

PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

Edition 2- Term 1 2026



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

Well, that is Term 1 for 2026 done and dusted! The term consisted of 10 weeks and the students have been exposed to many learning experiences during this time. Since our last newsletter the activities that have taken place have been: -

Camp Woorabinda

I was fortunate to attend the Year 6 camp at Woorabinda last week. This is a wonderful outdoor education program where students had the opportunity to camp in the bush, canoe, complete the high ropes course, and tackle the zip line. These activities strengthened students' friendships and fostered resilience.

The campers returned to Parktone very tired but extremely proud of what they had accomplished. Many thanks to the staff who attended the camp: Amy Sharman, Brett Sargeant, Manny Le, Jo Price, Tom Scott, Shannon Bowles, Amanda Moore, Pippa, and me.

Our next camp will be the Year 5 Coonawarra Camp, which commences on Tuesday 19th May.



NAPLAN

After the Labour Day weekend, our Year 3 and 5 students commenced NAPLAN, which was completed over a two-week period. Prior to the commencement of NAPLAN, students familiarised themselves with the online platform. Mrs Anneliese Green, our NAPLAN Coordinator, worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure all students and teachers were well prepared for this annual event.

Last year, our NAPLAN results were very pleasing when compared to like schools, as well as others in our network. I look forward to seeing how our students have performed this year. Students will receive a paper copy of their results early in Term 3.

A huge congratulations goes to our Year 3 and 5 students, who conducted themselves exceptionally well during this period of assessment.

School Council

On 17th March, we held our School Council Annual General Meeting (AGM). This is a mandatory yearly meeting held early in the school year to report on the previous year's activities, present audited financial accounts, and elect new members.

Each February, we finalise our School Councillors, who are the focal point of shared decision-making within the school. School Council provides parents and staff with the opportunity to be involved in areas such as policy, finance, buildings and grounds, social and fundraising initiatives, partnerships, and the employment of certain non-teaching staff.

On behalf of the Parktone Primary School community, I would like to congratulate and thank you for joining our School Council. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new School Councillors:

- Davina Upshall
- Natalie Tobias
- Amy Sharman

A special acknowledgement to our returning School Councillors who have been elected for another two-year term or have filled a casual vacancy:

- Adrian Fitzgerald
- Simon Bando
- Rebecca Moody
- Kerrie Leonard-Durrant
- Victoria Thomson-Cook
- Brett Sargeant
- Joanne Price

I would like to thank our retiring councillors—Carly Kelly, Emily Allan, and James Curtin—for their time and support on School Council. There is a great deal of preparation required for the monthly School Council meetings.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of Nadine Robinson, who prepares the monthly School Council agendas, as well as manages the election process each year.

 Don't forget to follow us on Instagram!

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From the Principal continued....

Harmony Week

On 20th March, Parktone celebrated Harmony Week. Through shared stories and classroom activities, we focused on recognising, understanding and accepting the many cultures and neurodiverse students within our school.

To celebrate Harmony Day, students were encouraged to wear something orange. Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Day, as it traditionally signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and the encouragement of mutual respect. It was wonderful to see a splash of orange added to the regular school uniform on this day.



Easter Colour Run Fun!

Term 1 culminated with the whole school enjoying our annual Colour Run. Students ran the gauntlet of coloured powder and sprays of water, eagerly trying to get as much colour on their clothing as possible. It was a delight to see students having so much fun with their peers and to witness the parent community actively participating in the event.

An event like this requires a great deal of preparation behind the scenes, and I would like to thank everyone involved, in particular, our wonderful Parents Committee who organised the event. Thank you also to the brilliant volunteers on the day who ensured the run went smoothly and a good time was had by all participants.

Prior to students being dismissed on the final day of Term 1, we distributed Easter hampers to the lucky winners. There was an abundance of chocolate treats donated by the wonderful Parktone community, giving students the opportunity to be a winner and enjoy a special end-of-term celebration

Extended Holidays

It is essential that students attend school every day to ensure they receive a high-quality education. Extended absences can significantly impact a student's learning. If you are aware that your child will be absent for an extended period, parents/guardians are required to inform me in writing so that a Student Absence Learning Plan can be developed.

This plan must be signed by both the parents and the principal to ensure minimal disruption to your child's learning throughout the term or year.

New additions to our playspaces

The new addition to the Parktone playground, the Gaga Pit, has been very well received by all students. Mr Scott spent the first week after its arrival upskilling students on how to use the pit and developing the ball skills required. To ensure the safety of all users, year levels have been allocated designated days to use this piece of play equipment.

Nick Andorriso, our wonderful maintenance man, has also repainted the lines on the basketball court, which has been greatly appreciated by students. With these improvements, there should be no disputes about whether the ball is in or out! Nick has further enhanced student safety around the school grounds by painting yellow lines on steps and raised areas. Many thanks, Nick!

Staff News

There are exciting baby arrivals that the Parktone community will be eager to hear about in the coming months.

Mrs Tiffany Carew is expecting her first child in May and her final day at Parktone will be Friday 1st May. We wish her all the very best as she commences this exciting journey. Mrs Herron is expecting her second child in August and will leave at the commencement of term 3. She will be replaced by Katrina Batty.

I wish all students and families a Happy Easter and a safe and enjoyable holiday. I look forward to seeing students on Monday 20th April as we commence another action-packed term of learning and experiences.

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Teaching and Learning

Mel Bach – Assistant Principal

This term, students have had the incredible opportunity to participate in writing workshops as part of the Young Writers' Program that I applied for late last year. When I heard that we were successful, I was thrilled, as we are always looking for opportunities that are unique and engaging for our students. An added bonus was that this was free!

