

PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

Edition 2 – March 2024



Important Dates

April

- 15th – Term 2 starts
- 22nd – Curriculum Day
- 25th – ANZAC Day
- 29th – School Photo Day

May

- 10th – Mothers Day Morning Tea & Stall
- 14th – Year 3-6 District Cross Country
- 21st – Step In to Prep 2025
- 23rd – Year 3-6 Division Cross Country
- 21st – 24th – Year 5 Camp

June

- 10th – Kings Birthday
- 21st – School Disco
- 25th – Year 4-6 Girls AFL Gala Day
- 25th – Parent Teacher Interviews
- 26th – Curriculum Day
- 26th – Parent Teacher Interviews
- 28th – End of Term 2

July

- 15th – Term 3 starts
- 25th – School Production
- 27th – Major Fundraiser
- 30th – Year 3-6 House Athletics

August

- 19th – 21st – Year 4 Camp
- 21st – 2025 Prep Open Transition
- 30th – Fathers Day Morning Tea & Stall

September

- 3rd – Year 3-6 District Athletics
- 4th – 2025 Prep Open Transition
- 9th – 19th – Prep to Year 2 Swimming
- 20th – Footy Colours Day
- 20th – End of Term 3

Mission

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

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.



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

Well, that is Term 1 for 2024 done and dusted! The term has been a short one, 9 weeks but we have certainly managed to have the students exposed to many learning experiences during this time. Since our last newsletter the activities that have taken place have been: -

- Year 6 Woorabinda Camp
- Division Swimming
- Parkdale Secondary visiting Year 6 students
- Year 2 Incursion Earth Resources -Water
- NAPLAN
- Mardi Gorman working with Year 1 & 2 teachers
- Year 1 Wicked Weather Incursion
- Year 5/6 Inter School Sports
- School Council AGM
- Harmony Day
- Colour Run
- Cross Country

During the last two weeks of this term, students have participated in some great whole school activities which have created an extra buzz across the school community. These events were:-

Harmony & Neurodiversity Week

Last week Parktone celebrated Harmony and Neurodiversity week. Through shared stories and classroom activities, we have focused on recognising, understanding, and accepting the many cultures and neurodiverse students at our school.

Students were encouraged to wear something orange. Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Day. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and the encouragement of mutual respect. It was great seeing a splash of orange to the regular school uniform on this day.



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From the Principal continued

Cross Country

This week students had another running event, the House Cross Country. Students wore their house colours to school and proudly participated and cheered. All students tried their very best and were proud of completing the course. The first 10 runners of each year level for boys and girls will have the opportunity to compete at the next level. Whilst year levels were running, students were sitting in their house colours bopping along to music which gave the event a fantastic carnival atmosphere. Our Preps were cheered along by the whole school as they competed in their first Cross-Country at Parktone. At the conclusion of this event Scott house were announced as the winners. Well done to Mr Scott and teachers for running this event.

NAPLAN

After the Labour Day weekend our Year 3 & 5 students commenced NAPLAN which was completed over a 2-week period. Prior to the commencement of NAPLAN students familiarized themselves with the online platform. Bri O'Callaghan our NAPLAN coordinator worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure all students and teachers were well prepared for this yearly event. 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 nationally however it is important to remember that this is only one piece of evidence that gives a snapshot of a student's academic progress. A huge congratulations goes to our year 3 & 5 students who conducted themselves so well during this period of assessment.

My week at the Year 6 Camp

In week 6 of this term I was fortunate to be able to attend the Year 6 camp at Woorabinda. This is a wonderful outdoor education program where students got the opportunity to camp in the bush, canoe, complete the high rope course and tackle the zip line. These activities enhanced the students' friendships and fostered resilience. The campers returned to Parktone very tired but super proud of what they accomplished. Many thanks to the staff who participated in this camp, Nicole Rademaker (coordinator), Tom Scott, Manny Le, Kaye Ralph (Sleepout Night), Pippa and myself. Our next camp will be the Year 5 camp at Coornawarra which is mid-May.



Over the upcoming break I recognise that many students will increase their social media interaction to unwind. We know that technology is advancing at a rapid rate therefore it is more important than ever that as parents, we understand the need to keep our children safe in the digital world and protect them from the potential risks of social media. In our community at Parktone every year we seem to hear of some very concerning behaviours involving our students on social media. While this occurs outside of school hours on platforms such as Tik-Tok, Snapchat and Messenger, it inevitably impacts on students here at school. Not only are children exhausted from being on devices late at night, but any negative interactions they engage with online can prevent them from wanting to face their peers.

