

Spotswood Primary School

Newsletter

Term 4 Week 12 • Tuesday 19th December 2023



"Where everybody is somebody"



Dear families,

Tinsel Party

It was wonderful to see so many families here last night to celebrate the end of the year with us and experience the joy of our children dancing. We have really enjoyed working with Mark and Dean from Dance Curriculum this year and the performances developed at our workshops last week were a wonderful way to finish off the year. During the day yesterday, Mark asked me if I thought many of our parents would be willing to get up and dance and I assured him there would be many who would. Well you did not disappoint and it was such a sight to see everyone up dancing last night. Look at us all!!



...continued on next page

Year 6 Graduation

Last week we also celebrated the journey through primary school with 21 students who will be moving on to various secondary schools next year. It was a very special night with our Year 6 students and their families as they each gave a speech reflecting on their time here at Spotswood and their gratitude for teachers, family and friends. We also thanked and acknowledged that 15 families will also be leaving the school, many whom have been actively involved in the school over their many years here as School Council members, Fete committee members, helped on excursions, with fundraising etc. etc. etc.

We presented our annual awards at Graduation and we congratulate those students who were our award recipients. Congratulations to all of our graduating students, we will miss you and wish you all the best for next year.

Austin Azzopardi	<i>Auslan Award</i>
Zoe Catania	<i>Sports Award</i>
Andi Chisholm	<i>Art Award</i>
Lucy Gale	
Orlando Garrett	
Rose Harrold-Bear	<i>English Award</i>
Oliver Heselton	
Leo James	
Griffin Leever	<i>Spotty Values Award</i>
LJ Liakopoulos	
Abhijot Mandhan	
Annabelle Mather	
Jem Murphy	<i>Music Award</i>
Kyal O'Bree	
Layla Pederick-Hull	
Anja Sajnovic	<i>Overall Academic Achievement Award</i>
Jasper Spiers	
Leroy Spiteri-Caird	
Spencer Tout	<i>Maths Award</i>
Marli Weldhagen	
Fox Wityk	

Parent Payment Arrangements

At School Council last week we presented and endorsed our parent payment arrangements for 2024. Information about this will be sent to families via email soon. Parents are advised that payments are able to be made on Compass from the 20th January after our 2023 rollover is completed. We are grateful to our families for the support with contributions this year that have enabled us to provide the resources we need for our teaching and learning programs.

Second-Hand Uniform

We have some second-hand uniform for sale which will be on display at assembly tomorrow. Please bring a gold coin donation for your purchases.

Breathe Melbourne

Earlier this year we participated in the Breathe Melbourne project which gave some of our Year 5/6 students the opportunity to become active scientists in this project. Here is a message from the project team.

Hello Parents/Guardians,

We are delighted to share Spotswood Primary School's results from the Breathe Melbourne Citizen Science Project over the next 3 pages.

This study was possible thanks to classes 5/6 M and 5/6 T. These students became air quality scientists for a week, collecting air quality data on their school commutes. Class 5/6 T also participated in the Idle Off Program, where they learnt how to advocate to reduce the amount of air pollution from car idling around the school.

The next step for the Breathe Melbourne team is to combine the data across all 6 participating schools. This requires more in-depth analyses and interpretation. We will then share the results with you and the wider community next year.

Thank you for making Breathe Melbourne possible.

Best wishes,

Kate, Mallery, Georgie, Aria, Yichao

On behalf of the Breathe Melbourne team

Email: breathemelb@deakin.edu.au

Website: <https://seed.deakin.edu.au/our-research/project/breathe-melbourne/>

Can you spare 5 minutes to complete a short Breathe Melbourne survey?

Take the survey here: <https://redcap.link/spotswood>

The Breathe Melbourne team are keen to hear from as many parents as possible (Prep to Year 6).

By taking part, you will help the team understand if and how the Breathe Melbourne Project has made an impact at Spotswood Primary School.

Thank you!



Breathe Melbourne at Spotswood Primary School



Between 20th – 24th of March 2023, classes 5/6M and 5/6T took part in the Breathe Melbourne Citizen Science Project. They became air quality scientists and measured the air pollution on their school commute using a special backpack with an air quality monitor.

