



Ascot Vale Special School

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What's On?

23 October
**Grand Final
Public Holiday**

27 October
**Year 7 and 10
Immunisations**

27 October
School Council

31 October
Halloween Dress Up

2 November
Curriculum Day

3 November
**Melbourne Cup Public
Holiday**

13 November
**Parent Opinion Survey
closes**

11 December
Musica Viva

**Parent Feedback Form
Link**
[Parent Feedback Form](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is terrific to be back to face to face teaching and learning. It has been so pleasing to see how quickly the students have adjusted to being back at school. I've had the pleasure of visiting classrooms and spending some time catching up with our students, listening to them read as well as helping deliver career exploration activities in the secondary school and preparing our exiting students for 2021. On the whole, I am sure there has been a huge relief that we can be back at school, even if it's under what is known as our 'new COVID normal'.

Secondary School

Across the school, teachers have been focusing on the health and wellbeing, and making learning fun is our main goal this term. The secondary team has been busy planning and organising an integrated unit of work on 'Multicultural Celebrations'. Students have begun learning about the Chinese New Year to start with this term. There are already some great brightly coloured displays highlighting the features of this wonderful cultural celebration created in classrooms. Students will also explore Halloween, Eid and the Day of the Dead, then work towards creating their very own AVSS classroom celebration. Alongside our other main curriculum areas, students will also be working towards a unit in Health and Human Relations and of course their Elective Program activities as planned in term 3.

Senior Secondary School

The senior secondary school is well underway to finishing off their VCAL and ASDAN learning outcomes for this year. I know the team of staff in this section has worked tirelessly in the last few months to ensure our students had every opportunity to gain their credits for VCAL and ASDAN. We are also lucky that the department has extended our timeline for entering results.

This term, the senior school team will also be working towards preparing for their Mock Interview Day, finishing off their personal development fundraising project for the Lost Dogs Home, hosting the Steps Pathways Program virtually, completing their VET studies, and of course, planning for the 2020 graduation.

Post School Pathways

What a tricky year it has been for transition and planning! Unfortunately, this year transition and pathways planning has looked very different and the decision-making process in selecting an appropriate pathway for many has been somewhat challenging. Parents and students have not been able to visit services and meet service representatives face to face which has made the process a lot harder. Nevertheless, I have worked with the 7 students that are exiting and their families to explore options and make connections with service providers throughout both lockdown periods. We've had several online information sessions and virtual tours as well as several online interviews. I am pleased to say that all 7 students are well underway to confirming their options for 2021.

Cont/d...

Graduation Plans

Graduation is set to look very different this year for both our grade 6 students as well as our year 12 students. Generally, the grade 6 graduation is a family celebration at school in the evening and the year 12 graduation ceremony is a family event with a sit-down dinner at a local venue.

At this stage, even with the easing of some restrictions, it is unknown as to what DHHS and government guidelines will recommend in terms of events and gatherings in December. It is unlikely we will celebrate traditionally this year.

The department has provided schools with several innovative ways of planning graduation to make it a family-friendly remote event. At this stage, staff and students are working towards planning an in-school type of graduation ceremony for both grade 6 and year 12 students. Families will be able to join in on the festivities via Webex. Staff endeavour to create a sense of excitement around graduation, bring our school community together as well as reward our students for a challenging year of remote and flexible learning and instil a sense of pride in the graduating students.

As our graduation plans evolve, I will endeavour to keep you updated on the details of each of the celebrations.

Attitudes to School Survey

This year, I will oversee the implementation of the 'Attitudes to School Survey'. The Attitudes to School Survey is an annual student survey that provides data to support student wellbeing, engagement, school improvement, and planning in schools. This year, students will also be surveyed about flexible and remote learning.

Musica Viva

I have been lucky enough to secure an online performance with Musica Viva. This performance has been booked for the 11th of December and has been kindly funded by the McKenzie Foundation. The performance I have arranged with Musica Viva is Rhythm Works. Rhythm Works are a dynamic percussion duo who show students how to create visual images through music – with lizards, waterfalls, road trains, and carnivals. Please stay tuned for more information to come.

Cheers,
Susanne

PARENT OPINION SURVEY

WE WANT OUR PARENTS /CARERS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!

