PORT FAIRY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

Belonging - Learning - Respect

TERM 1
WEEK 2
7/2/25

# PRINCIPALS REPORT

What a positive start to the year we have had! All the classes have settled well and have spent the week working through our school routines and learning about how to 'be' at Port Fairy Consolidated School.

Uniform: This year we are getting back to making sure our uniform policy is being adhered to. We have attached a copy of the policy to ensure everyone is on the same page. Classes have also been going over it and will continue to do so in the coming weeks so that all students understand the expectations. It will also help you at home if they are wanting to 'bend the rules'. One common thing we are finding is the wearing of dangling earrings and necklaces. These are not permitted due to safety reasons. At playtimes and in some classes/times of the day, students are very active and we know that these dangling items could become hazardous for the student, as in they could accidentally be ripped out or broken. Thank you for your understanding of this.

FFF: Fresh Fruit Friday began today. A big thank you to the FFF team for making this happen. We will send out a roster for parents to assist with it. It will be once a fortnight on a Friday and the time commitment will be around one hour at the start of the day.

School Breakfast Program: We are beginning a school breakfast program on Thursday 13th February. We will then have another one on Tuesday 18th February. After that, beginning week 5, they will be every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 8:15-8:45. Joel and myself along with our Student Ambassadors and Leaders will be running this. ALL students are welcome to attend to receive a free breakfast to make sure they are ready to learn for the day. The breakfast provisions are not extravagant and are provided by the Department of Education. Cereal, UHT milk (lactose-free is also provided), bread, tinned fruit and spreads (vegemite and honey). If you would like your child/ren to be part of this, please bring them (send them) to the CAFE between 8:15 and 8:30 on the dates provided. We will tweak the breakfasts as we go and learn more about what we need to do.

## FEBRUARY

Happy Birthday to :

June
Ava B
Malia
Axel
Finn H
Trent
Will
Lachie C
Phoebe

Acadience Maths: During our testing days we implemented a new Maths Assessment. We are committed to helping our students become successful at mathematics. As part of this commitment, our school has chosen to use an assessment called Acadience® Math to help us examine how our student/s are doing in learning important mathematics skills. Acadience Math assesses skills that are necessary for learning mathematics and is made up of short assessments. Each assessment has a focus on a different mathematics skill(s) and which assessment is given depends on the grade of your child. Acadience Math is used only as an indicator of mathematics proficiency. Much like using a thermometer to take a child's temperature as an indicator of overall health, each assessment is an indicator of how well a child is doing in learning a particular mathematics skills. The scores tell us whether a child is likely to be "on track" for learning mathematics or whether a child may need some additional help in learning important mathematics skills. The teacher will use this information to better help your child in the classroom, as well as identify class trends of what is needed to be taught and reviewed. The Mathematics Leader/team will also be tracking this data to assist classroom teachers and to identify overall needs of the school relating to resources and staff professional development learning needs. Acadience Math will not be used to 'level' your student, but as a tool to better understand their thinking and how we can best teach them so that they reach their learning potential.

Parent Teacher Interviews: We are looking forward to our Parent Teacher interviews in Week 4. We will send out booking times very soon. A reminder that students can attend these interviews if you wish as it is a student free day. TheirCare is available.

Have a wonderful weekend, and thank you for preparing your students so well to start the year off in such a positive way. As always, please reach out to your classroom teacher if you would like to discuss any concerns; or to me if you need to discuss any whole school concerns.

Kate

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

## Upcoming Events

*Friday 21st February - Whole School House Athletics
*Swimming trials (Yrs-3-6, invited students only) Every Wednesday at 7am Belfast Aquatics, until 26th Feb
* Hot Shots Divisional Tennis, Thursday 27th Feb (Yr/S6)
* Divisional Swimming Championships, Warrnambool Friday 28th February

## Reminders

Please have hats, drink bottles and sneakers for PE days if possible (Wednesdays Yr3-6, Thursdays F-Yr 2)

## What we Learned

Welcome back to Term 1 and what a busy start to the year in PE and school sport world!
Please see the upcoming dates for sporting events above.
We would love to see parent and carer helpers at our whole school house aths day on the 21st (Show Grounds), see attached flyer from our wonderful Parents and Friends who are supplying lunch and snack for our students. Xuno permission and timetable of events will be on xuno in the next few days.
If there is anyone that can assist on an event for the day, it would be greatly appreciated. The events that require helpers are: Shot put, Discus/Frisbee, Long Jump, Hurdles, Sprint, Vortex. Please let myself or the office staff know if you are able to help out with any of these and if you have a preference.
Well done to all the swimmers (and their parents!), for making the first early morning start on Wednesday swimming trials. Looks like we will have a very handy little PFCS swim team for the Divisional Championships on the 28th Feb.

