

## 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**

17<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021

# NEWSletter

**BULLYING IS NOT ACCEPTABLE AT ARPS!**

## SPECIAL INFORMATION AND CALENDAR EVENTS

**PLEASE do NOT  
send sick children  
to school**

### 2021 SCHOOL YEAR

**Foundation  
students are now  
attending school  
EVERY DAY!**

**Term 1: finishes  
Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> April  
at 2.30pm**

**Term 2:  
19<sup>th</sup> April – 5<sup>th</sup> June**

**Term 3:  
12<sup>th</sup> July – 17<sup>th</sup> Sept**

**Term 4:  
4<sup>th</sup> Oct – 17<sup>th</sup> Dec**

**NO SCHOOL ON**

**Queen's Birthday  
14<sup>th</sup> June**

**Melbourne Cup  
2<sup>nd</sup> Nov**



## From the Principal's Desktop

### COVID REMINDERS

**PLEASE** stay at home if you are feeling unwell.

**PLEASE** do NOT enter the school if you have any COVID symptoms:

- Fever
- Shortness of breath
- Flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat or runny nose

As the school continues to operate under a COVID NORMAL regime, I would like to THANK all those families who have supported the school to remain COVID free. Staff cannot do this alone – parental support is needed and parents have stepped up the mark.

**THANK YOU** to all our families for their ongoing support during this difficult time.

At Athol Road Primary School these strategies include:

- Restricting all visits to the school to only those which are necessary
- Wearing of masks by adults when on school grounds
- Social distancing of 1.5 metres
- Regular hand sanitisation

**EVERYONE wants the same outcome – a COVID FREE SCHOOL – let's work together to ensure that we achieve this goal.**

### ST PATRICK'S DAY: DID YOU KNOW?

*TODAY, 17<sup>th</sup> March, is St Patrick's Day. St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland but he was not really Irish! He was born in Roman Britain in the late 4th century, kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave. He became a Christian missionary and has been credited with converting Ireland to Christianity in the AD 400s.*

*There are so many legends and superstitions surrounding St Patrick's Day. Folklore says - wearing green on St Patrick's Day makes you invisible to **leprechauns** who like to pinch anyone they can see. Some people also think wearing GREEN will bring good luck while others wear it to honor their Irish ancestry.*

*The story goes that St Patrick chased all the snakes out of Ireland but most people know that the climate in Ireland does not suit snakes! St Patrick died on 17<sup>th</sup> March 461 and is credited with establishing monasteries, churches and schools. St Patrick's Day is celebrated all around the world where Irish people live, particularly in Ireland, America and Australia.*

*A school where 'Every minute matters'*

## Last Day of Term 1

**Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> April is the last day of Term 1**  
**School finishes at 2.30pm**

**PLEASE be on time to pick up your children**

**If your child needs to attend Club on this day, please book with Wendy for this day.**

## Backflips Against Bullying Show

**Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> March**

The Athol Road Primary School community is committed to creating an environment in which all members of the community feel safe and secure.

**Bullying is the DELIBERATE, CONSCIOUS act of REPEATEDLY hurting, threatening or embarrassing another person or persons and is NOT ACCEPTABLE at Athol Road Primary School under any circumstances.**

The school is committed to building student and community knowledge and understanding around bullying. By addressing bullying on a social level, students are empowered to hold each other accountable. Together staff and students, supported by parents/carers, can build a harassment-free school environment that ultimately saves lives.

On Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> March, students will participate in the Backflips Against Bullying Show. PLEASE discuss with your child what they learn on this day.

## Healthy Schools

Athol Road Primary School has recently been recognised by the Victorian Government's *Healthy Schools Achievement Program* for meeting the benchmarks for the following health priority areas: HEALTHY EATING AND ORAL HEALTH. A great achievement!



## Colour Explosion Fun Run

On **Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> March**, the school is hosting a **Colour Explosion School Fun Run** to help students fundraise for sports equipment for their learning spaces to be used during recess and lunch playtimes.

PLEASE create an online profile for your child/ren and start collecting. Mrs Toombs has created an online profile and is getting close to her target!!!!!! Will you meet yours? Every little helps!

Your child/ren will need to wear a PLAIN white shirt during the Fun Run because, like Mrs Toombs, they will be covered in non-toxic, biodegradable colour powder from head to toe!

**NO WHITE T-SHIRT ON THE DAY – NO PARTICIPATE – SORRY!**

The non-toxic colour powder is made of high-quality corn starch and permitted food colours, so it's safe for skin and eyes. Students with asthma are advised to be careful in their decision to participate.



