



Edition 15 - 2023

Wednesday 31 May 2023

## **TERM 2 2023**

Wed 07 June	3.45pm - 5.45pm	STEM EXPO
Mon 12 June		King's Birthday Public Holiday
Wed 14 June		Regional Cross Country
Fri 16 June		Student Reports available on Compass
Tue 20 June	6.30pm	School Council
Fri 23 June	2.30pm	Last Day Term 2 (Please note early dismissal - <b>2.30pm</b> )

## **TERM 3 2023**

Mon 10 July		<b>STUDENT FREE DAY</b>
Tue 11 July		Students Commence Term 3
Tue 18 July - 21 July		Ski Camp (Tuesday - Friday)
Tue 25 July	6.30pm	School Council
Wed 26 July		Multicultural Day
Tue 01 August		<b>3 WAY CONFERENCES - Students only attend school for their conference.</b>
Wed 02 August		APS Senior Athletics Day
Wed 09 August		APS Junior Athletics Day
Mon 21 August		District Athletics
Tue 22 August	6.30pm	School Council
Wed 06 September		Division Athletics
Mon 11 September		Year 4 Camp - Return Wednesday 13th September
Thu 14 September		Year 2 - 6 Concert (Rehearsal During the Day) TBC
Fri 15 September	2.30pm	Last Day Term 3 (Please note early dismissal - <b>2.30pm</b> )

## **TERM 4 2023**

Mon 2 October		Students and Teachers Commence Term 4
Wed 11 October		Regional Athletics
Mon 23 October		Year 3 Camp - Arrabri - Return Tuesday 24th October
Tue 24 October	6.30pm	School Council
Thu 02 November		Prep - 1 Concert (PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE)
Mon 6 November		<b>STUDENT FREE DAY</b>
Tue 7 November		Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
Thu 16 November		Year 2 Sleepover TBC
Sun 19 November		Alphington Park Wetlands Festival
Mon 20 November		Year 1 and Year 2 Swimming Program begins (Mondays and Wednesdays)
Tue 28 November		Year 5 Camp - Portsea - Return Friday 1st December
Tue 28 November	6.30pm	School Council
Mon 4 December		Year 6 Camp - Return Thursday 7th December
Wed 20 December	1.30pm	Last Day Term 4 (Please note early dismissal - <b>1.30pm</b> )

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

### **School Council approved 'Student Free Days' in 2023.**

**Monday 10th July (first day of term 3)**

**Monday 6th November (day before Cup Day).**

**Tuesday 1st August 3-Way Conference Day (Parents, Teacher and Student Conference--- Students only required at school for their conference)**

#### 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 or Shane Wilkie

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

## **Principal Update – Melissa Mackenzie**

There is a lot of illness around including Covid. Thanks to those parents who are keeping their unwell children home. We have RAT tests here if parents would like to come to the office and get a pack. It is recommended that someone with Covid remain away from school for 5 days or until there are no symptoms. We are also experiencing a severe shortage of replacement teachers and are having to cancel programs, like tutoring, and collapse classes. Thanks to everyone for their understanding as we navigate this very challenging time. We always have the students at the core of our planning and attempt to have the least amount of disruption for them.

We acknowledged National Sorry Day on Friday and this week classes are completing activities around Reconciliation. There are discussions taking place with the aim to further students understanding of our past and positive ways forward. We are preparing for the STEM celebration on Wednesday 7 June from 3:45-5:45. We hope for our usual incredible attendance as the students display and discuss their learning in this area. You can visit for the full time or just drop in for as long as you have, we would love to see you all.

**Reporting:** The teachers are completing their judgements against the Victorian Curriculum which are reported to parents on Friday 16 June via Compass. The process of making judgements is based on the evidence students produce through class work and assessments. Teachers spend a considerable amount of time moderating the work to ensure consistency and confidence in making the judgements. It is a measure in time and is only measured in 6-month increments. The curriculum is broad, and each subject covers many aspects. These judgements are supported by standardized assessments like Essential Assessments, but there is no 1 assessment that covers all of the curriculum. Teachers will be making phone calls to families if the student has not made the expected growth since the end of last year.

**The Education and Communication Subcommittee** of School Council have been working on a communication to parents explaining the survey data that is collected and how the school uses this data. The letter is attached to this newsletter and will also be distributed through Compass. The Parent Opinion Survey is open to all parents to complete later in term 3. The link will be in the newsletter and posted on Compass closer to the time. We encourage all parents to complete the survey when the time comes.