Brooke Green- Physical Education Coordinator

# SCIENCE

Upcoming Events/Dates

Questacon - Tuesday 18 February - inclusion at PFCS all students (F-6)

Reminders

Green team in the Science Room - Lunchtime (years 3-6)

Nude food Lunches- Starting soon - packing fresh fruit/veggies, using lunchboxes and making muffins or refilling from bigger containers reduces the use of plastic.

What we Learned

In science we have started our term off with investigations into our 5 star school recycling program and with a little fingerprint bio-science.

Our foundation students studied the curiosities of nature, and took part in nature based investigations using touch tables and our school yard.

We are looking forward to the Questacon visit on Tuesday 18 February! With an in school visit from the team from Canberra.

# MUSIC

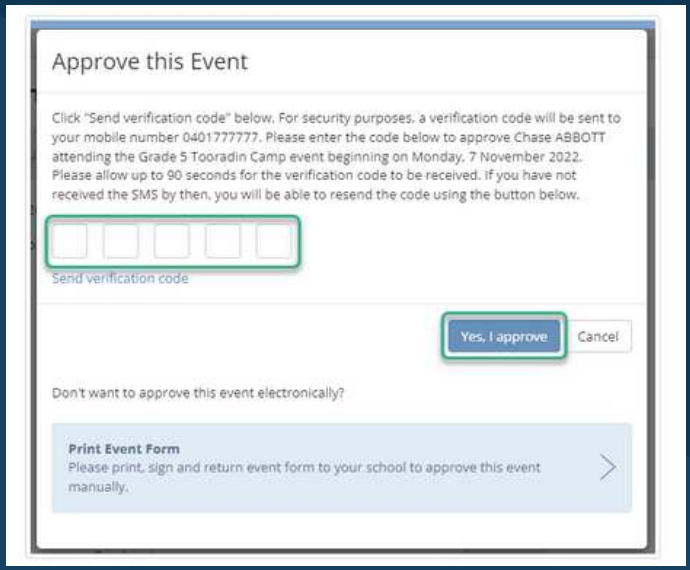
Welcome back to Music for 2025! It was wonderful to see everyone this week. We started off by becoming familiar with where the music room is and the new teacher! Music is being held in the double portables on Monday and Tuesday this year.

As part of Learning to Learn we revisited our school values of Belonging, Learning and Respect and how that would look in the music room.
We had an informal gathering of students who wished to find out more about being in the school choir. There was a terrific number of students who came along. More information will come out shortly regarding when choir will begin.

Have a great week,
Jenelle Baulch, Music Teacher

XUNO FAMILY

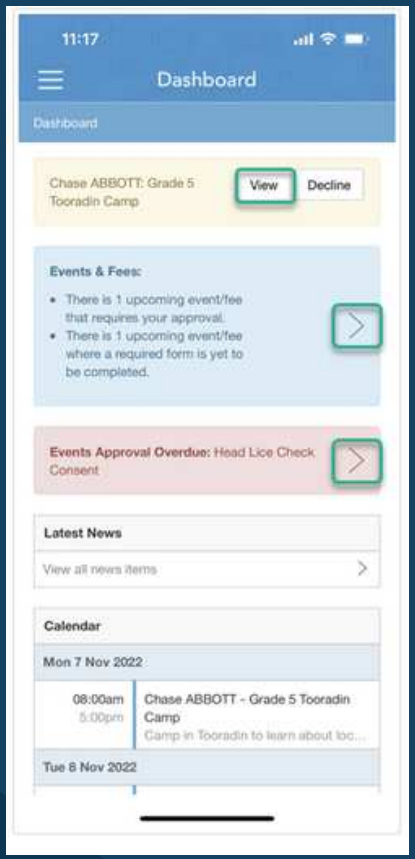
Seeing events on the calendar and not sure where to find events/excursions/permission?




# EVENTS, FEES AND FORMS

## STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS :

1. Go to side menu
2. Click on events, fees and forms
3. In upcoming section please check what events are there
4. To give consent / approve the event click on the red text "Parent Approved - Not Yet Approved"
5. That will bring you to a page full of information about the event
6. Click the blue box "Approve"
7. Click the "Send verification code"
8. Enter code in then click "Yes, I approve"




Xuno is a much easier way for parents/guardians to access information about the event, time-saving for admin and teaching staff and eliminating paper notes getting lost! Approving on Xuno will automatically give your child/ren permission to attend the event/excursion/camp.

