



Edition 15 - 2022

Wednesday 1 June

TERM 2 2022

Tue 07 Jun		New date for Divisional Cross Country
Wed 08 Jun	3.45pm	Science Expo
Mon 13 Jun		Public Holiday - Queen's Birthday
Wed 15 Jun		Regional Cross Country
Thu 16 Jun	3.45pm - 5.15pm	WHOLE SCHOOL WORKING BEE
Fri 17 Jun		Reports available on Compass
Tue 21 Jun	6.30pm	School Council
Thu 23 Jun		Yr 6 Mixed Netball Round Robin
Fri 24 Jun	2.30pm	Last Day Term 2 - note early dismissal - 2.30pm

TERM 3 2022

Mon 11th Jul		Student Free Day (OshClub will be running - contact directly to book in)
Tue 12th Jul		First day of Term 3 Students
Tue 19 Jul		Ski Camp (4 days)
Tue 02 Aug	6.30pm	School Council
Wed 03 Aug	All Day	3 Way Conferences - Teachers/Students/Parents - <u>Children only attend for their conference.</u>
Thu 04 Aug	2.00pm	Prep to Year 2 - Mini Athletics Carnival @ Alphington Park

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

Principal Update – Melissa Mackenzie

The weather has turned this week and we really feel that Winter has begun! We are still having lots of students getting sick with the flu and the occasional Covid case. As we manage this, I want to clarify that teachers will be providing work for students who are required to take 7 days absence being Covid positive and they are feeling well. If your child is absent due to other illness, then there is no expectation to complete work.

I attended the Statewide Principals conference on Monday and Tuesday this week and heard from many esteemed educators. The strong message was how well we are doing as a State, after having the longest periods of lockdowns we have not seen a negative shift in the academic data. There was acknowledgement of the change in the wellbeing of students including the increase in mental health concerns for students. We discussed at length the complexities schools are facing in the climate of still being affected by Covid, the impacts of illnesses including the flu and the huge challenges in trying to secure staff to fill positions and replace ill staff. As Shane has spoken about, we are managing these challenges well and appreciate the support from the community knowing we are doing the best we can in these times.

We also listened to Minister Merlino talk about the new EBA that was voted in by DET employees and is currently with the Fair Work commission. There will be changes we will need to make to our timetables and school day for 2023 to enable teachers to have 3 ½ hrs away from face-to-face teaching which will increase to 4 hours in 2024.

Currently teachers receive 3 hrs while their students are at specialist programs. There are other changes in the agreement which will need careful consideration once the agreement is in place.

We have booked the STOMP dance group for a program in term 3. This will be during class times for the Year 2-6 students and will culminate in a performance at the end of term 3. You will know of the struggle we have had in employing a performing arts teacher and thus the ability to do our usual concert. This program will provide our students with an opportunity to perform.

Enrolment 2023: We have enrolments coming in and have begun the work for classes for 2023. If you have a child starting school or know of someone who plans on coming to APS please enrol ASAP. We have many families out of the area who are on a waiting list as we need to offer places to those in the area first. It is critical that we know the numbers to be informed with these decisions.

Stage 2 is moving along with the junior library and toilets being handed back to the school in the next week. We are also looking forward to the roof sheeting arriving on Friday and being laid next week. They have faced many holdups and shortages of contractors and prices of materials and labour are increasing. They are still expecting to finish by the end of term 3 so we will have term 4 to finalise all aspects of the upgrade and look forward to 2023.

The Annual Report to the Community has been presented to the community, endorsed by School Council and quality assured. It is now available on our website.

Have a great week

Melissa Mackenzie

Principal

Assistant Principal Update – Shane Wilkie

Welcome to week 6 of Term 2. As we draw to the end of term and the change to cooler weather, we see an increase in student and staff absence. Accessing Casual Relief Teachers (CRTs) through our regular agencies is challenging due to teacher shortages. As a result, we sometimes need to split classes. There is no hard and fast process for this, with several factors influencing the decision. With most of our classes having student numbers at around 20 or less, we can split across just one year level, so students simply merge into the adjoining class and continue their curriculum program. At times, a class may be split across two-year levels to allow for better student distribution.

Phonemic Awareness and Phonics Professional Learning:

Over the past couple of weeks staff have been doing some professional learning around the teaching of phonemic awareness and phonics and how this is applied to the teaching of reading and spelling.

