

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**

2nd MARCH 2022

NEWSletter

BULLYING IS NOT ACCEPTABLE AT ARPS!

SPECIAL INFORMATION AND CALENDAR EVENTS

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

TERM 1

28th January – 8th April

TERM 2

26th April – 24th June

TERM 3

11th July – 16th September

TERM 4

CURRICULUM DAY

Tuesday, 15th March

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Labour Day: 14th March

Queen's Birthday: 13th June

Melbourne Cup: 1st November

STAY SAFE!



From the Principal's Desktop

2022 ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL APPEAL RAFFLE REMINDER

THANK YOU to families who have already sold their Royal Children's Hospital Appeal raffle tickets. Reminder that money and tickets need to be returned to the office in a NAMED sealed envelope/bag Friday, 14th March. NOTE: All tickets MUST be returned for auditing purposes whether sold or not. Your support is greatly appreciated.

THE GREAT ESCAPE



Princess, our school snake, decided she needed a holiday after being locked down due to COVID. The only problem is she did not tell us that she was going on holiday or where she was going. Princess is completely harmless but Mr Hunter would like her to come back to her enclosure in the Environmental Room!

SCHOOL REVIEW

2022 is a year of review for Athol Road Primary School where the school community will examine the 2018 – 2022 Strategic Plan and the achievements the school has made over the last four years. This review will include opportunities for students, staff and parents to have a voice in how they believe the school has improved over the last 4 years and where future improvement lies. Brian Mills, an ex principal, has been nominated as our reviewer and leadership will be meeting with him at the end of this term to set up the 3 days, required for the review. This will lead to the development of a new 4 year Strategic with clear directions for our school.

PUBLIC HOLIDAY: Monday, 14th March 2022

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS OR STAFF ON THIS DAY!

CURRICULUM DAY: Tuesday, 15th March 2022

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS ON THIS DAY!

As part of the review the school has to prepare a self-evaluation report which includes analysis of academic and wellbeing data collected over the last 4 years. On Curriculum Day, staff will be analyzing this data and preparing reports required for the review process.

A school where 'Every minute matters'

COVID REMINDERS

- Parents/carers **MUST** wear masks and maintain social distancing of 1.5 metres when on the school grounds
- Mask wearing is optional for students in Foundation – Year 2 but **REQUIRED** for students in Year 3 – 6
- **Parents are not permitted to enter learning spaces**
- **Parents/carers are asked to only visit the school office for essential business**
- ALL persons who come to the school office **MUST** use the School QR Code to sign-in.

THANK YOU for helping the school to support the safety, health and wellbeing of students and staff.

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE/BREAKFAST CLUB

Out of School Hours Care and Breakfast Club open ***for students of working parents only!***

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL by contacting Jess at the office on 9547 1224

REMINDER: DROP OFF AND PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS

Students should not arrive at school before 8.45am

Parents are required to leave students in Year 1 – 6 at the front gate in the mornings.

Foundation students meet their teacher/s on the undercover basketball area at the front of the school

Parents are not to enter the school grounds before 3.25pm in the afternoon

- Where parents/carers can wait outside the school grounds after school, they are asked to please do so.
- Parents/Carers of children in **Year 3 - 6** must wait on the **FRONT OVAL**
- Parents/Carers of children in **Year 1/2** must wait **outside the Year 1/2 building**.
- Parents/Carers of children in **Foundation** must wait on the **basketball court at the front of the school**.
- NOTE: Parents/carers with children in multiple grades must wait in the area designated for the **YOUNGEST** child!

2021 PARENT SURVEY RESULTS (cont'd)

THANK YOU to the parents who completed the Parent Opinion Survey late last year.

The full report is available on request!

Below is a summary of your thoughts regarding **REMOTE LEARNING**.

These results have informed current teaching practice.