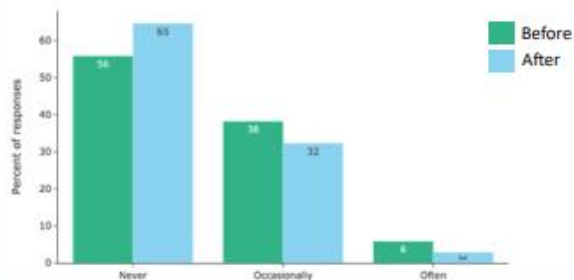
Before and after taking part, students completed a survey – here are some results from your school.

Understanding of the scientific process.



59% of students understood how to conduct a scientific study after the project.

Worry about air pollution in the past week.



There was a 9% decrease in worry about air pollution after the project.
41% of students felt they knew how to improve the quality of air they breathe after the project.

88% of students would recommend Breathe Melbourne to another student.

My favourite thing about the project was: "All of it, I love the STEM involved and learning about the air quality, now I am inspired to become a scientist."

I can improve the quality of air I breathe if I: "Take less polluted streets while walking to school and in car rides press the [recirculation] button."

"I enjoyed learning about solutions to big problems of air pollution and how to stop it at the source and all the inventions engineers and scientists have created to solve it."

"I enjoyed being able to have a backpack and collecting data as well as looking at maps with NO₂ and PM_{2.5}."

What did the students measure?

Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5})

Often comes from:

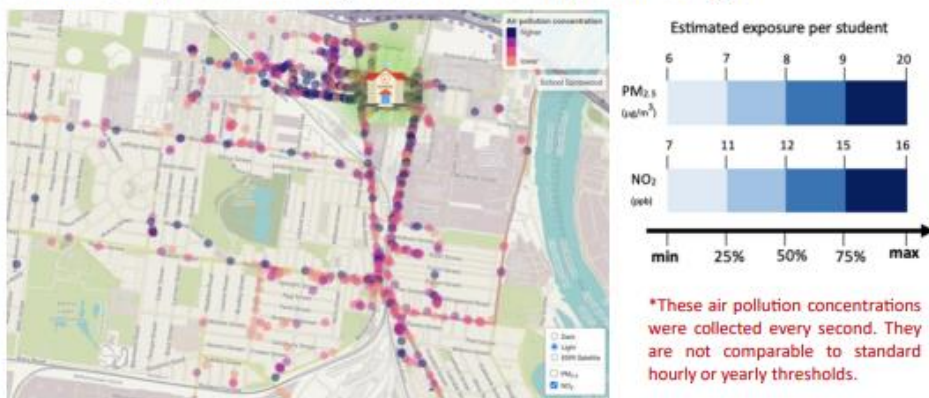
- Wood heaters
- Motor vehicles

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)

Often comes from:

- Energy generation
- Motor vehicles

We already know Melbourne's Inner West has [higher levels of air pollution](#) compared to other areas in Melbourne. The purpose of this study was to look at hotspots on the school commute. The map below shows the NO₂ data the students collected on their commutes. Lighter colours show where air pollution was lower, and darker where air pollution was higher.

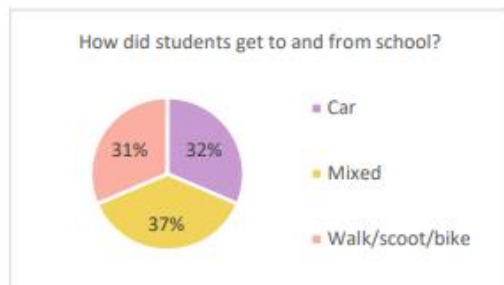


*These air pollution concentrations were collected every second. They are not comparable to standard hourly or yearly thresholds.

On average these levels are lower than those seen in our sister study, [Breathe London](#). But there is no 'safe' or 'ideal' level of air pollution, so our focus is always on how we can improve the air quality as much as possible. Turn to the next page to find out what you can do and what we're doing.

What did the data tell us about the school commute?

- We didn't see a notable difference in air quality between different modes of transport.
- But other studies show us that active transport usually has better air quality than driving.
- Plus, active transport reduces cars around the school - reducing air pollution 😊.



TIP 1: Where possible walk/scoot/bike the whole journey to school.

