

PARKWOOD GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

A: 178 Community Hub, Hillside P: (03) 9449 3600

E: parkwood.green.ps@education.vic.gov.au

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ISSUE

17th MAY
2023
DATE

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **15th—26th May**
Grade 5 swimming
- **19th May**
Grade 6 Interschool Sport
- **22nd May**
AGM 5pm
- **24th May**
National Simultaneous Storytime
- **26th May**
Assembly

INSIDE..

- Principals Update
- Assistant Principals Update
- Grade 4 news
- PE News
- Athletics & Cross Country



PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Dear parents & friends of Parkwood Green PS.

It's week four, and we're well and truly into the swing of things. Term 2 is a shorter term than usual this year, only 9 weeks. Teachers will ensure they make the most of this time in classrooms as they work through their assessment and reporting obligations. To ensure your child is learning and can complete their assessments, it is very important that students are at school, on time, every day. Classrooms are opened at 8.45am so students can unpack their bags, change their take-home books and be ready to start to learn. Rolls are marked and learning begins at 9.00am.

Wearing your helmet

Wearing a helmet while biking, skateboarding, or participating in any activity that involves wheels and speed is crucial for safety. Head injuries can be life-threatening and can result in permanent brain damage, which is why it is essential to wear a helmet. A helmet can reduce the risk of head injury by up to 85%. It acts as a cushion that absorbs the shock of an impact and protects the head from serious harm. Helmets are designed to fit securely and comfortably, so it's important to choose one that fits properly. By wearing a helmet, you are not only protecting yourself, but you are also setting a good example for others, especially children, who look up to you. Remember, safety should always come first, and wearing a helmet is an easy step towards ensuring that you and your loved ones stay safe while enjoying these activities. If your child rides, skates or scoots to school, please make sure they have their helmets on before they leave.

Mother's Day Stall

Thank you to all the volunteers who made it possible for our students to attend the Mother's Day stall and purchase a gift for their mums or other significant females in their lives. We hope the day was a special one for all families.

A Good Night Sleep

Getting enough sleep is crucial for physical and mental health, especially for school-aged children. A good night's sleep helps improve memory, concentration, and cognitive function, which are all essential for academic success. It also helps regulate mood and emotions, reduce stress, and boost the immune system. Research shows that children who consistently get enough sleep are more likely to have better academic performance, attend school regularly, and have higher overall well-being. Therefore, it is crucial for students to establish a consistent sleep routine and aim to go to bed early, ensuring that they get enough sleep. Encouraging good sleep hygiene practices, such as turning off electronic devices and avoiding sugary drinks before bedtime, can also help students fall asleep faster and have a more restful sleep. By prioritizing a good night's sleep, students will be able to show up to school feeling refreshed and ready to learn.

2024 Enrolments Open

2024 Foundation enrolments are open! I encourage all families with children reaching school age next year, to enrol now. I am being inundated with requests for enrolment tours and it seems that once again there is much interest from new families wanting to join our school community. We also encourage and welcome enrolments for all year levels too. If you know any local families that would like to join our fabulous school, please give our school a recommendation.

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Education Support (ES) Day

We are very grateful and appreciative of the tremendous job our Education Support (ES) Staff do for us. These dedicated workers fulfil many different and challenging roles across a school day. An ES worker might support your child with their learning in their Learning Community, they are the people who put a bandaid on your child or assist them when they are feeling sick; they support students within the yard; they show students another way of doing things; they create materials and resources for your children; they answer the phone and support our school community; they fix things around the school and many other tasks. They are also a huge support to our teachers and the leaders of our school.

On Tuesday, we celebrated our fabulous ES staff with some appreciation letters and a special morning tea.

If you see anyone of our ES staff this week, please say thank you to them and show them how much we appreciate all they do for Parkwood Green PS.

AGM (Annual General Meeting)

We would like to warmly invite all interested members of our community to attend the Parkwood Green PS AGM which is be held on Monday 22nd of May 5.00pm, in the schools Learning Centre. The Governing Council and the school principal work together to develop the future directions for the school as well as monitoring and reporting progress to continually enhance the performance of the school and the achievement of its students. This meeting is open to everyone.

Before and After School Supervision at School

All entry gates will be open from 8:45am for a 9:00am start.

School finishes at 3.20pm for all students; the gates will be open from 3:10pm.