I urge parents to have open conversations with their children during holidays that encourage them to think critically about what they share online, who they interact with and the impact of their words on others is key to developing responsible digital use. It also ensures our students return to school with established positive connections with their peers.

Early term 2 we look forward to the following taking place:-

- Mel Bach returning from her Acting Principal role at Kingswood PS
- Leader In Me Family Fun Night 2nd May between 6:00pm- 7:30pm
- ANZAC service which our student school leaders will participate in.
- Scaffolding Literacy with Dr Misty Adoniou at our next Curriculum Day which is Monday 22nd April
- School Photos Monday 29th April
- 5/6 Winter Sports commencing
- Mother's Day Breakfast and stall Friday 10th May

Take Care -Genevieve

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From the Assistant Principal

Kaye Ralph

Wellbeing

As part of Parktone's whole school Wellbeing curriculum, the students participate weekly in the Respectful Relationships program in their classroom. Please find details about this program below which is mandated by the Department of Education (Victoria).

About Respectful Relationships

We all want our children to have an education that gives them the best start to a happy, healthy and prosperous life. Respectful Relationships supports students to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to strengthen their sense of self, and build and manage safe and respectful relationships.

In the primary years, Respectful Relationships focuses on treating everyone with respect and dignity. It is taught as part of the Health and Physical Education and Personal and Social Capability areas of the Victorian Curriculum.

The supporting Respectful Relationships teaching and learning materials have been developed by world-leading experts from the University of Melbourne. These age-appropriate resources align to the Victorian Curriculum and include lesson plans and activities that help students learn and practise social skills and apply them in a positive way to learning, life and relationships. The Respectful Relationships resources cover eight topics for each year level.



■ Emotional Literacy Topic

■ Stress Management Topic

■ Personal Strengths Topic

■ Help-Seeking Topic

■ Positive Coping Topic

■ Gender and Identity Topic

■ Problem Solving Topic

■ Positive Gender Relations

At Parktone we believe that 'if we can teach our students to understand how to have healthy and respectful relationships now with their class mates, teachers and family, then we are hoping these things will filter through when they're forming relationships later in life. They'll have the skills and the strategies they need to have good relationships and stay safe, because we've spent time in class learning about respecting others.'

Best wishes for a wonderful Autumn break.

Pivot Survey

This term students in Years 3- 6 completed the baseline survey on PIVOT. PIVOT is a survey tool used by schools to measure student voice and wellbeing. It was used last year with great success, providing weekly snapshots for teachers and the school. After completing the baseline survey these are our schools areas for celebration.

Currently our areas of focus will be around developing resilience and seeking help when needed. We look forward to commencing the weekly check ins with our Year 2 – 6 students in Term 2.

 Areas for celebration

4.46 I feel safe online from bullying

4.18 I keep trying even when my schoolwork is difficult

4.17 My school is a safe place for me

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Maths at Parktone

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, I will be sharing some of the practices that are taking place in math lessons across the school. In this edition, I will share what happens in our 'Fast and Furious' maths sessions each Friday.

'Fast and Furious' Friday.

Each Friday, students across the school, take part in our 'Fast and Furious' maths sessions. These sessions are designed by teachers to help students work at their point of need and improve their ability to recall basic number facts for each of the 4 operations. Some of the activities that students complete, include the use of flash cards, Maths Fact Lab and 20-card dash. Students are encouraged to develop strategies for learning maths facts. One of the first strategies they will learn with multiplication is the doubling of numbers. Knowing how to double efficiently is a great strategy and one that people of all ages frequently use. Students first learn doubles as an addition of two groups, however they can apply the doubling strategy to their 2 times tables to multiply by 4 and then double these numbers to multiply a number by 8. An example of this would be 6×8 . If the student knows that $2 \times 6 = 12$, they can then double 12 to know that $4 \times 6 = 24$ and then double this again to know that $8 \times 6 = 48$.

If students are wanting to practice their Maths facts, they can complete additional practice on 'Maths Fact Lab' at home.

For students who have a good recall of number facts, we are working with them to develop their procedural fluency. These students are challenged with a range of problem and solving questions that require efficiency, flexible thinking and accuracy.