WITHOUT PERMISSION YOUR CHILD/REN MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND OR PATRICIPATE IN EVENTS/EXCURSIONS.

If you are having trouble logging onto Xuno please contact the office and we will try to assist you as best as we can.

XUNO FAMILY

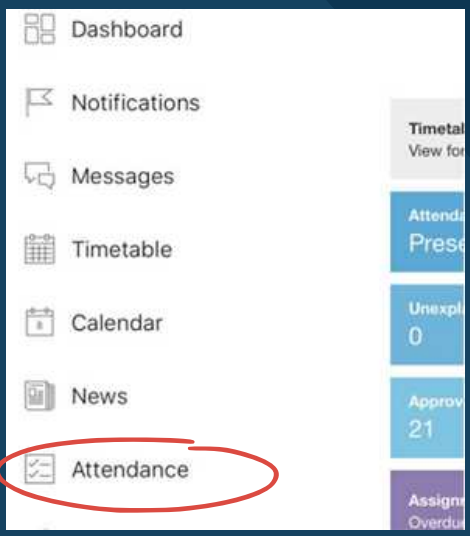
Is your child/ren absent from school ?
Do you know how you should communicate this to us?

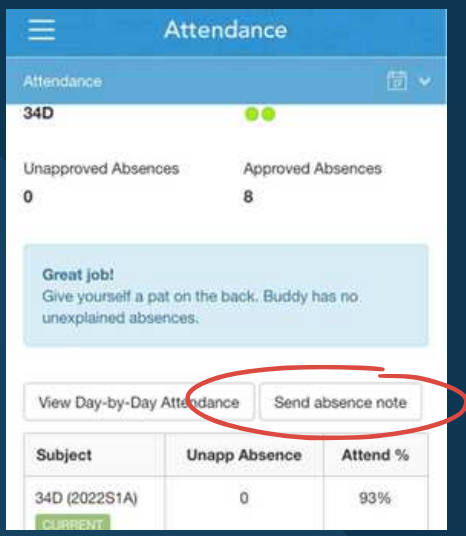
You need to use the Absence Note function in XUNO!

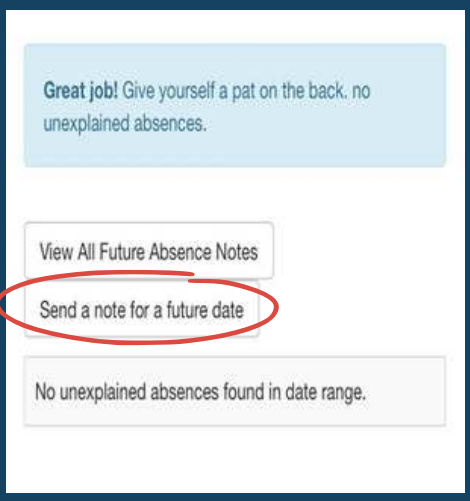
# SENDING AN ABSENCE NOTE

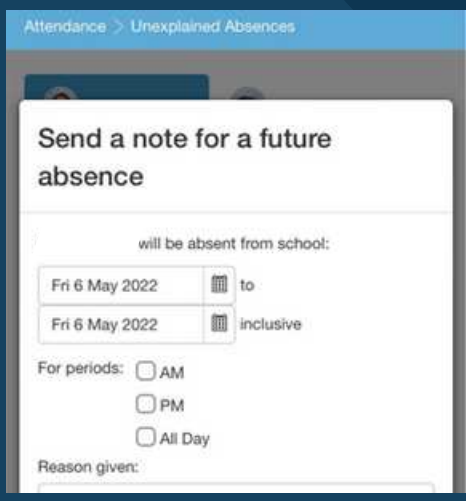
## STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS :

1. Go onto the App
2. Click on the side Menu
3. Attendance
4. Click on "Send absence note"
5. Send a note for a future date
6. Choose date
7. Choose AM / PM / All Day
8. Provide a brief reason
9. Save




This automatically updates the roll & notifies both the office & the classroom teacher that your child is not going to be at school.

THIS IS OUR PREFERRED METHOD FOR BEING NOTIFIED OF STUDENT ABSENCES

Rather than sending a private message to the teacher, or emailing /phoning the office, please use the Absence Note function in XUNO.

