

## 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

27<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022

# NEWSletter

**BULLYING IS NOT ACCEPTABLE AT ARPS!**

## SPECIAL INFORMATION AND CALENDAR EVENTS

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

### TERM 2

26<sup>th</sup> April – 24<sup>th</sup> June

### TERM 3

11<sup>th</sup> July – 16<sup>th</sup> September

### TERM 4

3<sup>rd</sup> October – 20<sup>th</sup>  
December

### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Queen's Birthday: 13<sup>th</sup> June  
Melbourne Cup: 1<sup>st</sup> November

**STAY SAFE!**



## From the Principal's Desktop

### WELCOME

Term 2 is now off and running and ARPS is welcoming 2 new staff members this term:

- Michelle Pickering has joined the allied health team at ARPS as a speech therapist.
- Chantelle Hingert has joined the Year 1/2 team and is working with students in Year 1/2 and 3/4, providing language and literacy support.

I trust that everyone has had a very restful break and ready to hit the ground running in Term 2.

Students are required to be at school by 8.50am each morning and in their learning spaces ready to start learning by 9.00am. Far too many students were arriving late to school at the end of last term!

**Being on time and attending school every day has a very POSITIVE impact on your child's learning.** High levels of student attendance and engagement enable your child to maximise their potential and actively participate in their learning. Students who struggle with their learning are often the students who do not attend school regularly OR often arrive late for school. Lateness causes disruption to office staff. Please help us to maximise time by helping your child to arrive at school on time every day.

### SCHOOL REVIEW

Every school in Victoria is required to have a Strategic Plan which outlines the direction of the school over a 4 year period. At the end of the 4 years the school is engaged in a School Review to analyse the strengths and successes and the areas for further development over the following 4 years.

In Term 2, students, staff and parents will be invited to participate in discussion groups which will provide valuable information to assist with the development of the next Athol Road Primary School Strategic Plan.

There is the opportunity for everyone to be involved in the process so it is a very exciting time for the school. The focus is on celebrating the school's achievements over the last four years and, when Ms Nigro and I have looked back over the last 4 years, we have been amazed at how many great things have been achieved.

*A school where 'Every minute matters'*

# SUCCESS AT LAST!

Over the school holidays, work has been carried out to prepare the area around the Environmental/Art room for the new toilet – a new ramp has been installed to replace the steps, decking has been built, fencing erected and the ground area cleared where the toilet will be placed.

On Friday morning, shortly after 9.00am, the modular toilet will be CRANED over the building and put in place. This will create a lot of oral language for students who will be watching this manoeuvre. There will then be a further week of work to install the utilities and make the area safe for staff and student use.

It has taken 2 years of very hard work, lobbying regional office, Martin Pakula and the Department of Education to get this toilet – it will make a great difference to student learning. Mrs Santavas and Mr Hunter are especially looking forward to the installation of the new toilet as it will reduce the amount of time that students spend away from their learning.

## WELCOME YOGI, THE WELLBEING DOG

Wellbeing dogs have been shown to play an important role in wellbeing in schools, hospitals and retirement villages. The presence of a therapy dog in a school setting has been linked to improvements in school attendance, student confidence levels and increased motivation to participate in learning activities. Students can see the impact of their actions on the wellbeing dog. This helps them understand how their behaviour impacts people around them. As a result, children learn to be more empathetic and understanding.

After extensive research into the value of wellbeing dogs in schools and talking with a number of schools who already have wellbeing dogs working in their schools to allay School Council concerns, Athol Road will hopefully be taking the first steps towards introducing a wellbeing dog into the school to support student wellbeing in late Term 2, early Term 3. Yogi is an apricot coloured Groodle (Golden Retriever crossed with Poodle) and as you can see he is beautiful!

Yogi will be owned and cared for by Miss Walton who has been busy seeking sponsorship for the 'school program' and has been successful in acquiring most of the \$7 000 required for the implementation of the training program in the school setting. The school will be responsible for Yogi's in-school needs such as a bed, food, if required, and any other items such as toys which are to remain at school. Miss Walton is solely responsible for the purchase of Yogi and will be responsible for his ongoing needs and care when he is not at work in school – food, medical costs, vaccinations, etc.

The school will be working with Dogs Connect Program to implement the wellbeing dog program within the school community. Yogi will be trained 'on the job' so that Miss Walton, staff, students and community members learn and grow alongside the dog. It prepares our school community so that consistent expectations are set and met by everyone.

There will be a tailored timetable for the dog so that he works across all year levels and specialists throughout the week (not just in one learning space). This means that each team will have one person responsible for the dog and willing to take on training to support the transition into the school community.

If you would like to know more about the program here is the link to the website, or you can feel free to ask Miss Walton any questions: <https://dogsconnect.net.au/>



## Canteen CLOSED until further notice

Unfortunately the school has had to close the canteen so there will be NO CANTEEN ORDERS until further notice. A special SAUSAGE SIZZLE LUNCH is being organized for Thursday, 12th May.

Information will be available next week – do not miss out on this special lunch.