

## Principal Report – August 2022



**Templestowe Heights**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Enrolments

1. Currently have 439 students enrolled.

Foundation	75	4 grades at 18 or 19 students
Year 1/2	128	6 grades at 21 -23 students
Year 3/4	110	5 grades at 22 -23 students
Year 5/6	127	5 grades at 23 – 26 students

2. Year 6 students (59) currently submitting secondary school preferences.
3. Currently have 65 Foundation students enrolled for 2023 (will run three classes).
4. Projections then to have an additional class (going from 20 to 21 classes in 2023) and a straight grade format.

### Strategic Goals and Priorities

<b>2022 Priorities Goal</b>	
<b>Key Improvement Strategy (KIS)</b>	<b><i>Learning - Support both those who need extra support and those who have thrived to continue to extend their learning, especially in numeracy.</i></b>
<b>Actions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to develop the school's literacy curriculum and instruction (phonics and vocab).</li> <li>2. Implement the school's revised teaching &amp; learning model (i.e. lesson slides).</li> <li>3. Continue to build data literacy of teachers to best inform point of need teaching &amp; learning through the review the school's Assessment Schedule.</li> <li>4. Provision of a TLI program as a strategy to support tier 2 intervention.</li> </ol>
<b>Actions to support KIS in June/July</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sam Charlton led a three-week after school workshop series for all teaching staff to maps the English curriculum</li> <li>• Stu and Clare have finished a cycle of tutored learning based on phonological and comprehension understandings for identified students in Year 1/2 and 3/4. The learning growth has been successful.</li> <li>• All teaching staff had a scheduled professional practice day where they planned curriculum and assessment for term.</li> <li>• Teachers all utilised new phonemic, phonological and comprehension assessment tools to identify student achievement for semester 1 reports.</li> </ul>
<b>Evidence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Assessment Schedule</li> <li>✓ Semester 1 datawall</li> <li>✓ THPS report writing guidelines</li> <li>✓ Lesson Slides</li> <li>✓ Drafted Literacy Scope and Sequence (content and core skills curriculum)</li> </ul>
<b>Key Improvement Strategy (KIS)</b>	<b><i>Wellbeing – Effectively mobilise available resources to support students' wellbeing and mental health, especially the most vulnerable.</i></b>
<b>Actions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to implement the school's wellbeing program through the introduction of Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships.</li> <li>2. Develop staff understandings of the Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships through already established practices.</li> <li>3. Establish process to identify, collect, analyse, monitor and respond to students with acute social and emotional needs.</li> </ol>
<b>Actions to support KIS in June/July</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All classrooms continue to deliver the sequential modules of the Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships curriculum.</li> <li>• Newsletter continues to communicate what big ideas are being taught in classrooms.</li> <li>• The Community Engagement committee organised a webinar presentation from Steve Biddulph. Strategies that were presented could be used to support the emotional needs of a child to help regulate their emotions.</li> </ul>
<b>Evidence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Wellbeing curriculum document</li> </ul>

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships framework.</li><li>✓ THPS Steve Biddulph flyer</li><li>✓ THPS Welcome to Country</li></ul> |
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### Staffing

1. Continuing to experience staff significant absences and staff shortages. Where possible we are employing casual teaching and education support staff, however there are many occasions where we have needed to split classes or modify programs.
2. Sabrina Toon has replaced Tania Martini for the first 7 weeks of term 3 as 1/2M class teacher.
3. Stu McLay has been scheduled an extra half day to work with year 5 students as part of the tutor learning initiative.
4. Toni Nicolazzo, our grounds and maintenance staff member is retiring at the end of term 3.
5. Lisa Clark, literacy intervention, will be taking long service leave for all of term 4.
6. Four current staff have been successful in being appointed to family leave positions. This will be announced after the 2-week grievance period is over.
7. Administration support (helping with borrowing and returns) for the re-opening of the library is being considered.

