

# PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

Edition 8- Term 4 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

I cannot believe this is the final newsletter for the 2025 school year. Each year we find ourselves asking, "Where has the school year gone?" As we work hard to provide so many wonderful opportunities for our students, the year seems to pass in a flash. Since the last newsletter, this has certainly been no exception, with a wide range of activities and events taking place, including:

- Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 Life Saving
- Carols Night
- Years 3-6 Parkstone's Got Talent
- Year 2 Zoo Excursion
- Remembrance Day Service
- Regional Tennis Finals
- Lacrosse State Finals
- Teachers Vs Year 6 Games (Dodgeball, Basketball, Netball, Four Square, Volleyball,
- Student Leadership Speeches for 2026
- 2026 Prep Transition Sessions
- 2026 Prep Information Night
- Year 3 Sleepover
- Year 6 Graduation
- Year 6 Final Week of Events (Big Day In & Big Day Out)
- Whole school photos
- Up Day

With each newsletter this year, I have highlighted the many activities involving students, staff and parents, and there have certainly been plenty during 2025. These experiences play an important role in providing our Parktone students with a well-rounded education.

Each of us will have different highlights from the year, many of which were shared during the end-of-year class celebrations held this week.

For me, some personal highlights of 2025 have been:

- Children coming to my office to share their wonderful work or simply spending time with Pippa
- Year 6 students confidently leading Element sessions
- The P-2 Performing Arts concerts showcasing our students' talents
- Attending school camps with Pippa
- And most importantly, the warm greetings I receive from students and parents as I move around the school at the beginning and end of each day

## 2026 Timetable

In 2026, learning sessions will be extended to 60 minutes, replacing the current 50-minute sessions. As a result, each school day will be divided into five learning sessions, and break times will be adjusted accordingly.

Recess will commence at 11:00 a.m., and lunch will begin at 1:40 p.m. This schedule change allows English and Mathematics to be taught earlier in the day, which is considered optimal for learning.

As lunch will occur later in the day, it is recommended that students eat a sandwich or substantial snack during the first break. Students will also be permitted to graze on fruits and vegetables during learning time to ensure they do not become hungry.

Please note that the start and end times of the school day will remain unchanged.

<b>8.50am</b>	<b>First bell :-Teachers and students move into classrooms to prepare for learning</b>
<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Classes begin</b>
<b>9.00am – 11.00 am</b>	<b>Class time</b>
<b>11.00am – 11.30am</b>	<b>Recess</b>
<b>11.30am – 1.30pm</b>	<b>Class time</b>
<b>1.30pm – 1.40pm</b>	<b>Lunch eating time</b>
<b>1.40am – 2.30pm</b>	<b>Lunchtime play</b>
<b>2.30pm – 3.30pm</b>	<b>Class time</b>
<b>3.30pm</b>	<b>School finishes</b>
<b>3.45pm</b>	<b>Final bell</b>

 Don't forget to follow us on Instagram!

# PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

From the Principal continued....

## 2026 Staff

Genevieve Casonato – Principal  
Mel Back – Assistant Principal  
Brett Sargeant – Learning Specialist  
Amy Sharman – Learning Specialist

### FOUNDATION

Teena Muscat  
Schylar Cole

### YEAR 1

Jill Buckleigh  
Courtney Ferdinands  
Amy Miller

### YEAR 2

Laura Carolan  
Tess Herron  
Brooke Materia

### Year 3

Nicole Rademaker  
Anneliese Green  
Bree Jones  
Hannah Wotton

### Year 4

Brett Sargeant  
Brooke Hutson  
Brooke Southwell  
Celeste Tripp

We also farewell several staff members and thank them sincerely for their wonderful contributions to Parktone. Whether they are moving schools, taking family leave or pursuing new adventures, we wish them all the very best. These staff members are:

- Rachael Turner (new school)
- Helen Kupfer (returning to her base school)
- Annie McGeachin (teaching position in Singapore)
- Kaye Ralph (new school)
- Di Meek
- Sabrina Steele (teaching position in the Philippines)
- Lauren Nosworthy (new school)

### YEAR 5

Catherine Panoussis  
Hannah Murnane

### YEAR 6

Manny Le  
Alistair Feary  
Jo Price  
Amy Sharman  
Shannon Bowles

### SPECIALIST

Alistair Feary  
Bri O'Callaghan  
Tiffany Carew – Term 1  
Shannon Bowles – Term 2  
Katrina Batty – Term 3 & 4  
Meagan Alakus  
Tom Scott