Just a reminder: staff are on duty from 8:45 am. We request that all students go straight to their classrooms to get themselves ready for the day rather than playing on the playground or oval (even with parent supervision).

Research shows when students have a 'soft start' to their morning, they are more focused, in tune, and ready for learning. And with the colder weather coming our way, it's much warmer in their classrooms.

The school grounds are supervised from 8.45am until 9.00am in the morning and from 3.20pm until 3.35pm in the afternoon.

Children must not arrive before 8.45am and at the end of the day, we kindly request that everyone has exited by 3.35pm.

Parent/Family Contact Details

If you are moving to a new house or changing your phone number, please ensure your contact details are up to date at all times by notifying the office or updating these changes in Compass. This enables us to contact you if necessary.

Kind regards,

Bobby Kotevski
PRINCIPAL

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Student Attendance – Every day Counts

Attending school every day is essential for academic success and personal growth. When students are present in the classroom, they have the opportunity to engage in discussions, participate in activities, and receive individualized support from their teachers. Regular attendance also helps students build important relationships with their peers and develop social skills. Additionally, missing school can lead to falling behind, which can be difficult to catch up on later. Studies show that students who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve academic success and graduate from high school. Likewise, school attendance teaches the value of responsibility, punctuality, and commitment, skills that are valuable in all aspects of life. Therefore, we urge our students and parents to prioritize attendance and make it a priority to be present every day, unless there is an unavoidable circumstance. Remember, every day counts when it comes to learning and growing!

Lunch time games

We have some extra activities and games during break times that our students have thoroughly enjoyed! Activities which involve students working together, using their imagination, and building things together. In the coming weeks we will also have a range of games for students to play in our Learning Centre. Students of all year levels are welcome! It is a fantastic way to keep warm from the cold as well as establish some new like-minded friendships.



Breakfast Club

Just a reminder to all our families that we have Breakfast Club that runs every Monday and Friday morning. Please enter through the front office from 8:35am and students are more than welcome to grab a piece of toast, some cereal or some fruit and snacks for break times. We'll see you there!

Kathy Pham

Assistant Principal - Wellbeing

P: 9449 3600

In primary school, some students **miss** on average **3 weeks** of school **per year**. That's **half a year** of school by the end of **year 6**.



EVERY DAY COUNTS

Primary school attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

"Day off" – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:

www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx

Department of Education and Training



Education
and Training

GRADE 4 NEWS

The Year 4's have had a very busy start to Term 2!

During Reading, students have been reading a range of non-fiction texts. They have been using non-fiction text features and understanding how these features add additional information to the text they are reading.

In Writing, students have chosen an 'expert' topic to write an informative text. They have been working on the structure of the piece, including sub-headings and relevant factual information.

Our most recent maths topic has been 'Chance'. Students have been busy describing everyday events and ordering their chances of occurring.

During our SEL sessions, students have begun Topic 3: Positive Coping. Students are exploring strong emotions that they may experience both at school and at home and learning about a range of strategies that can assist when they feel any of these emotions.

All classes are also keeping busy in the Kitchen & Garden. Recently students have been exploring healthy eating options, making their own sandwiches and making a range of healthy snacks.

Last week the Year 4 students visited the MCG as a celebration of our Inquiry unit 'What keeps us well?'. Students were taken on a tour of the famous ground, spent time exploring the museum and participating in activities in the Game On activity centre. A highlight was meeting Olympic Basketballer Peter Byrne. We heard some stories of how he displayed resilience when faced with challenges throughout his career and a few lucky students even got to try on his Olympic jacket! Everyone had a great day!



PE NEWS

[Welcome to PE!](#)

We have kicked off this year with a BANG! PE has seen all students leaning new games, being physically active and most importantly having lots of fun. During Term 1, students from Years 3-6 took part in their Athletics carnivals at Cobblebank Athletics track. It was amazing to see all students applying their skills taught in class during these events. Our F-2 students were introduced to a range of class games, building on their cooperative skills, and knowing how to work as a team. A big favourite was 'Run the Gauntlet', where students had to dodge a ball from hitting them whilst collecting a bean bag for their team. Even Mrs Longhurst and Mrs Hasip couldn't get through safely.

We had many events in Term 1 including District Swimming, resulting in students progressing to Division and Regional level. Our 3-6 Cross Country event was held on site and was unbelievable. Students showed persistence and determination throughout the entire event.