An important part of reading is the ability to decode text. The ‘code’ used in Standard Australian English is made up of 44 phonemes (sounds). Of these, 24 phonemes are consonants and 20 are vowel sounds. The 26 letters of the alphabet are used either singularly or in combination to create graphemes: the representations of phonemes in words. For example, the word BOAT has three phonemes ‘b’ ‘o’ ‘t’. The letters used to represent the graphemes are /b/oa/t/. Explicitly teaching students to hear and manipulate phonemes is an important step in the learning to read process. Furthermore, the systematic teaching of phonics supports students to develop a growing awareness of how different letter combinations (graphemes) can be used to represent the sounds in words. It is a child’s ability to interpret the written letters as the correct phoneme which allows them to decode when reading. In contrast, it is their ability to select the correct letter combinations (graphemes) to represent the phonemes they hear when attempting to write (encode) when spelling.

At Alphington teaching phonemic awareness and phonics is a critical element of our balanced approach to the teaching of reading. We are continuously developing our professional learning to support the teaching of reading and spelling aligned to our 2022 strategic priorities.

Upcoming Events:

Year Level Incursions and Excursions: Lots of students will be out and about or having incursions in the next couple of weeks. Year 1 will be learning all about the weather. Year 3 are off to the Chinese museum. Year 6 will be watching a performance by indigenous artist Baker Boy. There is a Hockey Clinic for students in Years 3-6.

Divisional Cross Country (POSTPONED DATE):

Tuesday 7 June: Good luck to the 15 students who will be representing APS at the Banyule Divisional Cross Country. The students have been training hard and are looking forward to competing.

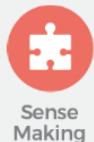
Let's Stamp Out Bullying Performance – Tuesday 7 June: Students from Prep -5 will watch the performance which helps develop strategies to prevent bullying. As a school we will follow up with activities in class to further support the ideas covered.

Science Expo:

Wednesday 8 June: Join us from 3:45pm for our 2022 Science Expo. Families are invited to move around the school and engage with the various scientific displays. A scavenger hunt will provide some motivation to learn as much scientific knowledge as possible.

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.



Sense making is making connections between ideas, memories, facts — everything you know —linking them and seeing patterns and meaning. It's about how learning matters to you, connecting with your own story and things that really matter.



Openness
to Learning

Openness to learning is being open to new ideas and to challenge and having the 'inner strength' to move towards learning and change, rather than either giving up and withdrawing or 'toughing it out' and getting mad with the world. Becoming more open to learning is like a pathway to all the other dimensions of learning power, just as the other dimensions also help you become more open to learning.

Proposed Working Bee:

Thursday 16 June 3:45 - 5:00: We are proposing a Term 2 Working Bee to be held on Thursday 16 June from 3:45-5:00pm. We have a small number of jobs that need doing so would love to see lots of volunteers. Even if you can spare just 15 minutes, there will be a suitable task available. If you are attending the working bee, a reminder that you must sign in upon arrival.

This term's Working Bee has the following tasks:

- Relocating Mulch on both playgrounds
- Removing leaf litter from the yard
- Weeding of the organic garden and surrounds
- General sweeping and tidying

Have a great week everyone!

Shane Wilkie

Assistant Principal

Year 4 News

Good day APS parents and guardians,

The year fours have been learning about Life Cycles. We have enjoyed growing some seeds and watching some life grow. Two weeks ago, the grade fours received 10 chicken's eggs for each class. 4GB had 3 eggs that hatched. We named them Sunshine, Spice and Moonlight. 4JP sadly only had 2 eggs hatch. These chicks were named Bernie and Cracko. Moonlight was the first chick to hatch, then Bernie, next was Spice, then Cracko and finally, Sunshine had a glimpse of the students of year four! Cracko was born with their leg badly hurt. We all hope that Cracko goes on to lead a healthy, happy chicken life.

Well, the Broad Beans progress was quicker than the chickens. As soon as we planted these, we could notice germination beginning. When the chickens arrived, they took all of the attention away from the Broad Beans. We all agree that the chickens were the best out of the two! Sadly they had to leave our classrooms and we miss them a lot. Thanks to Greta and James for letting all of the year fours enjoy this interesting time in Term Two.

From Heathcote W and Matthew G (Year 4).



Library News

Brrrrr, a chilly afternoon greeting to you all!

This week in the library we are celebrating all the awesome books we have on display for National Reconciliation Week. These books have been flying off the shelves and into the hands of teachers and students. All staff have been reading these with their classes and sparking discussion about important Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander events that have happened and continue to. We love thought provoking literature. The students are learning traditional language through these books and creating some lovely art to put around the school. The collection will be here all year long for everyone to enjoy.

Big thanks to all the people who have contacted me about contacting books. Many books have gone home 'in the nude' and it would be fabulous to get them back 'fully clothed'. If you have books at home, we miss them. Otherwise, if you are busting to cover some, let me know and I will leave them at the office for collection.

It's the perfect weather to stop work, rug up and read! Have a fine week everyone and remember to return your library books so everyone can enjoy them.

Lizzy





Last week, we told you about the fantastic job 3M are doing collecting our soft plastics for recycling.

