

Our News

News from Templestowe Heights Primary School



Templestowe Heights
Primary School

9850 1796

Newsletter Term 1 Week 3

15th February 2024

Templestowe Heights Primary School Values

Persistence

Respect

Courage

Responsibility

“Inspiring learners for life”

School Photos

Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st February

Information Nights

Foundation - Thursday 15th February – 6.30pm

Year 1 to 6 - Wednesday 21st February 6.30pm

Online Via Webex 579 980 226



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Lunar Year 农历新年快乐

Happy New Year to all our families who celebrated the new Lunar Year. We are now officially in the year of the Dragon. I hope our families celebrated this occasion and plenty of red envelopes were passed out!



Recognition of a High Performing School

In recent years we have shifted from a philosophical to a scientific approach of how we teach reading and writing. On reflection it was a brave decision but what gave me comfort at night was the fact we were following the scientific evidence of how we learn and teach reading effectively.

This was off the back of realising during lockdown that when teaching in front of a screen full of little faces at home, we needed to design lessons that were short, very explicit and cut out the waffle. As a leadership team we read a lot on *The Science of Learning*- the evidence from cognitive science, linguistics and educational psychology about how children (and adults) learn best.

We challenged our own views and beliefs about how reading was currently taught and looked to schools that were high performing with a structured literacy approach. When we started off with the introduction of a structured phonics program with our Foundation students, the successful, positive results were almost instant.

From those early days where we started small, we have now built an entire whole-school curriculum and assessment program that is seen as world class. Most importantly there was a focus on building the skills and knowledge of all our teachers to have strong understandings of how to deliver high quality reading instruction. Last year we had over 60 school leadership teams visit Templestowe Heights Primary from government, private and international systems.

The recent Grattan Report has recommendations to ensure the most effective teaching of reading. We are pleased to say we follow all of them. While we are now recognised as performing in the top 10 of government schools for academic results, it is not because of one teacher or one year level. As the saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child. I reflect regularly on how fortunate and grateful I am to lead a school that is all on the same page - we all believe that what we are doing is the right thing and we are all committed to doing the best for our children.

You can read the article that was recently published in The Age about Templestowe Heights Primary:

[Teaching reading: One in three could be left behind without revolution to end reading wars \(theage.com.au\)](https://www.theage.com.au)

Our Respectful and Creative Students

This week during our recent hot weather spell we had a rule that when outside at play times, students were only allowed to participate in passive activities. The reason was we didn't want students running around in such hot conditions.

To the credit of the group of students that play cricket every playtime, they invented the game – **Walking Cricket**. To play this game the bowler walked into bowl, the fielders walked to field the ball and the batters walked between stumps. Well done to our students for being respectful to our school expectations and being creative with their own cricket rules.

Information Evenings

Tonight we will be hosting our online Foundation Information Evening for our 2024 Foundation families. This session is to provide further information for families as they transition into our school. The session is from 6:30-7:30pm on Webex number 579 980 226.

Assemblies

In two weeks time we will be hosting our first whole school assembly. This event will be held on Friday 1st March at 2:45pm in the school gymnasium. During this assembly all first semester Junior School Councillors and Environmental Leaders will receive their badges. All members of our community are welcome to attend.

Parent/Carer Teacher Discussions

From Monday 26th to Wednesday 28th February we will be hosting our semester 1 parent/carers teacher discussions. This is an opportunity to meet your child's class teacher and discuss their learning goals. Families can book an appointment time on their Compass app.

Rhys Coulson **Principal**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2024	
TERM 1 2024	
Thursday 15 th February	Foundation Information Night 6.30pm Online via Webex 579 980 226
Monday 19 th February	District Swimming
Tues 20 th & Wed 21 st February	School Photos
Wednesday 21 st February	Year 1 to 6 Parent/Carer Information Night 6.30pm - Online Via Webex 579 980 226 School Council Meeting 7.30pm
Mon 26 th to Wed 28 th February	Parent/Carer Teacher Discussions
Friday 1 st March	Whole School Assembly & Badge Presentation Ceremony – Gym - 2.45pm
Wednesday 6 th March	Year 6 Online Safety Incursion
Thurs 7 th March	Welcome Picnic 5.30pm
Monday 11 th March	Labour Day Public Holiday
Wed 13 th to Fri 15 th March	Life Education Sessions year 1 & 2
Tuesday 19 th March	Year 5BW & 5LS Online Safety Incursion
Wednesday 20 th March	School Council Meeting 7.00pm
Thursday 21 st March	Year 5KW Online Safety Incursion
Thursday 28 th March	Whole School Assembly -1.30pm - Gym Term 1 Ends – 2.30pm
PUPIL FREE DAYS	
Monday 27th May	
Monday 4th November	
2024 TERM DATES	
Term 1	Wednesday, 31 st January – Thursday 28 th March
Term 2	Monday 15 th April – Friday 28 th June
Term 3	Monday 15 th July – Friday 20 th September
Term 4	Monday 7 th October – Friday 20 th December

Keen Gardener/s Needed

Do you have a green thumb?

You don't mind getting dirt under your nails?

Have you some time to spare?

The school requires parents/carers to help care for our Vegetable Garden, ably assisted by our two Environmental Leaders.

But what is required of you I hear you ask?



- Opening of the vegie garden once a week
- The usual gardening tasks of weeding, planting, mulching, watering and feeding
- Assisting our students to get their hands dirty in the garden performing many of the above tasks
- Selecting the produce to be sold to our community
- Purchasing of plants mulch, compost etc.
- Valid Working With Children Check required <https://wwcv.auspost.com.au/>

If you are able to assist us please contact the office.



