



# TECOMA TIMES

## Tecoma Primary School Newsletter



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Principal : **Rohan Thompson**

Assistant Principal: **Di Double**

10th October, 2024

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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

#### **OCTOBER**

**Friday 11th**

*Floral Carpet Display  
In the Hall*



**Tuesday 15th**  
*Immigration Journey  
Incursion  
Grades 5/6A, B & C*

**Wednesday 16th**  
*Step Into Prep  
Storytime  
Swimming  
Grade 5/6*

**Thursday 17th**  
*Immigration Journey  
Incursion  
Grades 5/6D & E*

**Friday 18th**  
*Summer Division  
Basketball*

**Tuesday 22nd**  
*Grade 6 Graduation  
Photos*

*Belgrave Library Visit  
Grades 1/2A & E and  
2B*

#### **HOLIDAYS**

Welcome back to school for the final term of 2024. I trust you had a great holiday with the children, hopefully being able to get away somewhere despite the less favourable weather here in Melbourne. I hope you were able to make the most of it.

On our favorite sporting team day on the last day of Term 3, there were a few Brisbane Lions' fans, so no doubt the middle weekend gave them much joy. For the rest of us, there is always next year.....or next decade!

The holidays absolutely flew by. It's that final recharge we need before we begin the sprint to the finish line of 2024 which is the 19th of December for the children. 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 can online so that we aren't having to chase it up.

#### **FLORAL CARPET**

As you would be aware from our notification earlier this week and via COMPASS just before the holidays, the "floral carpet", a tradition of our school in the 1950s, 60's and 70's is back in 2024 as part of the 100-year celebration of the Tecoma railway station and village.

This was a feature of the school way back, being held on the Melbourne Cup weekend with it being advertised in the major newspapers and people flocking from all over the city to come and see this, so we know we have big shoes to fill!

The children have been collecting stems of colourful plants and flowers from their own gardens (or those of agreeable neighbours or public places) and brought them in this morning in takeaway containers. Times have changed! Apparently, back in the day, the children brought the flowers in on saucers. I'm not sure how many children would know what a saucer is these days!

At point, I was fossicking around underneath the school building and found a floral carpet sign. It comes with an old cord with a bayonet connection to plug into a lampshade! We were able to get it out and we are hopeful that with an electrician's help we can get this 60-year-old artifact working and on display tomorrow.



It was lovely to see the excitement of the children as they brought their arrangements into the hall and the hall now smells like a florist!

The kids' creations and contributions will be used either directly in the actual carpet, or as display pieces on the day of the floral carpet event.

The schedule for tomorrow is as follows:

**9am – 12pm:** the general public viewing which takes in our cake stall and tea/coffee in the hall.

**12pm - 3:30pm:** Children, staff and parents

**4pm - 7pm:** All community members can view the carpet while taking advantage of the sausage sizzle on offer

I want to acknowledge the efforts of our wonderful community in baking for our cake stall. I also want to acknowledge the huge effort and planning put together by our parent network members, many of whom are part of the 100 years of Tecoma celebration committee which have been meeting almost monthly now for the past 12 months in the planning of the events this term.

Please make sure you pop into the hall at some stage tomorrow and see what the children's donations have turned into. Thank you for your wonderful support.

### **STAFFING AND GRADE STRUCTURES FOR 2025**

I cannot believe we are at this time of year, but we are now looking at structures for 2025.

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 2025 staff team, with various interview processes to occur.

At this stage, we hope to hold 16 classes next year for what is expected to be around 370 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 move house, therefore transfer to another school. We desperately require this information as soon as possible in order to establish grade structures for the start of the new school year. If you will not be at Tecoma in 2025, 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 me and Assistant Principal, Di Double for final ratification.

At this stage, the new classes will be announced on the proposed Orientation Day, Tuesday, December 10.

## **2025 GRADE PLACEMENT REQUESTS**

Parents are now invited to write to me about any concerns they may have for their child's educational needs for 2025.

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 4:00pm, Friday November 1, 2024.**

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 considering 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 regarding 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. 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 2025 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, 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. Please support our Sun Smart policy by providing a 'sun smart' hat for your child. Hats are available for purchase at the uniform shop.



## **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 Thursday December 19 from 2.45pm – 3.30pm. Please put all this in your calendar.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Firstly, congratulations to all the children who represented our school yesterday in the summer district sports. We've had nothing but good reports about how the children participated and their sportsmanship. This is best exemplified by our boys' basketball team yesterday. We had a lovely phone call from a neighbouring school to let us know how our team looked after a student from their school who was in a wheelchair competing on the court. We were told on this phone call that our students not only passed the ball to this student in the wheelchair but gave the student the opportunity to compete, which was just absolutely wonderful sportsmanship, displaying all of their school values. This morning, I called the team up and they placed a ping pong ball in our whole school rewards tubes. Well done boys!