**WILL WE REACH OUR TARGET OF \$4000?**

## FOUNDATION NEWS

Foundation students have made a great start to the year with the 'Little Learners Love Literacy Program'. They have been immersed in the sounds (phonemes) for the letters: 'm', 's', 'f', 'a', and 'p' and have engaged in some interesting language experiences to support their learning including: making fruit skewers, discussing their favourite fruit and giving supporting reasons, making smoothies, exploring Indigenous stories such as 'The Rainbow Serpent' and 'Tiddalick the Frog'. Students have also been on hunts around the school for things beginning with the sounds they have been learning about. On Friday, 19th March they will have a 'Teddy Bear's Picnic' at a local park. Families are encouraged to join their children at the park at 12.30pm for lunch – see the notice from Foundation for further details. Please make sure your child brings their favourite teddy to join in the fun!

In Maths, the students have been developing their number sense in a variety of ways involving lots of hands-on learning, exploring books which support understanding of numbers, counting and problem solving. They have also been working with patterns and building their understanding of location language.

Students have also been learning about different countries and cultures in Inquiry and have had the opportunity to wear Cambodian traditional clothing, listen to Vietnamese stories and explore symbols and stories associated with Indigenous Aboriginal culture.

Staff would like to congratulate the Foundation students and their families for their support in helping to create such a wonderful start to school!



*Henry on a hunt*

*Jukim and her fruit skewer*



## YEAR 1/2 NEWS

Over the past two weeks the Year 1/2 students have engaged in a number of hands on, vocabulary building language experiences. With help from the animals in the Environmental Education space, students became experts, learning a lot of facts about Redmond the parrot, Barry the frilled neck lizard, blue tongued lizards, leaf insects and frogs. Students made observations and asked wonderings, before choosing their favourite animal and creating convincing persuasive writing pieces about them. Read some of them below!

*You must pick the blue tongue lizard because they are smooth and slow and amazing. (Vy, Year 2)*

*I think the tree frog is the best because they can swim. (Lana, Year 1)*

*You should get 1/2E a parrot because parrots are really good at imitating sounds. You shouldn't get 1/2E a frog because it will jump on our work. (Alexa, Year 2)*



# Peer Mediators Lead the Way On How to Play!

On Wednesday, 24th February the Athol Road Primary School peer mediators participated in the Resilient Youth Australia PLAY program, designed to enhance the resilience and wellbeing of young people through play. Children need to play more because it develops sequencing skills, concentration and creativity. Play also builds resilient learners.

The program models healthy relationships and promotes anti bullying messages. Peer mediators will demonstrate the skills they have gained from this training through running weekly play sessions full of fun team building activities for the junior students at lunch time.

The aim is for students to feel connected, protected and respected. Actively engaging young people to lead play builds student resilience by enhancing a range of life skills such as communication, cooperation and team work. This training provided a platform for our student leaders to support each other and practise positive values while also developing their leadership abilities.

The school is exceedingly proud of the peer mediators, their commitment, enthusiasm and most of all how they carried themselves throughout the day of training. The level of respect that they showed the instructors of the PLAY program was outstanding. **WELL DONE, 2021 PEER MEDIATORS!**

The staff at Athol Road Primary School know that our students are awesome BUT it is great to get such positive feedback from presenters. Scott and Sally were the presenters of the Play Program training program that peer mediators attended. Scott forwarded this email to me on Monday evening:

*Hi Ruby,*

*Sally and I spent yesterday in your school delivering the PLAY Program to your Grade 4, 5 & 6 Peer Mentors.*

*We usually don't contact the principal after working in a school but felt we had to in your case.*

*It was an absolute delight to work with your students and wellbeing staff. The students were appreciative, enthusiastic and amazingly kind, respectful and positive to each other. Sally and I had a ball working with them.*

*Every member of staff we met made us feel welcome in the school. The wellbeing staff in particular, were proactive in their approach and related extremely well to the students.*

*Congratulations on leading a team of wonderful staff and dynamic students!*

*Cheers,*

*Scott*



## Curriculum Day

At Athol Road, everyone is an ongoing LEARNER.

On Curriculum Day, teachers at ARPS went back to school to learn how to further improve their teaching skills so that they could become even better teachers and support students to become even better learners.

Gavin Grift, an educator well-known to ARPS, congratulated the school on how far it has come in its personalised teaching approach since he started working with the school in 2013! Gavin went on to outline the next steps and teachers worked hard to ensure that they embraced this new learning in their planning.

It was a great day of learning and I am looking forward to seeing the impact on our student learning outcomes later in the year. One of my many favourite quotes is: *'If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn'* – Ignacio Estrada. This is what drives us all at Athol Road Primary School.

