



Issue 6 Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## Upcoming Events :

- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March- Public Holiday NO SCHOOL
- No Breakfast club due to public holiday
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March- Dream and Lead Conference
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March- Open Classroom & Meet the Teacher
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Year 5/6 Interschool Sports Round 5
- 21<sup>st</sup> March- Harmony Day



## Key Dates



# Principal's Report

This week has been another busy one with so much taking place and being prepared for. You will also notice that in addition to the Newsletter, we will be posting on Compass a **'What's on at Whittlesea Primary School'** which we hope will be an additional layer of communication that will support families to be prepared for upcoming school events.

I was so proud when I saw everyone wearing their uniforms so proudly on Wednesday when we had our school photos. Whittlesea blue and yellow on display! I especially enjoyed seeing the siblings having their photos taking place as older and younger, brothers and sisters came together to capture a family memento. We also had our Foundation students attend for their first Wednesday, and therefore their full week of school. I am sure there will be some very tired Foundation students as we come to the end of this week.

Wednesday evening at our staff forum, we were privileged to have The Resilience Project (TRP) present to staff. The presenter provided us with a very interactive presentation which allowed the staff to have a deeper level of understanding regarding the authentic implementation of the project and how it can benefit our students. The whole school wellbeing program teaches and supports positive mental health in the classrooms, staffrooms, and even in the wider community. The program is emotionally engaging, practical, and proven to have an impact through evidence-based evaluations, as it is delivered in over 800 schools. As a TRP school, we have our dedicated partnership manager to support the successful running of the program.



Last night it was also fantastic to see all our Foundation families coming together for our Teddy Bears Picnic. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students, teachers, and families to come together and share a picnic and some conversation about how the year has been so far. So many Teddies also came along to enjoy the evening.



As today is the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, I would like to acknowledge that today is International Women's Day. International Women's Day (IWD) is a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. Each year, this day serves as a powerful reminder of the progress made toward gender equality. In 2024, the campaign theme '[Inspire Inclusion](#)' emphasizes the importance of diversity and empowerment in all aspects of society. It calls for action to break down barriers, challenge stereotypes, and create environments where all women are valued and respected

Lastly, I would like to wish everyone a safe long weekend for the Labour Day long weekend. If you are heading away, I wish you all safe travels, or if you are just staying at home, I hope you find some time to relax and rejuvenate. We look forward to seeing everyone back at school next Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

Kaylene Kubeil  
Principal

# Assistant Principal's Report



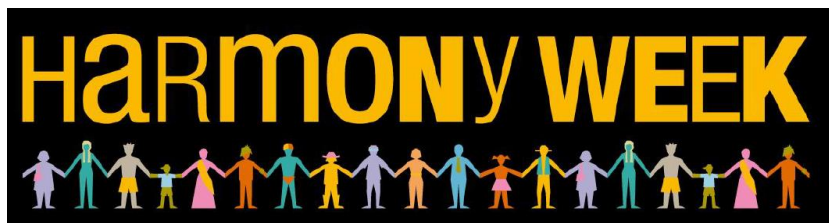
Hello everyone

As we settle into Autumn, it would seem that warmer days are still upon us. As we head into the final three weeks of term, it is important that students bring a labelled drink bottle and hat to school as we expect to see more days of warmer than average temperatures. Drink bottles in classroom allow student to stay hydrated and reduce the amount of time away from learning.

This week, six students competed at the Whittlesea/Woodlands division swimming championship at Broadmeadows Leisure Centre. These students did an exceptional job representing our school. Congratulations to Gabby, Giovita, Nate, Margaret, Melinda, and Audrey for their outstanding effort at this level. We wish Audrey well as she continues on to the NMR Swimming Primary Championships in the next few weeks.

On Wednesday, after a busy morning of school photo's, 12 students from years 6 competed in a Lawn Bowls Gala Day at Whittlesea Bowling Club. Once again, our students represented our school to a high level, winning the day and moving on to the next round.

