

# PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

Edition 1 – March 2024



## Important Dates

### March 11th

Labour Day

### March 12th

Division Swimming 3-6

### 13th March

NAPLAN Commences – Year 3 & 5

### 21st March

Harmony Day

### 22nd March

Colour Run

### 26th March

House Cross Country

### 28th March

End Term 1 – 2.30pm

## Vision

There is a prosperous path for every child. Each journey is theirs to lead. There is a place in which every child can shine.

## Mission

Identify the talent, develop the confidence and create the leader.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we are gathered here today and we pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging for they hold the memories, the culture and dreams of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



## From the Principal

Genevieve Casonato

Can you believe it- students have been at school for five weeks already. The year has started well with teachers and students developing a rapport and undertaking their learning in carefully designed spaces. Many hours of preparation over the summer break ensured these spaces were inviting and functional for the students to learn in.

These first few weeks has seen a lot of activity around the school including –

- LIM Element/Buddies program
- Parktone Swimming trials & District Carnival
- Curriculum Day-Writing 6 + 1 Traits
- Preservice teachers' placements
- Staff LIM Professional Development
- School Council Elections
- NAPLAN Preparation for Year 3 & 5
- Auditions for 3-6 School Production- 'Kids by the Sea'
- Student support programs in Literacy and Numeracy
- Critical friend Mardi Gorman working with F-2 teachers focusing on Phonics Scope and Sequence
- 2025 Prep Tours begin
- Year 1 English Online assessment
- Library, Coding, Glee, Art, and Lego clubs at lunchtimes
- Year 5 & 6 Interschool Sports
- Meet & Greet
- Leadership meeting fortnightly with school leaders
- New mulch for our playgrounds

Due to extreme weather, our Fun Family night had to be postponed. This was disappointing as we had great Leader in Me fun activities for the whole family to engage in. The good news is the event will be planned for early Term Two and there be more to enjoy on the night including the Year 6 Arcade games. Currently they are busy designing these games in their STEAM classes. I look forward to trying these games out next term.

# PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

## From the Principal continued

On Wednesday 28th February we had our second curriculum day for 2024. We focused on Writing, delving in to the 6 + 1 Traits. The aim of the day was to develop a consistent approach of teaching writing across the school. Kris Portier, a writer in her own right, presented the 6+1 traits that assist students to write a quality piece.



## School Wide Positive Behaviour






The focus of first few weeks of the year was to set co constructed class behaviour goals as well as unpacking the SWPBS matrices. These matrices are worked on each week to ensure we have a consistent approach relating to behaviour expectations across the school.








For further details about the Matricies, please click on the link -

## Positive Behaviour Expectations

LeaderinMe®



ASSEMBLY	
 <p>We are in charge of our actions!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We cheer respectfully, showing good sportsmanship for our house teams, and know when to stop</li> <li>We keep our hands to ourselves and focus on the speaker</li> <li>We stand quietly when asked to by our leaders</li> </ul>	 <p>We fill our friends buckets by congratulating them on their achievements by clapping</p>
 <p>We listen with our eyes, ears and hearts so the speakers feel respected</p>	 <p>We work together as a school to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stay quiet and attentive</li> <li>Sing the National anthem / say the acknowledgement to country with pride and respect</li> </ul>
 <p>We walk in and out of assembly calmly and sensibly, including to and from the toilets</p>	

TRANSITIONS AND LINING UP	
 <p>We move around the school quietly and calmly in a single line</p>	 <p>We are happy to be anywhere in the line</p>
 <p>We keep our hands to ourselves</p>	 <p>We listen to the instructions given</p>
 <p>We think about our actions, so we can line up and move around the school safely</p>	 <p>We work together to form an orderly line when we move around the school</p>
 <p>We wait in our class line ready for our teacher at the end of break times safely</p>	

When staff are out on recess and lunch duty, they record incidents on COMPASS which gives us valuable information about student activity and the systems that need to put in place to support all students. At lunch, students who are not following these guidelines are asked to report to the Leadership team who then follow clear procedures in addressing the issue or rectify the situation.

