

PARKTONE NEWSLETTER

Edition 5- Term 3 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

Term 3 has certainly been an action-packed term, with a wide range of learning opportunities and experiences for our students. Across the term, students have had the opportunity to participate in:

- 5/6 Living and Growing Parent Information Night
- 3–6 Athletics training
- Elonera Prep and Year 3 Buddy experience
- Year 3 and 4 Charlie and the Chocolate Factory performance at Parkdale Secondary College
- Prep 100 Days of School celebrations
- Year 4 Democracy, Community and Me Incursion
- 3–6 House Athletics Day
- 3–6 Mathematics Competition
- Prep Police, Fire and Ambulance Incursion
- 3–6 ICAS English
- Year 6 Queen Victoria Market Excursion
- P–2 Junior Athletics Day

These experiences provide our students with valuable opportunities to learn beyond the classroom and complement the high-quality teaching and learning that takes place every day at Parktone.

Key Dates

TERM 3

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
7th - 17th - Prep -3 Swimming Program
11th - School Walkathon
18th - Footy Day & Last day of Term 3 (2.30pm)

TERM 4

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

November

6TH - Year 3 Sleepover
10th - 2027 Prep Transition Specialist
12th - Year 3-6 Production
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!

2027 Prep Enrolments

On Monday 3 August, we formally sent our 2027 Prep enrolment offers to families. Welcoming new students and their families into our school community is always an exciting milestone, particularly as many of our new students are siblings of current students or come from families who are already connected to Parktone.

It also provides us with an opportunity to reflect on what makes Parktone Primary School such a special place.
Parktone is a school where lifelong friendships are formed, cherished memories are created and a genuine sense of belonging flourishes. These connections extend well beyond the school gates—whether catching up with friends at local businesses, walking the dogs on the weekend or cheering one another on from the sidelines of one of the many local sporting teams.

It is these enduring relationships, built through shared experiences and a strong sense of community, that make Parktone such a unique and welcoming place to learn and grow.

We look forward to welcoming our 2027 Prep students and their families to Parktone and beginning this exciting journey together.

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From the Principal continued....

NAPLAN

One of the highlights of this term has been the release of our NAPLAN results. We are exceptionally proud of the outstanding achievements of both our students and staff. Our Year 3 students performed well above Similar Schools and Network Schools across every assessment domain, with results in several areas 10% above the Network and Similar Schools. Equally pleasing was the performance of our Year 5 students, who continue to perform above both Similar Schools and Network Schools.

These results are a powerful affirmation of the consistent, research-informed and evidence-based teaching practices embedded within Parktone's Instructional Sequence. More importantly, they reflect our culture of high expectations, continuous improvement and the unwavering commitment of our staff and students to achieving excellence in learning.

Year 3

Exceeding or Strong students in 2026 (%)

For students in Year 3, Reading

Parktone	Similar Schools	Network	State
91%	81%	81%	69%

Exceeding or Strong students in 2026 (%)

For students in Year 3, Numeracy

Parktone	Similar Schools	Network	State
86%	79%	81%	67%

Exceeding or Strong students in 2026 (%)

For students in Year 3, Writing

Parktone	Similar Schools	Network	State
99%	90%	90%	78%

Year 5

Exceeding or Strong students in 2026 (%)

For students in Year 5, Reading

Parktone	Similar Schools	Network	State
88%	84%	86%	74%

Exceeding or Strong students in 2026 (%)

For students in Year 5, Numeracy

Parktone	Similar Schools	Network	State
91%	80%	87%	73%

Exceeding or Strong students in 2026 (%)

For students in Year 5, Writing

Parktone	Similar Schools	Network	State
91%	81%	87%	71%

Voluntary Contributions

A special shout-out to the parents and families who have paid their voluntary contributions. The ongoing support of our families makes an enormous difference to our school and the programs and opportunities we are able to provide for our students.