School photo day was extremely successful. It was great to see so many smiling faces throughout the day. Our staff photo this year was the biggest it has ever been with 45 staff, which looks amazing in proof. Our year 6 photo will be taken later this year and made available for students and families as part of their graduation package in December.



**Harmony Week** (18th-24th March) is the celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. On **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March**, students are encouraged to wear **ORANGE** or an item of cultural significance to celebrate **Harmony Day**.

Next Wednesday the 13th of March, our teachers will host an Open Classroom and Meet the Teacher between 3.30PM-4.30PM. This is an opportunity for parents/carers to say hello and informally meet their child's teacher leading up to Parent Student Teacher Conferences on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April. This will be an adjusted school day. Students are expected to attend with their parent/carer. Students will also have an opportunity to share what they have been learning over the past 6 weeks in their learning environment. We hope you to see you there.

Best wishes for a wonderful long weekend with your family 😊

Rae Gittos  
Assistant Principal



  
 VICTORIA POLICE



**DO YOU HAVE CCTV CAMERAS?**

**VICTORIA POLICE  
WOULD LIKE YOUR HELP.**

Victoria Police are seeking people with CCTV to join a network of residents to form a camera net over your community for police to call upon to help fight crime.

Register via email with your name, address and contact number to  
**MERENDA-FILES-MGR@police.vic.gov.au**  
 Or fill out this form and return it to a police station near you.

**Your footage could help us solve a crime.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street number: \_\_\_\_\_

Street name: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

For enquiries, contact Leading Senior Constable VANDERLEEST at the above email.



***Recently the Victorian government funded the distribution of Fishing Rods for all year 5 students. As part of this, we have been asked to share the following information***

Recreational fishing in Victoria

The Victorian Government is proactive in encouraging all Victorians to fish, specifically focusing on the involvement of women, children, and people from diverse backgrounds. We educate fishers and the community about responsible fishing practices and promote stewardship of our precious aquatic and animal resources via our Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre, Education and Engagement Unit and funding of Fishcare Victoria Inc.

Recreational fishing offers terrific opportunities for people of all ages, skills, abilities, and backgrounds to enjoy a fun and healthy activity and build social connections. Our aboriginal heritage is also deeply linked to fishing, with thousands of years of indigenous fishing history in Victoria.

The VFA run a range of free community fishing festivals across the State, stock 10 million fish into Victoria's waterways each year, including a range of threatened species, install fishing and boating infrastructure to improve access, install recreational fishing reefs and improve habitat and undertake important research into Victoria's many different species of seafood.

For more information about the VFA, recreational fishing opportunities in Victoria and/or a potential future career in natural resource management for your students, please visit [www.vfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.vfa.vic.gov.au).

### Little Anglers Hub

The VFA has created the kid-friendly Little Anglers Hub website ([www.vfa.vic.gov.au/littleanglerkit](http://www.vfa.vic.gov.au/littleanglerkit)), written specifically for children with useful information, instructional videos about how to safely set up and use the kits, being safe around the water, as well as advice on where to go fishing in Victoria.

There is an electronic copy of the Kids Guide to fishing that was included in the kits available on this site, both in English and five other languages.

### Key Safety Messages

Going fishing is awesome and so much fun! When it comes to fishing, it's important to stay safe, especially around water!

Students can keep their fishing safe by:

- going with a friend;
- being careful with hooks and lures;
- looking behind before casting;
- handling fish carefully;
- being conscious of the dangers associated with water;
- protecting yourself against the elements (sunscreen, drinking water);
- letting someone know before you go; and
- washing your hands after handling lead sinkers, especially before eating or drinking.

The link below is to a short safety video that is posted on the Little Anglers hub website, reinforcing the above safety messages to students.

<https://youtu.be/drPLpKXpC3w>

Please note that fishing equipment is not for human consumption. If swallowed, hooks can cause serious harm and lead sinkers can be toxic. Young children and those with some disabilities including pica disorder are especially vulnerable and should be supervised whilst fishing. If a child does swallow a hook or lead sinker, seek medical assistance immediately - don't wait for it to pass.

