

Portland North Primary School

NEWSLETTER

No:1.... Thurs 4th February

... is a child safe school



Principal

Mrs. Cate Elshaug

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Welcome back!

Principal's Message

Welcome to 2021 everyone and thank you for such a wonderful start to the year. We really appreciate and value your presence at the conferences last week – they really help us to build positive relationships with families and give us the opportunity to know our students better and more quickly, so we can get a flying start to the year.

The children have all settled in very well. Our focus for the first couple of weeks is building positive, respectful and collaborative classroom cultures that will enable every child to flourish. This in turn lays the foundations for a successful and productive year of learning and wellbeing. We have our fingers crossed for an uninterrupted and stable school year!

Although, this morning's announcement regarding COVID-19 restrictions reminds us that the challenges are not yet over. **Renewed restrictions apply to us at school:**

- all adults to wear masks indoors
- good hand hygiene practices continue
- restrict entrance to the school for essential business only
- no adults to visit classrooms
- We encourage you to allow your children to walk into school on their own – 2020 proved that they can all do it and that in fact it helps develop their independence and confidence.
- A QR Code check-in system will be implemented next week

During the holidays, the Department of Education declared our school a Category 4 school, at high risk of grass fire exposure. **Consequently, we are now required to close our school if a Code Red fire danger notification is issued in our area.** Families will be advised no later than 3pm on the day prior to the fire danger warning. However, given the season we are having, it seems unlikely we'll have to worry about such an event this year – again, fingers crossed!

The DET has invested very heavily in schools in **2021**, with every school receiving additional funding for the provision of a **tutoring program**. This is intended to support student learning and to mitigate any negative impact of COVID-19 restrictions and the remote learning program. We are currently in the process of assessing our students' needs and identifying the students who will participate in the first intake of our tutoring program, which will focus on both literacy and numeracy. **Families will be advised about their child's participation prior to the start of the program.** This is a wonderful bonus for our schools and we know it will make a huge difference to many children.

In 2020, we committed to further developing our school's connection to our community and improving family engagement as partners in the children's education. Of course, COVID-19 made that very difficult to achieve, so we're starting again in 2021. One of our priorities is building relationships between families, and between families and school. **We invite you to nominate yourselves**

DATES

Monday 8th March

LABOUR DAY

Public holiday

Tuesday

9th March

Athletics Day



as a representative of your child's class, who will work with the teacher and each other, to engage with families, coordinate some low-key social events, arrange excursion helpers, welcome new families to the class etc. It is a wonderful opportunity to engage with us to build a really strong school community. **Please talk to your child's classroom teacher or give me a call if you'd like to volunteer or find out more.**

We have a School Council membership vacancy coming up. Please consider nominating for our School Council – forms will be available from the office in the coming weeks.

Assembly in 2021 will be held fortnightly, beginning next Wednesday at 3pm. Appreciations for students will be published in the newsletter, and presented to the children at the following assembly. This year we will also celebrate the children's learning and achievements with a 'Class in Focus' – each class will share their focus and progress in all curriculum areas. The children will be very proud to share their learning and experiences with you so we invite you to take note of when your child's class is sharing and join us to acknowledge and celebrate their efforts. **'Class in Focus' will begin in Week 3 – Wednesday February 10th with 5/6J. The next Class in Focus will be 2/3K on Wednesday February 24th.**

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program: The Year 4 – 6 children are about to begin the SAKGP for 2021, alternating between the garden and the kitchen each fortnight. This is a wonderful program, which relies on volunteers to work most effectively. **Please contact your child's teacher for information about their sessions and to offer your support** – we really appreciate the excited people who have already volunteered their time to help!