### Professional Learning

1. All staff will be completing their refresher training for Anaphylaxis, in line with The Anaphylaxis and Emergency Management policy guidelines on recent pupil-free day in term 2.
2. Jeanette Breen presented the THPS writing approach at the Sharing Best Practice conference in Traralgon and also published a blog release interview with Rebecca Birch of ResearchED NSW related to THPS writing data growth.
3. Five THPS teachers recognised by Ochre for their work relating to online lesson creation and delivery - shared at a webinar forum for other schools.
4. Jeanette hosted two webinars hosting Writing assessment on THPS' Comparative Judgement approach findings.
5. School leadership teams from St Marks Dingley PS and Brandon Park PS visited to learn about the pedagogy related to changes undergone with whole school literacy approach.
6. I attended the Monash/Manningham Network Conference, below is a report by Steve Richardson, Principal of Highvale Primary:

### Manningham/Monash Principal Network Conference

Recently I attended the Monash Manningham Principals Conference. This conference provided us with the opportunity to discuss Department of Education initiatives, undertake professional learning and discuss issues that impact all schools within the Network. We attended workshops presented by Rachel Colla (wellbeing, motivation and performance specialist), Dr Ryan Dunn, who worked extensively with Highvale staff prior to the pandemic (Melbourne University lecturer and mathematics specialist) and Simon Kuestenmacher (Director and Co-founder of The Demographics Group).

All three presenters provided insightful seminars about their most recent research, data and work within the education sector. My main learnings or reflections from these sessions were mostly 'big picture'. They included the following:

- The reaffirmation of the incredible importance of wellbeing.
- In our current world, the need to be and develop adaptability.
- The certainty that improvement takes effort, consistency, time and is best accomplished by focussing on one small step at a time.
- The attitudes, opinions, dispositions and actions of each generation are shaped by world events, resources and the Values and behaviours (e.g. work ethic, patience, gratification) of the generations that preceded them.

Each of these reflections has prompted further thought about the work we do as educators at Highvale P.S. and the significant opportunity we each have to teach, guide and prepare the current generation of 21<sup>st</sup> century learners. Your children! This includes reflections and discussions focussed on the challenges, opportunities and capabilities required to prosper in a complex world, extending to the way we teach and the critical interrelationship between wellbeing and learning. All of which will continue to be discussed at HPS as we continue to adapt our work to the changing needs of our students.

The conference was also a great opportunity to collaborate with school leaders from different schools. There was a great balance of rigorous professional learning, collaboration and collegiality.

### **Community Life**

1. Students in year 3-6 have celebrated the School Ball in the last week of term 2 at the Ivanhoe Centre. It was a special event and very enjoyable, watching all the students execute their dance moves and whilst also allowing parents/carers to dance together.
2. After a two-year hiatus, we held our first whole school face to face assembly in the gymnasium.
3. Parents, carers and teachers had their second formal opportunity to meet to discuss their child's progress after the release of semester 1 student reports.
4. The inter-school competition (summer and winter sports) has concluded for another year.
5. There is no one more excited than Andrew Veal in having the library reopened. A massive amount of work has gone in behind the scenes primarily by Andrew to get the library up and running.
6. The new staffroom is now fully operational. Thank you so much for the new coffee machine donated by School Council, it has proven to be extremely popular.
7. Parents and carers from our community turned out (approx. 40) to view Steve Biddulph's webinar on the four-story mansion concept on dealing with anxiety.
8. Foundation-2 students participated in a indigenous culture incursion.
9. Foundation and Year 5/6 had a visit from Life Education to learn about online behaviours and being healthy.
10. Victoria Police are coming out the day after school council to present on being safe online.
11. Preparations are busily being prepared for our upcoming Science Week celebrations thanks to Ross Toogood and his STEAM team.
12. Selected year 5/6 students are dedicating most of their lunch times to preparing themselves for the Tournament of the Minds competition.
13. Lunch time clubs continue to buzz around the school, including Rubik's cube and running clubs.
14. Capital works project details are found in Andrew's report.