If you would like any additional information about this exciting commitment, please visit the Victorian Fishing Authority's Little Angler Kits [FAQs for parents](#), located on the VFA's website ([www.vfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.vfa.vic.gov.au)).

# Star of the Week

Foundation D Mikayla Di Mauro	Awarded to: Eden Kockancic For: showing all the different ways we can make friends of 10.
Foundation G Jess Gordon	Awarded to: Lara Freeth For: doing your best when creating your sizzling start in writing.
Foundation F Jess Fontana	Awarded to: Aria Smith For: showing persistence when writing down all sounds she hears in CVC words. I am so proud of you!
Year 1/2F Chantelle Fasone/Carli Scoberg	Awarded to: Finn Attana For: writing a fantastic tightening tension scene about Ormie the Pig. Keep up the great writing!
Year 1/2S Stuart Maxfield	Awarded to: Stefan Ragona For: completing his work to a great standard and excelling in creating 'arrays'. Well Done
Year 1/2M Madison Merritt	Awarded to: Thomas Love-Finnigan For: drawing arrays with even rows and columns and writing the matching multiplication problem. Well done!
Year 1/2B Jai Bowring	Awarded to: Maggie Carrolan For: Always listening to the teacher and doing her best with all learning activities.
Year 1/2K Kate Storck/Sarah Pearce	Awarded to: James Berry For: applying yourself in all your learning and having such a positive week. Keep it up James!
Year 3/4B Tracy Brooks	Awarded to: Summer Farrell For: showing the three school values, <u>do you best</u> , help others succeed and respect your school. Well Done Summer!
Year 3/4D Brad Dupuy/Sam McCormick	Awarded to: Chloe Bordignon For: your great contributions to class discussions and working hard to achieve your personal best in reading. Keep it up, Chloe!

Year 3/4C Elise Cowdery	Awarded to: Niran Wild For: sharing his knowledge of technology and engineering to help others learn in Inquiry.
Year 3/4T Deanna Tuppen	Awarded to: Nate Williams
	For: his contribution into our small group in maths to create the ideal canteen menu at reasonable prices. Well done Nate!
Year 3/4Z Zoe Dyer/Jacquie Mondon	Awarded to: Isabelle King For: writing an amazing persuasive piece about why her mum is her hero! Keep it up!
Year 5B Erin Barker	Awarded to: Alexis Harvey For: her excellent contribution to discussions regarding economics, in particular the topic of bartering. Well done Alexis!
Year 5C Jacky Chen	Awarded to: For:
Year 5M Bree McIntyre	Awarded to: For:
Year 6A Bianca Avolino/Matthew Kirkright	Awarded to: Callum Parker For: being able to interchange between addition and subtraction, to problem solve!
Year 6C Hope Cummins	Awarded to: Logan Kendall For: an impressive timeline created to represent the events in Holes, our class novel. Impressive work, Logan!
Year 6P Robert Pain/Betty Tzelepis	Awarded to: Sophia-Grace Beattie For: Doing your best in numeracy when showing multiple ways to solve addition and subtraction problems.
PE Vanessa Montalti	Awarded to: 1/2K For: your efforts in improving your running technique. You are ready for Cross Country!

<p><b>PE BOOST</b> Verena Smith</p>	<p>Awarded to: Foundation F For: being so well organised in PMP and pointing in the direction of your next activity before the instructions are given, love it!</p>
<p><b>STEM</b> Leonie Gorski</p>	<p>Awarded to: 5C For: collaborating as a team to complete the 'Famous Scientists' scrambled challenge. Remembering that Achimedes' worked out how to measure the weight of gold by using his bathtub.</p>
<p><b>Chinese</b> Jessie Liu</p>	<p>Awarded to: 34D For: your amazing colouring skills and trying your best to write 'dragon' in Chinese! You are a superstar!</p>





# introducing YEAR 5

## 5B - MISS BARKER



Hey everyone! My name is Miss Barker and I'm teaching the gorgeous kids in 5B.

