



## **TERM 3 2021**

Thu 05 Aug		Yr 3-6 Athletics Day
Wed 18 Aug	6.30pm-8.00pm	APS Wellbeing Information Evening
Thu 19 Aug	3.45pm – 5.15pm	Whole School Working Bee
Tue 24 Aug		School Council
Tue 31 Aug	12.00pm - 8pm	3 Way Conferences (parent, teacher, student) (NB NEW DATE) OSH Club will run on this day
Wed 08 Sep	6.30pm	Year 2-6 Concert - The Centre Ivanhoe
Sat 11 Sep	7.00pm	<b>APS Trivia Night!!! (SAVE THE DATE - more details to come)</b>
Fri 17 Sept		LAST DAY TERM 3 - Early dismissal 2.30pm

## **TERM DATES - 2021**

**Term 3: 12 July – 17 September**

**Term 4: 4 October – 17 December**

Approved curriculum days (pupil free days):

**MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER**

NB: Please check Compass for other dates/times including excursions and incursions. All dates are subject to change

### Commitment to Child Safety.

Alphington Primary School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people.

This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making.

Alphington Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Alphington Primary School is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives.

Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

If there are any concerns or questions regarding Child Safety procedures, please see Melissa Mackenzie.

Our Child Safe Policy and our commitment and code of conduct is available on the website.

Today began with our APS Torch relay. Shane and I ran through the school with torch bearers from each class and witnessed a variety of Olympic events in each room. This was our exciting and light-hearted return to school. It is so nice to have the students back. As I said in the Compass post, we have been advised that many students may struggle to return to school and attendance may become an issue. If this is a concern for your child, then please contact your child's teacher so we can support the transition.

I want to appeal to parents to continue to follow the COVID safe practices particularly after this last lockdown. We have a number of staff who are not yet eligible to be vaccinated and who are working daily with children in close contact. While we are very careful inside of classrooms, we are also reminding students about hand sanitising and hand washing. We are requesting that parents do not enter any buildings unless they have to, and we are asking that there is no congregating in the yard. Particularly important is the adherence to keeping unwell children at home. We ask that if you child has any Covid symptoms you get them tested and provide a negative result to the school before your child returns. If your child has an ongoing non-Covid related condition, like a persistent cough, then please provide a doctor's letter reassuring that it is not

Covid related. As you can imagine there is a lot of anxiety among staff and parents with this latest outbreak and we want to keep everybody safe and well.

Gabi Aitken in year 5 has begun her maternity leave and in her place we thank Jessie Lewis for stepping out of the PE role and into the class role for the remainder of the year. Jessie will continue to teach PE on Thursdays and Fridays. Deborah Luciani has increased her time and will teach some PE to fill this position.

The annual Parent Opinion Survey will be sent to those parents randomly selected from a system generated list. If you receive a link then please consider completing the survey and sharing your thoughts about the school.

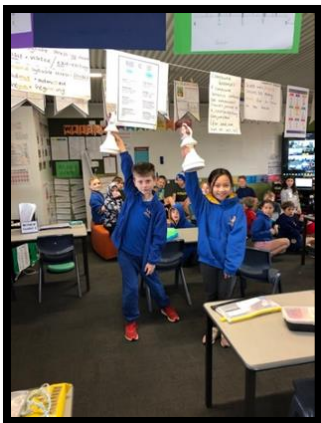
Now that we are aware of restrictions there are many events that we are trying to reschedule so they can go ahead. Ski camp, the 2-6 concert and year level camps are major events that we are working to see if they can go ahead and perhaps in a different form. We are very aware of the importance of these events for the students.