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**

## 2024 REMAINING DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday	11 October		Cakes delivered to hall for cake stall
Friday	11 October		Floral Carpet exhibited in hall
Friday	11 October		1920's charity concert
Tuesday	15 October	9:00am	Parent Network meeting
Tuesday	15 October		Grade 5/6 Immigration Museum
Wednesday	16 October	9:10am	Step into Prep
Wednesday	16 October		Grade 5/6 swimming
Thursday	17 October		Grade 5/6 Immigration Museum
Friday	18 October		Christmas card and Tea Towel orders due.
Saturday	19 October		Kinder Bingo in hall (see kinder for details)
Tuesday	22 October		Grade 6 Graduation Photos
Tuesday	22 October		Grade 1/2 to Belgrave Library
Tuesday	22 October		School Council
Wednesday	23 October	9:00-10:00am	Step into prep
Wednesday	23 October		Grade 5/6 swimming
Thursday	24 October		Regional Athletics gr 3-6
Friday	25 October		Morning Munchies
Tuesday	29 October		Grade 3-4 excursion to Mont De Lancey
Tuesday	29 October		Region summer volleyball
Wednesday	30 October		Grade 3-4 excursion to Mont De Lancey
Wednesday	30 October	9:00-10:00am	Step into Prep
Wednesday	30 October		Grade 5/6 swimming
Friday	1 November		Parent class placement requests due
Tuesday	5 November		<b>Melbourne Cup Holiday</b>
Wednesday	6 November	9:00-10:00am	Step into prep
Wednesday	6 November		Grade 5/6 swimming
Thursday	7 November		SSV Boys netball
Monday	11 November		Remembrance Day
Monday	11 November		Region summer softball
Wednesday	13 November	9:00-10:00am	Step into prep
Wednesday	13 November		Grade 5/6 swimming
Friday	15 November		Grade 5/6 city experience
Tuesday	19 November	9:00am	Parent Network meeting
Wednesday	20 November	9:00-10:00am	Step into prep
Wednesday	20 November		Grade 5/6 swimming
Friday	22 November		Morning Munchies
Tuesday	26 October		School Council
Wednesday	27 November	9:00-10:00am	Step into prep
Wednesday	27 November		Grade 5/6 swimming

## 2024 REMAINING DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday	1 December		100 years of Tecoma Township celebrations
Monday	2 December		Grade 1/2 Puffing Billy
Tuesday	3 December		Prep Information Night
Wednesday	4 December		Grade 5/6 swimming
Thursday	5 December		Christmas Carols night
Monday	9 December		Thank you morning tea
Tuesday	10 December		<u>Orientation day for grade 6 to high school, buddies picnic - new classes announced</u>
Tuesday	10 December		School Council
Friday	13 December		Prep Graduation
Friday	13 December		Reports home
Wednesday	18 December		Grade 6 graduation
Thursday	19 December	2:45 – 3:30pm	Assembly (last day of 2024)
Friday	20 December		<u>Pupil free day</u>

### UNIFORM SHOP HOURS...

**Mondays: 9.00am–9.30am**

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

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. Cash is preferred for second hand items as this goes towards our chook food and the vegetable garden. Thank you.





# BECOME A CFA JUNIOR VOLUNTEER TODAY

Aged 11 to 15? Have fun, learn new skills  
and give back to the community

Where: Belgrave Fire Station

When: Tuesday Nights 7-9 During School Terms

For more information call: 4th LT Cross 0407 682 442







# market



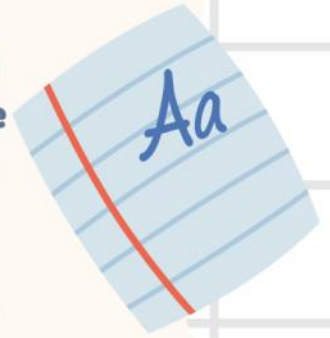
## DAY

**SUCCESS!**

**Thank-you Tecoma Primary School Community!**



**Our Grade 5/6 Market Day was a huge success, thanks to your support. Our students have reflected on the day and have some great feedback to give to the next generation of stall holders in two years' time.**



**Our stalls' revenue was incredible, with the students making over \$3000!**



**The money now goes back to the community, via discounted Grade 6 uniform for the Grade 5 students and discounted Graduation costs for the Grade 6 students.**

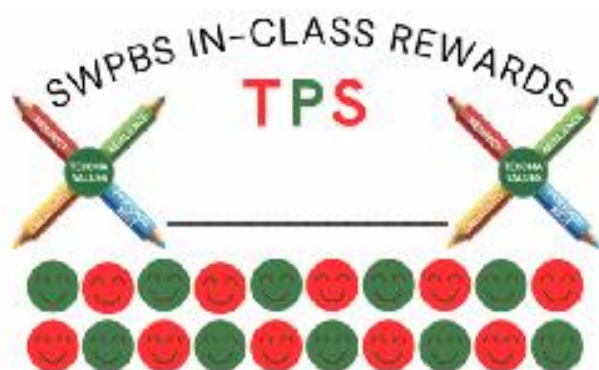


# SWPBS In Class Rewards

The staff and students at Tecoma Primary School have been enjoying many whole school rewards, as part of our SWPBS framework. We celebrated filling up a pencil with a whole school pyjama day, which meant we all got to see Mr Thompson do the assembly in his pyjamas!