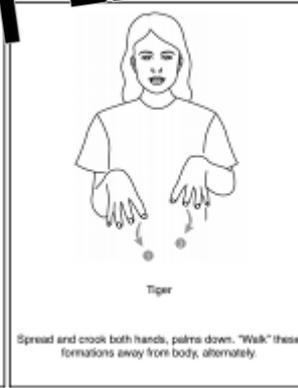
The Parent Opinion Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education and Training that is conducted amongst parents. It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of parents' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour and student engagement. Our school will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies.

This year the Parent Opinion Survey will be conducted from Monday 12 October to Sunday 13 November and all responses to the survey are anonymous. The survey link has been distributed via Seesaw **and we ask that you please take the time to complete the survey.** The survey will be conducted **online**, only takes **10-15 minutes** to complete.

Please contact Colin or Christine if you would like further information.

See Seesaw for the Link

Key Word Sign of the week



OT Challenge of the week!



Forward Fold

Mehek and Zak doing the Forward Fold.

Stand with your feet together and bend your knees just a little, try and touch your forehead to your knees.

Emma, Occupational Therapist

Drop Off/Pick Up times

Now that school has resumed to onsite learning, the following arrangements are in place for the remainder of Term 4:

Drop Off Times

It is no longer necessary to have staggered drop off times in the mornings.

We ask all students are dropped off between 8.50am-9.00am. Students can go directly to the yard at 8.50am as staff will be on duty for supervision from this time.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions parents are still not permitted to enter the school yard. There will be staff available to collect your children from the gate if needed.

We ask that all students are onsite for the beginning of the school day at 9am to avoid class disruption.

Pick Up Times

We will continue with the staggered pick up arrangements in the afternoons to avoid parent congestion in the car park area.

You may collect your child from 2.30pm until the bell sounds at 3.00pm.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Colin.

Room 14

Room 14 are currently exploring multicultural celebrations.

Students have made and decorated lanterns and written about zodiacs too.

Next we're making dragons and conducting other research projects.



Lesson _____

Chinese New Year

12

1. What is the Chinese zodiac animal for the Chinese New Year?

2. What is the color of the New Year? According to the Chinese zodiac, what are some of the qualities of people born in the year of the rat?

3. What is the Chinese zodiac animal sign for the year when you were born?

4. Why are dragon dances performed at New Year? Why are they believed to bring good luck to people?

5. What is the Chinese zodiac animal sign for the year you were born?

6. What is the Chinese zodiac animal sign for the year you were born?

7. What is the Chinese zodiac animal sign for the year you were born?

8. List some of the special foods eaten at Chinese New Year.

Fortune cookies

9. What is the Chinese zodiac animal sign for the year you were born?

10. What is the Chinese zodiac animal sign for the year you were born?

11. What is the Chinese zodiac animal sign for the year you were born?

12. What is the Chinese zodiac animal sign for the year you were born?



ROOM 15

Room 15 are getting back in the swing of things!

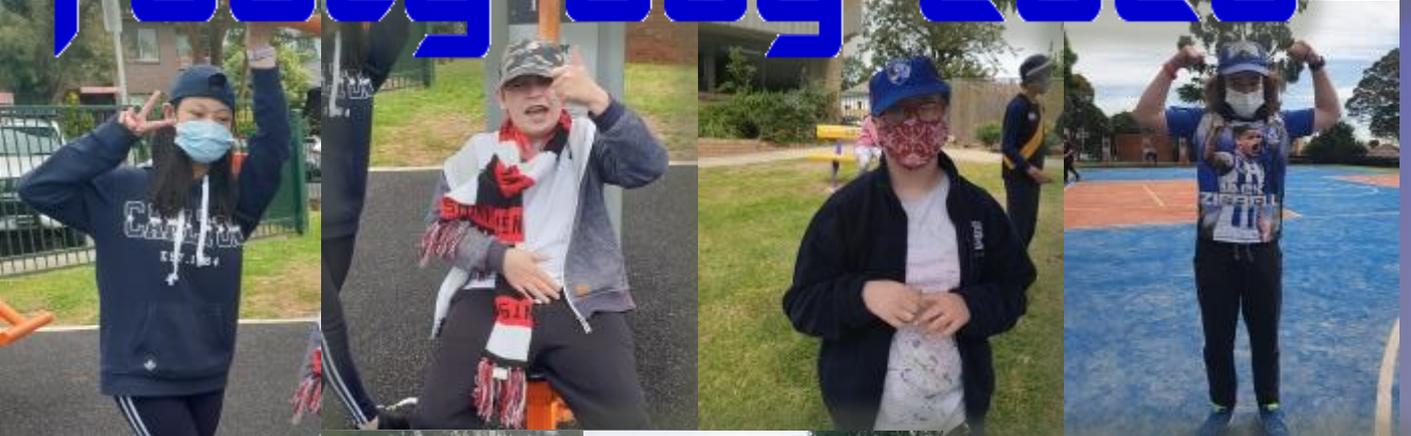
We are all so happy to be back with our friends!