The icing on the cake was discovering the name of the author leading the workshops—Claire Saxby. Claire won the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Picture Book of the Year Award in 2022 for her book *Iceberg*. She has also had multiple CBCA-recognised books (shortlisted or notable), including *Dingo*, *Koala*, *Big Red Kangaroo* and *Great White Shark*. We were especially excited, as our students study her writing to help them become better writers.

On Monday, Claire visited Parktone to work with our Year 3 and 4 students, and on Tuesday it was the turn of some of our Year 5 and 6 students. Claire is an inspiring presenter who draws on her deep love and knowledge of the natural world as inspiration for many of her works.

Students engaged in a range of activities that Claire uses as an author, including:

- "Gathering wool" – generating and developing ideas
- Building a story – mapping out key elements using a Story Triangle
- Identifying three key problems for a main character to solve
- Exploring sentence-level writing and how this can grow into a story
- Editing strategies – such as leaving a spare line to revisit and refine writing

A highlight of the workshops was on Monday, when Claire read her latest book *Storm*. Our students were the first children in the world to see this book before it was released on 31 March. Then, on Tuesday, Claire shared another book, *Through the Darkening Sky*, which will not be released until May. We felt incredibly privileged to be among the first to experience these texts.

Our students thoroughly enjoyed working with Claire and asked many thoughtful questions, including:

- How do your books get published?
- How do you get in touch with a publisher?
- Do you have a favourite book?
- What is your most popular book?

During the holidays, I encourage you to visit your local library and explore these beautiful books. In a busy world filled with technology, reading offers a wonderful opportunity to slow down, connect and be immersed in rich and meaningful stories.

Happy reading, and Happy Easter!



Maths at Parktone – Building Confidence & Fluency

Brett Sargeant – Learning Specialist

It has been a strong start to the year in Mathematics, with students across the school building confidence and developing a deeper understanding of key concepts. It has been wonderful to see students engaging in their learning, explaining their thinking, and applying their knowledge in a range of contexts.

As we move into Term 2, we will continue to strengthen our focus on number fluency across the school. As part of this, we will be introducing targeted take-home tasks to support students who would benefit from additional practice. These tasks are designed to be short, focused, and aligned with the fluency skills students are developing in the classroom. We look forward to working in partnership with families to support this important aspect of learning.

We are also excited to provide extension opportunities for our high-achieving students through participation in the Australian Maths Challenge. This will allow students to further develop their problem-solving, reasoning, and critical thinking skills.

We are proud of the positive start to the year and look forward to continuing to build strong mathematical understanding across our school in Term 2.

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Specialist News - P.E

Tom Scott

House Cross Country

Our House Cross Country Carnival was a fantastic celebration of effort, resilience and school spirit, with students from all houses giving their best across the course. Conditions were ideal, and the energy around the track was electric as teammates, staff and families cheered our runners every step of the way.

A highlight of the day was the incredible standard of performance, with our runners recording the fastest overall times in Parktone history. It was inspiring to see so many runners challenge themselves, push through tough moments, and achieve personal bests.

Congratulations to McSwain, who were awarded Best Organised House for their preparation, teamwork and leadership throughout the event. Their smooth coordination and support for one another stood out across the day. Parker brought unmatched enthusiasm, earning Best House Spirit. Their cheering, encouragement and positive energy created a vibrant atmosphere that lifted all competitors.

Overall House Results:

- 1st – Parker (Yellow)
- 2nd – McSwain (Red)
- 3rd – Scott (Blue)
- 4th – Marriot (Green)

Well done to every student who participated—it was a great effort all round!

District Swimming

Parktone proudly represented our school at the Mordialloc District Swimming Carnival, finishing an impressive 5th overall. Our students demonstrated outstanding effort, determination and sportsmanship across all events, both in and out of the pool.

It was fantastic to see swimmers supporting one another, stepping up to compete in a variety of races, and giving their best for the team. Their positive attitude and willingness to challenge themselves were a credit to our school. Well done to all students who participated—you represented Parktone with pride and should be very proud of your efforts.



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Camp Woorabinda

Our Year 6 students recently had a fantastic time at Camp Woorabinda, taking part in a range of exciting outdoor activities. From high ropes to team challenges, students showed great courage, resilience, and teamwork as they stepped outside their comfort zones.

The camp also helped students build independence and strengthen friendships, with many highlights shared during fun evening activities. We are very proud of how positively our students represented the school and embraced this memorable experience.



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Parktone's Easter Colour Run

The end of Term 1 came alive with colour, dancing, and community spirit during Parktone's annual Colour Run.

It is a much anticipated event on the Fundraising calendar with students dashing around the course as bursts of bright powder painted the air. It was fantastic to see families and students celebrating the end of term together as a school community.

Topped off by an impressive Easter Raffle, students headed in to the holidays with big, colourful, chocolately smiles on their faces.



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Parktone Alumni News



Congratulations to our Parktone Alumni, Wade (Class of 2022) and Conor (Class of 2020) on their recent selection for the 2026 AFL Talent League Squads.

We love celebrating the achievements of our past students and recognising the many ways they continue to grow and lead. We are proud to see our former students demonstrating the habits of leadership, resilience, and personal excellence in their chosen pathways.

We always enjoy hearing about these successes and sharing them with our community. If you have any updates or news about past students, we would love for you to get in touch.



Community Spirit

Stepping Up for Starlight

One of our wonderful Year 4 students will be looking to make a difference by raising money for the Starlight Foundation through the Supersteps challenge. He has committed raise money by walking 10,000 steps a day in May to help brighten the lives of sick kids.

A donation box will be located at the office if you could like to contribute

We are incredibly proud of him taking on this challenge and the positive impact it will have on the community. Well done on stepping up for such a wonderful cause!