*Have a great week.*

*Melissa Mackenzie*

*Principal*

## **Assistant Principal Update – Shane Wilkie**

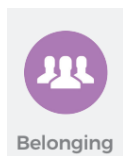
Welcome to week 6 of Term 2. I hope families are coping okay with the colder weather and significant illness that is around in the community.

**Offsite Evacuation Drill** – Providing the weather is suitable, we will hold an offsite evacuation to Alphington Park next week, Thursday 8 June. As part of our annual Emergency Management Plan, we are required to conduct drills at various points throughout the year. This will be our first offsite evacuation for the year and the School Leadership Team will review the protocols and the exit points prior to the evacuation and communicate these with teachers. Teachers of Prep students will suitably prepare the younger students for their first offsite evacuation.

**STEM Expo:** Our annual Science Expo will be held on Wednesday 7 June. Students in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 will be working on projects in class as part of their Term 2 Science Inquiry Unit. Students in Year 3-6 will be provided details of their Science Expo projects within their homework tasks, as well as working on them during class integrated lessons.

The afternoon will commence from 3:45pm with the Science Expo displays set up across the classrooms. In addition, there will be a scavenger hunt for students and families to complete with some science prizes for the winners.

**Learner Dispositions:** As part of our continued efforts to support and develop students' learning and wellbeing we are developing our understanding of learner dispositions. Today I am including a further two learner dispositions that we are exploring as a staff and with students.



Belonging reflects how much you feel you belong as part of a 'learning community' — at work or at home, or in your wider social network. It's about the confidence you gain from knowing there are people you learn well together with and to whom you can turn to when you need guidance, support and encouragement.



Creativity is using your imagination and intuition, being playful and 'dreaming' new ideas, having hunches, letting answers come to you, rather than just 'racking your brains' or looking things up. It's playing with ideas and exploring ways to communicate your thinking in new and diverse ways.

**Term 2.2. Professional Learning Community (PLC) Focus:** Throughout the semester I have shared with families how we use PLCs to collaborate to improve student learning. Building a PLC is a proven way for schools to increase student learning by creating a culture that is:

- Focussed on continuous improvement by linking the learning needs of students with the professional learning and practice of teachers.
- Committed to professionalism and analysis of student data.
- Fuelled by collaborative expertise.

In 2023 we have had a Spelling focus during Term 1 and a reading focus in the first half of Term 2. In the second half of this term our focus for our PLC will be writing.

Our staff have embedded the processes and protocols around analysis of data, identifying a learning goal for a specific group of students and implementing a research based pedagogical approach. Our writing PLC will be a mini cycle, with a very specific goal being focussed upon. *For example, correctly using the correct homophones of There, Their or They're in writing.*

Furthermore, we are exploring how we involve student voice and agency in an authentic way as part of the PLC process. This will involve staff utilising assessment rubrics, student led goals and using Seesaw to reflect upon learning.

**Division Cross Country:** Today I was able to attend the Division Cross Country at Banyule flats. All students performed admirably with 11 students progressing to the next level. We also had some students who placed in the top three and earned a ribbon for their performance. A big thank you to all those parents and families who attended to support the students.

*Have a great week everyone!*

*Shane Wilkie*

*Assistant Principal*

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## **ROAD AND BIKE SAFETY**

Parents, please note that Julie at the Heidelberg Road School Crossing has expressed concern at the number of APS bike riders displaying dangerous and careless behaviour when crossing over at Heidelberg Road – especially at the end of the day when there are several large groups of riders together.

**Please remind your rider that they are to cross over slowly, sensibly and being extra careful not to veer out into traffic or push past the other families crossing the road.**



All students at APS have started the Bully Stoppers programs and have pledged to be SAFE.

In Year 2 we've been learning about what bullying is and means, and what it's not. It's made us think about our own choices.

Sometimes people say they're joking but they're just being mean by teasing someone too much, or going too far. Saying that we're 'just joking' doesn't make things better. We say this because we don't want to admit to saying something nasty or hurting someone, or we don't get into trouble.

We think that everyone at APS needs to know that a joke is only a joke if everyone laughs and enjoys the joke.

We think we all need to know what a joke is:

- Nobody gets upset.
- It's funny to everyone.
- It's to say funny things or to make them laugh.
- It isn't meant to be cruel, unkind or mean.
- It doesn't make people feel bad.
- And it stops before someone gets hurt or upset. If it doesn't stop and is repeated, it's bullying, not joking.