It is the most effective form of communicating absence from school!



# PORT FAIRY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL HOUSE ATHLETICS 2025

**All the action is on Friday 21st Feb from 9.30am @ The Port Fairy Showgrounds**



- **Students are encouraged to wear house colours;**

**GANNETS (RED)**
**SHEARWATERS (PURPLE)**
**LAPWINGS (GREEN)**
**SANDPIPERS (YELLOW)**






- **BBQ lunch & fruit snack will be provided by Parents and Friends. (It's advisable to pack some extra snacks for your children!)**



**Sausages will be available for spectators/parents/ carers at $2.50 each.**




**Coffee Cart also on site**

# ADMINISTRATION / FINANCE

A very big thank you to all those families who came into the office or directly deposited to make a payment for their 2025 Parent Contributions or made a commitment for payment.

We also greatly appreciate those families who have made optional and voluntary contributions to our Grounds/Maintenance and the Building Fund.

If you have not yet spoken to Jen or Abbie about the 2025 Parent Contributions and are not making automatic payments through Centrepay, please phone, drop in, or email us.

A reminder also of the Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF). This is a Government funded program that gives each student $125 to be put towards the cost of camps, sports or excursions. If you are a current holder of a concession card or health care card, you will be eligible to receive this, application forms are available at the office. If you had applied last year, this application will roll over automatically.

THE EDUCATION STATE

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

**Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.**

### CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- $150 for primary school students
- $250 for secondary school students

### HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.
You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments**; your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances**; such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:
https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx

VICTORIA State Government

# MEDICAL ALERTS

It is extremely important that the school is kept informed of any medical alerts related to your child/ren. If your child suffers from any medical condition (anaphylaxis allergies or asthma etc), we do require an Action Plan to assist us to provide your child with the best care.

These should be updated annually.

Without an action plan, students will not be able to participate in or attend sports/excursions/camps.

# LEGAL ALERTS

It is extremely important that the school is kept informed of any legal alerts related to your child/ren.

If there are any legal /access restrictions related to your child/ren, we require copies of these documents to enable us to assist to protect your child/ren.

# SAFE BUS TRAVEL




BusVic
Bus Association Victoria

## Welcome on board. Enjoy. Be aware.

- **Leave home with plenty of time to get to the bus stop 10 minutes prior to the scheduled departure time.**
- **Always walk as far away from the road edge as possible.**
- **Do not push others when the bus is approaching the stop.**
- **If you are using headphones these MUST be removed before leaving the bus as they distract you from being fully aware of danger.**
- **Make sure you always treat the driver with respect. They have the important job of getting me, you and others to school and home safely.**



**ROAD USERS - Please slow down and be aware around bus stops. Look out for the lights flashing on the outside of the bus, which means children are leaving or boarding the bus.**

**Do stand well back when at the bus stop and wait until the bus has completely stopped.**





**Never cross in front of the bus. Never cross the road until the bus has moved away.**

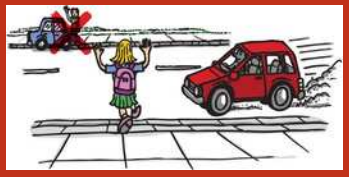
**Do wait until the bus moves well away and you can see clearly in both directions, before crossing the road.**






**Do sit down on your seat quietly and quickly. If there are no seats, move to the back of the bus and use the handgrips on the side.**

**PARENTS & CARERS - Parking or waiting opposite the bus stop is dangerous and is one of the most frequent causes of accidents at bus stops.**
**All children, especially little ones, are excited to see you after a day at school and are likely to run across the road to meet you.**



**www.busvic.asn.au/safebustravel**

# FOUNDATION HOMEROOM HAPPENINGS

## What We Learned

### Literacy

This week we have started looking at writing our letters, using our books and we have practised the actions and responses for our phonemic awareness program - Heggarty. We have listened to stories and done some colouring to build up the strength in our hand for more writing down the track.

### Numeracy

We have practiced counting by ones to 20 and backwards from 10 to 1 with a 'blast off' at the end. We have learned songs about the months of the year and days of the week and practised the white board protocols for our maths sessions.

### Extra

The children have made a great start to the year and they will only get better. In "Learning to Learn" week the children have been learning lots of school and classroom rules and values and they are building their stamina for sitting on the floor and listening.

We have been using our "Community Circle" time to get to know each other better, to find things in common and be exposed to new ideas and opinions. The children have had great fun getting to know their Year 6 buddies and there are bonds being formed already.

