

PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

Edition 4- Term 2 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.

Key Dates

July

13th - Curriculum Day

31st - Year 3-6 House Athletics

August

14th - Prep - 2 House Athletics

15th - P&F Trivia Night

17th - 19th - Year 4 Camp

24th - 28th - Book Week

27th - Book Week Parade

September

3rd - Year 3-6 District Aths

4th - Fathers Day Breakfast & Stall

11th - School Walkathon

18th - Footy Day & Last day of Term 3 (2.30pm)

October

8th - Year 3-6 Division Athletics

13th - 2027 Prep Transition Literacy

23rd - Grandparents Day

27th - Prep Transition Mathematics

28th - Year 3-6 Production Rehearsal

29th - Year 3-6 Production

November

6th - Year 3 Sleepover

10th - 2027 Prep Transition Specialist

19th - Graduation & whole school photo

24th - 2027 Prep Transition Sports & Buddies

26th - Art Festival

27th - Curriculum Day

December

8th - 2027 Prep Half Day Transition

10th - Carols on the Green

18th - Final Day of Term 4 (1.30pm)

Dates and events are subject to change - please continue to check the Compass Calendar



Don't forget to follow us on Instagram!

From the Principal

Genevieve Casonato

As we reach the end of Term 2, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our entire school community for their ongoing support, dedication, and commitment throughout what has been a busy and rewarding semester.

To our students, congratulations on your hard work, resilience, and achievements. You have embraced learning opportunities, challenged yourselves, supported one another, and represented our school with pride. We are incredibly proud of all that you have accomplished this term.

To our dedicated staff, thank you for your hard work and professionalism. Your passion and care for our students are truly appreciated. Each week, staff work collaboratively to plan and deliver a structured learning program that enables every student to achieve their full potential.

To our families and carers, thank you for your partnership and support. The strong connection between home and school plays a vital role in our students' success, and we are grateful for your ongoing involvement in our school community.

Term 2 Events

Term 2 has been filled with many wonderful opportunities and memorable experiences. Highlights included our Whole School Cross Country, School Disco, Leadership Day - Future Leaders, performances at Parkdale Secondary College, including a live production of Goldilocks for our Prep-2 students, and our camp program. These experiences provided students with opportunities to demonstrate determination, perseverance, connection, and sportsmanship.

Throughout the term, individual year levels also participated in a range of excursions and incursions that enriched and supported classroom learning. Some of these experiences included visits to Melbourne Zoo, the Cosmodome, and Melbourne Aquarium.

We were also delighted to celebrate special community events throughout the term, including Mother's Day, Japanese Day, and the biennial Parkade. These occasions provided valuable opportunities to welcome families into our school, celebrate relationships, and showcase the fantastic learning taking place across our classrooms.

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From the Principal continued....

Attitudes to School Survey

From 18 May to 12 June, Mrs Bach supported small groups of Year 4–6 students to complete the Attitudes to School Survey. This thoughtful approach provided students with opportunities to ask questions and engage more deeply with the survey content.

The insights gained from this survey will help shape future teaching, learning, and wellbeing initiatives at Parktone. The survey data will be analysed by staff early in Term 3 and will also form an important component of our School Review, which will take place in November.

I look forward to sharing key findings and insights with the school community during Term 3.

NAIDOC Week – 5–12 July 2026

NAIDOC Week is a national celebration held each year to recognise and celebrate the history, culture, achievements, and continuing contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It provides an opportunity for all Australians to learn about and engage with First Nations cultures and histories.

This year's NAIDOC Week will be celebrated from 5–12 July 2026. The 2026 theme, "50 Years of Deadly", marks 50 years of NAIDOC themes and celebrates the strength, resilience, leadership, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

We believe that meaningful engagement with First Nations perspectives should occur throughout the year rather than being limited to a single week of celebration. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives are embedded throughout our curriculum and learning programs across the year.

We encourage families to explore opportunities to participate in NAIDOC Week activities during the school holidays can find information about local events, community celebrations, cultural activities, and family-friendly experiences through the official NAIDOC website:

NAIDOC Week Official Website

<https://www.naidoc.org.au/about/naidoc-week>

Information about events taking place around Australia during NAIDOC Week can also be found here:

<https://www.naidoc.org.au/local-events/local-naidoc-week-events>



NAIDOC WEEK
50 YEARS DEADLY
5–12 JULY 2026

Enrolment 2027

As a school, we are preparing and planning ahead for 2027, when we will welcome a new cohort of Prep students.

Our school uses the Department of Education's secure digital enrolment system, VicStudents. If you have any questions about the online enrolment process, please contact the office. Paper forms also available from the office.

Visit <https://students.educationapps.vic.gov.au/s/> and sign in using a Service Victoria account to complete the online application form by Friday 31 July 2026.

