



## What's On?

**Monday 7 February**  
Call for School Council  
Nominations

**Monday 14 February**  
Closing Date  
for Nominations

**Tuesday 15 February**  
School Council @ AVHS

**Friday 11 March**  
Pupil Free Day  
Staff Professional  
Development

**Monday 14 March**  
Labour Day  
Public Holiday

**Monday 28 March**  
School Photos

**Friday 8 April**  
End Term 1  
2 pm finish

**Tuesday 26 April**  
First Day Term 2

Dear Ascot Vale Heights School families,

On behalf of the entire staff, I would like to welcome you back to Ascot Vale Heights School for another school year, and in particular, any new students attending our school for the first time. Ascot Vale Heights School will be working hard to deliver the best education to our students.

I welcome the families that have joined our school community by enrolling their child into the school for the 2022 school year. The staff will be working with you closely to ensure that there is a smooth and successful transition of your child into the school. It is important that your child attends school every day. Being at school supports your child's learning, social and mental wellbeing.

The start of the 2022 school year has seen some changes, as we have implemented our COVIDsafe plan. What never changes, though, is the warm, welcoming school environment which fosters the educational and social-emotional growth for every student.

I encourage every parent and carer to engage with the school through the many avenues that are available to do so. School Council Elections will be in February. In this bulletin, we have provided information on the role of the school council, how you can nominate for the school council and the number of vacancies available.

AVHS is an excellent school with fantastic students, excellent facilities, great staff and a school community that is supportive and appreciative of the school. The school will continue to strive to deliver excellent programs and improve the facilities so that every student at AVHS has the best that we can offer each child in their learning and personal development.

### Important Updates

**COVIDsafe Plan:** AVHS is operating in a COVIDSafe way. AVHS will make sure that staff and students wear masks, stay home when unwell, and physical distance when appropriate.

AVHS will provide free, regular COVID rapid antigen testing for students to help keep them safe. There will be voluntary rapid antigen testing in place for the first four weeks of Term 1 2022.

AVHS will let you know if there has been a positive COVID case at school and what you need to do.

Cont/d...

Everybody has an important role to play. Mask wearing, hand washing and having your child vaccinated are all very important. All children aged 5 years and over can receive a vaccination and help to protect their family, friends and school community. Please see COVIDsafe Plan infographic on the following page.

Information on vaccination centres can be found here: <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/booking/>

**Seesaw:** This is the digital application that will enable parents and carers the opportunity to view the teaching and learning that is occurring in their child's classroom. It will also be the means by which staff and parents can communicate on matters concerning their child. If you have not signed up to *Seesaw*, please take the time to follow the instructions that will be sent to you via email during the first week of school. If you require further assistance in signing up to *Seesaw*, please take the time to contact reception and assistance in this matter will be organised for you.

**Compass Portal:** All parents need to sign into this portal. This portal will enable parents and carers to make SSG appointments, access their child reports and school bulletins. You will receive a *Compass* parent log in information letter or email in the first week back at school. Please follow the instructions to sign up. If you need any further assistance with this matter, please don't hesitate to contact the office.

### Compulsory School Uniform

The school has a compulsory school uniform from Foundation to Year 10. Parents and carers can obtain the school uniform from the school office.

**New Staff:** It gives me great pleasure to introduce the new staff that have gained positions at the school. We are thrilled to have them join our school team, enriching our school with their knowledge, experience and skills. Please see over for the complete 2022 staffing list.

To all the students, welcome back! We are excited to have you back at school, and we hope that you have the best year in your learning and work at school. I encourage each of you to be the best you can be and if you need help always ask a staff member as we are there for you.

Here are a couple of snapshots of our happy students on their return to school and I am pleased to report that they are excited to be back at school.

Cheers , Nance



## What's new:



### Free rapid antigen testing

- more than 14 million rapid antigen tests to be delivered to schools and early childhood education and care settings
- twice-weekly voluntary testing at home
  - o primary school students and staff
  - o secondary school students and staff
- five-times-weekly voluntary testing at home
  - o specialist school students and staff



### Enhanced support to keep schools open and safe

- extra staff ready to step in where essential school staff are unable to work
- updated procedures and notifications to families when there are COVID-19 cases
- extra planning and support for school leadership



### Keeping schools open and as safe as possible

- remote learning only considered as a localised, short-term, last-resort option

## Continued COVIDSafe measures: the 3Vs



### Vaccination

- staff required to be vaccinated or medically exempt
- more than 90% of children age 12 and over are now vaccinated
- roll-out of vaccinations for children aged 5 to 11 through state vaccination hubs, pop-up school vaccination sites and in-reach grants