And here is a little challenge...

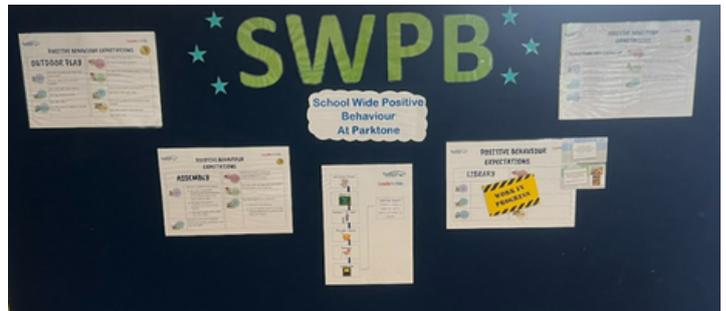
Perplexing problem

Riddle: I add six to eleven, and get five. Why is this correct?



SWPBS

This term students have been learning about our behaviour expectations in different zones around our school. In addition to our class expectations, we have developed school wide expectations for outdoor play, transitions and assembly. These matrices have helped to ensure consistency across our school for students and teachers. An important part of SWPBS is recognising expected behaviours. This is achieved at Parktone through the use of our habit cards. It has been wonderful to hear students at assembly receiving their habit awards, this reflects their leadership and demonstration of our schools' expectations. Next term students will continue to learn our expectations using weekly videos, circle time prompt and assembly segments.



Leader in Me

What a fantastic start to the Year we have had with the Leader in Me. This week students have spent time reflecting on their personal goals, academic goals, class goals and updating their Leadership Notebooks. Throughout the term it has been great to see and hear students interacting with and tracking their class goal. We hope that families have enjoyed reading the Habits at Home Newsletters on Compass. Just a reminder that these are uploaded to compass on a monthly basis. Habits at Home provide an overview of our monthly learning and suggestions for integrating the habits at home. Next term we are excited to hold our Family Fun Night that was postponed earlier this term due to weather! This will be on Thursday 2nd of May 6pm-7:30pm.



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Everything Beachy

On Monday 25th of March, the Year 4 students travelled to Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary to support our Term 1 Inquiry unit. Students participated in the following activities run by the Gould League.

Creature Features

Students examined a variety of marine artefacts and specimens to discover the distinguishing features of organisms from common classification groups.

Intertidal Investigation

By identifying the living and non-living components of the intertidal zone, students developed an understanding of how species rely on each other and their physical environment in order to survive.

Coastal Classification

Students were introduced to the concept of scientific classification through a simple sorting activity and group discussion. Working in teams, students explored the sandy foreshore to collect examples of non-living, once living and products of living things. Classification skills were further developed through the identification of the common characteristics within specific animal groups.

Marine Debris

Students participated in an interactive story to discover how human activities can impact our precious aquatic environments. Through group discussion, students devised solutions and positive actions to contribute to more sustainable patterns of living.

It was a great way to celebrate the end of our Inquiry unit and the students were able to further expand their knowledge of living things.



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Camp Woorabinda



Parktone Victories



Kate (4B) participated in her first Victorian State Nipper Championships in Warrnambool over the March long weekend. She participated in beach and water activities and her relay team won a gold medal in the beach sprint relay.



Jesse (4B) was nominated by his Head Soccer Coach Leigh Broxham (also an A-League player: for Melbourne Victory) to trial for the Skill Acquisition Phase (SAP) Program. SAP is a key building block in the Football Federation Australia National Football Curriculum. Jesse was successful at his trials, and was selected to be a part of the SAP team and program for 2024.

Jesse is so excited to begin his training, and we in 4B are all very proud of him and his Soccer achievements this year! Go Jesse!

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Colour Run

Last Friday the whole school participated in the Colour Run. Students arrived at school proudly in their white T shirts and caps ready for a sunny and colourful afternoon of fun.

Students ran the gauntlet of colored powder and sprays of water and were eager to get as much colour on their clothing as possible. It was a delight to see students have such great fun with their peers and that the parent community were part of the event. An event like this takes a great deal of preparation behind the scenes and I would like to thank all who were involved from selling items, sourcing the colour products and sunglasses, purchasing Zooper Dooper, preparing the course and distributing the colour. A special thank you to Jackie Winters who was the main coordinator of the event. Well done everyone who was involved in this exciting event.