This week we have been learning some life skills and working as a team to try and improve our learning space.





Footy Day 2020





GOOD LUCK





Cafe Deliveries



Congratulations Daniel V from Room 15 on completing the 2020 Youth Leadership Program facilitated by the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation.

The Western Bulldogs *Youth Leadership Project* is a **FREE** dynamic youth leadership program for young people across Victoria's West, aged 14-16 years old.

The program provides local young people with hands on opportunities to learn from respected industry leaders and build capacities in *Personal Growth, Social Leaderships, Emotional Intelligence and Community Engagement*.

Some of the topics including learning more about education, employment and mental health. All participants complete a social impact project that leaves a positive impact in their local community.

Please follow this link to find out more information and get involved in the 2021 program -

<https://www.westernbulldogs.com.au/foundation/programs/leadership-project>.

A Shout Out to all Families



Annie



Christian



Coby



David



The Lost Dogs Home need your help!



Do you have unwanted blanket, towel or sheet lying around the home?

Could you purchase an extra can of cat or dog food the next time you go shopping?



Do you have some loose change lying around your home?



Room 15 students are raising funds to help animals in shelter.

Please send all your donations by **Friday 30th October.**

Thank you!

TUNING INTO KIDS

Emotionally Intelligent Parent Coaching (Online)

A COURSE FOR PARENTS WITH COMPLEX FAMILY DYNAMICS

We use the Tuning into Kids program as the foundation of a 6 week course that equips parents and carers to have confidence responding to the emotional needs, and challenging behaviours, of children in their care.

This round of the course is specifically designed to be responsive to families who have more complex family dynamics. This includes families and children who may be neurodiverse (with diagnosis such as SPD, ADHA, ASD, OCD, SPD or anxiety) or other challenges, for example children with a history of trauma.

Diverse families require diverse skills and strategies. We aim to build on your parenting style and strengths, while making changes to:

- have confidence responding to big feelings and behaviours (meltdowns, refusal, anxiety)
- understand appropriate expectations of developmental stage
- develop strategies that consider individual neurodiversity
- understand sensory sensitivity and overwhelm
- identify why current approaches may not be effective
- connect with a community of families with shared experiences

This is a collaborative and interactive course with live group sessions (max 8-10 participants), prioritising feedback on your specific challenges, questions, and experiences in small and confidential group sessions.

FACILITATORS

Meg (Paediatric OT) has worked with wonderful, neurodiverse, and complex families across a variety of settings for over ten years. She supports families to honour their strengths, develop and implement strategies to improve their family life and function. Meg approaches therapy from a systems perspective and works collaboratively with families to learn how to consider the many factors, within (person,) and without (Environment, Occupation, Culture), that may be contributing to the challenging moments they are experiencing and enables them to proactively respond in implementing positive change.

Tara orients herself to the child's perspective and experience of relationship in the family and education system – supporting adults to understand child development, behaviour and to work out the cause of dysregulation and behaviours. Tara supports families to unpack the social, cultural and personal influences and beliefs that affect the way we parent and engage with children. Tara has over 10 years' experience working in human rights and community organisations with children and their families, and in providing policy advice to governments to better meet the needs and rights of children, particularly those most marginalised in our community.



REGISTRATION DETAILS

6 weekly x 2hr Zoom sessions and a Facebook support group.

We begin in the week commencing 1st November 2020. Time of sessions to be agreed with participants.

Cost per weekly session: \$90 or \$150 per couple
NDIS funding approved

Healthcare card rates available on request

For more information please contact:

Meg McIntosh (Paediatric OT)
Phone: 0401 268 391

or email

Tara Broughan at
hello@tarabroughan.com



A significant number of iPad chargers have not been returned. Please check that you still do not have one of the school's chargers at home. We are having difficulty charging the student's iPads due to the low number of chargers being returned.

If you have not returned your charger, we will be forced to follow up with an invoice for a new charger.

Colin Schot, Principal



REMINDER

AVSS will be closed tomorrow

Friday, 23 October 2020

for the Grand Final Public Holiday



Next Friday 31 October students are invited
to dress up in Halloween costumes.