OUTDOOR PLAY	
 <p>We leave the play area when the music starts</p>	 <p>We respect the play space of others</p>
 <p>We stay away from mud and puddles</p>	 <p>We think of win win solutions</p>
 <p>We make safe, smart choices</p>	 <p>We listen first then speak kindly to friends and teachers</p>
 <p>We tag instead of tackle</p>	 <p>We are team players and play fairly</p>
 <p>We look out for each other</p>	 <p>We wear our hats and sunscreen in hot weather</p>
 <p>Eat...Bin...Play... Eat first, put our rubbish in the bin then play</p>	 <p>We drink water to stay hydrated</p>
	 <p>We HAVE FUN!</p>



# PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

## From the Acting Assistant Principal

Kaye Ralph

### Wellbeing

It is a privilege to be appointed as Acting Assistant Principal at Parktone. My role is Wellbeing Facilitator and I'm looking forward to working with all the students and families at this wonderful educational setting. Thank you to everyone for making me feel so welcome.

I thought I would introduce myself to the community in my first article for the newsletter. On weekends you will find me come rain, hail or shine supporting the Carlton Football Club, there is an air of great anticipation for a successful 2024 season for the Mighty Blues.

Hiking is another passion of mine, and I enjoy going on long hikes with friends along our beautiful coastline. I also enjoy down time at the local beaches while reading or listening to podcasts. I have a son Sam who is currently studying at University and I enjoy walking my dog Lucy most evenings.

Professionally my career spans over 35 years, working in many leadership positions; Acting Principal Assistant Principal and working in the DET region supporting Principals with school improvement.



### Pippa - Parktone's Wellbeing Wonder



Parktone students will have been fortunate enough to meet our fully trained therapy dog, Pippa. She has a lovely gentle nature and a very soft, fluffy coat. Pippa spends time in the playground and visiting classes. She has helped children who are feeling sad or anxious feel better and brings lots of positive emotions to everyone who comes over for a pat. It is lovely to see the big smiles on the faces of our students when they see her.

Pippa is enjoying meeting everyone and the many pats she receives each day. If you see Pippa around the school, come and say 'hi'.

### Schools, teachers and parents: Building strong relationships

Below is a link to the Australian Government website with lots of information around family and school relationships.

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/school-learning/working-with-schools-teachers/relationship-with-school>

#### Key points

- When parents and teachers have strong relationships, children get many academic and social benefits.
- Being involved with school helps you to build strong relationships with teachers and other staff.
- Build relationships at primary school by helping in the classroom, going on excursions and more
- Relationships at secondary school change as children become more independent.

#### Resources

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/> provide information to help your family grow and thrive together. They are funded by the Australian Government, reviewed by experts and non-commercial. The website has articles, videos and interactive resources tailored to children of different ages as well as providing parenting wellbeing information.

# PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

## Curriculum News

Mel Bach

Our year is off and racing. At the start of any year there is always a great sense of excitement as improvement work is continued or begun. As a Richmond supporter, at the start of any new footy season, there is always a similar sense of anticipation. Will we make the final eight? Will we finish in 9th position? How will Dusty go?

All schools have an Annual Implementation Plan which outlines the goals, targets, and strategies for improvement work. My work, as Assistant Principal, is largely in relation to Curriculum and supporting teaching staff to deliver this work.

As outlined in the 2024 AIP we have targeted the following, and this is to:

- \*Strengthen Year 3 Reading attainment level through embedding the F-2 Phonics Scope and Sequence.
- \*Fine-tune and develop the Year 3-6 Spelling program
- \*Develop teacher capacity in consistent use of formative data to drive needs-based instruction.

Our Learning Specialists (Brett Sargeant – Maths, Kris Portier – Literacy, Amy Sharman – Leader In Me/Student Voice and Agency) work with teaching teams to assist them in planning the curriculum. They are exemplary practitioners who model excellence in teaching through demonstration lessons. They mentor and coach teachers in improving their skills, knowledge, and effectiveness.



*Readers Workshop session in action*

Assessment is used to identify and then target the needs of students. We also use Scope and Sequence documents to ensure that we are delivering a “guaranteed” curriculum. This is a mechanism through which all students have a school-wide agreement and common understanding of the essential content that all students need to know, understand, and be able to do. There are also expectations about how much time is allocated to curriculum areas.



