

VISION STATEMENT

Create a vibrant learning community where lives are transformed and individuals inspired to achieve beyond what they ever believed possible

ATHOL ROAD
PRIMARY SCHOOL

14th OCTOBER 2020

NEWSletter

BULLYING IS NOT ACCEPTABLE AT ARPS!

SPECIAL INFORMATION AND CALENDAR EVENTS

2020 TERM 4 DATES:

5th October – 18th December

WEEK 2:

MORNING ARRANGEMENTS

- School starts at 8.50am
- Parents drop children at the front/side gate at 8.45am
- Students will be temperature checked before being allowed to walk to their learning spaces
- Do NOT send sick children to school

AFTERNOON ARRANGEMENTS

THE SCHOOL IS REQUIRED TO ENSURE SOCIAL DISTANCING IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

- Carefully read the pick up arrangements for Term 4.

SOCIAL DISTANCING MUST BE CLEARLY VISIBLE & MASKS MUST BE WORN

- Foundation students and their siblings finish school at 3.00pm
- Year 1/2 finish school at 3.15pm

Where students will be attending OSHC, parents must wait outside OSHC for the coordinator to bring them out.

STAY SAFE!



From the Principal's Desktop

Foundation – Year 2 students commenced onsite learning on Monday and have quickly settled back into routine.

Year 3/4 students commence today (Wednesday) with Year 5/6 commencing Thursday.

The school's biggest challenge continues to be managing social distancing among parents during pick-up. THANK YOU to all the parents/carers who have read, listened to and followed the instructions to minimise the number of parents on the school site. Our staggered finish times are probably going to be with us until the end of Term 4 so it is important that everyone does their bit to support the school to manage the process.

The school IS REQUIRED to implement SOCIAL DISTANCING measures

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE START OF THE SCHOOL DAY

- Parents should not enter the school in the morning.
- School will commence at 8.50am each morning for ALL students.
- Students MUST NOT arrive at school before 8.45am (unless special arrangements have been made with the office)
- Staff will complete temperature checks at the barrier from 8.45am when students will be permitted to go to their learning spaces.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PICK UP OF STUDENTS

- All students will be dismissed from the front of the school UNLESS the parent/carer contacts the office and advises otherwise (9547 1224)
- **If LIVE on the school side of Athol Road and WALK to collect your child/ren you can enter the school ground but must wait at the bottom of the oval, maintaining social distancing.**
- Everyone else must wait on the shopping centre side of the road for their children to cross the crossing. Parents/carers should not cross the crossing to collect children.

FOUNDATION students and siblings will be dismissed at **3.00pm**

YEAR 1/2 students and their siblings will be dismissed at **3.15pm**

YEAR 3 – 6 students will be dismissed at **3.30pm**

EVERY PARENT/CARER MUST HAVE THE SENTRAL PARENT PORTAL APP DOWNLOADED ON THEIR DEVICE TO RECEIVE ALL THE IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE SCHOOL.

A school where 'Every minute matters'

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

BREAKFAST CLUB will operate from 8.00am – 8.45am for children of working parents only – can only be accessed by contacting the office to put your child's name on the list,

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE will operate from 3.30pm – 6.00pm for children of working parents and in special circumstances for others – can only be accessed by contacting the office to put your child's name on the list.

Telephone: 9547 1224

Email: athol.road.ps@education.vic.gov.au

The school IS REQUIRED to implement SOCIAL DISTANCING measures

It is recommended that, where possible, parents arrange with children to walk part of the way home with parents/carers meeting them at a designated spot along the road home. This would significantly reduce the number of parents/carers on or near the school grounds and support social distancing. It is also a great exercise in developing independence. One of the positives of COVID-19 is that staff are seeing increased levels of independence in children from walking themselves to the learning spaces to their ability to complete work with no/minimal assistance. These are very important things for our children to be doing.

Parents/carers are required to wear masks when dropping off or picking up their children from school.

OCTOBER SPECIAL EVENTS

1. ARPS DAY: WEDNESDAY, 21st OCTOBER

Every year School Council recognizes the the commitment and dedication of our fantastic staff on a special day. In 2020 that day will be Wednesday, 21st October. Students and parents are invited to THANK the staff for all the great work that they have done in 2020 to support students through a very difficult period of learning, by writing THANK YOU letters and cards. PLEASE do not send gifts. Staff at ARPS work collaboratively to support each other – no staff member works alone – it is a combined effort with all staff giving 100%+ for our students. Every effort you see is the result of a lot of collaboration and support between staff.

2. FOOTY DRESS UP DAY: THURSDAY, 22nd OCTOBER: DRESS UP DAY FOR FOOTY FINALS

Students are encouraged to dress up in their club's AFL uniform or colours on Thursday, 22nd October to celebrate the GRAND FINAL to be held on Saturday, 24th October.