Staffing News

Midway through the term, Mrs Tiffany Carew and her husband welcomed the safe arrival of their daughter, Layla. Tiffany is enjoying motherhood, and staff look forward to a visit from her early in Term 3.

Mrs Tess Herron's final day at Parktone will be Wednesday 29 July as she prepares for the arrival of her second child, due on 20 August. We wish Tess and her family all the very best during this exciting time.

Mrs Katrina Batty will return to Parktone for two days per week, commencing on the first day of Term 3, and will replace Mrs Herron in Year 2.

Reports and Parent Teacher Interviews

You will have now received your child's Semester One report and attended a parent-teacher interview. Reports and interviews are an important part of communicating student progress and celebrating achievements.

Over the past month, students have undertaken a range of assessment tasks. The resulting data has been used to inform teacher judgements of student achievement and to plan the next steps in each child's learning journey.

Working in Your Element – Semester 2

To further develop students' leadership skills, Semester 2 will see our Year 6 students leading Element sessions with students across the school. Teachers will take a step back and move into a support role, providing guidance where needed. We look forward to seeing our Year 6 leaders in action and witnessing the positive impact they will have across the school.

Congratulations once again to all members of our school community on a successful Term 2, and thank you for your contributions to making our school such a positive and supportive place to learn and grow.

As we head into the holiday break, I encourage everyone to take some time to rest, recharge, and enjoy time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for an exciting Term 3 which commences on Tuesday 14th July for students. On the Monday, 13th July, teachers will attend school to participate in a Mathematics Professional Day.

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Building Strong Connections Across Our Learning Community

At Parktone Primary School, we know that strong relationships and partnerships help create the best possible learning experiences for every child. Building connections with our local kindergartens, secondary schools and other schools within our network allows us to work together to support students throughout their educational journey.

Throughout this term, our Prep Team Leader, Mrs Teena Muscat, has strengthened our connections with local kindergartens through visits, conversations and opportunities to welcome future Parktone students and families into our school community. Our Year 3 students have also played an important role in these connections by visiting kindergartens as buddies, helping build familiarity, confidence and excitement for children preparing to begin their Foundation year.

Our partnerships with kindergartens help ensure a smooth and positive transition into Foundation, with opportunities to share knowledge, understand each child's learning journey and create a welcoming start to school life. These connections help families feel informed, valued and confident as they begin their child's primary school experience.

Our connections with secondary schools also play an important role in supporting student pathways. This term, Parkdale Secondary College visited Parktone on several occasions to observe our Year 6 Class Novel literacy sessions in action. These visits were a wonderful opportunity to showcase the high-quality teaching and learning taking place at Parktone, and we were pleased to welcome Mr Michael Tuck, the newly appointed Principal of Parkdale Secondary College, as part of this collaboration.

This partnership will continue to grow, with our Year 6 teachers preparing to visit Parkdale Secondary College to observe Year 7 staff in action. These reciprocal opportunities allow both schools to share expertise, better understand student transitions and strengthen the support provided to students as they move from primary to secondary education.

Through these partnerships, shared learning opportunities and professional conversations, we support students to develop the skills, confidence and independence they need for their next stage of education.

From the Assistant Principal

Mel Bach

Collaboration with schools across our network also allows us to share ideas, celebrate successes and continue improving our teaching and learning practices. This term, Amy Sharman and I visited Clarinda Primary School and Kingswood Primary School to gather insights into early years literacy approaches, with a particular focus on strengthening the use of decodable texts in our classrooms.

These connections provide valuable opportunities to learn from others while also showcasing the learning, achievements and unique opportunities available at Parktone Primary School. By building meaningful partnerships and sharing our school story, we continue to grow awareness of the outstanding experiences, values and opportunities we provide for our students.

Strong community partnerships help strengthen our sense of belonging and ensure Parktone Primary School continues to be recognised as a connected, innovative and welcoming place for children to learn and grow. Together, we are building bright futures for every child.



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Literacy at Parktone

Amy Sharman – Learning Specialist

It has been another exciting term in the literacy space at Parktone, with students across the school continuing to develop their reading and writing skills.

A particular highlight in Year 6 has been the class novel study of *The Last Bear*. Students thoroughly enjoyed sharing this text together, engaging in rich discussions, analysing characters and themes, and reflecting on the important messages within the story. The success of this unit has reinforced the value of studying quality literature together, and we look forward to introducing more novel studies across the Year 4–6 area in Term 4.

Looking ahead to next term, a whole-school focus in reading will be the implementation of fluency teaching and routines. Reading fluency refers to a student's ability to read accurately, at an appropriate pace and with expression. Fluent readers are able to focus less on working out individual words and more on understanding and thinking deeply about what they are reading. Developing fluency supports students to become confident readers and has a significant impact on comprehension and overall reading success.