## Curriculum Days and Other Important Dates – 2026

In 2026, there will be five days across the year when teachers will not be required to teach students. These curriculum (pupil-free) days are scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday 27 January – Pupil-Free Day
- AIP overview, school communication, OHS and teacher-directed time
- Wednesday 29 April – Positive Classrooms
- Friday 5 June – Assessment and Reporting
- Monday 13 July – Professional Learning with Ange Rogers: Mathematics Assessment and Reporting
- Friday 27 November – Professional Practice Day

### TERM 1

Welcome Picnic – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January  
Meet n' Greet – Wednesday 11 & Thursday 12 February  
Year 6 Camp – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

### TERM 2

Year 5 Camp – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May  
Parent/Teacher Interviews – Wed 24<sup>th</sup> – Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> June

### TERM 3

Year 4 Camp – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August  
STEAM Night – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August

### TERM 4

Year 3–6 Concert – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October  
Year 3 Sleepover – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November  
Art Show – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November  
Carols on the Green & Xmas Market – Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> Dec

## Farewell to Families

At this time of year, we say goodbye to several students and families from the Parktone Primary School community as they move on to secondary school, new schools, interstate or overseas. I wish them all the very best for the next stage of their journey and hope they take with them fond memories of their time at Parktone.

A friendly reminder to these families to download and save school reports from Compass prior to the last day of school, as access will cease at midnight on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

## Kmart Wishing Tree

Thank you to our extremely generous Parktone community for the gifts placed under the Christmas tree in the foyer. These donations support families who may find this time of year challenging, and your kindness is greatly appreciated.



# PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

From the Principal continued...

## School Uniform Policy

We kindly encourage all Parktone families to take a moment and review our school uniform policy which can be found on our school website.

In 2026, Parktone will encourage focus on school pride and unity. We believe that ensuring our students are in correct uniform, helps foster pride in representing our school, promotes a sense of belonging, helps with sun safety during warmer months and helps maintain and enhance a positive image of the school in the community.

Key aspects of the policy that we ask parents and carers to take note of are –

- The only headwear that is acceptable is SunSmart hats consistent with our SunSmart policy.
- Socks are to be unbranded, black, white or in keeping with blue school uniform colours. No bright coloured or football socks are to be worn.
- **Black or navy bike shorts, rugby shorts or leggings** are not to be worn.
- Hair accessories must be reasonable in size
- Parktone School logo top is preferred but not mandatory.
- Jumpers must be school uniform jumpers. Aerobics team jumpers are reserved for **competition days** and are not part of official school uniform.

If students consistently arrive to school in incorrect uniform, they will be provided a spare from the second-hand uniform stock.



\*selection only, full uniform can be viewed on PSW website

## End of Year Celebrations

Our annual Carols on the Green was held last Thursday evening and was a wonderful event. Our Year 6 leaders did a fantastic job as MCs, supported by Mr Sargeant, and it was a lovely way to conclude the school year. With beautiful weather and a great atmosphere, it was fantastic to see students and families come together to celebrate. Thank you to Al Feary and his team for the tremendous effort that went into organising the evening.

This Friday, today I look forward to farewelling our 2025 Year 6 students at the final assembly in true Parktone style! They have had a wonderful final year at Parktone, and I wish them every success as they transition to secondary school.

As this is the final newsletter for the 2025 school year, I would like to sincerely thank our wonderful School Councillors for their dedication and support throughout the year. The council meets at least eight times annually, with our final meeting held on Tuesday 9 December, to ensure effective school governance. Their contributions and commitment are greatly valued, and I hope they enjoy a well-deserved break.

To the parents and carers of the Parktone community, thank you for your ongoing support throughout the year and for the valuable contributions you make to your children's learning. I wish everyone a festive, relaxing and safe Christmas and holiday break. I look forward to welcoming parents and students back to Parktone on Wednesday 28 January 2026.

# PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

## Teaching and Learning

Mel Bach – Assistant Principal



Our continued success in NAPLAN reflects the strong, consistent work happening across the school. A key focus has been on strengthening consistency of teaching practice, ensuring students experience clear, predictable approaches to learning that reduce cognitive load and allow them to focus on understanding and applying key skills. Through shared planning, common language, and evidence-based teaching strategies, we are building a solid foundation for sustained achievement. The challenge of such great results is maintaining them. While there is much to look forward to in 2026, we remain committed to working hard and refining our practice to ensure every student has the best possible opportunity to achieve excellent results and to get the support they need to be successful.

Some of the 2025 highlights for me this year included attending the Year 4 camp to Phillip Island and working in a hands-on capacity to support students across the school. This ranged from the Early Birds Maths program (a special shout-out to my amazing Year 6 students who came in early on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings to work with me) through to supporting younger students in literacy and Mathematics. Working so closely with students reminded me why I wanted to become a teacher in the first place – to make a genuine difference.

The 2025 Tutor Learning Support team consisted of myself, Kaye Ralph, Vicky Kozaris and Amanda Moore. The team worked tirelessly to support many children across the school. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank them for their efforts. Their commitment and the impact of their work in this space have been truly appreciated.

Another highlight was working alongside staff to deepen our shared understanding of the science of learning, and in particular cognitive load theory, as well as supporting the implementation of the Number Fluency Program.

More recently, we have begun the important work of modernising our image to ensure future families clearly understand what our wonderful school has to offer. I feel energised and passionate about making sure people know what a hidden gem our school truly is. We need Santa and his army of elves to bring us some funds to improve our main building! Come on Santa, we are surely on your 'nice' list!

Lastly, congratulations to our graduating Year 6 cohort. I've had a lot to do with you over the years, and each and every one of you have a bright future ahead.

To all of our Parktonians, I wish you a very merry Christmas and a peaceful and happy New Year.

See you in 2026!

Mel Bach



## Wellbeing

Kaye Ralph – Assistant Principal

As the year comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the parents and carers who have worked so closely with the school to support their child's education. Your commitment, particularly in attending Student Support Group and Care Team meetings, has played a vital role in helping our students grow and succeed. Strong partnerships between home and school truly make a difference, and your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to extend a special message to the parents and students of Year 6. It has been a pleasure working alongside you this year, and I wish all our Year 6 students the very best as they begin their exciting new journey into secondary school. We are confident you will continue to thrive and embrace the opportunities ahead. This year, I would like to give a special mention to the parents and students of the Year 5 Early Bird Maths group. Thank you for your dedication in ensuring your children arrived at school early two mornings each week. Your support and commitment have helped build strong routines and contributed positively to student learning outcomes.

To all the students I have worked with throughout the year, I have truly enjoyed every minute. Watching your progress, resilience, and enthusiasm for learning has been incredibly rewarding.

I also thoroughly enjoyed attending the Year 5 camp and spending quality time with our students. They represented the school beautifully with their excellent behaviour, positive attitudes, and willingness to support one another. Thank you to everyone for a wonderful year. I wish all our families a safe, happy, and relaxing Christmas and festive season.



# PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

## Literacy at Parktone

### Amy Sharman - Learning Specialist

This year in Literacy began with a strong focus on establishing consistent learning routines and building positive reading and writing habits across all classrooms. Teachers supported students to see themselves as readers and writers, fostering confidence, curiosity and a love of language.

In Reading, explicit teaching continued to be a priority, with lessons centred on rich, authentic texts. These carefully selected texts were used to engage students, build background knowledge and develop vocabulary and comprehension skills. Alongside whole-class instruction, teachers continued to run targeted reading strategy groups and book clubs. These small-group sessions supported students to work towards individual reading goals, practise specific strategies and engage in rich discussion about texts.

Looking ahead to 2026, a next step in our literacy journey will be the continued introduction of structured reading fluency practice across the school. These sessions will support students to develop accuracy, pace and expression, enabling them to read more confidently and focus their attention on understanding and responding to texts.

Foundational reading skills were further strengthened through daily, explicit phonics instruction in Foundation to Year 2. These structured sessions focused on the systematic teaching of letter-sound relationships, blending and segmenting, supporting students to become confident and capable decoders. Phonics learning was embedded across the school, ensuring strong continuity as students progressed through the year levels.

Spelling instruction was also a key focus across the school. In Years 3 to 6, consistent spelling routines were established, including daily review sessions to consolidate spelling patterns, morphology and previously taught concepts. These routines supported students to apply their spelling knowledge across reading and writing tasks.