Teachers are also involved in collaborative planning and student work is discussed. An example of this is the work Prep and Year 1 teachers are doing in Reading. Data is being collected from English Online Interviews to identify what knowledge students have about things such as print concepts, phonemic awareness and alphabet knowledge. From here teachers analyse this data to determine what students need to learn next, and they plan lessons accordingly



This term the Prep to 2 teachers have also had the opportunity to work with Literacy consultant, Mardi Gorman, as we fine-tune our phonics scope and sequence work. Teachers have been able to observe Mardi taking phonics sessions. They have then had time to ask questions and get down into learning about the nitty gritty of phonics instruction.

# PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

## Curriculum News

Mel Bach

Phonics approaches have been consistently found to be effective in supporting younger students to master the basics of reading, with an average impact of an additional five months' progress. Research suggests that phonics is particularly beneficial for younger students (4-7 year olds) as they begin to read. Teaching phonics is more effective on average than other approaches to early reading (such as whole language or alphabetic approaches), though it should be emphasised that effective phonics techniques are usually embedded in a rich literacy environment for early readers and are only one part of a successful literacy strategy.



Systematic phonics approaches explicitly teach students a comprehensive set of letter sound relationships through an organised sequence. A phonics program will only be effective if it is delivered using effective pedagogy. How phonics is taught is important.

Consider the following when teaching a phonics program:

- Training – ensure all staff have the necessary pedagogical skills and content knowledge
- Responsive – check if learning can be accelerated or extra support is needed and identify specific capabilities and difficulties to focus teaching.
- Engaging – lessons that engage students and are enjoyable to teach.
- Adaptations – carefully consider any adaptations to the program, as they may reduce its impact.
- Focus – a flexible approach to grouping students is likely to help focus effort and improve teaching efficiency.

Source: Evidence for Learning – Improving Literacy in lower primary – Summary of Recommendations – Number 3 – Effectively implement a systematic phonics program.

Just like the thousands of Richmond supporters out there, our school hopes to kick lots of goals this year and continue to build on the excellent work from the past two years. I look forward to sharing more with you about what is happening across the school from a curriculum perspective over the course of the year.



### Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge

The Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge is now open and Parktone Primary School is excited to be participating. The PRC application offers a range of exciting features including:

- access to a library catalogue (including book images and blurbs)
  - a modern user-friendly interface
  - rewarding students with badges as challenge milestones are achieved
  - the option for students to mark books as a favourite, give them a star rating or complete a book review
- The Challenge is open to all children at Parktone in recognition of the importance of reading for literacy development. It is not a competition; but a personal challenge for children to read a set number of books the end of Term 3.

Children from Prep to Year 2 are encouraged to read or 'experience' 30 books with their parents and teachers. Children from Year 3 to Year 10 are challenged to read 15 books.

Students can log into the Premiers' Reading Challenge application from home or at school using their individual log ins that will be sent out next week.

All children who meet the Challenge will receive a certificate of achievement signed by the Victorian Premier and former Premiers.

To read the Premier's letter to parents, view the booklist and for more information about the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge, visit:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/premiers-reading-challenge>

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact either of us or speak to your child's classroom teacher.

# PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

## Literacy & Numeracy News

### Focus on Writing

This week, the Parktone teachers attended a curriculum day focused on Writing, run by our Literacy Learning Specialist, Kristine Portier.

The day began with a focus on how we can consistently bring joy to our classrooms and ensure all student's social and emotional wellbeing is attended to through our teaching. We looked at our Attitudes to School Survey to identify areas our students would like more support with and planned ways to incorporate more of their interests through the curriculum.

The main aspect of the day was developing a consistent language around writing. The 6+1 Traits of Writing are an excellent foundation for our teachers to incorporate in their planning, as they help minimise the subjectivity that inevitably comes with teaching and assessing writing.

We looked at a number of mentor texts that allow students to examine the traits in detail, through the incredible writing of other authors. We explored our writer's notebooks and spoke of the importance of our students (and teachers!) developing an authentic relationship with them, in order to collect important ideas for future use. The staff were pushed out of their comfort zones and asked to complete a number of exercises that we commonly ask our students to do, and it was illuminating to realise how challenging, and rewarding, it can be.

Finally, the teachers worked in teams to plan exciting and purposeful writing sequences for the coming weeks. Using all their learning from the day around joy, student voice, rich mentor texts and the 6 + 1 Traits, all teams were able to forward plan exciting and engaging writing lessons for their students.

It was an incredible day and we look forward to continuing to develop your children's love of writing.