We encourage families to continue supporting reading at home by listening to your child read aloud, rereading familiar texts and enjoying books together.

READING FLUENCY THE BRIDGE TO COMPREHENSION



Celebrating Success in the Australian Maths Challenge

Brett Sargeant – Learning Specialist

We are incredibly proud of our students' outstanding achievements in this year's Australian Mathematics Trust (AMT) Maths Challenge.

An impressive 81 students from Parktone Primary School took part in the challenge, demonstrating enthusiasm, perseverance and a love of mathematical problem-solving. We are especially delighted to announce that 25 students achieved a Distinction, the highest award available in the competition—a fantastic accomplishment that reflects both their mathematical ability and their willingness to embrace challenging mathematics.

A special congratulations goes to our three students who achieved a perfect score in the competition – Owen, Peyton and Joon-Bing, all from Year 4. Achieving a perfect score in such a demanding competition is an exceptional accomplishment, and we are incredibly proud of this remarkable achievement.

Participating in the Maths Challenge provides students with opportunities to extend their thinking, apply problem-solving strategies and develop confidence when tackling unfamiliar mathematical tasks. It is wonderful to see so many students embrace these opportunities with such enthusiasm.

Later in the year, we will celebrate the achievements of all participants, with our highest-performing students being formally recognised at a whole-school assembly.

Congratulations to every student who participated. Your willingness to challenge yourself, persevere through difficult problems and strive for excellence is something to be incredibly proud of. We thank you for representing our school so positively and look forward to celebrating your achievements later in the year.

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Classroom Update

Halfway Through Our Prep Journey!

Can you believe our Prep students have reached the halfway mark of their first year of school? What an incredible journey it has been!

At the beginning of the year, many children arrived at school with a mixture of excitement, curiosity and perhaps a few nervous feelings. Fast forward six months, and those same children have blossomed into confident, capable and enthusiastic learners who eagerly embrace each day of learning.

The growth we have witnessed has been remarkable. Our Prep students are developing into independent readers, excitedly exploring new decodable texts and enjoying a wide range of books from both their classroom collections and our wonderful school library. Their love of reading continues to grow as they discover new stories, characters and adventures.

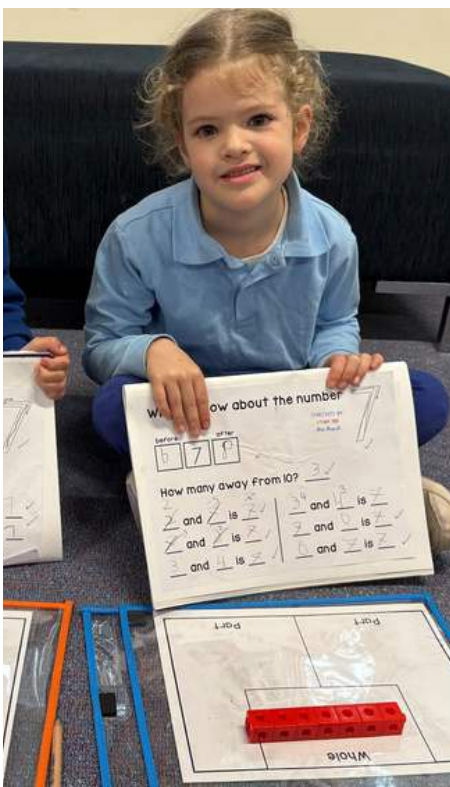
We have also been amazed by the progress our students have made as writers. From learning letters and sounds to writing sentences and sharing their own ideas on paper, the children have developed skills that allow them to communicate their thoughts with increasing confidence and creativity.

One of the highlights of the year has been watching every child build confidence when speaking in front of others. Whether sharing their learning with classmates or speaking into a microphone at assembly, our Prep students continue to demonstrate courage and growth as communicators.

In Mathematics, students have strengthened their fluency and understanding of numbers to 20 and beyond. Through hands-on investigations and engaging learning experiences, they have explored concepts such as measurement, mass, length, patterns, shapes and much more. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and problem-solving skills flourish.

Most importantly, our Prep students have built friendships, developed resilience, shown kindness and become valued members of our school community. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved in just six short months and look forward to seeing what the second half of the year will bring.

Congratulations to all of our amazing Prep students on reaching this exciting milestone!



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News from the Lighthouse Team

The Lighthouse Team (formerly the Beacon Team) has evolved this year as we establish how to best represent student voice at Parktone and shine a light on issues that matter most to our students. In Term 1, students from Years 3 to 6 submitted applications to join the team and represent their peers. Their first undertaking was to update the bell music, collecting and collating song suggestions from students across the school to ensure everyone's voice was heard and represented.

