



MENTONE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER TERM 1, WEEK 1



Welcome to school for 2024. It has been great to see so many happy and smiling faces on the children as they've come back or started school this week. Thanks to everyone who has said hello to me in the yard and introduced themselves. I look forward to meeting more of the community over the coming weeks. The staff have worked diligently over the first two curriculum days to plan for Term 1, run a Professional Development session on Multi Lit and prepare their classrooms and specialist areas to look so wonderful and welcoming. Thankyou to the PFA for organising a special welcome for our Foundation families on Thursday as they started their primary school journey.

Some updates from around the school are as follows:

Our Staff 2024

Grade 5/6 staff: Nick Wilton 56A and Maddie Oates 56B

Grade 3/4 staff: Sam Kennedy/Christina Febbraro 34A and Simone Bastin 34B

Grade 1/2 staff: Kate Drummond/Monica Smith 12A, Nick Griffin 12B and Emma Free/Vanessa Dillon 12C

Foundation: Pamela Kousis FA and Melissa Moore FB

Physical Education: Sarah Blom

Visual Arts: Noela Unwin

STEAM: Emily Zienow-Sy

Auslan: Zoe Guthrie

Tutor Learning/Enhancement: Sarah Ashcroft

Education Support Staff: Phoebe Magna, Gail Pratt, Sarah Ashcroft, Elisha Willett and Abbey Dykas

Business Manager: Jen Aylene

Student Wellbeing: Sam Kennedy

Acting Principal: Jarrod Bainbridge

FEBRUARY/MARCH

Fri 9th Feb

Yr 3-6 Swimming
Carnival

Mon 12 - Fri
16th

Senior Swimming

Fri 23rd

Senior Inter School Sport

Thur 29th

District Swimming

Fri 1st March

Senior Inter School Sport

Wed 6th

All Foundation students
attend

LIVING OUR TIER VALUES

TEAMWORK INTEGRITY EXCELLENCE RESPECT

Building Works

I've been in contact with the VSBA (Victorian School Building Authority) regarding the completion of the downpipes and plumbing to finalise the COLA Shelter. This will then allow for a more certain timeline regarding the resurfacing of the Basketball/Netball Courts. I'll continue to update you when more information comes to hand.

Tree Works

Over the holidays a large gum tree in the front corner of the school was severely impacted by the weather. It was assessed and then removed due to the condition it was in by the DE (Department of Education) make safe providers.

Student Mobile Phones

In a recent DE update they have reiterated the ban on the use of student mobile phones in government schools. I understand some students travel independently to and from school and if they bring a mobile phone to school then it is to be handed to their teacher who will lock it away for the day in order to provide secure storage. Any students who wear Smartwatches or Space Talk Watches are to have them set to 'school mode'.

Assembly

Every Friday at 3pm we will hold a whole school Assembly on the Basketball/Netball courts. Our first Assembly will be held next week on 9th February. When Leadership badges arrive we will make our Grade 6 cohort and parents aware and let you know when they will be presented.

Parent/Teacher Meet and Greets

We will be holding Parent/Teacher Meet and Greets on Monday 12th February between 2pm and 6:30pm. These will be held in your child's classroom. You will be able to make a booking for your Meet and Greet via Compass next week and will be alerted to this when it opens. Each child will also bring home an 'All about my Child' on a page that we ask you to fill in and return to your child's class teacher next week. By ensuring clear lines of communication are in place and keeping everyone on the same page we can endeavour to provide the best educational experience for your child.

Newsletter

After consultation with our staff regarding Newsletters and communication practices, we will be moving to a whole school fortnightly Newsletter in the coming weeks. It will continue to be accessible via Compass and the school Website.

Before and After School Timings

Yard supervision begins at 8:45am before school so please ensure your children do not arrive before this time if they have travelled to school independently. At the end of the day, yard supervision concludes at 3:45pm so we ask that children travelling home independently have left the school grounds by this time. These measures are to ensure that the safety of all children is at the forefront. school's 4 year School Strategic Plan (SSP). It also provides assurance of ongoing compliance with standards related to curriculum and student learning. I'll provide more information over the coming weeks.

School Review

Every 4 years all government schools undertake a school review. Our School Review is scheduled for Term 2 this year. It informs the development of the school's 4 year School Strategic Plan (SSP). It also provides assurance of ongoing compliance with standards related to curriculum and student learning. I'll provide more information over the coming weeks.

Looking forward to a wonderful term,
Jarrod Bainbridge