Kristine Portier  
Learning Specialist - Literacy

### Maths at Parktone

I thought I would use the newsletter to share what different parts our Maths lessons look and feel like at Parktone. Today, I will elaborate on our Daily Reviews with our school community. These happen at the beginning of each Maths lesson.

Daily Reviews are an opportunity to see if lessons taught in previous weeks have stuck with students. We revise questions on our interactive whiteboard with the whole class, one question at a time. Unlike, when most parents were in school, it is not a raise your hand to respond, or the teacher calling on one or two students to respond. Instead, students each have a mini-whiteboard and respond to the question individually. This allows teachers to check for student understanding and make note of those who require some additional support with the maths concept being reviewed. If you were a fly on the wall in one of our Daily Review sessions, you would hear the teacher asking students to 'up tools' (get ready to respond on your whiteboards), 'chin it!' (hold your whiteboard under your chin to show your response) and 'tools down' (whiteboards down and the focus is back on the teacher). The great benefit of using the whiteboards is that everyone is involved in the review, it is not a race to be the first to respond and it allows the teacher to get immediate feedback about all students.

Brett Sargeant  
Learning Specialist - Numeracy





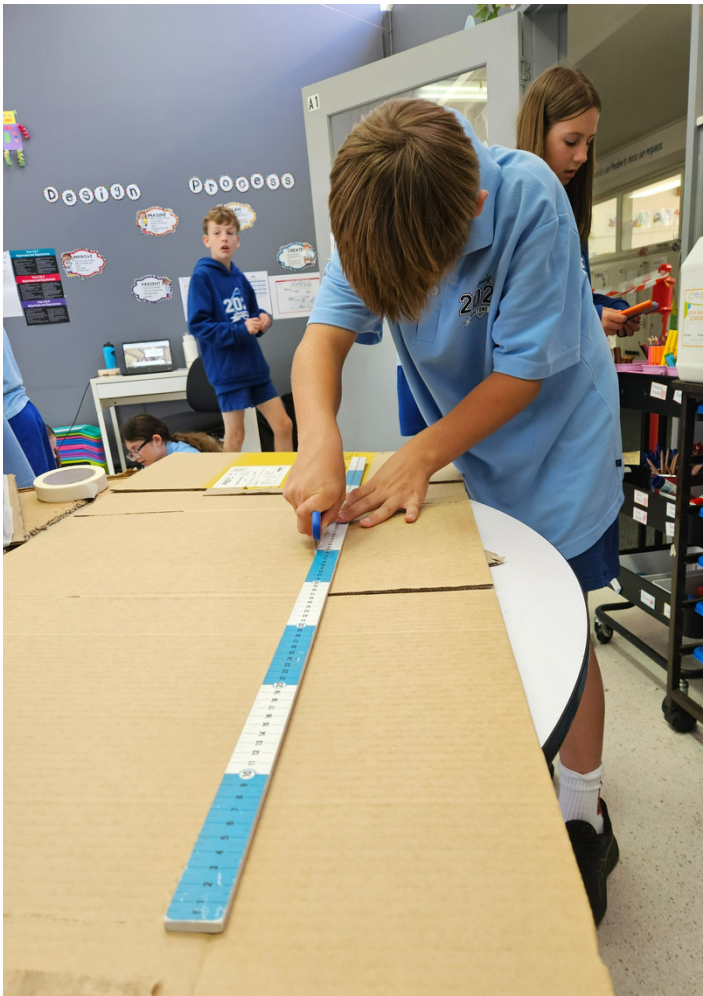
# PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

## STEAM News

STEAM is 'Off with a bang' with a Construction Zone set up in the hallway, lots of designing, measuring, cutting and gluing and the Year 6 arcade games taking shape.



Planning underway for the Year 6 Arcade Games





# PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

## School Council Elections

This month we held the school council elections to replace retiring school council members. We had five parent vacancies and three staff vacancies. Staff and parents who have completed their two year term are -

### Parents -

- Adrian Fitzgerald
- Francesca Gargiulo
- Rebecca Moody
- Lemlei Le Velle
- John Killgallon

### Staff -

- Melanie Bach
- Brett Sargeant
- Christopher Distefano

The successful nominees after the election process were:- **Re-elected**- Adrian Fitzgerald, Rebecca Moody, Brett Sargeant (DET) **New members**- Kaye Ralph (DET) Nadene Tensen, Simon Bando & Carly Kelly.