FROM THE OFFICE

Payments Due

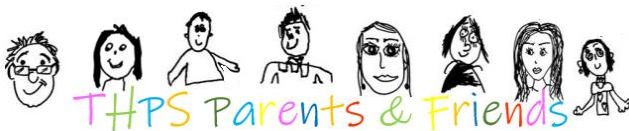
2024 school fees are due by Thursday 29th February, 2024.

School Photos

School photos will be taking place over 2 days this year. Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st February. Order forms were sent home last week. Please note each order is individually named and needs to be **placed online** before the cut off time otherwise extra charges may apply. Please see your child's form for further details.

We Are a SunSmart School

As a SunSmart school we encourage all students to Slip. Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide. Please see the families information flyer attached to this message.



P&F is here to promote welfare, provide support to the school community and of course to host social and fundraising events.

If you are keen to donate some of your time to assist in any way, please reach out via email thpspaf@gmail.com.

Please also use the QR codes below to obtain your Working With Children Check (WWCC) and to join our closed Facebook group.

THPS Parents & Friends Community Facebook page



Don't forget to join the THPS Parents & Friends closed Facebook group by scanning the QR Code or by searching for the THPS Parents & Friends Community group. The joining process includes a few simple questions to answer.

The Facebook group is a great way to stay up to date with all that is happening socially at school.

Working With Children Check (WWCC)

All parents and carers wishing to visit or volunteer at the school need to hold a valid Working With Children Check (WWC). This can be done online at <https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au>. Once you have received your card please present it to the office.



Term 1 Events:

We have a whole heap of events and fundraising coming up, including an inhouse meeting for all class representatives and event coordinators.

Upcoming events:

- Welcome Picnic
- Easter Raffle
- Hot Cross Bun Drive.

P & F Team

Lauren & Elisa

WATCH THIS SPACE ...
GOOD THINGS ARE
COMING!



BASKETBALL NEWS



GRADE 1 BOYS NEEDED!

Grade 1 boys are needed to fill spots in a team!! If you have a son that would be interested in joining, please register using the link:

<https://www.trybooking.com/COPQR>

For more information, please email Natalie & Kate

thpsbasketball@gmail.com

GO HEIGHTS!!!



BASKETBALL NEWS



Season 1, 2024

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IS NOW OPEN!

Expression of interest for next year is now open!

Please register your child if they would like to play Miniball next month.

Please do this ASAP so we can start sorting the teams before the season starts.

This expression of interest registration is FREE: <https://www.trybooking.com/COXWZ>

Season will run from the 19 February 2024 to the 28 June 2024.



For more information, please email Natalie & Kate

thpsbasketball@gmail.com

GO HEIGHTS!!!

Templestowe Theircare acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional custonians of the land upon which we meet.

We pay our respect to the Elders of the past, present and emerging and acknowledge their spiritual connection to Country.



Carrot muffin baking fun!



Water colour painting



Isia looking stylish with her DIY craft mirror she made in ASC :)



Taco Tuesday and DIY burrito bowl!

This week's theme at Theircare is our 'BAKE-OFF' week!

We have loved making yummy treats, including our carrot muffins, cookies and Friday will be chocolate balls.

Our planned activities have been jam packed with water colour painting, bead making, our time capsule activity, pancake day and Taco Tuesday. It has been great to see so many new faces attending Theircare, contributing to our highest recorded BSC with 18, and ASC with 37 children on Tuesday (the highest in the past year)!

We are always open to new suggestions on how to create a more enjoyable/engaging environment, so please don't hesitate to share any ideas for your child we can implement into our program.

In addition to the awesome start to this year, we welcome our new educator Zoe to our service, as well as Olivia who will be the permanent educator for ASC with Molly :)

Olivia grew up in a country town located north of Victoria called Cobram, and has moved to study. She is currently completing her final semester of a Bachelor of Education in Primary Teaching and we wish her all the best of luck for her 5 week placement next month!

Zoe has completed a Diploma in Nursing, and after working last year at a summer camp for kids in America, is back and is starting her first year in a Bachelor of Youth Work. Zoe is eager to get involved and has loved getting to know the kids this past week.

We are so fortunate to have such friendly educators on board, and we can't wait to watch the service grow this year!



Outside play for our preps



Our time capsule activity, where children write a letter to themselves and will receive it at the end of the year!

TIMES

Before School: 7:00AM-9:00AM
After School: 3:30PM-6:00PM

CONTACT HEAD OFFICE

☎ 1300 072 410
✉ info@theircare.com.au

CONTACT SERVICE

☎ 1300 072 410
✉ schoolnamehere@theircare.com.au

COMMUNITY NEWS



KOONUNG
Secondary College

Koonung Secondary College School Tours

Exploring options on your child's future education is very important.

At Koonung Secondary College, we welcome prospective parents and students to view our College in action. Weekly school tours running on Tuesday and Fridays at 9.15am

To reserve a place on one of our tours please register your name on the following Trybooking Link: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/1178349/sessions>

<https://www.koonung.vic.edu.au/>

LIVING & LEARNING @ AJANI

WALKS FOR CARERS: NEIGHBOURHOOD CARERS CLUB

Experience the pleasures of good company, invigorating fresh air, and range of guest speakers and activities.

Event on:
17th Feb
16th Mar
20th April
18th May
15th June
SATURDAYS

Are you a Carer or do you have caring responsibilities?
Connect with others like you and enjoy some much needed time out from caring. Light refreshments, tea and coffee will be provided.

- Third Saturday of each month
- 3pm -5pm - Free but booking is essential.

To book:
phone 9850 3687 e: office@livelearnajani.org.au
www.livelearnajani.org.au
2/284 Thompson Road, Templestowe Lower