Bullying is never okay, it is hurtful and can make them upset for a long time. 'Just joking' once, can turn into 'just being mean' very quickly,

So remember, before you tell a joke, ask yourself

- Is anybody going to be hurt?
- Am I trying to embarrass someone by making the joke?
- Is anyone not going to find the joke funny?

If your answer is yes to any of these, IT'S NOT A JOKE! Don't say it.

Bullying doesn't only hurt feelings it can make people feel really embarrassed, and we don't want that.

By Aiden, Lucas O and Elliot from Year 2.

# Alphington Primary School: Survey Data



## What is collected?

Over the course of each school year, Alphington Primary School collects a range of data using Department led surveys which include:

- **Parent Opinion Survey (POS)**
- **Attitudes to School Survey (ATOSS)**
- **Staff Satisfaction Survey (SSS)**

The school also gathers data from students with a Wellbeing Survey administered each term from Foundation to Year 6.

2023 is a particularly important year as the school undergoes its 4 yearly review, and the data will work to inform the direction of the school's 4 year strategic plan.

## Why is it collected?

Using educational data is an integral part of the school's practice. It ensures continuous reflection and helps to improve the quality of the education provided at Alphington Primary School.

## How is it used?

The School Council, in partnership with the Alphington Primary School Leadership Team and Teachers, work together to review the data. In particular, comparisons are drawn with previous years, looking for trends to inform future development of the Annual Implementation Plan and Strategic Plan.

A recent example of this process was the introduction of the House System; this was created in response to feedback regarding the students' desire to feel more connected with one another throughout the year levels.

## Why is it important?

Gathering data from our community to inform best practice enhances the connection between the school, the parents and the local community. This allows each member of the school community to have their voice heard which in turn enhances learning confidence, motivation and school connectedness.

In previous years, the Parent Opinion Survey response rate has been approximately 30% (70 of 210 families). In the future, all parents are encouraged to participate to provide a more comprehensive snapshot to enable the improvement of the education provided at Alphington Primary School.

The 2023 Annual Implementation Plan can be found on the [school website](https://www.alphinps.vic.edu.au/our-school/about-our-school/) (<https://www.alphinps.vic.edu.au/our-school/about-our-school/>)



Education & Communication Sub-Committee, Alphington Primary School Council  
Melissa Mackenzie, Matt Cobby, Erin Ward, Hannah Kollmorgen, Kristen Widdop, Deborah Luciani



Kew City Medical Centre is a newly opened medical clinic in Kew. We would like to offer our services to your staff, students, and families.

We offer Bulk Billing appointments for children under the age of 16 years old, pensioners and healthcare card holders. In the current financial climate and all the changes with fee's in general practice, we believe this may be beneficial to some of your staff and/or families.

Kew City Medical Centre  
1/251 High Street, Kew 3101

**Phone: 03 9853 9000**

**Fax: 03 9853 8000**



## WINTER SOLSTICE BONFIRE 2023

The first Winter Solstice Bonfire was held in 2003. This year marks the 20th anniversary of this auspicious occasion!

**Saturday 17 June 2023 is when the Bonfire will thrill and delight thousands of families.**

There is something hypnotic about watching flames leaping into the night sky from a massive bonfire. When live music, fire lanterns, face-painting and storytelling are added to the mix. It's truly an evening to remember.

We'll also have a widely expanded range of vendors selling food and drinks, including: Beatbox Kitchen, Blak Brews, The Boiling Crab, Hot Churros, Hudsons Donuts, Inkredible Calamari, Juicello, Mr Fresh Truck, Taco Truck, Twista Bros, Twista Sis, Wrap It Roll It and friends of the Farm—the Country Women's Association.

And as always, the Farm will be running a BBQ sausage sizzle (with sausages supplied by Halal Meats Preston) and a bar with beer, wine and our special mulled wine. Drinks will be provided by Bodriggy, Mountain Goat, Rewine and Noisy Ritual Winery.

This event sells out fast and tickets are available online only via our website and direct from Eventbrite.

**Prices are:**

**Adults \$25 / concession \$15**

**Kids \$15 / concession \$10**

**Children under the age of 2 are admitted for free.**

**These cards entitle you to concession-priced entry: Carer Card, Health Care Card, Pension Card and Veterans' Affairs Card.**

This is a card-only event. Strictly no cash. No dogs or glow sticks permitted on site.

The Farm will be closed during the day on Saturday 17 June while we prep for the big event, until gates open at 4:00 pm for Winter Solstice Bonfire ticket holders only.

This event ends at 8:00 pm.