In Writing, students continued to plan, draft and publish a range of text types, including narrative, informative and persuasive writing. Teaching focused on developing strong sentence structure and cohesion through scaffolded literacy cycles, with mentor texts used to model effective writing techniques and author craft. Across the school, teachers worked collaboratively to ensure alignment with the Victorian Curriculum 2.0 and the Victorian Teaching and Learning Model. This supported consistent, high-quality literacy instruction and clear progression of skills from year to year.

We are incredibly proud of the growth our students have shown as readers and writers this year. Their increasing confidence, stamina and engagement with texts reflects the strong literacy foundations being built at Parktone.

### Supporting Literacy at Home Over the Holidays

Over the holiday break, families can support literacy in simple and meaningful ways. Reading together each day, talking about stories, and encouraging children to read a variety of texts — books, signs, recipes or magazines — helps keep skills active. Playing word games, practising spelling through fun activities, and encouraging children to write cards, lists or short stories can also support literacy development. Most importantly, sharing positive reading and writing experiences together helps foster a lifelong love of literacy.



# PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

## Mathematics at Parktone – A Year in Review

**Brett Sargeant – Learning Specialist**

This year in Mathematics began with classes establishing shared learning protocols and discussing the importance of a growth mindset. These early conversations set the tone for learning and supported students to see effort, persistence and mistakes as an important part of the learning process.

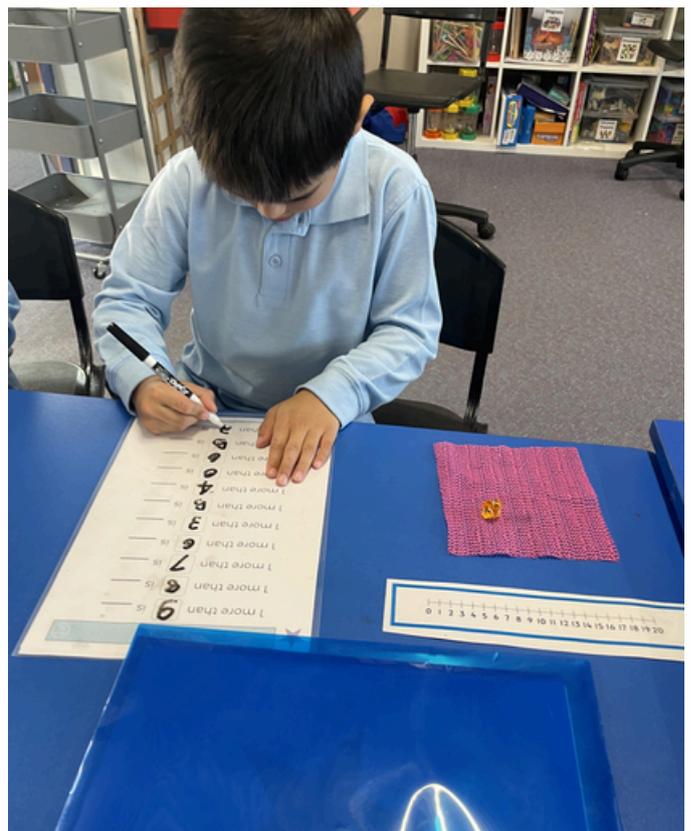
From there, students focused on developing a deep understanding of the six aspects of place value, which underpin all other areas of number. Teaching and learning were guided by the Victorian Curriculum 2.0 and the Victorian Teaching and Learning Model, ensuring consistency and high-quality practice across the school. A major focus for 2025 was the introduction of our Number Fluency Program. During this daily 15-minute session after lunch, students work at their point of need, practising number facts to develop quick recall and automaticity. When number facts are automatic, students can access them from long-term memory more easily, reducing cognitive load and allowing them to focus on higher-order problem-solving and reasoning. Students have embraced the program, and its success was shared with visiting schools from our network and neighbouring networks who observed the program in action.

We also extended and challenged our high-achieving mathematicians through participation in the Australian Maths Challenge and Australian Maths Competition. Many students achieved a Credit or higher, which is an outstanding result and a testament to their effort and perseverance.

In classrooms, teachers continued to build strong mathematical foundations while encouraging students to extend themselves through spicy and hot learning tasks. Mathematics at Parktone follows the CPA approach – Concrete, Pictorial and Abstract – where students explore concepts using hands-on materials and visual representations before working with numbers and symbols. This approach supports strong conceptual understanding.