We thank those departing School Council members for being part of school governance and their invaluable insight and support. If you have any wonderings, please contact a School Council member who will be happy to assist you.



## 2024 Student Leaders

Student voice, agency and leadership have a central role in improving student outcomes and supporting student safety and wellbeing. Schools are encouraged to implement measures which support participation and collaboration to empower student voice, agency and leadership.

Our 2024 student leaders meet fortnightly to discuss the pulse of the school from a student point of view. Last week we delved into the SWPBS matrices and their implementation. Our 2024 School Leaders are -

School Captains- Mila Groen, Finn Clipperton

School Vice Captains - Lauren Reptis, Adem Soliman

Parker Captains (Yellow) - Ryan Salisbury, Hunter Groen

Mc Swain Captains (Red) - Evelyn Mulvihill, Aaliyah Parameswaran

Scott Captains (Green) - Archer Garnett, Milly Sims

Marriott Captains (Blue) - Sioni Evans, Lily Hawley (inset)

## NAPLAN Preparations at Parktone

Over last few weeks the Year 3 & 5 students have commenced NAPLAN preparation. Students have familiarized themselves with the online platform and completed NAPLAN Chat Questions three times a week practice questions. Bri O'Callaghan who is our NAPLAN coordinators, has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure all students and teachers are well prepared for this yearly event.

Students commence the official 2024 NAPLAN on the 13th March. The first NAPLAN is Writing with Year 3 using paper to complete this subject whilst Year 5 displays their ability digitally. All areas of NAPLAN need to be completed by 22nd March. I look forward to seeing how we have performed against other schools in our network. I know parents will be keen to know where their child is at nationally but it's important to remember that this is only one piece of evidence that gives a snapshot of where they are at on their educational journey.



# PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

## Peek in to Prep

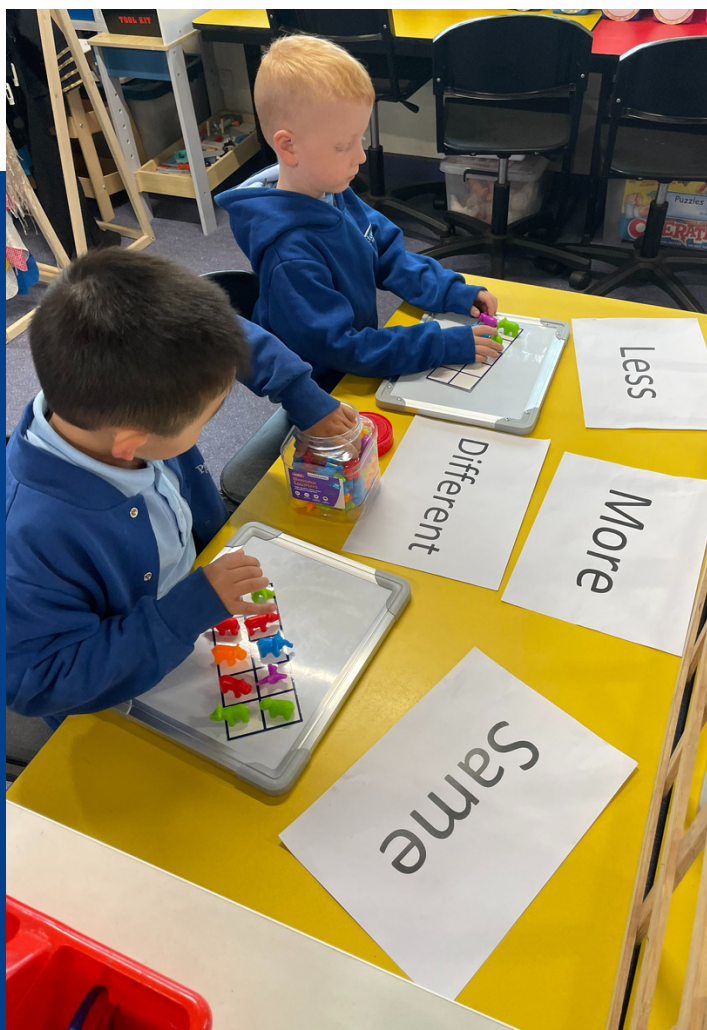
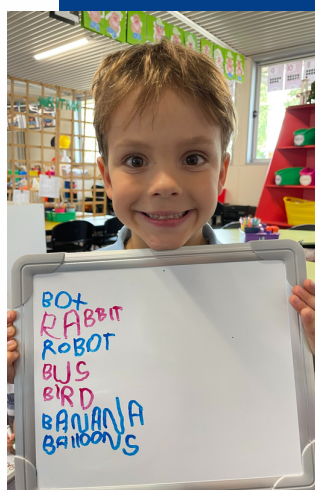
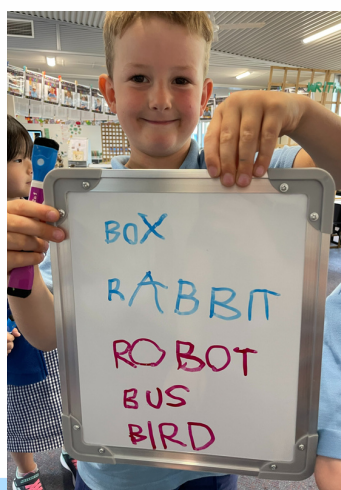