We strongly advise taking public transport to the Bonfire as parking is extremely limited. The closest train station is Victoria Park on the Mernda/Hurstbridge lines, with a 10-minute walk from the station. Buses 200–207 from the city to Bulleen go along Johnston Street regularly. Paid parking is available in the Abbotsford Convent carpark, however, numbers are limited—so again, we strongly advise to look for alternative modes of transport.

<https://farm.org.au/events/winter-solstice-bonfire/>



### [Become a Teacher's Aide - Certificate III in School Based Education Support](#)

Embark on a flexible and rewarding career where you can make a meaningful impact on the lives of children with additional needs.

This qualification will give you the skills and knowledge to provide assistance and support to teachers and students in a range of educational settings. This includes primary and secondary schools as well as schools for children with additional needs.

Our next course begins July 24th.

Speak to us about real employment outcomes achieved by our graduates.

Ring Prace on 9462 6077 to enrol or visit our website: <https://prace.vic.edu.au/>



**ThinkUKnow.**  
STAYING SAFE ONLINE

**LUNCHTIME ONLINE SESSION**  
ThinkUKnow is an evidence based program delivered by Victoria Police

This is an opportunity to learn more about young people and the online environment, and how you can help them to be safe and responsible users of technology.

This session covers

- Privacy and preventing inappropriate contact
- Sharing personal information
- Online grooming, 'sexting' and sexual extortion
- Signs of online child sexual exploitation
- Taking action and how to get help and report.

This session is for parents/ carers of children aged 10 – 16 years  
**\*Please note this is not suitable for children to view.**

**DATE AND LOCATION**  
Thursday 15 June 12.30pm  
Online via Zoom


**TO REGISTER OR LEARN MORE**  
Visit our parenting page via the link or QR code.  
<https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/services/family-and-children/parenting-and-support-services>



Parenting Education

**Contact us**  
Yarra City Council  
T // 9205 5555  
E // [info@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@yarracity.vic.gov.au)  
W // [www.yarracity.vic.gov.au](http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au)

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## Handling tricky friendship days

With parenting expert and author Michelle Mitchell

**Are you the parent/carer of a teen or tween who lives or attends school in the City of Yarra? Join our free webinar!**

In this practical online session, Michelle Mitchell will offer you strategies to help your young person understand themselves better, develop robust self-esteem and forge healthy friendships.

You'll leave with practical tools to support your tween or teen on their trickiest friendship days.

**Together we'll explore:**

- how to help young people tap into their inner wisdom
- 6 guiding principles that will change the way parents respond to friendship issues
- practical strategies and language to help tweens hold boundaries with more ease, manage transition in friendship groups, celebrate others, accept disappointments and resolve conflict.

There will be time at the end of the session for Michelle to respond to questions.

**About the presenter**  
Michelle Mitchell is an award-winning speaker, and bestselling parenting author. She has been termed 'the teenage expert' by the media and is sought after for her compassionate and grounded advice for parenting tweens and teens. Michelle started her career as a teacher, but soon discovered a special interest in wellbeing. Today she uses her experience to write and speak in schools, community events and through media.

**When**  
Tuesday 6 June 2023  
7:15 - 8:15pm

**Where**  
This session will be delivered as an online webinar. More information will be provided after you register.

**Please note:** You will have access to the chat message function for the question and answer (Q&A) section of the webinar, but will not be on video or audio.

**Cost**  
Free of charge. Bookings required.


**Register and find out more**  
Register at [bit.ly/tricky\\_friendship\\_days](http://bit.ly/tricky_friendship_days)

To find out more, contact Naomi Gilbert, Community Liaison Officer at Relationships Australia Victoria, on 0488 688 908.

This session is organised as part of Yarra Communities that Care®.

We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners of the lands and waterways of Australia.

We support Aboriginal people's right to self-determination and culturally safe services.



23047 | [www.rav.org.au](http://www.rav.org.au)



## Learn dance here at school

The Prep to Grade 3 Hip hop group runs on Friday lunchtimes in the Performing Arts room with Stageworks Academy. The group have been learning dances to Green Green Grass, Dance Monkey and Thunder. The classes entail a warm up, stretching, strengthening, centre work, travelling steps, leaps& jumps, dance making and routines. Classes offer a fun way of developing coordination, fitness, self confidence, strength, flexibility and musicality, all to the latest child appropriate pop music.

To book a free trial and find out more please call or visit our website

**0403156920**  
**[www.StageworksAcademy.au](http://www.StageworksAcademy.au)**