Over the holidays, we encourage families to play board games together as a fun way to keep mathematical thinking active. Games such as Snakes and Ladders, Shut the Box, Monopoly, Battleship and Yahtzee support important maths skills, including number sense, addition and multiplication, strategy, logic and problem solving – all while enjoying time together as a family.

We are incredibly proud of the growth our students have shown in Mathematics this year.



# PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

## Specialist News – Helen Kupfer Visual Arts

What a fabulous year we have had in Visual Arts 2025! The Parktone artists have taken on an incredible journey of art learning and have not only explored a range of skills and techniques but demonstrated wonderful enthusiasm and creativity.

Foundation to Year 6 students have fully immersed themselves in paint, pastels, printing, textiles, ink, collage, 3D construction and colour to create amazing artworks.

Across the year levels we have explored rainbow icy poles, Toucans and Peacocks, Monsters and Hungry Caterpillars, Snakes, Fish, Robots, waterlily paintings, 'Sakura' Cherry Blossom Trees, Bamboo forests, Starry Night landscapes, City Scapes, Self portraits, Whimsical Castles, Still life composition, Wire portraiture, Japanese Silk Painting, Carnival of Venice Masks.....the list goes on.....

Many artists and illustrators have been studied including Picasso, van Gogh, Monet, Hundertwasser, Sandra Silberzweig, Mary Blair, Hokusai, Kozyndan, Vexx, Kandinsky, Eric Carle, Mysterious AI, Ton Schulten, MC Escher and Kate Florence.

It has been an absolute pleasure to have taught Visual Arts to the students at Parktone PS and I am so grateful they have shared their wonderful art creations with me. I hope you enjoy seeing a sample of photos showcasing their achievements and reading some of their learning reflections from Semester 2.

Well done on a most successful and creative year!

Helen Kupfer

Visual Arts Teacher

## REFLECTIONS FROM VISUAL ARTS

"My favourite was the water lilies with bridge." Winter 1A

"In art my favourite activity was drawing the fish because I like drawing fish." Edi 2B

"I learnt what synaesthesia is and how it works, like how Sandra Silberzweig can taste a table just by touching it!" Mae 3A

"I liked covering our 3D Mary Blair Castles in plaster because we got to get messy and have fun." Lily 4A

"I enjoyed the Hundertwasser because I made an upside-down world and I enjoyed sketching it. It took a while and every week I was looking forward to doing it. I learned how to sketch artwork and it helped me by when I mess up I can easily rub it out. I reckon it makes your art work look better." Will 5B

Belgium. He calls his artwork 'doodle art'." Miller 6A



# PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

## Lunchtime Legends

### Students vs Teachers Showdown

Term 4 brought plenty of laughs, friendly rivalry and school spirit with our Year 6's vs Teachers lunchtime games. From high energy dodgeball and fast-paced basketball to netball showdowns, competitive four square and volleyball rallies, the courts were alive with cheering and smiles. These games are a wonderful way to strengthen connections between staff and students and remind us all that sharpening the saw is always fun with a bit of healthy competition thrown in!



## Parktone Alumni Success



We are always so very proud when we hear of the success of our past students after they finish their schooling here at Parktone. We wish all our past student every success and happiness in the future and we send heartfelt congratulations to all those who have recently finished school and are now embarking on future studies, starting a new job or travelling the world!

Congratulations to recent award recipients Jasmine (Class of 2019), Matilda (Class of 2020), and Max (Class of 2019) and to Nicholas (Class of 2019), James (Class of 2019) and Frankie (Class of 2019) for the outstanding results in achieving a 90+ATAR. We know many other students from other Secondary Colleges have done exceptionally well and we are so very proud of you all.



# PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

## Carols on the Green

Our ever popular Carols on the Green was a huge success, bringing Parktone families and friends together for a truly special evening. It was fantastic to see our community gathered on the grass, sharing in the festive spirit and enjoying time together. The highlight on the night was undoubtedly our students, who shone with confidence and joy as they sang beautifully. The spectacular staff performance put a smile on everyone's faces and our special guest for the evening, Santa, spread the Christmas cheer far and wide.

Thankyou to all who attended and we give a round of applause to our organisers, lead by Mr Feary. Well done on another fabulous Parktone event.