Have a lovely week.

## Reminders

Readers will start going home next week and will be changed on a Thursday.

If you haven't scheduled (or rescheduled) a testing time on either Wednesday, 12th February or Wednesday, 26th February please let me know and I'll set a time.

## Upcoming Events

20/2: Pupil free day for parent teacher interviews
21/2: Athletics Day
18/3: School photos
19/3: Curriculum Day
4/4: Last day of term - 2:30pm finish
22/4: First day of Term 2

## Specialist

Music - Monday @ 2:30pm
Science - Tuesday @ 11:30am
Art - Tuesday @ 12:30pm
PE - Thursday @ 2:30pm

## Fun Fact

Did you know, cows are very social animals and develop strong friendships. Studies have shown that cows have best friends and they get very distressed if they get separated from them.



# YEAR 1/2 HOMEROOM HAPPENINGS

## What We Learned

It has been fantastic to see how well the 1/2 classes have settled back into school life and we have had a great week by enjoying Learning to Learn.

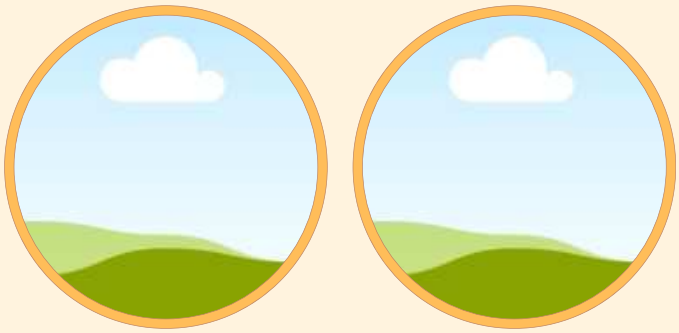
We revisited our school values: Belonging, Learning and Respect, by doing a variety of individual and group activities that helped us to know what this looks like, feels like and sounds like. We also worked on classroom and playground protocols of how to 'Do your best, help others succeed and respect your school. Many times we hear comments of 'we've done this before' but just like an Olympic swimmer, we need to practise and practise, so these attributes become automatic.

Learning to learn is a time of getting to know one another through informal and formal Literacy and Numeracy tasks.

Next week formal instruction begins!!

Regards Jane, Bebe & Deb





## Reminders

Please return reader bags to school so that readers can be sent home on Monday

## Upcoming Events

16/2: Port Fairy Marathon
20/2: Pupil free day for parent teacher interviews
21/2: Athletics Day
18/3: School photos
19/3: Curriculum Day
4/4: Last day of term, 2.30 finish
22/4: First day of Term 2

## Specialist

Monday= Music
Wednesday= Science & Art
Thursday= PE

## Fun Fact

John Robinson invented a lunch pail in 1887 that included separate compartments for food and liquids.The concept of bringing a meal to work dates back to the mid-1800s. The historical facts about lunch reveal that farmers and industrial workers, who couldn't come home at noon, stuffed food, such as hard-boiled eggs, veggies, meat, poe and coffee, into old cleaned-out tobacco tins or sturdy dinner pails.

# YEAR 3/4 HOMEROOM HAPPENINGS

## What We Learned

### Literacy

We have been going over our expectations around handwriting, mini whiteboards, and looking at our fluency pieces.

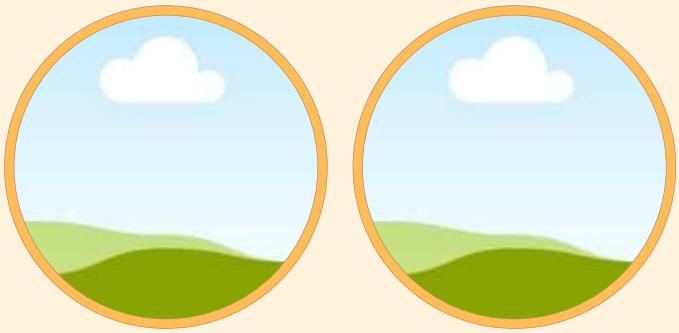
### Numeracy

We have been playing some fluency games and starting the day every day with a Top 10 maths quiz to turn our brains on.

### Extra

We have been having a lovely time settling into our new classes and getting to know each other. We have begun strong with a focus on reading each night and beginning our Top 10 maths and look forward to creating this habit throughout the year.



## Reminders

Please ask your student/s to record their reading each night in their school diary.