A few reminders to start the year:

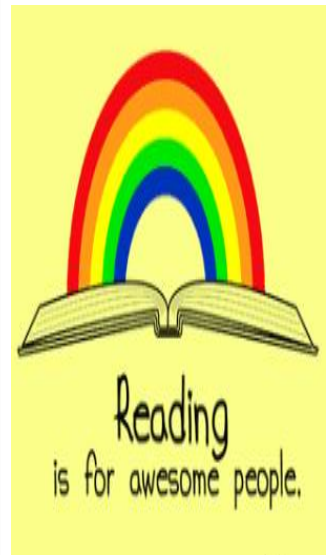
- Children **MUST** wear hats outside. We understand that sometimes hats get lost and we have some spares for emergencies, but please make sure your child has their hat.
- **Before school care – school is not open until 8:40**, unless your child travels by bus or you have arranged early attendance with us. Thank you to those families who have made early attendance arrangements, we really appreciate it.
- We have improved our provision of **digital devices for 2021**, with new sets of ipads and laptop computers being set up for use during learning time. We no longer have a BYOD program and **children will not need to bring their own devices from home.**

As always, please contact me at any time if you need support or you have concerns that need to be resolved. It is my role to make sure that every member of our school community feels heard, safe and valued.

Cate

LUNCH ORDERS

We are currently exploring our options for 2021 and will advise parents when arrangements have been finalised.



SCHOOL HATS MUST BE WORN THIS TERM. NO HAT, NO PLAY!

Hats can be purchased from the office. Please make sure it is clearly named.
Thanks

PNPS STUDENT APPRECIATION AWARD

TRUST FORGIVENESS INTEGRITY HOPE COMPASSION



Grade	Name	Grade	Name
SAUNDERS	Mia Tobolov	BROWN	Elouise Pye & Max Madley
BILL	Phoebe Cashin	ROLL	Poppy Malseed
JESS	Isaac Flower & Charlotte Foley	JONES	Reuban Hays
KING	Alexis Gabriel	ENGLEZOS	Mia Mason
OTHER	Quinn Ward & Brock Hayden (POS ED)		



This week I offer my appreciation to

Zac Berry

... thank you for volunteering to be our super helpful daily recycle monitor for the staffroom and office. We really appreciate you.

APPRECIATION AWARDS PRESENTED at our Wednesday assembly, 3.10pm



Tyrendarra Football Netball Club

You are warmly invited to attend preseason sessions during February to meet the coaches, players and get a general feel for the club.

Tyrendarra Football Netball Club are currently seeking players for their 11 under and 13 under netball teams.

When: 5pm- 5:45pm Thursday nights

Where: Flinders Park, Portland.

Call or message Lynda on 044 803 8042 for more details or just rock up.
Check us out on Facebook.

Is your child interested in playing netball??

**EVERY
SCHOOL DAY
COUNTS**

MiniRoos will be starting on Saturday 6th February from 11am - 12pm for 4 - 9 year olds. The sessions are for boys and girls - wear runners or soccer boots and bring a drink bottle. Come along to the Portland Soccer Club grounds and have some fun - Corner Glenelg and Percy Street Portland or contact Les Horovitz for more information on 0414559106.

Student Leaders for 2021

Ava Hatten
Cohen Peatling
Olivia Trickey
Quinn Ward



These are our staffing arrangements for 2021:



Prep – Carly Saunders
1/2 - Jess Nash
1/2 - Bill Doring
2/3 – Damien King
3/4 - Samantha Brown
4/5 – Erin Roll
5/6 – Hayley Jones
5/6 – Tom Englezos

Performing Arts – Adam Hardcastle

Visual Arts – Adam Hardcastle & Kimberley Westlake

STEM – Paul Booth

Indigenous Language & Culture – within classrooms

Positive Education – within classrooms

PE – within teams

Sport – Tom Englezos

Tutors DET Initiative – Kimberley Westlake

Education Support Staff – Jodie Nash, Stacey Millard, Sharon Speedie, Chrissy Hawker, Brooke King, Rebecca Howard, Mark Hurkman.

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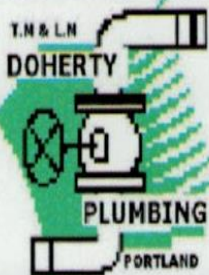
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