This week, let's hear how 3A are going collecting our mixed recycling.



3A are collecting the mixed recycling
around the school.

Last week in our yellow mixed recycling bins we collected 3 and a half bins of mixed recycling, but we also collected 1 and a half bins of land fill.

We are very proud of how much mixed recycling we have collected but we would like less landfill in our mixed recycling bins.

It is good to see that we are putting most mixed recycling in the right bin.

We want to see less mixed recycling at school, so we hope that we collect less and less as the weeks go by.

From Isabella, Audrey and Jasmina.



BRAND NEW

House Badges

The Alphington Primary School house badges have just landed at school, and we are so excited to share them with you!



Each house now has a unique logo that will be sold as a 7.5cm wide embroidered badge. Our hope is that students will purchase a badge, then sew or iron it onto a tshirt in their house colour.

School leaders will be visiting classrooms from
Thursday 12th May until sold out!

Badges will be sold for **\$5 each** - cash only.

**What are you waiting for?
Grab those coins ... before it's too late!**



Dear year 4 parents

Hello all you lovely Year 4 people!

Hopefully, you're all thinking, "Gee, I would love to catch up with all the year 4 parents again". Because Vicky and I are thinking of throwing a party for parents from both classes at our place.

Our 10yo had a house party and 25 yr4's schooled us on how to party! Some parents have suggested that the adults should have a chance to seize the celebratory gauntlet and raise the roof.

We thoroughly agree!

We'd love to see all of you on Saturday July 23rd from 6:30pm onwards.

Parents have already put their hands up to help make some delicious cocktails and play some questionable music!

If you can make it in time for 7:30 dinner you can chip in for a simple catered dinner (detail tbd).

Hope to see you here! rsvp by 1/7/2022 julian@featherston.net.au
or 0400 223 518

LET'S GET RECYCLING!

Alphington Primary School is excited to be participating in the *Wonder Recycling Rewards* program again this year. Last year we collected just over 15kg of bread bags and hundreds of bread tags, giving us a total of 1500 credits to spend towards RH Sports equipment.

We would love to get the ball rolling early and start collecting bread bags and tags now. But of course, we cannot do this without your help. A collection box has already been set up in your child's classroom, so please start collecting at home and feel free to send them in weekly!

TWO RECYCLING REMINDERS

It's important that items being recycled are not contaminated with other products and are as clean as possible. Here's a quick checklist for you:

What is a bread bag for recycling purposes?

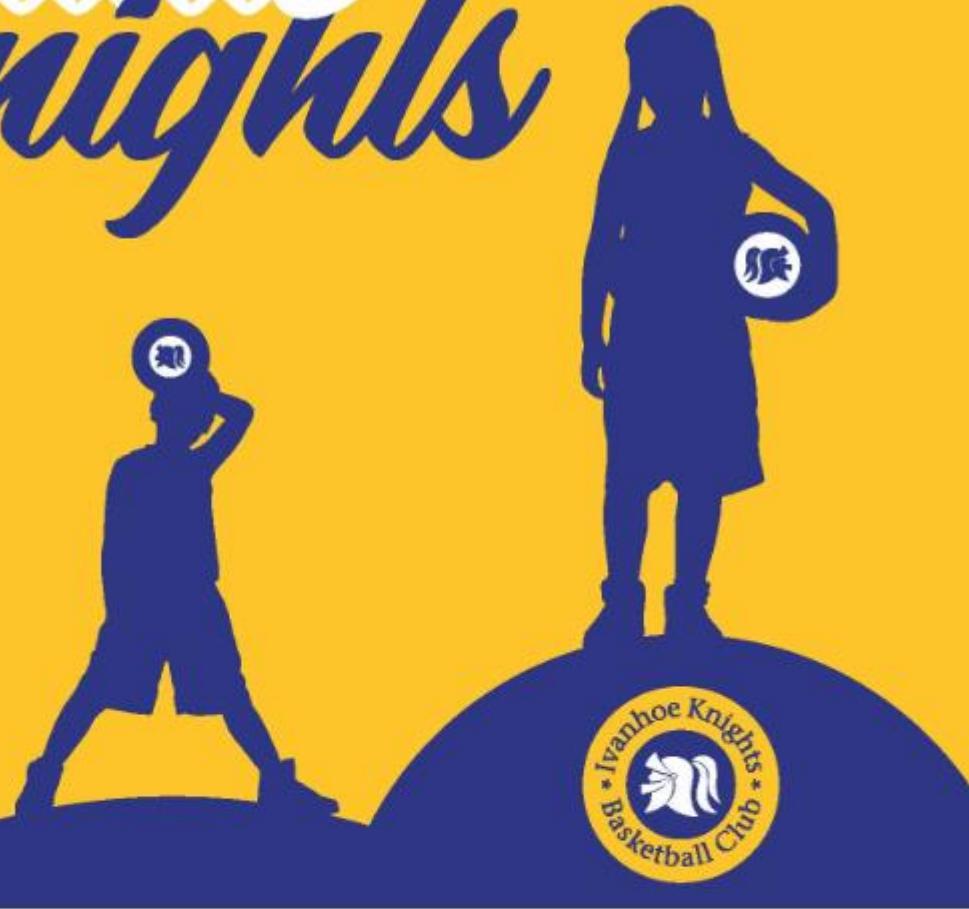
The rule of thumb is that if it has contained bread of some sort and is a soft plastic, then it's a bread bag. If it hasn't contained bread, then it's not a bread bag.

