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| Edition 14 - 2023  Wednesday 24 May 2023 |
| **TERM 2 2023**  Fri 26 May National Sorry Day **(Dress in colours of the First Nations People. More info below**)  Mon 29 May Reconciliation Week  Wed 31 May Divisional Cross Country  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 - **2.30pm**)  **TERM 3 2023**  Mon 10 July **STUDENT FREE DAY**  Tue 11 July Students Commence Term 3  Tue 18 July - 21 July Ski Camp (Tuesday - Friday)  Tue 25 July 6.30pm School Council  Tue 01 August **3 WAY CONFERENCES - Students only attend school for their conference.**  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 - **2.30pm**)  **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 26 October Prep - Year 1 Concert TBC  Mon 6 November **STUDENT FREE DAY**  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 - **1.30pm**)  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**

I always feel humbled as I walk into school and talk to our students. The potential they bring through the gate holds them in such good stead for success. Today we watched as the Prep and Year 1’s left on their first excursion for the year. They are headed to Werribee Zoo for the day. There were many nervous and excited students, parents, and teachers who I’m sure will settle into the day and have an amazing time. The buses we use are fitted with seatbelts and the teachers on the bus check that students have these on at all times.

As the weather is colder and it’s that time of the year, there is a lot of illness going around. We are having students sent to First Aid early in the morning with complaints of headaches, coughs etc. Please do not send your child to school unwell. We are unable to administer any medication, including analgesics such as Paracetamol, without a completed and signed Medication Authority Form. If you need this form, you can call the office on 94992200.

Our annual STEM celebration is coming up on Wednesday 7 June from 3:45-5:45pm. All learning areas will be open to parents, students, and visitors to join the celebration. The students are creating amazing things for this open afternoon.

As Hannah Pullar went on Maternity Leave, we welcomed Tessa Parsons to our specialist team. Tessa will be teaching Performing Arts and some Visual Arts for the rest of the year. I’m sure she will have a fantastic time with our very talented students.

Sibling enrolments for 2024 are due now. The enrolment process for Kinder to Prep has changed with timelines being set by the Education Department. We encourage all families with children starting school in 2024 to enrol now. Forms are available at the office or on the website.

*Have a nice week.*

*Melissa Mackenzie*

*Principal*

**Assistant Principal Update – Shane Wilkie**

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 many 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. I would like to acknowledge our teams and teachers for being so flexible and supportive during these times.

**District Cross Country:** On Thursday 18 May I was fortunate to attend the District Cross Country with our APS team. We had 54 students compete on the day across the Boys and Girls 10, 11, and 12 year old age groups. The weather remained warmish right up until the end of the event, with conditions for running pretty good throughout.

Overall, it was an extremely successful day for APS students. We took out 2nd place overall in the girls and we repeated our 2022 performance, winning the boys. An amazing effort for a school of 350 students.

Several students finished in the top 10, ensuring they will progress to the next stage and represent APS and Ivanhoe District at the Division Championships at Banyule Flats in a couple of weeks. We will endeavour to hold a couple more training sessions to support these students in their preparation.

**Reading at APS Phonemic Awareness and Phonics:** 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 2023 strategic priorities.

**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.

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Description automatically generated with medium confidenceSense 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.

Icon

Description automatically generatedOpenness 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.

*Have a great week everyone!*

*Shane Wilkie*

*Assistant Principal*

***CANTEEN OPEN TOMORROW***

***Moosies, Zooper Doopers, Juice Cups, Vegie Snaps and Crackers***

***Prices range between 50c and 1.50c***

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This term, Alphington Primary School has started the Bully Stopper program to stop bullying from happening at APS. Every year level is doing lessons about bullying and how to stop it.

In Year 3, our first few lessons have been on what makes bullying, bullying. We have talked about the difference between being rude, mean and bullying. And we shared our learning with the school at Assembly.

Rude people do or say things that hurt people but they may have done it without thinking, for example not waiting their turn.

Mean is when people say or do something with the intention of hurting your feelings, but it is a one-off incident. Like name calling, making fun of what someone likes or of their appearance, but only doing it once or twice.

For something to be bullying behaviour, it needs 3 things to make it bullying. It needs to be:

* 1st it's ongoing and repeated – which means it happens more than once or twice
* 2nd it’s a misuse of power - the victim feels like they can’t stand up to the bully– this is a really important part of what makes bullying, bullying
* 3rd it causes harm – it hurts the victim physically or emotionally

The whole school is committing to the Bully Stoppers Pledge. You will see this pledge popping up around the school and being discussed in classes.

The pledge is about making our school SAFE.

**S** - Speaking up when others need

**A** - Appreciating others and being a good friend

**F** - Feeling empowered to do what’s right

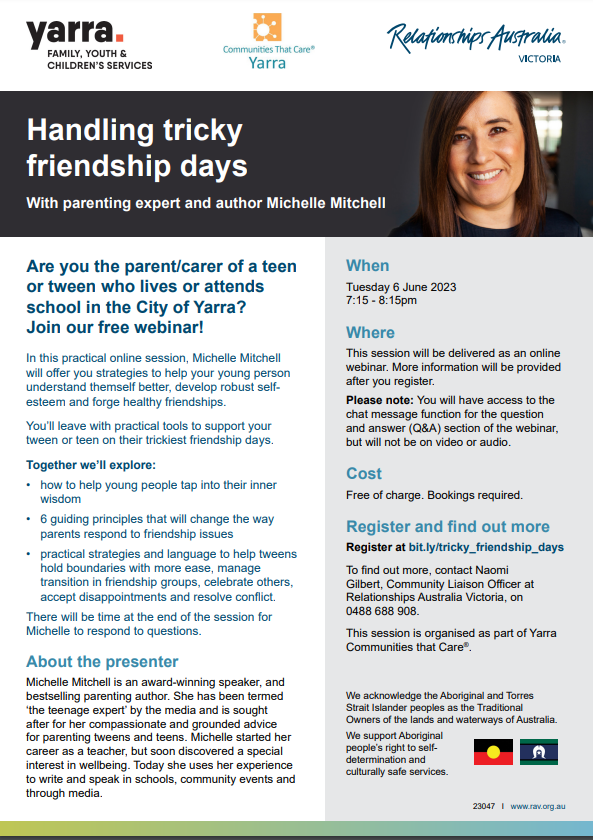
**E** - Encouraging people around us to make a stand, lend a hand against bullying.

Thank you to the whole community for working hard to be Bully Stoppers.

By James, Mel, Felix, Evie, Rachel and Luca from Year 3

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