At Parktone Primary School, we design and develop our teaching and learning programs using the best available educational knowledge and practices. We strive to provide broad and enriched opportunities for our students that extend beyond what is required within the standard curriculum and what is provided through government funding.

The support provided through voluntary contributions enables us to offer an enriched learning and teaching program for every student, something that is highly valued by our school community.

At present, we are heading towards a situation where parents may need to purchase classroom requisites directly rather than the school being able to bulk purchase these items for 2027. Our target is for 70% of families to make a voluntary contribution by the end of August. If we reach this target, we will be able to reverse this decision.

We still have some way to go. If you are able to contribute, even a proportion of the requested amount, it will make a significant difference and help us continue to provide these valuable resources and opportunities for our students.

Community of Practice Network Feedback

We recently had 12 teachers and their principals visit Parktone as part of our Community of Practice Network. The purpose of their visit was to observe and learn more about the teaching and learning practices we have been implementing across the school over the past couple of years.

Our visitors were very impressed by the calm and orderly environment across the school, as well as the high quality of teaching and learning taking place in our classrooms. The visit included a focus on our Maths Fluency program and the newly implemented Reading Fluency approach, which is currently being introduced across a number of classrooms.

It was wonderful to have the opportunity to showcase the great work taking place at Parktone and to share our practice with colleagues from other schools. We are very proud of the commitment of our staff to continually reflecting on and improving teaching and learning across the school.

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From the Principal continued...

Staffing

At the beginning of the term, we were delighted to welcome Mrs Katrina Batty back to her teaching duties in Year 2. The students were very excited to see Mrs Batty return, particularly those who were taught by her during their first year at Parktone. Mrs Batty and Mrs Carolan have also worked together in the same year level previously, so they have a strong understanding of each other's teaching styles and approaches to learning. We are very pleased to have Katrina back with us.

Next term, we will also welcome Mrs Waack back from family leave. She will be working one day each week and supporting Mrs Bach with our Tier 2 student support program. Mrs Bach is currently enjoying some well-deserved leave and has been making the most of some warmer weather while on a cruise. She will return to her usual duties next Tuesday.

I was also delighted to receive the news last week that Mrs Herron and her family welcomed their second child, Oliver James Herron. Oliver arrived several weeks earlier than expected and, as a result, is a very tiny baby. Both Mum and baby are doing well, and we look forward to hearing when Oliver is ready to head home to be with his proud big brother, Ryan. Congratulations to the Herron family!



Fundraising Committee

This weekend, we will hold our annual Trivia Night at the Mordialloc Bowls Club. We are very fortunate that Toby Tobias has generously offered his services to run the trivia, which represents a significant saving for our Fundraising Committee.

A successful event such as this requires many hours of preparation, and we are extremely fortunate to have a dedicated team of parents who continually go above and beyond to support our school. This team has been led by our School Council Vice President, Jessica Power, and we sincerely thank Jessica and everyone involved for their time and commitment.

I am sure it will be a fantastic evening, providing an opportunity for our parents to connect socially, enjoy themselves and, hopefully, raise plenty of funds for our school.

Our next fundraising event will be the Walkathon, coordinated by Cath Gryszan. Last year's Walkathon was a huge success, and we are looking forward to another wonderful event this year.

3–6 Concert

Our Year 3–6 students are busily preparing for their upcoming concert during their weekly Performing Arts classes. This year's production has been written and coordinated by our very talented staff member, Mrs Lisa McVilly.

Lisa will be working with us throughout the preparation period, supporting and upskilling Mrs Megan Alkus, who assists with teaching some of the classes. Our Specialist team is also busy designing and creating the stage props that will bring the production to life. It is certainly a very busy and exciting time for our students and staff!
The musical production is titled The Listening Earth and embraces Australian and Indigenous culture. Each class has been allocated a song and is developing an understanding of the storyline and the important role their song plays within the overall production.