How clean do the bags have to be?

Bread bags should be free from crumbs to ensure no contamination during the recycling process but they do not need to be washed.



little Knights



Start your child's basketball journey with Ivanhoe Knights!

Join our most popular development program! Little Knights is structured for school children (Prep to Grade 2) who have little to no experience in basketball. Weekly 45 minute sessions across each school term.

- > Start learning how to play basketball > Have lots of fun > Meet new friends
- > All new participants get a FREE Knights training singlet!

Dates Friday 15 July - 2 Sept **Time** Friday 4pm

Location Alphington Primary School **Cost** \$100 for 8 weeks

Bookings www.playhq.com/basketball-victoria/register/d63540

Contact ikbc@ivanhoeknights.org



Free webinar: Unlocking the mysteries of the teenage brain

**Do you ever feel like your teen/pre-teen
is from a completely different species?**

Are you:

- dealing with a teen who offers you nothing but grunts, shrugs, rolled eyes or silence?
- feeling you're constantly in a battle with your teen?
- concerned that your teen is drawing away from you and the family?
- struggling with how to support your teen with their worries, stress and anxiety?
- wondering what's ahead for your pre-teen as they prepare for high school in the coming years?

Join us as we unpack the big developmental changes that occur in the teenage brain.

This new understanding will shed light on the tricky behaviours you might experience in your home.

We'll explore strategies to strengthen your relationship with your teen and support them as they navigate this important developmental stage.

This program is delivered by Relationships Australia Victoria as part of Yarra Communities that Care. Session content is based on the Tuning in to Teens™ program.

Ideal for

Parents/carers of teens and pre-teens who live or attend a school in the City of Yarra.

When

Thursday 16 June 2022, from 7:15-8:30pm

Where

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

Please note: Participants will have access to the chat message function for the question and answer 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/unlocking-teen-brain

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

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.



Grade 3 to 6 Hip hop Dance at APS

- ✓ Fun and convenient
- ✓ Suitable for boys and girls
- ✓ Learn hip hop dance moves to the latest music
- ✓ Develop dance technique
- ✓ Perform in an annual staged concert
- ✓ Learn from a highly qualified and experienced dance choreographer and teacher.



Katrina Post trained in dance at the Victorian College of Arts, winning the Premier's Award for top VCE Dance score and performing in Top Cats. After Graduating from a BA in Dance, she worked as a freelance dancer, choreographer and musician. She worked in schools to choreograph their stage shows and taught Dance, Music and Drama Prep to Year 12 as a VIT registered Performing Arts Teacher. Kat's passion is to share her skills, knowledge and love of The Arts with the next generation. She will help your child build confidence and skills amidst a fun, structured dance program.

\$18 per class plus GST \$65 yearly Insurance and costume fee.

Email: katsdance@live.com.au Phone: 0403156920 www.katsdance.com.au

2022 TRIAL CLASS ENROLMENT: Hip Hop, Choir or Ballet at APS

Child's name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

School teacher and class _____

Emergency Phone number: _____

Email Address: _____

Parent name: _____ Sign _____

Please enroll my child for a trial lesson in the following class/es (tick)

Mon/Tue	<input type="checkbox"/> 3.30pm to 5:00pm*	Broadway Song&Dance 3-6
Monday	<input type="checkbox"/> Lunchtime 1-2pm	Junior Choir Grade F-3
Tuesday	<input type="checkbox"/> Lunchtime 1-2pm	Junior Ballet Grades F-3
Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/> Lunchtime 1-2pm	Junior Hip hop Grades F-3
Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/> 3.30pm to 4:50pm*	Hip hop Grades 2-4
	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:55pm to 5:50pm*	Ballet Grades 2-4
Friday	<input type="checkbox"/> 3.30pm to 5:00pm*	Senior Hip hop Grades 5-8
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:00pm to 6:00pm*	Senior Ballet Grades 5-8

Visit our website to view other classes available for toddlers to adults. Phone to book private singing lessons. Please list any special needs or requirements on reverse of form.