



# TECOMA TIMES



## Tecoma Primary School Newsletter

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Acting Principal : **Brooke Cross**

Assistant Principal: **Di Double**

6th March, 2025

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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

#### **MARCH**

**Monday 10th**  
**LABOUR DAY**  
Public holiday  
Student Free Day.

**Tuesday 11th**  
**HOUSE ATHLETICS**  
Grades 3-6  
Come dressed in  
your house colours!!

**Wednesday 12th**  
Preps First  
Wednesday!

Swimming - Grades  
1/2  
Aquatic Achievers



**Friday 14th**  
SchoolPix School  
Photos!!



I can hardly believe that we are just over halfway through the term already with just over 4 weeks left of term one and many events and activities still to come!

#### Getting-to-know-your-child interviews

It was wonderful to see so many families at our getting-to-know-your-child interviews last week. Just a reminder that if you need to speak with your child's teacher throughout the term, you can do so via email or through COMPASS or by making a time to catch up with them before or after school. Teachers are often very busy preparing or settling their grades at the start of the school day and may not have the time for a chat, so it is best to organise a mutually agreeable time.

#### School Council

As published on COMPASS last week, we held an election for the parent member category for school council with voting closing on Friday February 21st. Vote counting took place last week with myself and an independent parent member counting and rechecking all votes. We received a very impressive return of 77 voting slips. Results were very close, but it is my pleasure to congratulate the following people on being elected to School Council for the next 2 years.:

- Lisa Dell - Renewing her tenure on school council for a further 2 years
- Tamba Sumana - Successfully being elected for his first tenure on School Council
- Ellen Mc Sheedy - Successfully being elected for her first tenure on School Council

A big thank you to all parents who nominated to be on this year's school council. Your contribution to our school community is greatly appreciated. In addition to this Deborah Langford was successfully elected unopposed in the staff member category to School Council. Our Office bearers for 2025 will be elected at our AGM on Tuesday March 18th and I will notify you of the results shortly after that.

#### District Swimming Carnival

On Friday, 28th February at Belgrave Outdoor Pool, our Tecoma swimmers took on schools from across the district, and in fantastic news, came away as the 2025 Sherbrooke District Swimming Champions. Well done to all those that competed and a big thank you to Mrs. Cumming for all of her organisation, other TPS staff that attended and assisted on the

day and all of the parents who came along to help out and support our swimmers. We have several students that will be competing at the Divisional finals on the 17th of March. We wish them the very best of luck! Please see elsewhere in this newsletter for a more detailed report on the District Swimming Carnival.

### **Staffing Update - 3/4C**

Late last week we informed the parents of students in 3/4C that their child's teacher, Mr McLean, would be taking up the position of Acting Principal at Kallista Primary School for the remaining 5 weeks of this term. We wish Stuart all the best during his time at Kallista Primary School.

We are extremely excited to welcome Ms. Sarah Abraham, who is currently on leave from Cockatoo Primary School and Ms. Veronica Logan, who is a regular CRT at our school. Both ladies will be grade-sharing, with Sarah teaching the class on Monday – Wednesday and Veronica teaching the class on Thursday and Friday. Both ladies will be planning the curriculum and communicating together, with the 3/4 team, to ensure your child has continuity of learning.

### **NAPLAN**

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students have the opportunity to undertake. Our Year 3 and 5 students will take part in the NAPLAN assessment starting next week. NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national proficiency standards. NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

### **NAPLAN Timeline:**

The NAPLAN assessment period is from Wednesday 12th March to Monday 24th March.

At Tecoma PS we aim to complete the NAPLAN testing between Wednesday 12th to Wednesday 19th March. Any students that are absent on these dates will have the opportunity to complete their NAPLAN assessments during the week of March 17th to March 21st.

For additional information about NAPLAN please refer to the website below.

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/f-10assessment/naplan/Pages/parents/index.aspx>

### **Reminders:**

- ◆ Labour Day Public Holiday – this coming weekend – no school on Monday March 10
- ◆ Parent Network Meeting – 9am Tuesday March 11
- ◆ Athletics Carnival – For students in years 3 – 6 next Tuesday March 11 at Sherbrooke Athletics Track
- ◆ School Photos – Friday March 14 – Don't forget to wear your winning smile!
- ◆ Swimming – Divisional Finals – Monday March 17
- ◆ Grade 5 camp Lakewood – Monday March 24 – Thursday March 27
- ◆ Grade 6 camp Coonawarra Monday March 31 – Thursday April 3

Enjoy the rest of your week and I hope you all have an enjoyable and safe Long Weekend!

Brooke Cross

**Acting Principal.**





# Tecoma Triumphs at the Sherbrooke District Swimming Carnival!



What a fantastic day we had at the Sherbrooke District Swimming Carnival on Friday, 28th February at Belgrave Outdoor Pool! Our Tecoma swimmers took on schools from across the district, and we couldn't be prouder of their efforts.

From the very first race, our students embodied **Personal Best, Resilience, and Respect** - giving their all in the pool, overcoming nerves, and supporting their teammates with outstanding sportsmanship. It was fantastic to see so many smiles throughout the day, with every swimmer playing a valuable role in our team's success.

A special shout-out to those who swam up an age group to cover a race and to those who stepped in at the last minute for extra events. Your willingness to support the team was truly inspiring and made a real difference on the day.

And now for the big news... **Tecoma are the 2025 Sherbrooke District Swimming Champions!**

This incredible achievement is a testament to the hard work, determination, and teamwork of every student who competed.

**Next Stop: Divisional Finals!**

Congratulations to our swimmers who placed 1st or 2nd in their events - they have now qualified for the Divisional Finals at Croydon Memorial Pool on 17th March. We wish them all the best as they take on the next level of competition!