## Upcoming Events

16/2: Port Fairy Marathon
20/2: Pupil free day for parent teacher interviews
21/2: Athletics Day
18/3: School photos
19/3: Curriculum Day
4/4: Last day of term, 2.30 finish
22/4: First day of Term 2

## Specialist

**Tuesday:**
Science, Art, Music

**Wednesday:**
P.E.

**Thursday 13/2:**
Cooking

## Fun Fact

Kids in Finland start school age 7 and kids in the Netherlands start at age 4!

# YEAR 5/6 HOMEROOM HAPPENINGS

## What We Learned

### Literacy & Numeracy

This week we have spent time getting to know each other and practising our routines for learning. We wrote a poem about ourselves, listened to our class novel and completed some Literacy and Numeracy assessments.

### Extra

We have shared information about ourselves, including our likes and dislikes, and have completed a portrait and a jigsaw piece.

We have also explored our Behaviour Matrix, focusing on the expected behaviours in learning areas, the yard, at all times, and when traveling to and from school.

A highlight was practicing these expected behaviours in the community during our visit to the Sheepdog Trials. The dogs were amazing!







## Reminders

Hats to be worn during Term 1 and 4

## Upcoming Events

16/2: Port Fairy Marathon
18/2: Questacon - Science circus
20/2: Pupil free day for parent teacher interviews
21/2: Athletics Day
28/2: Division Swimming Wbool
6/3: Division Hot Shots Tennis Wbool
7/3: PFFF Performances
10/3: Public Holiday
18/3: School photos
19/3: Curriculum Day
20/3: Student Leaders Congress
4/4: Last day of term, 2.30 finish
22/4: First day of Term 2

## Specialist

Tuesday - Music
Wednesday - Art, Science and PE
Thursday - Garden(Week 3, 5, 7,9)
Cooking (Week 4,6,8,10)

## Fun Fact

The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef at about 2,601 km in length. It is found off the northeast coast of Australia and is so enormous that you can see it from space. It's about the size of 70 million football ovals.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION HOMEROOM HAPPENINGS

## What We Learned

Welcome back to Term 1 and what a busy start to the year in PE and school sport world!

Please see the upcoming dates for sporting events above.
We would love to see parent and carer helpers at our whole school house aths day on the 21st (Show Grounds), see attached flyer from our wonderful Parents and Friends who are supplying lunch and snack for our students. Xuno permission and timetable of events will be on xuno in the next few days.

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Well done to all the swimmers (and their parents!), for making the first early morning start on Wednesday swimming trials. Looks like we will have a very handy little PFCS swim team for the Divisional Championships on the 28th Feb.

Brooke Green
Physical Education Coordinator

## Reminders

Please have hats, drink bottles and sneakers for PE days if possible (Wednesdays Yr3-6, Thursdays F-Yr 2).

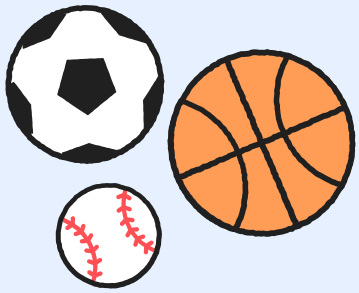
## Upcoming Events

21/2 - Whole School House Athletics

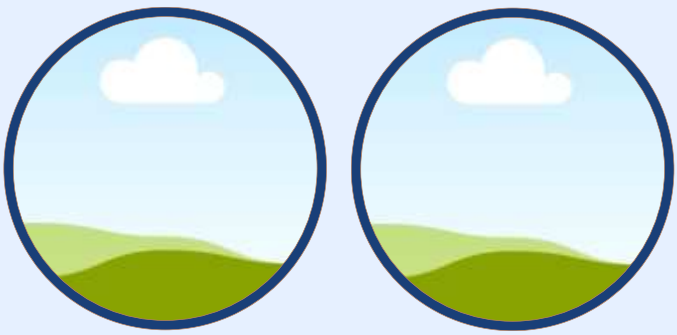
**(Yrs-3-6, invited students only)**
Every Wednesday at 7am Belfast Aquatics, until 26th Feb : Swimming trials

27/2 - Yr5/6 Hot Shots Divisional Tennis

28/2 - Divisional Swimming Championships, Wbool







# SCEINCE
# HOMEROOM HAPPENINGS

## What We Learned

In science we have started our term off with investigations into our 5 star school recycling program and with a little fingerprint bio-science.

Our Foundation students studied the curiosities of nature, and took part in nature based investigations using touch tables and our school yard.

