

# PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

Edition 5- Term 3 2025



## 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

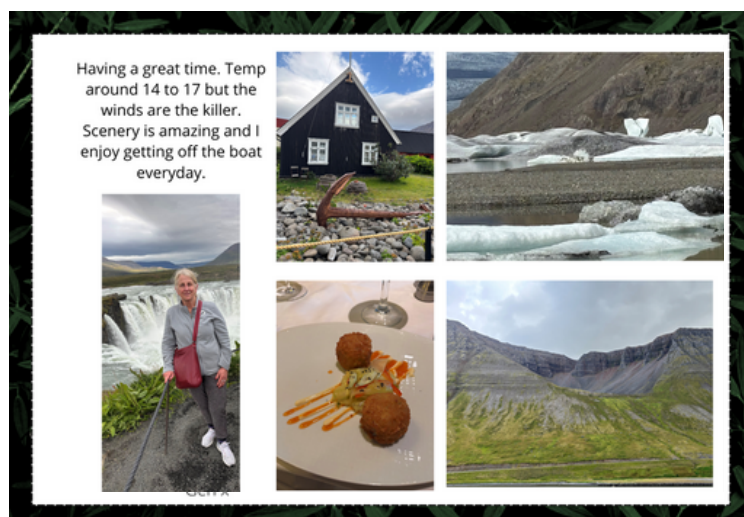
Identify the talent, develop the confidence and create the leader.



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

Greetings from Mrs Casonato who has been having a wonderful time in Europe and, in particular, exploring Iceland. We look forward to her return and hearing about her adventures.



## Important Dates

### Term 3

#### September

- 8<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> – Prep to Year 2 Swimming Program
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Walkathon
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Spring Makers Market
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Last day of Term 3 'Sporting Colours Day'

### Term 4

#### October

- 6<sup>th</sup> – First day of Term 4
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Spotlight on the UN International Day of the Girl Child
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Prep – Year 2 Sports Day
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Japanese Day
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Prep – Year 2 Concert

#### November

- 4<sup>th</sup> – Melbourne Cup Day
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Year 3 Sleepover
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Curriculum Day

#### December

- 5<sup>th</sup> – Parktone Talent Quest
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Carols on the Green
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Last Day of Term 4

\*Some events subject to change. Please check the Compass calendar for other event dates\*

## Meanwhile....back at the ranch

In the meantime, back at the Parktone ranch, Kaye Ralph and I have been in charge. We've also been having a wonderful time and there have been so many highlights including:

- Year 4/5 steps upgrade
- Courage to Care incursion
- 100 Days of Prep
- Year 1 Ripponlea excursion
- Maths Competition
- Parent Bingo night
- National Aboriginal and Torres Islander Children's Day
- Year 3 – 6 Athletics Day
- ICAS competitions
- Parkdale SC School of Rock performance
- Hosting Beachside Numeracy Leaders
- National Science Week afternoon
- Year 6 excursion to the Immigration Museum
- Story Time sessions
- First 'MumBall' Basketball session
- Year 4 Democracy incursion
- First 2026 Prep Transition

## Regional Hockey Finals

Last week saw Parktone compete in the Regional Hockey finals. Congratulations to our team who performed admirably and ended up runners up to Albert Park Primary School. Special thanks to Megan Alakus for coaching them. We're lucky to have her expertise as she's a hockey player who's represented Victoria.



# PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

From the Principal continued....

## Term 3 Curriculum Day

On Monday we had a Curriculum Day with Misty Adoniou focussing on Grammar! You may well ask, 'Why Grammar?' Grammar matters because it gives students the building blocks to read well, write effectively and to communicate clearly. When students know how sentences are structured, they can write and speak with greater confidence and accuracy. Explicit teaching of language structures, like grammar, also can help students to make sense of complex texts.



## Book Week

One of my favourite highlights was the Book Week Day parade. I loved seeing the excitement of the students and such wonderful creativity on display. The effort our students and parents went to was next level. There were oompah loompas and a Willy Wonka. Even Dame Washalot came to see what all the fuss was about and ran into her friend Silky the elf (aka Violet in Prep). Special thanks to our two wonderful members of staff, Brooke Materia and Schyler Cole who organised a brilliant Book Week. Special shout out to Chloe Sheedy for providing some special Wonka bars as prizes. It was also great to see so many families visiting the Book Fair too. Thanks for supporting this as it raises money so that we can purchase more books! And, most people know how I feel about that.



## Your voice matters

Parent feedback gives schools valuable insights into how students are experiencing their learning and wellbeing. Parents see things from a different perspective and can share information we may not be aware of. We know that when parents and schools work together, students benefit from a stronger learning community.

Each year we conduct the annual Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey offered by the Department of Education to seek your feedback. The survey is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour, and student engagement. The survey is optional, but we encourage and appreciate your participation.

Our school will use the survey results to assist in identifying areas for improvement and professional development needs in the school, to target school planning and improvement strategies.

The Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey will be open online until **Friday 19 September 2025**.

All families are invited to participate in the survey. The survey is conducted online, only takes 20 minutes to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones.

The online survey will be available in English and 10 other languages. Please reach out to the school directly for survey guides in your language.

Finally, look out for these events that are coming up....

- Footy Colours Day – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September – final day of Term 3
- Father's Day Stall and Breakfast – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September
- P-2 Swimming – Begins Monday September 8<sup>th</sup>
- Walkathon – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September – 2:15pm
- Friday October 10<sup>th</sup> – Special Assembly – Spotlight on the UN International Day of the Girl Child

Well, that's me! What an epic edition.

This past weekend was a big one in junior sport with many students competing in finals. I hope everyone enjoyed the experience, celebrating their achievements or showing graciousness in defeat. We also wish the Parktone Aerobics team all the very best competing in the National Championships. I had a wonderful time cheering on the mighty Mustangs and Parky Vultures! Apologies if your child plays for a different team. I do have a bias as two of my sons played there as juniors.

Wishing you a wonderful week.

Melanie (Mel) Bach

# PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

## Curriculum News

### Learning Specialist – Numeracy

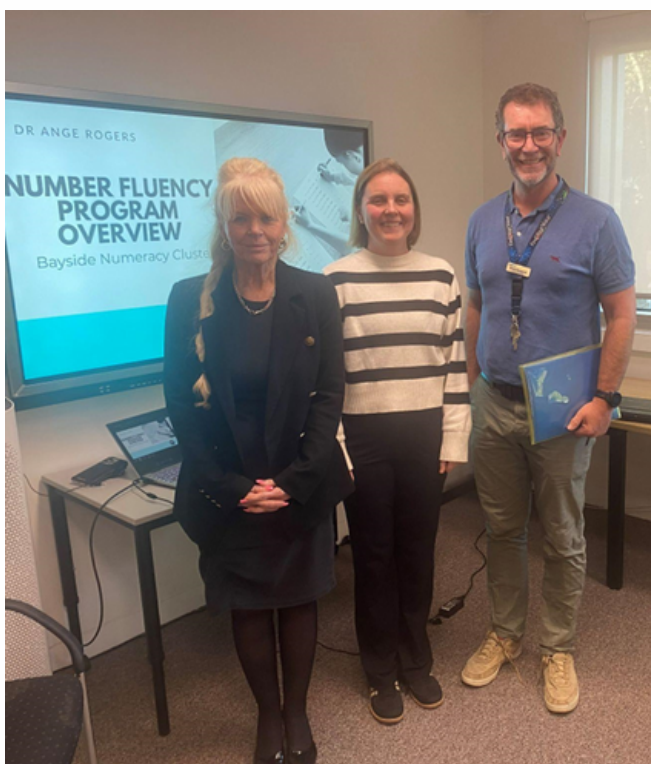
Brett Sargeant

Term 3 has been a busy and exciting time for Mathematics across the school.

Our high-achieving students in Years 3 to 6 had the opportunity to take part in the Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC). First run in 1978, the AMC is Australia's longest running, largest and most well-known maths competition for school students. Each year, the competition presents unique problems designed by leading educators and academics to challenge and extend students' problem-solving skills. We look forward to celebrating their results in Term 4.

Our Maths Fluency Program also continues to run each day after lunch for 15 minutes. The program is designed to build confidence and efficiency with foundational number skills, and it is gaining attention beyond our school. Last week, numeracy leaders from across the Beachside Network visited to see the program in action.

For students who may find Mathematics more challenging, we provide additional support through our Tutoring Program and Early Bird Maths Program, run by Mrs Bach and Mrs Ralph. Our Early Bird students have shown wonderful progress this term and are to be congratulated for developing a positive growth mindset around numeracy.



### Learning Specialist – Literacy

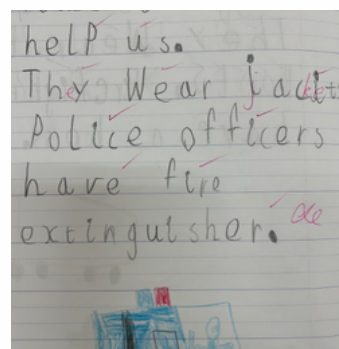
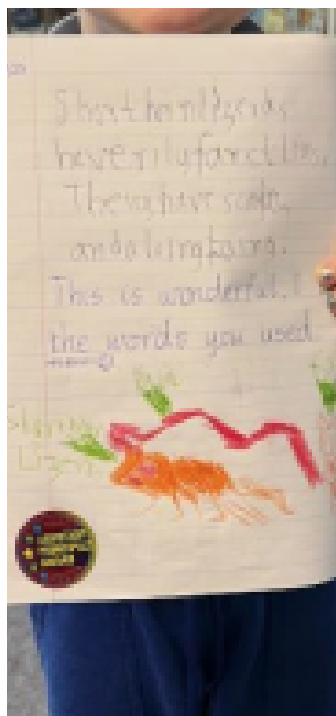
Amy Sharman

Our work in the Literacy space has continued to focus on building strong foundations in phonics and spelling across all year levels.