I'm very excited for 2024 as it's going to be the biggest and busiest year yet! In June, I'll be having a baby!! Then in December, I'll be getting married! But don't worry, I'll still make time to challenge the students in sport at recess and lunch

When I'm not in the classroom you'll find me recording videos of my 3 crazy dogs down at the dam or finding the best brunch spots.

## 5C - MR JACKY

Hi Whittlesea PS community! My name is Mr Jacky and I am the teacher for 5C this year. I am looking forward to seeing all the learning and growth from the students this year.

I got into teaching because I am passionate about helping students succeed. I am drawn to those light bulb moments when the unknown becomes the known.

If you don't see me at school I will either be out on a hike that I underestimated the difficulty of or searching for the best matcha in Melbourne.



## 5M - MISS MCINTYRE



Hello Whittlesea Community! My name is Bree McIntyre and I am so excited to be teaching Year 5 this year at WPS.

Throughout my 12 year career I acknowledge that every student is unique. I enjoy learning about each student in order to support them socially, emotionally and academically.

When I'm not working, you can find me with my dog Alfie, spending time with family and friends and watching the Geelong Cats and Melbourne Vixens play.

I look forward to developing relationships with the staff, students and wider Whittlesea community.

# SPORTS REPORT

## Term 1 Interschool Sport Results: Round 5

### **GOLD A - WPS vs HAZELGLEN COLLEGE (AWAY)**

WPS Cricket Boys: 111  
WPS Cricket Girls: 0

Hazelglen Cricket Boys: 100  
Hazelglen Cricket Girls: 50

WPS Teeball Girls: 17  
WPS Teeball Boys: 3

Hazelglen Teeball Girls: 15  
Hazelglen Teeball Boys: 13

WPS Basketball Boys: 12  
WPS Basketball Girls: 2  
WPS Basketball Mixed: 20

Hazelglen Basketball Boys: 19  
Hazelglen Basketball Girls: 39  
Hazelglen Basketball Mixed: 0

### **BLUE B WPS vs MERNDA CENTRAL (HOME)**

WPS Cricket Boys: 48  
WPS Cricket Girls: 56

Mernda Central Cricket Boys: 105  
Mernda Central Cricket Girls: 108

WPS Teeball Girls: 11  
WPS Teeball Boys: 14

Mernda Central Teeball Girls: 18  
Mernda Central Teeball Boys: 20

WPS Basketball Boys: 12  
WPS Basketball Girls: 0  
WPS Basketball Mixed: 4

Mernda Central Basketball Boys: 42  
Mernda Central Basketball Girls: 32  
Mernda Central Basketball Mixed: 40

## Community Leaders 2024 :

*Welcome to the 2024 Community Leaders. Students who will be participating, on their assigned day will not have to wear uniform and can come in casual clothes. Below is the list of students for next week 😊*

Connor ATTANA	12 <sup>th</sup> March
Hugo LILLEY RANFT	12 <sup>th</sup> March
Emma LORD	13 <sup>th</sup> March
Dash HEAL	13 <sup>th</sup> March
Margaret GITTO	14 <sup>th</sup> March
Melinda GITTO	14 <sup>th</sup> March

## Divisional Swimming



Congratulations to our students for their participation in Divisional Swimming and well done to Audrey from 5C for making it to Regional Swimming on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March.

## District Lawn Bowls Gala Day



On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March, students walked to Whittlesea Bowls Club to take part in a District Lawn Bowls competition. We had some training where we were able to practice skills and learn how to play the game. Then we played 3 rounds against different schools in our district. We won overall and were very excited to receive a pennant for our school. It was a great day!

# Mental Health & Wellbeing

## at Whittlesea Primary School

### How to be a good listener...

When we're having conversations with friends, or someone is sharing a challenge with us, most of the time we listen to **respond**, when in reality, it's more important we listen to **understand**.

