

Principal's Message...

Happy Thursday everyone – we hope you are all travelling along well in the rather dreary weather. We continue to have a trickle of COVID cases, and after two and half years, it finally got me last week! Please keep monitoring symptoms and completing RATs when you need to. It is currently a DET expectation that all children (except those with exemptions) wear masks while indoors to help prevent mass infections withing schools. Thank you for supporting us and helping us manage what seems to be an endless cycle of COVOID disruption.

Our Positive Education focus for the coming weeks is a revisit of the Character Strengths. As you may be aware, Positive Education is a strength-based wellbeing program which explicitly teachers us to identify our key character strengths and how we can leverage those strengths in our work and learning. Our signature strengths are our ways of thinking, feeling, and behaving – they influence who we are and how we interact with others; they help us achieve success and reflect the best of ourselves. You might like to revisit your own character strengths and discuss them as a family so that everyone can recognise and celebrate them.



We are in the process of rehearsing for the annual **Portland Music Festival on August 24**th. Our Cockatoo Valley Song Group will perform on behalf of our school and families of those performing are invited to join the audience by purchasing tickets from the office next week. We will let you know if additional tickets become available to use as we get closer to the date.

We would also like to remind families of the children in **Years 3 and 4, that recorders are a formal part of the music program,** and all children are expected to have their own recorder. They are available to purchase from the office for \$8. While we usually have spare recorders available, and they are cleaned and disinfected after each use, we would prefer they are not used during this time because of COVID hygiene issues. Please let us know if you have any challenges with the purchase of recorders so we can help you resolve it.

The music coming out of the Music room at the moment is delightful and very melodic and we want all of the children to participate in their recorder experience.

We have scheduled the staff Professional Practice Day for August 16th and the Term 3 Curriculum Day is scheduled for September 12th. There will be no classes for children on either of those days.

Today our **Prep children celebrated their 'Hundred Days of School'** with lots of 100-themed activities and fun. They all looked quiet ancient as their 100-year-old selves, and we loved looking into the future for Ms Jess, Mrs Saunders and Mrs Brown. I hope they tell you all about it when they get home tonight and can tell you some exciting stories about how they celebrated.

Our 2022 Swimming Program is going very well after 2 years of disruptions. We have a very high participation rate so we thank you for your support in making sure all children can enjoy developing and extending their swimming skills. As we have mentioned before, the DET has made swimming a mandated part of our learning program and we really appreciate the value you place on it – swimming is a life-saving skill!

We have received some initial student Attitudes to School Survey data, which indicates another very high level of wellbeing and attitude towards learning and relationships. Our 2022 NAPLAN data will also be available to us in the coming weeks, so as soon as we have the final data, I will start sharing our results with the community.

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Thank you to the small group of parents who joined our **Parent Club** meeting yesterday afternoon. We will consult with School Council before planning for some school events later in the term. However, our Parent Club remains a shadow of its former self and would encourage all of you to consider becoming involved. The role of Parents Club remains essential to community engagement in schools, and we will continue to campaign for improved participation from members of our school community. Stay tuned for more invitations and opportunities to become involved.

Our Year 5 and 6 children are beginning to plan for the **Mini-Fete on October 7th**, which again has been missing from our school calendar since 2019. The children absolutely love this event, and out a huge amount of work into preparing for, and managing, the fete. All funds raised will contribute to their Canberra Camp, which helps offset the costs for families. Stay tuned for more details and encourage your children to start saving their pocket money so they enjoy a very exciting day!

100 days of learning ... well done prep 2022,



... **DATES** ...

- Thursday 4th August
 2.30pm Cultural
 Performance for the whole school
- Monday 12th Sept

 Curriculum Day
 no students required
 at school

WORKING BEES at School

- Friday 12th August
- Friday 21st October ...please note these dates in your diaries, information to come



Boys - Fridays For more info or to register visit www.portlandbasketball.com.au/domestic or scan QR code

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Grade	Name	Grade	Name
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JESS	Mia Toblov & Bodhi Gabriel	ROLL	Tyler Hudson & Bell Flower
BROWN	Kash Beard & Mikaylah Hilton	ENGLEZOS	Juniper Gettens
KING	Absent	JONES	Connor Desmoulin & Zac Berry
other			



This week I offer my appreciation to

RYLEE LINDSEY - JOYCE

...well done on being a little brave super fish at your swimming lessons. We are so proud of you. Keep it up



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