Biggest Morning Tea

Throughout Term 2, the Lighthouse Team has been busy organising two major fundraising events.

Earlier in the term, students hosted a Biggest Morning Tea fundraiser in support of the Cancer Council. We would like to thank our generous school community for your donations and support of the stall. Thanks to your kindness, Parktone raised over \$700 for this worthy cause—more than double the amount raised last year!



Parktone's Big Freeze

Over the past few weeks, the team has turned its attention to organising our Big Freeze fundraiser in support of FightMND. From convincing teachers to volunteer for the challenge to building excitement among students, the Lighthouse Team has worked tirelessly to make the event a success. These fundraising efforts are guided by our school values and demonstrate the power of synergy and teamwork. By working together towards a common goal, our students are learning that we can achieve far more collectively than we ever could individually.

There is more to come in the second half of 2026 as we look to examine and improve Parktone's sustainability efforts with the Green Team and continue to identify and act on issues of importance to our students. Thanks so much for supporting our students to find their voices and highlight issues that matter to them.



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Future Leaders Day

Future Leaders Day – A Celebration of Aspirations and Leadership

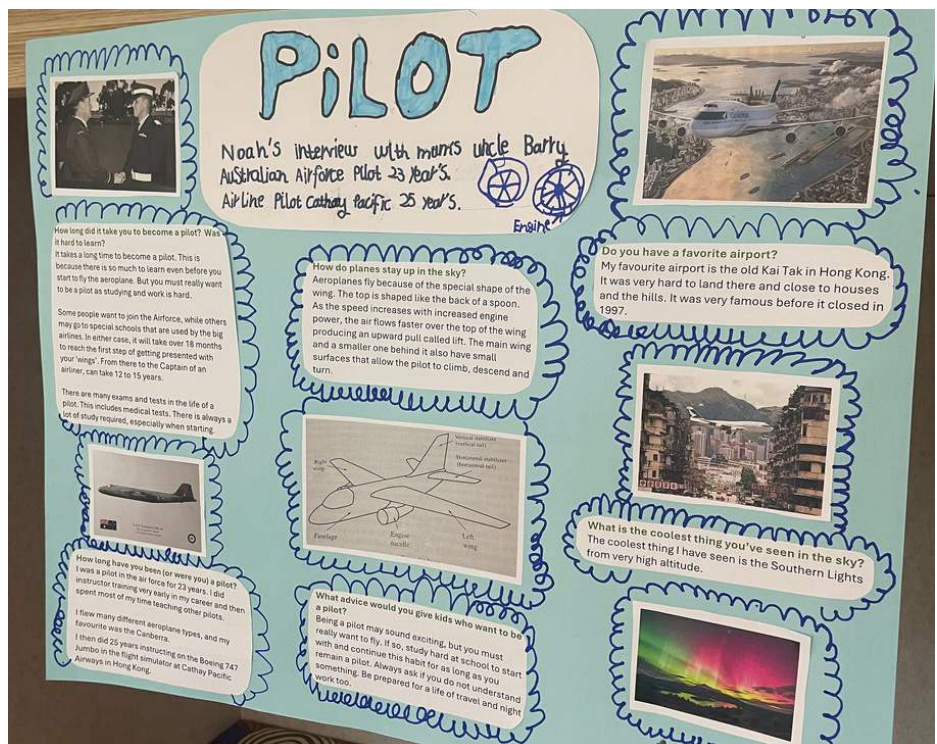
Our recent Future Leaders Day was a wonderful celebration of student leadership, aspirations and dreams for the future. It was inspiring to see students confidently sharing and reflecting on what they hope to become when they grow up, both during our assembly and in classrooms throughout the day.

A highlight of the assembly was the fantastic performance by our Year 4 students, who sang Reach for the Stars. The song beautifully reflected the message that Parktone is a place where students are encouraged to dream big, set goals and believe in themselves as they work towards achieving their aspirations.

Students also proudly showcased their Future Leaders Homework Projects during our expo. The variety and creativity on display was incredible, with students presenting models, posters, interactive displays and many other innovative creations. These projects highlighted the vast range of professions our students aspire to pursue and provided a wonderful opportunity for students and families to celebrate their passions and future ambitions.

Thank you to all of our families and community members who attended and supported this special event. Your presence helped make the day such a success and demonstrated the strong partnership we share in developing the future leaders of tomorrow.

At Parktone, we are proud to provide opportunities for our students to identify their talents, develop the confidence and create the leader.



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Come on Aussie!!

What a way to finish the term!

Our students brought the energy today, cheering on the Socceroos at the FIFA World Cup! Decked out in the green and gold, the school hall was filled with excitement, team spirit and plenty of Aussie pride.