When we're being an empathetic listener, we're prioritising listening to the other person rather than talking ourselves – and this can be easier said than done! While we might not be saying as much, in reality, we are often helping that person more than we know by simply showing we care and that we're paying attention.

The next time someone comes to you with a problem, try to remember these **three key rules**;

1. Don't judge.
2. Don't fix.
3. Don't get into the drama.



Other tips we like for listening well include...

1. Pay attention. Put the phone down, turn to face the person.
2. Be present. Try to not think about what you are going to say next or to jump in when they are still speaking.
3. Show interest. Ask questions, nod.
4. Practise empathy. Try to put yourself in the speaker's shoes.
5. Repeat what you heard, to clarify that you are understanding.

It can be harder than it sounds to follow these rules, especially when it comes to not offering solutions. It is natural that we want to help the person who is having a difficult time. Keep in mind, feeling heard is often the biggest help, so you are already doing plenty just by being there.

Of course, you don't want to be lost for words either. Here are some things you can practise saying that will help you avoid falling into old habits;

- *That sounds really difficult*
- *That must be tough*
- *That sounds hard, tell me more*
- *I noticed you were a bit.... This morning. Did you want to talk?*
- *Did you want me to listen, or did you want some ideas?*
- *Thank you for telling me. I am here for you.*

Remember being an empathetic listener is all about showing that you care and listening actively to what the person is saying. These phrases are starting points to show empathy but the most important thing is to respond genuinely and authentically.

# Community Festival

Civic Centre lawns  
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang



**17**  
**MAR**  
**2024**  
**11AM**  
**UNTIL**  
**5PM**



Join the fun with an exciting line-up of live music, cultural performances, cooking workshops, a pet expo, food trucks, community stalls, and a range of activities for all ages.



[arts.whittlesea.vic.gov.au](https://arts.whittlesea.vic.gov.au)





## All day activities

**Mapiyal – cultural art activity**  
Outside the Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre  
Come and watch artists at work, discover the Aboriginal story of Mapiyal the platypus and contribute to the decoration of a giant, 5m long sculpture.

**Henna Art, Youth Arts and Craft activities**  
Youth Zone

**Rock Climbing Wall and Scouts Adventure Activities**  
Youth Zone

**Bricks 4 Kids Lego Workshops**  
Civic Centre Lawns

**Pony Pals Playland**  
Pet Expo

**All Ages Printmaking Workshop**  
Civic Centre Lawns

**Kids Art and Craft**  
Civic Centre Lawns

**Facepainting all day**  
Family Zone

**Animals of Oz**  
Sustainability Lane

**Positive Ageing Sports and Games**  
Civic Centre Lawns

**Mernda Neighbourhood House – Mernda Repair Cafe – Free bike repair/check up**  
Bike Zone

**Plants by Playable Streets**  
Sustainability Lane



The community Festival is more than just an event – it's a commitment to a greener, cleaner future!



Our event embraces eco-friendly dining. After using Green My Plate, please put your reusable plate and cutlery in the pink bins provided.



The festival has four convenient water refilling stations, making it easy for you to quench your thirst while reducing plastic waste.

THANK YOU!

for helping to reduce our environmental impact.

The City of Whittlesea is dedicated to hosting sustainable events.



## We would love your feedback!



Scan the QR code and let us know about your experience at today's festival.



# Community Festival

**Civic Centre lawns**  
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang



**17**  
**MAR**  
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**11AM**  
**UNTIL**  
**5PM**



**FREE**  
**EVENT**

Join the fun with an exciting line-up of live music, cultural performances, cooking workshops, a pet expo, food trucks, community stalls, and a range of activities for all ages.

[arts.whittlesea.vic.gov.au](https://arts.whittlesea.vic.gov.au)



# H U M E E A G L E S

## *Rugby League Club*



**RUGBY LEAGUE**

  @hume eaglesrlc

**2024 registration is now open!**  
**No experience necessary and all skill levels are welcome.**  
**Come along and be a part of a family friendly club and get to know your community!**