In Foundation to Year 2, students take part in daily structured phonics sessions. These sessions focus on developing knowledge of letter-sound relationships, blending sounds to build words, and strengthening early spelling skills. Through consistent and explicit teaching, students are becoming more confident readers and writers as they apply their growing phonics knowledge in their literacy learning.

In Years 3 to 6, spelling instruction continues to be guided by our work with consultant Mardi Gorman. Students are learning to apply the five spelling strategies – sound, visual, meaning, connecting and checking – to strengthen their spelling accuracy and confidence. This learning is delivered within a consistent six-day routine, giving students the opportunity to explore, practise and apply strategies in a structured and purposeful way. Our work with Mardi will also continue this year as we refine and strengthen our whole-school spelling practices.

We are proud of the progress students are making and the enthusiasm they bring to their phonics and spelling lessons. These skills are essential building blocks for success in reading and writing, and we look forward to seeing students continue to flourish.





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## Community Helper Visits

### Little Learners, Big Heros!

This term, our Prep students have been exploring their Inquiry unit "Keeping Safe and Healthy." As part of this learning, students have been investigating the important roles of community helpers and the ways they keep us safe.

We were lucky to have visits from our local firefighters and police officers, who spoke with the students about the different ways they help in our community. Students were very excited to learn about the important work they do every day, as well as explore the fire truck and police car up close. These hands-on experiences really brought learning to life and sparked lots of curiosity and discussion.

We are also looking forward to welcoming the SES (State Emergency Service) next week to continue building our understanding of how community helpers support us in times of need.

To complement this learning, our Prep students have been busy writing their own information reports about community helpers. This has been a fantastic opportunity for them to practise organising facts and sharing their knowledge through writing.

We look forward to sharing more highlights and student learning from these special visits at the conclusion of the unit.





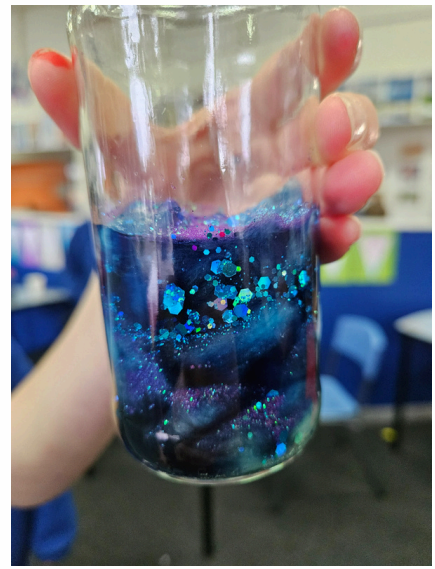
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## Science Week

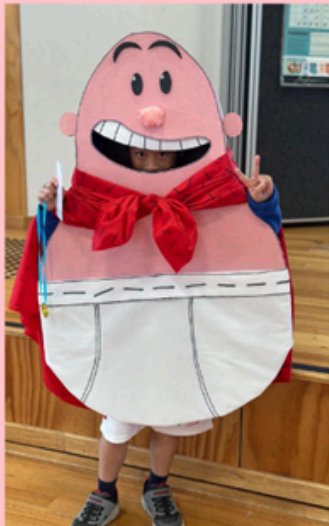
Last Friday, students took part in a special Science afternoon led by their classroom teachers, exploring this year's National Science Week theme: "Decoding the Universe – Exploring the Unknown with Nature's Hidden Language." It was fantastic to see each class embrace the theme in creative and engaging ways. Some highlights included:

- Year 2 investigated star constellations and their connections to Aboriginal Dreamtime stories.
- Year 5 discovered how nebulae are formed, then created their own colourful versions in glass jars.
- Year 6 explored communication through light, experimenting with a torch in a Morse code-style activity.

The afternoon was a wonderful celebration of science, curiosity, and discovery!







# PARKTONE BOOK WEEK PARADE 2025





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## Parktone Parents & Friends

### MumBall is a Slam Dunk!

The very first session of MumBall was an absolute hit with around 20 mums heading to the hall to hit the court for plenty of fun, laughter and a good dose of friendly competition.

MumBall is beginner-friendly basketball sessions designed to boost fitness and connect with fellow parents and caregivers in the Parktone Community. It's all about getting together, sharing a laugh and then winding down with some nibbles and chat afterwards.

Join us for a 'Giggle & Dribble' on Fridays at 6.30 – 7.30pm in the school Hall.



### Parktone P&F Disco Bingo

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to our recent Disco Bingo parent fundraiser. The event was brought to life by a wonderful group of organisers lead by Anita, Jess and Bec who volunteered their time over many weeks to put on a night of music, fun games and lots of laughs for our parent community. The night was very well supported by local businesses with plenty of awesome prizes on offer. All money raised will be going towards the playground equipment upgrade.