*Kind regards*

*Melissa Mackenzie*

*Principal*

**Photos of the APS torches making their way through the classes**



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## Assistant Principal Newsletter – Term 3 Week 3

Welcome back... again! It was fantastic to see all the students back onsite today. We started the day with a bit of fun and excitement to ensure students felt connected to school with the APS Olympic torch relay. Melissa and I each had an Olympic torch (manufactured out of our recently acquired giant chess pieces) with a photo of ourselves attached. The aim of the race? Get the torch to travel around every classroom in the fastest possible time. Starting in Prep, each class divided themselves into two teams, allocated two torch bearers, and selected a physical activity to complete 5 times (star jumps, push ups, something Olympic). Once completed the torch bearers raced their torch to the next class. Each class followed the race via Webex, cheering on the torches as they travelled the school.

It was a great way to encourage students to start the day with some physical activity, feel connected as a whole school, and remind students about hygiene practices.

**Term 3 Tutor Learning Initiative (TLI):** The recent lockdown and transition to remote and flexible learning impacted upon the students invited to participate in first round of term 3. The TLI is a short, sharp, goal focussed intervention and it is important for its success that students can get each of the three lessons for the 5-week period. While Julia was able to provide some remote experiences, it is not as effective as the onsite program. As a result, we have extended the first cycle, with an additional week added to allow students to complete the learning goals and sessions planned.

The parent information session that was held on Thursday 15 July was recorded and available is available through the following link for those unable to attend or any other parents within the APS community who may like to hear more about the program.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tAeu-s7R0G\\_khEdixe9zLZ0XqkNJcnXI/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tAeu-s7R0G_khEdixe9zLZ0XqkNJcnXI/view?usp=sharing)

If you have any questions or queries about the TLI please do not hesitate to contact me.

**DATE REMINDER:** Term 3 Working Bee – Thursday 19 August: While this will be dependent on restrictions in place at the time, I would like to ask families to check their calendars for this date and hopefully we will be able to proceed. Early next week I will release the task list via a shared Google document so that people can see what we are planning to undertake. Thank you to the class liaisons who have previously prepared the afternoon teas for the working bee. If restrictions allow, we will provide a covid safe snack for volunteers.

The School Council Environment Subcommittee is meeting on Tuesday 10 August and will review some of the minor projects being explored and the objectives of the upcoming working bee.

**3 Way Conferences:** As a result of the lockdown we have postponed the 3 Way Conferences. This is to allow teachers adequate time to support students to prepare for the evening. School council last night approved the date change and conferences will now take place on Tuesday 31 August from 12-8pm. These conferences are an opportunity for students to share achievements in learning with parents. Students will be guided by teachers in class to select pieces of work which they are proud of to share with their families at the 3 Way Conferences. With support from teachers, students will also share learning goals they have identified as their next steps for learning.

*Have a great week everyone!*

*Shane Wilkie*

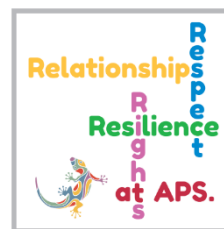
*Assistant Principal*

## School Council Meeting: Tuesday 27 July

Below are the key items discussed at last night's School Council meeting.

- Melissa's Principal report focused on the key points raised in yesterday's DET web-conference about the transition back to onsite learning. The priorities are student attendance, wellbeing, and learning. Melissa also outlined a couple of staff changes that have been completed recently. Jessie Lewis taking over Gabi's teaching role in Year 5. Chloe Bindloss' appointment to the Prep role following Ange's departure, and Julia Sheehan's appointment to the Tutor role.
- The Fundraising subcommittee presented further details of the planned trivia night. Subcommittee members outlined details of dates, venue, proposed budget costs, and refund and contingency plans. The subcommittee will provide further information through the newsletter in coming weeks.
- Council reviewed and updated documentation to submit to Yarra Council regarding future traffic management plans surrounding the school. School Council has outlined several concerns and risks that have been identified through consultation and are requesting Yarra Council consider how changes to the area will impact on student, pedestrian and cyclist safety and subsequent actions that the council will need to take.

## APS Wellbeing Information Evening: Wednesday 18 August



At APS we recognise and value wellbeing and see it as an integral part of our teaching and learning program, providing, as it does, opportunities for students to explore and develop their social and emotional skills.

