Welcome Picnic last Tuesday evening, however, I am so glad that we did. The forecast sounded ominous and it certainly was! I was so relieved that we had made the call to postpone it when we did.

There was such a 'buzz' around the school on Tuesday night, as the 2024 Preps, Year 5 buddies, new Tecoma PS students and their families, enjoyed getting together at our annual Welcome Picnic. The courtyard provided us with lots of shade and we were able to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. I would like to thank everyone who came and shared this evening with our Prep and Year 5 teachers and members of our School Council.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2024I'd like to congratulate the following members of our school community, who will make up our School Council for 2024.

Parent members

Lisa Dell

Travis Cochrane

Kimmy Taylor

Kelly Sullivan

Dave Bushell

Tara Walton

Kym Cinel

Staff members

Rohan Thompson

Di Double

Lisa Hoskins-Faul

Deb Langford

Renae Lansdell (while Rohan is away)

Karin Hartnell (minute secretary)

Our first Council meeting will be on Tuesday 27th February.

BUSHWAHZEE'S BUSH CABARET

Our next evening get together will be a whole school event, so please save the date – **Friday 1st March**. The lads from Bushwahzee will be working with students throughout the day to ensure we have quite an entertaining evening in store, which will be put on by the kids. There will be singing and dancing and even an opportunity for you to join in on the fun. More information came out earlier in the week and we are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the evening.

ATTENDANCE:

At Tecoma Primary School, we are committed to providing your child with an excellent education. The building blocks of a great education begin with all students coming to school each and every day. 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 ½ years of school!

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. As well as the missed learning time, children arriving late to school also impacts the other students in the class, as teachers time is taken up re-introducing the learning tasks and this also means that a late 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 your child's teacher to discuss the issue.



The following information shows the impact of lost time:

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 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 ½ 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 almost three terms of school.

GRADE 6 LEADERSHIP BADGE PRESENTATIONS:

All of our grade 6 children are now proudly wearing their polo shirts and school badges. Before Rohan commenced his leave, we held a special assembly, where he proudly presented our Year 6 Leaders with their black jackets and their leadership badges, signifying their final year at Tecoma Primary School.

It's amazing how much older they look just from putting on their grade 6 polos. Congratulations to all our Year 6 Leaders!



WORKING WITH CHILDREN'S CHECK:

We encourage and value parental and community support at our school. There are many ways that parents, grandparents and friends can assist at our school. We encourage all parents to obtain a Working with Children's Check that will allow you to be more involved in your child's education. These checks are free for volunteers and will allow you to take part in many school events. Once you have your WWCC, please come to the office so we can photocopy this and we will add your name to our list of parents who have a current WWCC check. These can be applied for through <https://service.vic.gov.au/services/working-with-children>

PRIVACY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS:

During the ordinary course of your child's attendance at our school, school staff will collect your child's personal and health information when necessary to educate your child, or to support your child's social and emotional wellbeing or health in the school context. Such information will also be collected when required to fulfil a legal obligation, including duty of care, anti-discrimination law and occupational health and safety law. If that information is not collected, the school may be unable to provide optimal education or support to your child, or fulfil those legal obligations.

For example, health information may be collected through the school nurse, primary welfare officer or wellbeing staff member. If your child is referred to a specific health service at school, such as a Student Support Services officer, the required consent will be obtained. Our school also collects information provided by parents and carers through the School Entrance Health Questionnaire (SEHQ) and the Early Childhood Intervention Service (ECIS) Transition Form.

Our school may use online tools, such as apps and other software, to effectively collect and manage information about your child for teaching and learning purposes, parent communication and engagement; student administration; and school management purposes. When our school uses these online tools, we take steps to ensure that your child's information is secure. If you have any concerns about the use of these online tools, please contact us.

School staff will only share your child's personal or health information with other staff who need to know, to enable the school to educate or support your child, or fulfil a legal obligation.

When our students transfer to another Victorian government school, personal and health information about that student will be transferred to that next school. Transferring this information is in the best interests of our students and assists that next school to provide optimal education and support to students.

In some limited circumstances, information may be disclosed outside of the school (and outside of the Department of Education). The school will seek your consent for such disclosures unless the disclosure is allowed or mandated by law.

Our school values the privacy of every person. When collecting and managing personal and health information, all school staff must comply with Victorian privacy law. For more information about privacy including about how to access personal and health information held by the school about you or your child, see our school's privacy policy: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/schoolsprivacypolicy.aspx>

Throughout this notice, 'staff' includes principals, teachers, Student Support Service officers, youth workers, social workers, nurses and any other allied health practitioners and all other staff at our school. This includes employees, agents and service providers (contractors) of the Department, whether paid or unpaid.

ASSEMBLY:

We look forward to seeing members of our community at our Friday afternoon Assemblies, which now take place in the hall at 3:00pm (something which Rohan mentioned in the previous newsletter, that we are trialling this term). The Student of the Week (SOTW) certificates which go out through COMPASS in the previous week, will be presented each Friday afternoon, giving parents a week's notice if their child is to receive a certificate at assembly.

There will be no Assembly next Friday, 1st March, due to Bushwahzee.

Have a lovely week.

See you around the school.

Di Double

Acting Principal

Office News

1. Compass Calender – please check this for upcoming School Events.
2. Early Pick ups or Late Arrivals. These can be done at the school office. Only use your app to enter 'whole day absences'.
3. QKR – Please make sure your child's home group for this year is correct. We have noticed that some lunch orders are going to the wrong year level, as they are still on last year's information.
4. Collecting students at lunchtime 1.00-2.00pm. We fully understand that you need to make appointments when you can, but trying to find students during this time can be very difficult due to students not being able to hear from the oval or senior play area. If you do need to pick up your child at these times, please try and let them know to be at the office or email their teacher via Compass.