### Ventilation

- delivery of 51,000 air purifiers to schools before day one of Term 1



### Vital COVIDSafe steps

- physical distancing
- face masks
- regular hand hygiene
- testing

Updated: 22 January 2022

22-07

AVHS Staff 2022 Term 1	
Principal (acting)	Nancy Sidoti
Assistant Principal	Christine Monahan
School Operations Manager	Erica Ryan
ICT	Dan Closter Wed & Mourad Sarraf Th / F
Sec Learning Centre Leader	Susanne Andriesz
Assistant Principal/Prim LCL	Megan Retallick
Office	Tanya Nash & Nichole Medina
OT	Laura Borgouts
PE	Robyn Goulding
Science	Photini Zafiroopoulos Tues
Kitchen	Leeanne Sweet & Laura Conley
Art	Jo Green M-W
Room 1	Zoe Scott, Emma Wilby/Ned Watson & Sumiyo Powers
Room 3	Ashleigh May & Tara Emerson-Jones
Room 4	Olinda Lay, Tahara Mahed, Haset Samuel M,W,F & Ivanka Franjic T,Th
Room 5	Teresa Opasinis, Heyam Hamka, Donna Kuzman M-T & Merryn Brown W-F
Room 6	Annie Galcin M-W, Olivia Garbiec Th-Fr, Mary-Ann Gardner M-Th & Jane Kingsley Th-Fr
Room 7	Keelan Mackle, Olivia Bayliss M,T,F & Gabi W,Th
Room 8	Seany Watts, Loretta Nicholls M,T,W & Al Gevers Th,Fr
Room 9	Brittany Petticrew & Inga Spyrou
Room 11	Steph Champion, Di Tran M-Th, Tanya Cox F & Andrew Webb
Room 13	Campbell Maffett, Kate Close W-F & Anita Hitchcock M,T
Room 14	Isabel Ehrlri & Maria Barski
Room 16	Lachlan Kelly M,T, W, Mark Lucchesi Th, F & Maggie Widjaja

# Allied Health News

**SPEECH**

Welcome to Allied Health News!

Here we provide updates from the Allied Health team.

At Ascot Vale we use **Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)** to support students language development. We use many different AAC such as high-tech AVAZ, low-tech communication boards, and Key Word Sign.

Each week we share a Core Word and Key Word Sign that staff can focus on for the week.

You will find the same ones here so you can continue modelling the same at home.

Keep an eye out for video clips on Seesaw :)



**Key word sign of the week is “School”**

Move open dominant hand, palm toward head, diagonally at side of face, twice.

See the Z- Admin Seesaw demonstration

## Core Word of The Week

Practice modelling the core word on the AVHS communication board.

**“Go”**

See demonstration on Seesaw



*“We are going to school”*

## Contact

Speech Pathology

Getty [getty@wordsinmotion.com.au](mailto:getty@wordsinmotion.com.au)

Working days: Wednesday and Friday



# When to wear a face mask\*

Updated: 19 November 2021



	<b>Indoors only</b> (including public transport/school bus)
<b>Adults<sup>^</sup></b> (Staff and visitors)	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Grade 3-6 students</b> (including Outside School Hours Care programs)	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Prep to Grade 2 students</b>	<b>Recommended</b>
<b>Grade 2 students in Grade 2-3 composite classes</b>	<b>Recommended</b>

\* Unless you have a lawful exception

<sup>^</sup> School staff to wear a face mask while teaching wherever practicable, except where removal of a face mask is necessary for effective communication

**Wear a mask outdoors if you can't maintain 1.5m distance**

For detailed information visit:  
[coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au)



# School Council Elections 2022

**ASCOT VALE HEIGHTS  
NEEDS YOU!**

Have you ever considered joining  
School Council?

Have your say in how the school  
operates and is run?

Call Nance on 9370 8906 if you'd  
like to have a chat about  
joining school council.

## ***What is a school council and what does it do?***

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

## ***Who is on the school council?***

There are three possible categories of membership:

**A mandated elected Parent category.** More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not employed at the school.