We are looking forward to the Questacon visit on Tuesday 18 February! With an in school visit from the team from Canberra.

## Reminders

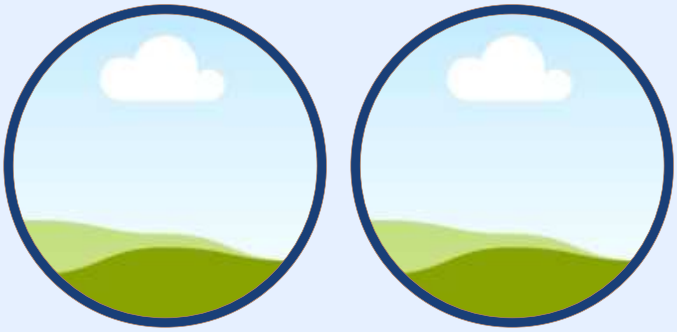
**Green team:** in the Science Room @Lunchtime (Yr 3-6)

**Nude food Lunches:** Starting soon - packing fresh fruit/veggies, using lunchboxes and making muffins or refilling from bigger containers reduces the use of plastic.

## Upcoming Events

18/2 - Questacon -Inclusion at PFCS all students (F-6)





# MENTAL HEALTH IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS, DISABILITY INCLUSION, AND STEPHANIE ALEXANDER KITCHEN GARDEN FOUNDATION

PORT FAIRY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

**MRS. MCLAUCHLAN IN 2025** | **TERM 1, WEEK 2**



Hello,
I'm Jane. My role has changed a little for 2025. I'll continue on from last year as Disability Inclusion Coordinator. I'm very excited to also be given the opportunity to be Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader (MHaWL), and Garden Teacher. Don't panic! Joel's not going anywhere! We'll be working together to improve our understanding and support of student mental health and wellbeing, as well as building capacity in teachers. Our training begins next week through University of Melbourne. With Mrs. Gray cooking up a storm in the kitchen, our garden session for Years 3 - 6 will focus on fruit and vegetable growing, as well as making our grounds look grand.

## Mental Health in Primary Schools

All Victorian primary schools will have a Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader in 2025 — a trained teacher who helps support students' mental health. In this role, I'll work with staff, families, and services to identify concerns early and provide the right support, creating a safe and positive school environment. This links well to Disability Inclusion.

## Disability Inclusion

From 2025, all Victorian government schools will use the Disability Inclusion Profile to better support students with disabilities. This profile helps schools understand a child's strengths, needs, and how to support their learning. I will work with families, teachers, and specialists to ensure students receive the right support. This replaces the old Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD) and creates a more inclusive school environment.

## SAKGF

This is so exciting! We can't wait to grow and cook our own food. The first KITCHEN lesson will cover team work, kitchen safety rules and cooking Bruschetta Two Ways (recipe link), using tomatoes and basil we've managed to grow over the summer. A **HUGE** thank you to families and Their Care who watered over the holidays. Gardeners will be learning safe use of secateurs, always wearing gloves, tidying and preparing garden beds, staking tomatoes and working towards Wheelbarrow Licences.

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation

MHiPS
Mental Health in Primary Schools

Disability Inclusion
Education for All

# Weekly Award Winners

This weeks awards will be presented next Friday 14/2 at assembly in the school hall starting at 2:55pm.

FV - Pippa
For coming back to Foundation with a great attitude to school and learning. I can see you are going to have an excellent year Pip, and I am so grateful to have you as one of my classroom role models and helpers.

1/2D - Xan
For showing bravery and resilience. Keep up the great work Xan!

1/2M - Logan
For embodying our classroom values and being a role model for others. Keep shining!

3/4I - Quinn
For starting the year with such bravery and kindness. You consistently try your best and keep trying - even when it is hard. AND you made me my favourite animals - amazing! You are doing so well and I look forward to our year together. Thank you.

3/4W - Leo
For beginning the school year with enthusiasm, determination and an amazing attitude. Leo, you have taken everything in your stride since starting in 3/4 and have embraced all the new routines and challenges, well done! You should be so proud of yourself.

5/6A - Ava
For being a kind, thoughtful and helpful class member. You are always thinking of others and going out of your way to be helpful. We appreciate your efforts Ava.

5/6M - Dusty
For the inspirational way he has bonded with not only his buddy but the group of Foundation students. We admire your gentle and kind approach with the younger students.

Ford Aussie Hoops

# Term 1 Begins 6th February, 2025

8 WEEKS $65.00
THURSDAYS
The Arc Stadium, Warrnambool

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## INTRODUCING OUR AWESOME HEAD COACHES

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AND MORE SEAHAWKS & MERMAIDS.