	% Agree	% Neutral	% Disagree
I understand what my child is expected to do each day	89%	8%	3%
I can contact my child's teacher when I need to	89%	11%	0%
Teachers communicate with me often enough about my child's progress	68%	27%	5%
My child has adequate contact with my teacher	86%	14%	0%
My child often gets distracted from other things happening in the home	49%	14%	38%
My child often gets distracted from other things happening online (social media)	41%	19%	41%
My child does a full day's worth of schoolwork every school day	49%	32%	19%
I feel well supported by my child's school and teachers to help my child learn at home	86%	11%	3%
I feel that my child can learn just as effectively at home as they can in the classroom	35%	30%	35%
The school has responded effectively to feedback from parents/carers	84%	16%	0%
I have confidence in the government school system in Victoria	87%	8%	3%

82% of students learnt mainly from home during remote learning

35% of parents/carers spent between 1 – 3 hours a week during remote learning helping their child

22% of parents/carers spent between 6 - 10 hours a week during remote learning helping their child

73% of parents/carers felt that the amount of homework during remote learning was just right

41% of parents/carers felt that during remote learning their child was less engaged in their school work

38% of parents/carers felt that during remote learning there was no difference in their child's level of engagement

28% of families felt COVID had no impact financially while 21% experienced difficulty in paying bills/buying necessities

YEAR 5/6 SOVEREIGN HILL CAMP: Wednesday, 24th – Friday, 26th AUGUST 2022

Students in Year 5/6 will be participating in a 2 night, 3 day camp at Ballarat from Wednesday, 24 – Friday, 26th August 2022. This camp covers an important part of their study of Australian History which is not possible to be covered in the school environment. The students will experience all aspects of life as it was in early Australia.

Staff and students will travel to Ballarat by bus on Wednesday, 24th August and stay for 2 nights in the Big4 Caravan Park, returning to school on Friday, 26th August (time to be advised). They will tour Sovereign Hill Historical Village on all 3 days, attend school on Thursday and Friday where they will be provided with historical costumes, attend the Thursday evening sound and light show 'Aura' and explore the Red Hill coal mine.

Students need to bring morning tea and a packed lunch for Wednesday. All other meals will be provided.

COST: \$350.00 BUT parents only pay **\$300.00** as School Council is contributing \$50.00 per student. The cost covers bus travel, meals, accommodation, Sovereign Hill entry, Red Hill mine entry and the sound and light show.

Parents are required to pay a deposit of **\$50.00** prior to the end of Term 1.



SAD NEWS

At the end of Term 4, our two alpacas, Hades and Hindsight, along with a number of other animals, were transported to Mr Hunter's parents' farm to spend the school holidays because there would be no-one at school to look after them.

Unfortunately, Hades passed away suddenly on the farm. As alpacas are pack animals that do not like to be alone and find it difficult to accept new mates, Hindsight has been taken to the alpaca stud for temperament testing and a health check to see if a new mate can be found. This is a long process and Mr Hunter is liaising with the alpaca stud owners to investigate what options are available to the school: whether Hindsight will accept a new mate and come back to ARPS or whether the school will have to get two new alpacas because Hindsight cannot connect with a new mate. Staff and students are looking forward to welcoming Hindsight, a new mate and all of the other animals back onsite as soon as possible.

FACILITIES

There are a number of projects planned for the first part of this year:

1. The Department of Education has conducted a check on all ramps around the school and have identified a number of changes which need to be made to comply with current standards. Plans have been drawn up and signed off by the school with work planned to commence in coming weeks/months following a successful tender process.
2. The shade sails in the kindergarten are being replaced with an all weather cover where children will be able to play outside, even in wet weather. Plans have also been drawn up and signed off by the school with work planned to commence in either Term 2 or Term 3 holidays. This might involve some disruption to the kindergarten program but parents/carers will be kept informed should this happen.
3. In 2020 which seems like such a long time ago, the school submitted a successful application for an inclusive garden at the bottom of the Foundation steps. Quite a number of tests have been conducted re soil and footings but, still the project continues to be delayed.
4. In 2020 the school submitted a successful application for shade cover outside the nature playground side of the Year 1/2 building, to create a covered outdoor learning space. Plans have been drawn up and a contract signed with the shade cover being currently in production. It is hoped that this will be installed in the coming weeks.
5. In 2020 the school also submitted a successful application for a table tennis program, incorporating the purchase of 3 outdoor steel table tennis tables to support outdoor play. These tables have been ordered but there is a 6 – 8 week wait for delivery. They will provide an extra addition to recess activities.
6. Line marking will take place over the coming weeks with the addition of a zebra crossing from the side gate to the pathway as many children and parents are cutting across the playground and this can be dangerous.
7. Probably the most important project but one which the school is struggling to attract funding is a toilet extension to the Art and Environmental Room so that staff and students do not have to walk a long distance to access a toilet and waste learning time. Three applications have already submitted, all of which have been unsuccessful because a toilet extension is not included in the grant criteria. Our local MP, Martin Pakula, has been contacted and has advocated on our behalf to Education Minister, James Merlino, but no-one is able to advise which grant, if any, support a toilet extension. The school will continue to fight the good fight as this project is more important than all the other successful applications put together! Latest news: Department rep is coming out today, Wednesday, to discuss options