Thank you,

The office gals.

STOP PRESS!

In exciting news just to hand, Tecoma Primary School have just received two brand new, outdoor picnic tables!

We were able to purchase these through the kind support and sponsorship of our families and wider community through our Colour Run Fun Day last year.

Thank you to our Parent Network and all who were involved with the Colour Run. Our school is so lucky to have such a supportive community.



As you can see, they have already been installed and are being put to good use.

Easter Raffle Donations

We need your help!

For there to be an Easter Raffle, we need Easter gift donations to make up the wonderful baskets of goodies. Please send these to school by **Friday 22nd March**. Items can include Easter eggs, activity packs, easter bags/small baskets, non-perishable food/drinks or new soft toys.

THANK YOU - Tecoma Parent Network



STUDENT OF THE WEEK

All Student Of The Week certificates will be handed out at assembly on **Friday, 8th March**. There will be no assembly on Friday, 1st March due to the Bushwahzee.

The following are student awards for last week. Due to the storm and subsequent power outage, we were unable to produce a newsletter last week.

<i>GRADE</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>VALUE</i>	<i>REASON</i>
1/2B	Vera D	Personal Best & Respect	Vera has made a fantastic start to the year. She always tries her best and is a very respectful class member. Keep up the fantastic work, Vera.
1/2E	Harvey S	Personal Best	Harvey has started the year really well. I especially loved his Holiday Squares about the things he did on the summer holidays. He is a fabulous drawer and his handwriting is always so neat. Love your work, Harvey.
3/4B	Xavier M	Personal Best & Respect	Xavier has had a great start to the year by being organised and trying his best in every learning activity. He has also shown care and compassion to his classmates if he sees that they need help with their work and supporting them as a friend. Well done, Xavier!
3/4E	Iggy P	Personal Best	Iggy, you have had such a great start to the year, and have proven yourself to be incredibly helpful. Thank you for offering to show our new student around and for helping him get used to being a member of our class. Keep up the great work!
3/4E	William E	Personal Best	Well done on a terrific start to the year at Tecoma Primary School, Will. You are doing a great job at getting used to our routines, and have been putting in an awesome effort with your work. We are lucky to have you in 3/4E!
5/6A	Jacob W	Personal Best	Your attitude towards your learning has been amazing. It is lovely to see you ask questions and experience success. A fantastic start to the year, Jacob!
5/6B	Zahra P	Personal Best & Respect	Zahra has begun Grade 5 with such a fantastic attitude and mindset. She is ALWAYS respectful in the classroom and has put all her effort into everything she has approached. Thank you Zahra, it has made the beginning of the year so much easier with role models like you!
5/6C	Ava H	Personal Best	Despite being ill at the beginning of this term, Ava has soldiered on and not given up. This week, she showed off her organisational skills by being the first person to hand in their homework. Nice work, Ava!

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

<i>GRADE</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>VALUE</i>	<i>REASON</i>
5/6D	Eli M	Respect	Eli has settled into the school year so well and makes sure to show his respect to both students and staff. He begins his work promptly and sets a great example for others. Well done, Eli!

The following students received their awards for the week ending 23rd March.

<i>GRADE</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>VALUE</i>	<i>REASON</i>
1/2A	Frank S	Personal Best & Resilience	Frank, it was awesome to see you challenging yourself in Maths this week. I love how you persisted and kept going, even though it was a bit tricky. Well done Frank, keep it up!
1/2D	Hannah C	Creativity	Hannah, we were all very impressed by your creativity in producing the amazing and very LONG piece of work about the cubby house your family will be building that you designed and all the features which it would contain. The amount of detail and thought you put into this was truly incredible.
1/2E	Edith O	Personal Best	I love how easily Edith works with our class routines. This week she got herself organised and worked quickly and quietly during our Reading Groups, Maths session and other activities. She asks questions to check her understanding and then just gets the job done. You are a great role model, Edith.
3/4A	Isaac W	Personal Best	Isaac consistently demonstrates personal best by listening attentively and engaging in classroom discussions by raising his hand, and making thoughtful contributions on any and all topics. Keep it up, Isaac!
3/4D	Leo D	Personal Best	For the exceptional way you shared your knowledge of measuring this week. You were our resident expert and teacher, helping others measure the distance of their jumps and showing them where to place the measuring tape to ensure an accurate result. Thank you so much for your assistance and guidance! Well done!
5/6E	Scarlett C	Personal Best	For always being willing to have a go at a task and answer any questions asked. Scarlett, you have started the year so positively and are trying your best in every activity. Thank you for your wonderful listening and participation in the class.

Clean Up



**TECOMA
DAY**



**Prep-2 Children, teachers
and families will be
cleaning up within
the school grounds.**

**Join us on Thursday 29th February from 2pm-3.30pm as
we CLEAN UP TECOMA to do our part in the Clean Up
Australia Campaign.**

**We will also conduct a mini-working bee of sweeping
paths and mulching garden beds.**

**Parents please indicate on the Compass Event if you
will be volunteering. Grandparents please sign in at the
office. All volunteers must have WWCC and sign the
schools Code of Conduct.**

**Please bring along gloves, rakes, yard brooms and
shovels.**

**Grades 3-6 Children,
teacher and families
will be cleaning up the
Rail Trail between
Tecoma and Belgrave.**