The production features 25 characters, including five lead roles. The finale will see the entire Year 3–6 cohort come together to sing a very moving Australian song.
Due to several disruptions at the beginning of the term, the concert date has been changed from the original date of Thursday 29 October to **Thursday 12 November.**
Please save this revised date in your calendar. We are very much looking forward to sharing what promises to be a wonderful performance with our school community.

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From the Principal continued...

Industrial Action

I would like to acknowledge and thank our school community for the support and understanding you have shown during the current period of industrial action. We appreciate the impact this has on families and staff and hope that the matter can be resolved shortly so there is no further disruption to our school community.

The Victorian Government has recently presented a revised public school pay and conditions offer to representatives of the Australian Education Union (AEU) Victorian Branch.

The revised offer builds on previous government offers and includes:

The Australian Education Union (AEU) has informed the Department of Education of a proposed 24-hour stoppage of work, scheduled to commence next week on Wednesday 19 August 2026 at 6:00 am.

The AEU has indicated that this proposed industrial action will not proceed if the revised EBA offer is accepted by its members. The department understands the outcome of the AEU vote will be known during the morning of Monday 17 August 2026. I will inform you of the decision as soon as possible.

Formal Apology

The Hon. Ben Carroll, Premier of Victoria, has made a formal apology to victims and survivors who experienced child sexual abuse in Victorian government schools.

The apology acknowledges the harm experienced by victims and survivors, as well as their families, loved ones, supporters and affected school communities. It recognises the failures that allowed abuse to occur and the lasting impact this has had on individuals, families and communities.

The apology was delivered at Parliament House on Thursday 30 July 2026, with victim-survivors in attendance. The apology was also broadcast through livestream events in Melbourne, Wodonga, Horsham and Ballarat.

Members of Parliament, victim-survivors and their supporters wore badges acknowledging the apology, as well as multi-coloured ribbons. These ribbons are used by the LOUD Fence community movement as a symbol of support, awareness and solidarity.

OSHC Educator

Congratulations to Jackie, our OshClub Coordinator, who has been recognised for the outstanding qualities she brings to our Before and After School Care program. I am delighted that Jackie has received this recognition. She consistently goes above and beyond to ensure that a high-quality service is provided to our Parktone students and families.

Jackie and I work closely together to maintain a quality program, and I would like to thank her for her dedication and genuine investment in the events and programs that take place at Parktone. Jackie is always willing to get involved, whether it is manning the sausage sizzle at Carols Night or sourcing the coffee van for our Father's Day and Mother's Day events.

Her commitment to our school community is greatly appreciated, and this recognition is very well deserved. Please take the time to read the attached article, which highlights the many wonderful qualities Jackie brings to Parktone.



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Classroom Update

Healthy Me, Safe Me

We were excited to welcome the Police and Fire Brigade as part of our Healthy Me, Safe Me Inquiry unit. The children enjoyed exploring police equipment and learning important fire safety messages, including when to call Triple Zero (000) and choosing a safe meeting place at home.

We also learnt about smoke alarms and encourage families to count the alarms in their homes together!
The fun continues in a couple of weeks when the Fire Brigade returns with their fire trucks. We cannot wait!













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A Golden Invitation

Our Year 3 and 4 students were delighted to be invited by Parkdale Secondary College to enjoy it's production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Students were especially excited to see a talented past student, Jesse, in the role of the reporter. Jesse's leadership in performing arts shone brightly and we look forward to seeing what he takes on next!

This special experience highlights the strong community connection between Parktone and Parkdale Secondary College. We are grateful for the invitation and for the opportunity to support past students as they continue to grow.



Parktone Pride - Victories & Celebrations

Mount Buller Brilliance!

Congratulations to Blake (Year 6) on his outstanding achievements at the Mount Buller School Snowsports Competition. Blake placed second in the Big Air event and first in the Rail Jam - and incredible restult!!

Being a leader in snowsports, Blake's dedication and commitment to acheiving his goals are a wonderful example of student leadership in action. Well done Blake!