A designated and dedicated team of teachers, who represent all areas of the school, are responsible for leading the development of the Wellbeing program, as increasingly are our students.

We are very proud of the program that we are developing and would like to take the opportunity to share our work with you. On Wednesday 18 August we will be holding an information evening at school from 6:30 – 8:00pm. During this session the APS Wellbeing Team will provide an overview of the program and then you will be invited to participate in one of the 4Rs (Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships) lessons we use with our students.

We are looking forward to sharing our Wellbeing program with you all.

*The Wellbeing Team*

**An overview of the program can be found on our school website:**

<https://www.alphinps.vic.edu.au/wellbeing.html>

### **Parent Opinion Survey**

Our school is conducting a survey to find out what parents/caregivers/guardians think of our school. The Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Opinion Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education and Training that is conducted amongst a sample of randomly selected parents/caregivers/guardians (previously known as the Parent Opinion Survey). It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour, student engagement and experiences of remote and flexible learning. Our school will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies.

Approximately 30 per cent of parents will be invited to participate in this year's survey. All responses to the survey are anonymous. This year, the Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Opinion Survey will be open until Sunday 22nd August. The survey will be conducted online, only takes 20 minutes to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time within the fieldwork period on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones. The online survey will be available in a range of languages other than English. These include: Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Chin (Hakha), Hindi, Japanese, Somali, Turkish, Punjabi and Greek. The survey results will be communicated to parents/caregivers/guardians through annual reporting



### **Scholastic Book Club is back for Term 3**

Term 3 Scholastic orders are now open. All orders are online and no cash orders can be accepted at the front office.

Please follow the below link to see the catalogue and make your online order. Be sure to list APS as your school.

Many thanks to Louisa B for coordinating our book club for the last few years and a big thank you to Sam P who has volunteered to coordinate moving forward.

<https://www.scholastic.com.au/book-club/book-club-parents/>

## OSHClub News

### Before School / After School Care Program

#### Program Update

Hello families!

We have been thinking of you all during Lockdown 5.0 and hope you have all been learning and having as much fun as possible! Whilst you have been away, we have been preparing our space for your return and planning fun activities to enjoy when you get back!

Our goal for this week is to continue to work on our emotional development. We will be doing this through mindfulness activities which include stress ball making, morning meditation and morning yoga. We have our clubs running again this week which include Groovy Wednesday where we will be using the Olympics gymnastics teams as our inspiration to get groovy and practice our floor and beam routines. We will also be running Mini Chef where we will make healthy Olympic themed desserts, and STEMtastic science experiments. As always, we will continue to do Moovosity to maintain our active program. Feel free to come and check out our full program which is displayed in our OSHClub room.

We appreciate that times are confusing at the moment as work schedules are changing. Please try and book your child in 24-hours in advanced, so we can make staffing and food arrangements to cater for all. Otherwise please get in touch with us as soon as possible so we can do our best to support everyone. Also, a reminder for all parents who have received messages for new medical plans/medication to please bring in the required before the child begins their next session.

This week our Kindness Award goes to Angus Ward. He is always friendly to all age groups, his siblings and includes everyone in games. Well done, Angus!

The team would like to wish Ben B in grade 2 a very happy birthday for this week. 😊

Q: Why did the chewing gum cross the road?

A: Because it was stuck to the chicken's foot.

We look forward to seeing you all very soon!

From Hannah, Clare and Laura 😊



ALPHINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

# TRIVIA NIGHT 2021

**11 SEPTEMBER / 7PM**

SAVE THE DATE AND  
START ORGANISING  
YOUR TABLE OF 10!

FURTHER DETAILS COMING SOON...

# ALPHINGTON FARMGATE THURSDAYS

Your midweek  
market top-up

2pm-5pm, every Thursday  
Alphington Community Farmgate  
2 Wingrove Street, Alphington

MELBOURNE  
**FARMERS**  
MARKETS 