3. VICTORIAN THANK YOU DAY - PUBLIC HOLIDAY: FRIDAY, 23rd OCTOBER

NO SCHOOL for staff or students on this day

YOUR CHILD/REN IN 2021

It is with sadness that staff are preparing to say goodbye to the 2020 Year 6 students at the end of the year. Each year a number of students in Foundation – Year 5 also leave the school, mainly due to moving homes. It is important that parents advise the office as soon as possible if their child/ren will NOT be attending ARPS in 2021. Student numbers significantly impact the number of staff that the school needs to employ and the sooner the school is aware of this information, the easier it is to manage the planning for how many staff the school will need to employ for the following year.

CONGRATULATIONS

Staffing is one of the greatest challenges each year and organisation is now well underway for staffing for 2021. Over the past few weeks interviews have been taking place to fill staffing positions in 2021. I am pleased to announce that:

- Ms Keech has been appointed to the new Leading Teacher position. Her role will be to oversee teaching and learning across the school with a focus on improving student learning outcomes in Literacy and Numeracy.
- Mrs Harkness, Ms Davis and Ms Qemal have been appointed to Learning Specialist positions along with a new teacher, Ms McDonagh. They will each be working within a learning space to improve student learning outcomes.
- Ms Brewster, a new teacher, has been appointed to the Performing Arts position. She comes to ARPS with a wealth of knowledge and experience in teaching Music, Dance and Drama.
- Each year a number of staff make the decision to pursue new challenges which is important in building new skills. Sadly, Ms Costabile (Foundation), Ms Hrissis (Performing Arts) and Mr Holden (Learning Specialist in Year 3/4) will be leaving ARPS at the end of 2020 to pursue new challenges. I THANK them for all their hard work and commitment during their time at ARPS and wish them well in their new ventures. We will miss them!

Tell us what you think!

Our school is conducting a survey to find out what parents think of our school. The Parent Opinion Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education and Training that is conducted amongst all parents. It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of parents' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour, student engagement and experiences of remote and flexible learning. Our school will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies.

All parents have been invited to participate in this year's survey, via the Sentral for Parents app. All responses to the survey are anonymous. This year, the Parent Opinion Survey will be conducted from Monday 12th October to Friday 13th November.

The survey will be conducted online, only takes 20 minutes to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones. The online survey will be available in a range of languages other than English, including Vietnamese and Mandarin.

Please call the school office if you would like more information.

Baby News

We are delighted to report that Mrs Santavas has become Grandma to baby Elizabeth (Elly).
Congratulations to proud Giagia!



THE VALUE OF PLAYTIME...

Getting the balance right!

Sometimes children may have too many scheduled activities. Between school, homework and sport, children may not get enough free time to just play.

When a child's schedule is too full, it can create an unhealthy amount of stress & can lead to anxiety and even depression in children.

Every child needs time to just let their minds relax and flow.

Play can:

- stimulate the imagination and encourage creativity
- help children learn how to respond appropriately to positive and negative emotions based on their experiences playing with other children
- teach toddlers to learn to share, take turns or be a leader by doing something as simple as building with blocks
- assist in teaching critical skills such as negotiation and conflict resolution, especially during unstructured play when children, not adults, make the rules
- involve exercise that helps to enhance coordination, build muscles, and gets the heart pumping, helping to keep the body at a healthy weight.

It's important to find that balance between scheduled activities. Every child has different needs, but all of them need unstructured playtime.



Helpful Links:

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/toddler/fitness/Pages/Caution-Children-at-Play.aspx>

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/play-media-technology/getting-play-started/school-children-at-play>

<https://www.maketime2play.co.uk/why-play/emotional/>

Healthy Lunchbox Tips

Having a healthy lunchbox ensures your children are fuelled with nutritious food throughout the day. One great strategy is the **Pick'n'Mix 1-6**:

Pick and mix one tasty option from each of the five core food groups to create a healthy lunchbox every day:

1. Fruit (e.g. fresh, frozen, pureed and canned in natural juice)
2. Vegetables, legumes and beans
3. Milk, yoghurt, cheese and alternatives
4. Lean meats and poultry, fish, eggs, tofu, nuts and seeds, and legumes/beans
5. Grain (cereal) foods
6. Plain water



Some other great tips for an amazing lunch:

- Be prepared and get the children involved: Buy food in advance and involve children in choosing what goes into their lunchboxes.
- Shop wisely and save money: Buy in season, in bulk if possible, and prepare items in batches.
- Make your own snacks: Reduce the amount of processed and packaged foods in the lunchbox.
- Look after the environment: Pack 'nude' or 'packaging free' lunchboxes to create less rubbish.
- Keep food cool: Ensure that the healthy food you have packed stays fresh and delicious all day long.

Need more inspiration to plan your lunchbox?

<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/lunch-boxes-menu-planner>

<http://healthy-kids.com.au/10-great-lunch-box-ideas/>