The next step in our SWPBS action plan, is to introduce a consistent acknowledgement system in each of the classes. The Junior School Council, with the help of Miss Ward, designed a 'punch card' that is used for in-class rewards. When a student receives 10 ticks on their positive behaviour board, they will receive a pom pom to take to the office to vote for their whole-school reward, as well as a 'punch' on their card. The student can choose from a menu of smaller rewards to have in their classroom, or they may like to save up their 'punches' for a larger in-class reward. We look forward to having more rewards in Term 4!



Huge thank you to  
Blake Dunn from the  
Junior School Council  
for designing our  
punch cards.



# Tecoma Primary School

-Order keepsakes featuring your child's artwork-



## Tea Towels - \$25

- Fantastic tea towel featuring either an individual artwork/photo or group artwork/photo.
- Tea towels are 700 x 500mm with the image size up to 500 x 400mm digitally printed on 100% cotton.
- Name and age as created by the artist is printed under the artwork.

## Greeting Cards - \$15

- Beautifully presented quality A6 (155 x 110 mm) cards featuring your child's artwork per pack of 8 cards.
- Name and age as created by the artist is printed on the back of art cards along with the School/Centre name and/or Logo
- Blank inside for your personalised message.
- Shrink wrapped in packs of 8 including red envelopes.

Celebrate your child's creativity by ordering keepsakes you'll treasure forever!

Order your child's artwork and order keepsakes at:



[www.crazycamel.com.au/10769](http://www.crazycamel.com.au/10769)

All orders will be processed and sent to the school after the closing date.

Child's details entered during purchasing will determine which artwork has been ordered.



## Term 4 Parenting Programs

### Building Better Behaviour Online

This 6-week program is for parents of 2 to 7-year-olds who are concerned about their child's behaviour. Learn how to set boundaries with young children and become a calmer and happier parent

**Dates:** Tuesdays - 15th Oct to 26th Nov 2024 (no session on 5 November)

**Time:** 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

**Cost:** Free - spaces are limited

**Bookings:** [Click here to register.](#)

**Enquiries:** [sharon.muir@anglicarevic.org.au](mailto:sharon.muir@anglicarevic.org.au)

### Surviving Separation Online

An 8-week online program for parents going through a separation. Learn new ways to support children and resolve conflict after separation.

**Dates:** Mondays - 21 Oct to 16th Dec 2024

(no session on 4 November)

**Time:** 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm

**Cost:** Free - spaces are limited

**Bookings:** [Click here to register.](#)

**Enquiries:** [julia.russell@anglicarevic.org](mailto:julia.russell@anglicarevic.org)

### Tuning in to Kids Online

A six-week program for parents of school-aged children. Explore emotion-focused parenting techniques to help children deal with difficult emotions, such as anxiety, anger and grief. Find solutions for challenging behaviours.

**Dates:** Mondays - 21st Oct to 25th Nov 2024

**Time:** 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

**Cost:** Free - spaces are limited

**Bookings:** [Click here to register.](#)

**Enquiries:** [sharon.muir@anglicarevic.org.au](mailto:sharon.muir@anglicarevic.org.au)

### Parenting Anxious Children Online

A six-week program for parents of 4 to 12-year-olds. Learn about childhood anxiety and discover strategies to help children cope with change and build resilience.

**Dates:** Thursdays - 24th Oct to 26th Nov 2024

**Time:** 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

**Cost:** Free - spaces are limited

**Bookings:** [Click here to register.](#)

**Enquiries:** [sharon.muir@anglicarevic.org.au](mailto:sharon.muir@anglicarevic.org.au)

PARENTZONE



## MORNING MUNCHIES

FRIDAY 25TH  
OCTOBER

ICE CREAM \$3  
PAY ON QQR!

ORDERS DUE END OF DAY  
TUESDAY 22ND OCT



WEEK TRIAL \* FREE WEEK TRIAL \* FREE WEEK

BUILDING  
CONFIDENCE,  
DISCIPLINE, &  
SELF-DEFENCE  
SKILLS.

Our Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (BJJ) classes for kids are designed to be a fun way to promote an active lifestyle while fostering discipline and self-defence skills to assist in confidence growth.

Suited for ages 5+

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[underdogevolution.com.au](http://underdogevolution.com.au)  
[@underdog\\_evolution](https://www.instagram.com/underdog_evolution)



WEEK TRIAL \* FREE WEEK TRIAL \* FREE WE