**A mandated elected DET employee category.** Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

**An optional Community member category.** Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

## ***Why is Parent membership so important?***

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

## ***How can you become involved?***

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

## ***Do I need special experience to be on school council?***

No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

## ***What do you need to do to stand for election?***

The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category. Forms are available from the office.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

### Remember

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Timeline for Ascot Vale Special School Council Elections		
1	Notice of election and call for nominations	Monday, 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
2	Closing date for nominations	Monday, 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
3	Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be displayed	Wednesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
4	Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed	Monday, 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2022
5	Close of ballot	Monday, 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
6	Vote count	Tuesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2022
7	Declaration of ballot	Wednesday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2022
8	First Council meeting to co-opt Community members (acting Principal will preside)	Tuesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
9	Second Council meeting to elect office bearers (acting Principal will preside)	Tuesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2022

**School Council Vacant Positions Available**  
 Parent category (4) x 2 years  
 Parent Co-opted Category (2) x 1 years  
 Department of Education Employee category (3) x 2 years

The following school councillors, term of office, will finish after the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the school council.

Member Category: *Parent: 4 x two year terms*  
*Chris Patrzalek*  
*Jen Thomson*  
*Vanessa Kerr*  
*Joely Curwood*

*Parent Co opted:*  
*Tony Charles*  
*Lucy Crunden*

Department of Education and Training: 3 x two year terms

*Susanne Andiresz*  
*Megan Retallick*  
*Casual vacancy for the duration of the rest of Juliet Knight's term due to her retirement*

Retiring school councillors can seek re-election to the school council for another term of office.

Parents and DET staff can self-nominate or be nominated in seeking a position on council. Please contact the office for a nomination form if you are interested in serving on council.

Cheers, Nance 9370 8906—[nancy.sidoti@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:nancy.sidoti@education.vic.gov.au)

# Rapid Antigen Tests

By now you would have received your child's 4 x box of five Rapid Antigen Tests. If your child tests positive please advise the school at your earliest convenience.



### TESTSEALABS® COVID-19 ANTIGEN TEST CASSETTE

COVID-19 Antigen Home Test Quick Reference Instructions

Fast result in 10 minutes | **Home Test** | TESTSEALABS®

1 Study the Instructions for Use and User Manual thoroughly before using. Quick Reference Instructions. This is not a complete Instructions for Use.

After viewing the video guide via the QR code and familiarising yourself with how to use the rapid antigen test, follow the instructions below.

**STEP 1 PREPARATION**

1 Wash your hands.

It is recommended to wear gloves when using the product.

2 Check the kit contents before testing.

3 Check the expiry date shown on the foil pouch packaging. Check that the test cassette inside is intact and that it contains one test strip framed within the result window.

Kit contents: 1. Result window, 2. Sample window.

Foil pouch, Test cassette.

**STEP 2 SAMPLE COLLECTION**

4 Twist the top of the buffer tube to open and pour all the extraction buffer solution into the extraction tube.

5 Place the extraction tube in the workstation.

6 Open the sterile swab pouch and hold the swab.

Do not touch swab tip when handling swab sample.

7 Insert the sterile swab and rotate around all sides of both nostrils approx 10 times for about 10 seconds. The sterile swab should be inserted about 2-3 cm into the nostril, parallel to the palate until the resistance is met and turbulence.

10x times, Right nostril, Left nostril.

Do not soak the swab in the extraction tube or other liquid until you have finished in the nasal cavity.

**STEP 3 TEST PROCEDURE**

8 Place the swab in the extraction tube. Rotate the swab for at least 10 seconds and stir for 10+ times while pushing the swab tip against the sides of the tube to squeeze out the solution from the swab.

10x Stirring.

In case of contact with your skin or eyes, wash immediately with plenty of water.

9 Screw the cap onto the extraction tube and make sure it is firmly in place.

10 Place 3 drops of the sample solution vertically into the sample window of the test cassette.

3 drops.

Do not squeeze out all of the sample solution in the extraction tube.

11 Read the test results after 10 minutes has passed.

Read in 10-15 minutes.

Do not read test results after 20 minutes.

12 Carefully wrap the used test kit components and swab samples and dispose in normal household waste.

**STEP 4 INTERPRETATION OF TEST RESULT**

**Negative**

Negative result: A coloured band will appear in the control line (C) and test line (T) result window only.

Negative results should be treated as presumptive only and may not mean you are not infectious. If you are experiencing COVID symptoms, you must seek immediate further laboratory PCR testing and follow-up clinical care.

**Positive**

Positive result: Coloured bands will appear in both the control line (C) and test line (T) result windows.

**IMPORTANT:** Look very closely! The color intensity in the test region will vary. Any faint coloured line in the result window should be considered as positive.

A positive test result indicates that antigens from SARS-CoV-2 were detected, and you are likely to be infected and presumed to be contagious. You must immediately undergo a laboratory PCR test of a COVID-19 respiratory swab. COVID-19 respiratory swabs are collected from patients located around the country, focusing on testing people who may have COVID.