The Preps have been settling into the school year well! We have been learning all about school expectations and what it means to be a big school kid!

In literacy, we are learning about letters and sounds within our names, having a go at writing on mini-whiteboards, reading big books and doing picture walks. In maths, we've begun looking at numbers and playing number based games.

We also love visiting our school library to borrow books to read with our families at home.

We can't wait to see what the rest of the school term has in store for us!





# PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

## Parktone PE

Please congratulate any of our Parktone Swimmers that visit your classroom or that you see in the yard. They exhibited a level of school spirit and respect that we have all contributed to shaping, GO PARKTONE!

Our superstar team placed 5th out of 11 schools in the pool and special mention goes to Lexi K who will be representing us in breaststroke at the Kingston Division Finals, Tuesday 12th March.

Huge thanks to Coach O'Callaghan and Coach Price for mentoring our swimmers on the day.

Tom





# PARKTONE NEWSLETTER



## Parktone Victories



Over the weekend of 10/11 February, Athletics Victoria staged the Southern Metro Regionals at Duncan MacKinnon Reserve. Year 4 students Ashton Mee and Tyra Shuttleworth enjoyed fantastic success. Following on from the Regionals, both Ashton and Tyra will now head off to compete in the State Championships which will be held at Casey Fields in Cranbourne on 9 and 10 March.

Ashton Mee (4A) competed in several events including shot put, long jump, discuss, 60 metre hurdles and high jump. For the second consecutive year, Ashton won the high jump competition and qualified for the Victorian Athletics Championships. He also finished fifth in shot put and sixth in the 60m hurdles and the discus.



Tyra Shuttleworth (4A) competed in several events including the 100m sprint, 200m sprint, 60m hurdles and long jump. Tyra won a gold medal in the 100m sprint, 200m sprint and 60m hurdles as well as a silver medal in the long jump. She has also qualified for the Victorian Athletics Championships.

# PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

## Buildings & Grounds

We continually complete walkthroughs of the stadium and library to ensure there are no defects and if any are identified, that they are addressed promptly. At times the delay of rectifying the situation is frustrating due to dealing with various corporations to ascertain where the responsibility lies.

Our next facility focus is the playground. The P-3 playground is very tired looking and is not accessible to all. The playground, basketball court and steps surrounding this area will be part of the project. We are currently submitting a grant application with the Federal Government.

To assist with this application, we have had conversations with Federal member Mark Dreyfuss who provided the school with a letter to support our application.



## Social & Fundraising



Our first fundraiser for the year is the ever popular Colour Run! This year promises more colours, more prizes and lots of colourful fun.

Entry includes a pair of Colour Run sunglasses, a Zooper Dooper to cool off and an entry in to the draw to win one of the many awesome prizes on offer. These include toy hampers, arts and crafts, sporting goods, mini golf, skateboarding vouchers and more. A Compass event will be posted soon with more details.

As an added bonus and to save you a trip to the shops, the P&F will have a limited number of plain white t-shirts for sale for \$5 and white caps for \$6 for sale after assembly on Friday 8th & 15th March and on Wednesday 20th March unless sold out prior.

All funds raised this year go towards upgrading the Y3 to Y6 play ground.