Now moving into Term 2, the fun continues. Our F-2 students are focusing on building their fundamental motor skills, such as kicking, throwing, catching and bouncing; through exciting rotational activities. Year 3-4 students are learning a range of minor games, which builds on their teamwork skills and Year 5-6 are mastering a range of sports, such as Cricket and T Ball

F-2 students took part in their Athletics Carnivals last week and what a success that was! It was amazing to see all students having fun and so many families came along to support them. We are in preparation in organising the F-2 Cross Country event scheduled for Monday 5th June.

Our District Cross Country team took the track earlier in the term. A huge congratulations to all students who took part, resulting in our school coming third overall. We have 9 students who will progress to division level later in the term.

Some other exciting news, our Year 6 students have began their Interschool Sports and will take part in another day of events on Friday 19th. We have students taking part in netball, football, soccer, T-Ball and hockey. We also have a girls AFL team heading out in week 6 to play against other schools in our district. We wish all students the best of luck.

That's all from us! If you ever see us in the school yard, please come and say hello, we love to meet you all.

From your PE teachers,

Chantelle Longhurst and Yeliz Hasip.



ATHLETICS F-2

On Monday 8th of May our F-2 students did a magnificent job in participating in the Athletics Carnival today. To say we are proud of our students is an understatement! The cold weather was not strong enough to stop our Parkwood Green troopers in having an excellent day. Students took part in 5 events today high jump, 60m sprint, hurdles, rubber chicken throw and vortex throw. We have such talent here at Parkwood Green.

We are Yellow

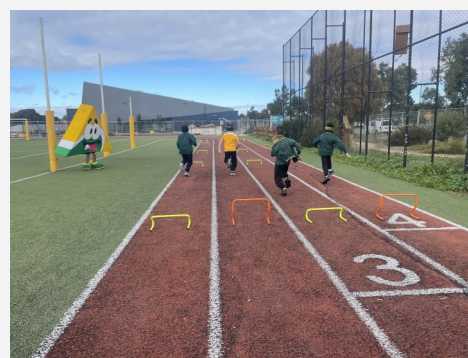
We are Green

We are Winners

PARKWOOD GREEN!!!!

A big thank you to parents who joined the event today to support our athletes. Thank you for teachers in assisting in the events.

A massive shout out to our Sports Captains, Ben S, Lara F, Meliz A, Nihaal B, Jaden N, Selena R, Anshi D, Zento M, Jamie B, Alexis S, Finlay T, Eliza G, Amelia B, Leroy E & Jasmine D. The leadership shown by our Sports Captains today was unreal.



DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY

A huge congratulations to all students who took part in the District Cross Country event on Friday 5th May. All students should be so proud of their efforts and showed true 'Parkwood Green' spirit. Parkwood Green achieved a fantastic result, coming 3rd overall in the District. A big thank you to our supporters who came to cheer on our students.

A big congratulations to the following students who will be proceeding to the next round later in the term:

Alonso 5AC- 5th, Kayla 4VB- 8th, Milan 6DK- 3rd, Ben 6EE- 10th, Lara 6EC- 5th, Jake 6LA- 9th, Mason 3KG- 9th, Antonia 5NC -7th and Jett 5NC -8th.

The Parkwood Green community is so proud of them all!

BIGGEST MORNING TEA

Just an update regarding our Biggest Morning Tea. So far we have raised \$1229 for this great cause. If you haven't donated yet, there is a donation box in the Office.

MOTHERS DAY STALL

A big thankyou to all the volunteers who assisted on the day. There were lots of very excited children choosing presents for their special person.

VOLUNTEER WEEK

The week beginning 15th May is Volunteer Week and we gratefully acknowledge all the wonderful parents, grandparents, caregivers and community members who help our school thrive. In particular, our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program, fundraising committee and donation drives all benefit from community participation in our school.

If there are any families wishing to volunteer at our school, please visit our front office or contact your child's classroom teacher.



Administration Reminders

- CSEF applications are still available until 23rd June. If you have a current Health Care card and have not applied for the funding yet please do so before 23rd June.

Prep uniform package. If you hold a current health care card and have a child in Foundation you are entitled to some uniform for your child. Please contact the Office for application.

Attendance—we have lots of unexplained absences, could you please check your child's attendance record and update accordingly