Year 3/4 News

The Year 3/4 students have done an amazing job settling in this year. Students have enjoyed getting back into their learning and meeting their new teachers. If you would like to find out more about the teachers in the 3/4 Learning Space, please check Seesaw!

In Literacy, students have been learning to identify and explain features of fiction texts. They participated in their very own 'Genre Book Tasting' where they got out of their comfort zones and 'tasted' new genres, authors and styles.

In Maths, students are focusing on building their number sense through a range of hands on, engaging activities. Students will be learning the importance of place value and extending their number knowledge up to tens of thousands. Students will be partitioning, renaming and regrouping numbers to assist them in calculations.

Year 3 students have been looking at the differences between day and night and the different activities that people might do during each time. In the next coming weeks, students will be learning about the movements and interactions between Earth, the Moon and the Sun.

Year 4 students have been enthusiastically participating in the life cycles of plants. Students will be given the opportunity to grow their own green beans to watch and learn how the life cycle unfolds in real time.

The teachers would love to hear from you. Feel free to contact us on Seesaw.



Year 5/6 News

In Maths, Year 5/6 students have been focused on having high expectations of themselves and their work. They have been building their confidence to use a choice board and are encouraged to challenge themselves in every session. In Integrated Maths, students are exploring maths in real life and applying their knowledge to collaborative rich tasks.

In Literacy, Year 5/6 students are developing their reading fluency and comprehension of a variety of texts. By exploring various fiction and non-fiction texts, students are encouraged to think critically and ask questions while reading. Students are writing persuasive and narrative texts this term and are strengthening their understanding of the text structures.

In Inquiry the focus is on exploring the diverse, connected world in which we live. The students engaged in a webquest to guide their learning and research of a chosen Asian country while making comparisons and connections to Australia.



Our students actively engage with the BTN classroom lessons, learning about current issues and topics around the world. Some of the 5/6 students had the exciting opportunity to be part of an episode this term, giving a shout out to the wonderful Athol Road Primary School. We are on Episode 4 at 13.51 minutes.

Outside School Hours Care

The Outside School Hours Care program (Club) is run to assist working families at a cost of \$17 per child per day (less CCS discount, if eligible). The children are involved in planning activities and snacks for the week. This helps them develop many skills. This term they have added to our Aboriginal display doing dot painting as well as to our Club wall by colouring and decorating butterflies.

If you need to use the service please contact the office on 9547 1224 to book your child/ren into Club.



ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL APPEAL UPDATE

The response to the Royal Children's Hospital raffle has been fantastic, keep up the great work!

The Year 1/2 students in particular have been very resourceful – Ayaan asked to take home extra raffle tickets and his family has successfully sold three books, while Rebecca has managed to sell tickets to Mr Baston (Principal of Kesbyborough College).

If anybody would like some extra raffle tickets to sell, please ask at the office.

How much do you think the school can raise through the raffle?



Vaccinations for children

Alongside ventilation and other vital COVIDSafe steps such as regular rapid antigen testing, supporting as many students as possible to get vaccinated will help make our school as safe as possible.

Bookings for children aged 5 to 11 to receive the paediatric Pfizer vaccine are open and the school encourages parents and carers to get your child vaccinated, if you haven't already done so. The Pfizer vaccine is safe and recommended for children. The vaccine will help protect your child from getting sick from COVID-19, help to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and help ensure children can have more time at school and playing with their friends.

Vaccinations for children aged 5-11 years old are delivered at 2 appointments, 8 weeks apart. Children with specific medical vulnerabilities can access their second dose 3 weeks after their first dose.

If you'd like more information about this, you can read a recent statement from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI): <https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-update-following-weekly-covid-19-meeting-19-january-2022>