**Invalid**

Re-test: If the control line (C) has not appeared in the result window, it is an invalid result.

Re-test using a new swab sample and test cassette.

An invalid test result indicates that your test has experienced an error and is unable to interpret the result of the test. Insufficient sample volume or incorrect handling are the most likely reasons for this. YOU will need to re-test with a new test or contact your State or Territory Coronavirus testing services to get a laboratory PCR test. If you still have symptoms, you should self-isolate at home and avoid contact with others prior to the re-test.

**CUSTOMER SUPPORT**

For assistance regarding the use of the product and interpretation of test results call 1800 773 468. This service is available between 9am and 7pm (AEST) of Mon and Tues (AEST), 7 days a week.

**TESTSEALABS®**

Manufactured by: HANZHOU TESTSEA BIOTECHNOLOGY CO., LTD. 3rd Floor, Building 5, No.8-2 Kaili Road, Yuhang District, Hangzhou, China, 311400 www.testsealabs.com

Australian Authorised Representative: PHARMA BOWL PTY LTD 500 Colford Street, Broadmeadows, NSW, 2082, Australia info@pharmabowl.com.au



# Thanks!

Thanks to the following families for watering the garden over the summer break. You all did a great job and it's flourishing.

Patrzalek (Aidyn), Plattfuss (Joshua), Sybenga (Christopher), and Niedermeyer (Remy)



## Introduction to families and carers

Tamara Purcell

Koorie Engagement Support Officer (KESO)

Giinagay (How are you?)

My name is Tamara I am a new Koorie Engagement Support Officer in the Western Melbourne team, and I will be working with your child's school. I am a proud Yaegl/Gumbaynggirr woman from Maclean NSW, but I have been living in Melbourne for the past 12 years.

I will be working closely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their families by supporting engagement in education, promoting positive outcomes and instilling pride in students' cultural identity. I will also support the whole school community in the celebration and learning of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and work to create more culturally inclusive learning environments.

I can support with (but not limited to):

- Education Support
- Careers and Pathways
- Support Liaising with your School
- Individual Education Plans (IEP)
- Student Support Group Meetings (SSG)
- Re-engagement into School or Alternative Pathways

If you would also like to receive information about news, programs and events for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students please sign up for the mailing list here:

<https://tinyurl.com/WMKESOnews>

Finally, if you have any questions or need any support with your child's education feel free to call, message or email using my details below.

### Contact Details

E: [Tamara.Purcell@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Tamara.Purcell@education.vic.gov.au) P: 03 7005 1956



HEAL COUNTRY! - PROUDLY CELEBRATING NAIDOC WEEK 2021

## Annual privacy reminder for 2022

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#).

Please take time to remind yourself of our school's collection notice, found on our website [http://ascotvalehs.vic.edu.au/?page\\_id=12](http://ascotvalehs.vic.edu.au/?page_id=12)

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents](#). This information is also available in nine community languages:

- Amharic
- Arabic
- Dari
- Gujarati
- Mandarin
- Somali
- Sudanese
- Turkish
- Urdu
- Vietnamese

## Friendly February 2022

### MONDAY



### TUESDAY

1 Send a message to let someone know you're thinking of them

### WEDNESDAY

2 Ask a friend how they have been feeling recently

### THURSDAY

3 Do an act of kindness to make life easier for someone

### FRIDAY

4 Organise a virtual 'tea break' with a colleague or friend

### SATURDAY

5 Make time to have a friendly chat with a neighbour

### SUNDAY

6 Get back in touch with an old friend you've not seen for a while

7 Show an active interest by asking questions when talking to others

8 Share what you're feeling with someone you really trust

9 Thank someone and tell them how they made a difference for you

10 Look for good in others, particularly when you feel frustrated with them

11 Send an encouraging note to someone who needs a boost

12 Focus on being kind rather than being right

13 Smile at the people you see and brighten their day

14 Tell a loved one or friend why they are special to you

15 Support a local business with a positive online review or friendly message

16 Check in on someone who may be struggling and offer to help

17 Appreciate the good qualities of someone in your life

18 Respond kindly to everyone you talk to today, including yourself

19 Share something you find inspiring, helpful or amusing

20 Make a plan to connect with others and do something fun

21 Really listen to what people say, without judging them

22 Give sincere compliments to people you talk to today

23 Be gentle with someone who you feel inclined to criticise

24 Tell a loved one about the strengths that you see in them

25 Thank three people you feel grateful to and tell them why

26 Make uninterrupted time for your loved ones

27 Call a friend to catch up and really listen to them

28 Give positive comments to as many people as possible today



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together