A big thank you to the parents who helped with timekeeping and supported our team on the day. Your help is always greatly appreciated!



**Go Tecoma!**

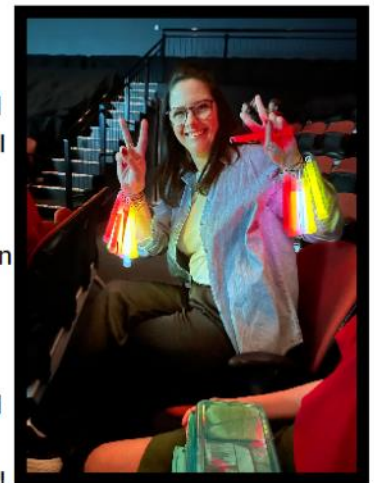




# Meet our Staff

Hello! My name is Lisa Hoskins-Faul, but the kids know me as Mrs Faul. This is my 15th year on staff at Tecoma Primary School. Prior to working here, I worked in a completely different industry! My children, Liam and Poppy, both attended TPS, so I have been a part of this community for 20 years. My husband Michael was school council president for 10 years! I was so inspired by the staff and community here that I went back to uni and studied teaching as a mature aged student. I have always taught in one way or another, teaching instrumental music and later, I also taught yoga locally.

I have worked at either end of the primary years, as a part of the Prep team and the Grade 5/6 team for many years. My passion has always been educating the whole child and I am so excited to be in the newly created role of Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader. I also lead School Wide Positive Behaviour Support, amongst other hats I wear!



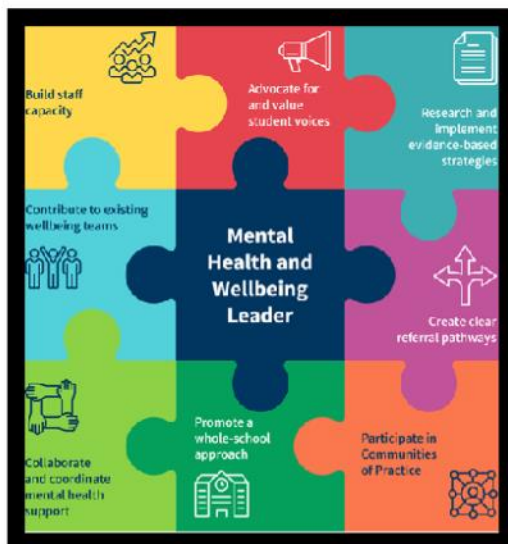
Lisa Hoskins-Faul  
aka Mrs Faul!

## **About the Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHIPS) initiative and the Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader role...**

MHiPS is a government funded program, working in conjunction with the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and the University of Melbourne. It aims to:

- Understand the current mental health and wellbeing needs in Victorian Primary Schools
- Design and implement a new school based Mental Health & Wellbeing Leader role
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the MHWL role in helping to address children's mental health issues.

I am excited to develop this role to support our staff, students and families in understanding and focussing on mental health literacy and supports. The jigsaw below outlines the aspects of the role but to break it down a little, my focus is on:



- Building staff capacity to identify and support the mental health and wellbeing needs of their students
- Conducting a review of our current wellbeing framework and the overall structure of our school's approach, with a focus on identifying areas for improvement
- Collecting and analysing wellbeing data and finding evidence-based supports to address any focus areas
- Promoting good mental health by ensuring that wellbeing is embedded into the curriculum in all classrooms and areas of the school
- Working with groups of students to gain student voice regarding their mental health and wellbeing.
- Targeting supports for students by working with regional staff, leadership, teachers, parents/carers and community based support services
- Working alongside teachers to create behaviour support or safety plans for students who need extra support.
- Creating a directory of outside supports for families and staff to access

### **Where we will begin:**

Baseline surveys of students, staff and the community to ascertain our biggest areas of need. We have been able to secure the Resilient Youth Survey and expertise to help us. Further details regarding this will be forthcoming.

### **Common misconceptions about the MHWL role. It does not include:**

- Focusing on the mental health assessment of individual students
- Conducting counselling or other roles that would typically be undertaken by an allied health professional
- Conducting classes or backfill for a teacher or an allied health worker, unless directed in exceptional circumstances
- Providing administrative or operational services for the school





# OFFICE NEWS...

- Thank you to those parents who have paid their school contributions - it is very much appreciated.
- CSEF - Get your forms in ASAP if your eligible. Application forms are available at the office.
- SchoolPix School Photo day - **FRIDAY 14TH MARCH.**

## UNIFORM SHOP HOURS...

**Mondays: 8:45am—9:15am**  
**Thursdays: 8:45am—9:15am**  
 &  
**3.15pm—3.45pm**

Please note stock is low at the moment. We hope to have more in about 2 weeks time.

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!



**FOR the Kicks**

**AFL PLAY**

**come find your awesome**

**UPWEY TECOMA AUSKICK CENTRE**

Starting Friday 2nd May 5:15pm  
Talaskia Reserve

Contact: [auskick@utjfc.com](mailto:auskick@utjfc.com) REGISTER

**nab AFL Auskick** [play.afl/auskick](http://play.afl/auskick)





**Save the Date**  
**Tecoma Primary School**  
**Colour Run**  
*is returning*



**Friday 21st March**  
**2025**





# Tesselaar

## Fund-raising with Bulbs 2025

Dear Families,

We are doing another fund-raiser for our school with Tesselaar bulbs!

Order early to ensure stock availability!!

**Our order conclusion date is Wednesday 8th April.**

Make sure to let your extended families & friends know so you can put in a bulk order 😊

Go ON-LINE to place your order at:

<http://www.bulbfundraiser.com.au/TECOMAPS>