**5-7 Year Olds**
4.15pm - 5.00pm

**8-10 Year Olds**
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## *Come and Try Days*

for Girls and Boys aged 5 to 11

**On Saturday's 22nd February and 1st March 2025**

at The Brierly Oval, Moore Street

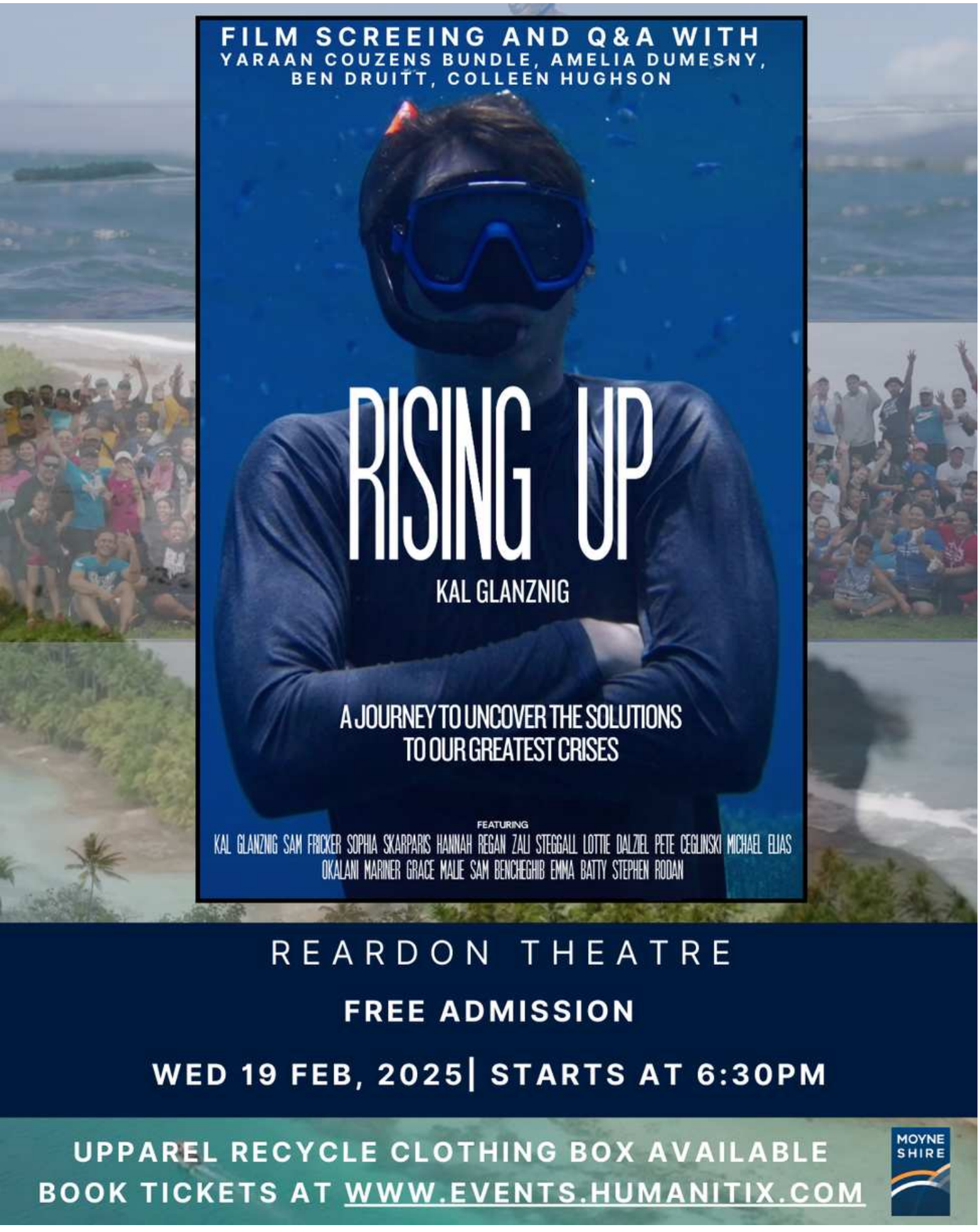
Starts at 9.30am

**NO CHARGE**

Come along - Bring a friend!

for further information

Phone: John on 0417 777 938




Link to book: https://events.humanitix.com/rise-up-film-screening-and-panel-discussion