TIP 2: Some of us have to drive to school, which is ok. We can reduce the amount of pollution that gets into our car from other traffic by turning on the air recirculation button.

TIP 3: Using air purifiers is a great way to improve air quality inside the classroom.

Air pollution hotspots on the school commute

- Children commuted on minor roads 64% of the time.
- Only 24% of air pollution hotspots on the school commute happened on a major road.



- 61% of hotspots happened on minor roads next to the school – it is likely that heavier car traffic during school pick-up and drop-off times is increasing air pollution.



TIP 4: Air quality around the school could be improved by **idling off**. You can do this by turning your car engine off when at standstill, instead of keeping it running. This has been proven to reduce pollution and improve health of children in other countries.

TIP 5: If possible, try to park further away from school and travel the last part of the commute on foot.

What is next for Breathe Melbourne?

- Thank you to our wonderful citizen scientists for collecting this data and raising awareness about air pollution in the school community!
- We have given you 5 tips on how you can improve air quality around the school.
- BUT we also need bigger changes to improve air quality across Melbourne's inner west. Other cities around the world show us what is possible:
 - Introducing Low Emission Zones (LEZs) – read more about the success in London [here](#), and Europe and Japan [here](#).
 - Making greener and cleaner transport easier - read more [here](#).
- Next, we will continue the analysis of data from all schools and share more results publicly next year. We will use the opportunity to advocate for policy changes to improve air quality in Melbourne's inner west.
- Wishing you a safe and happy summer. Thank you for making Breathe Melbourne possible.



The Idle Off Program at Spotswood Primary School



Car idling is when your car is running but it is not moving.

As part of the Breathe Melbourne Project, class 5/6T took part in the Idle Off program. This program involved students learning about the connection between idling cars, air pollution and health.

Students created their very own air pollution catchers to measure the amount of air pollution around the school. They also learnt how to advocate to help reduce the amount of air pollution from car idling around the school. You may have seen some of their terrific posters on the school fence.

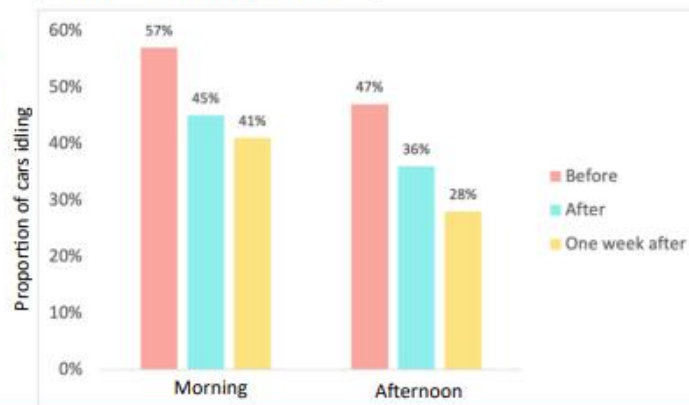


The advocacy that class 5/6T undertook to reduce idling around the school worked!

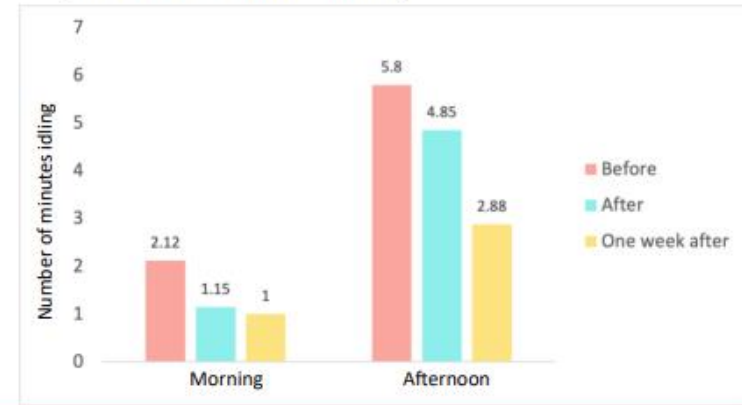
The graphs below show that there was a decrease in both the number of cars idling, as well as the duration of idling after the project. Thank you to 5/6T for their fantastic advocacy.

On average, just ten seconds of car idling wastes more fuel than turning the engine on and off again.

Proportion of cars idling in the morning and afternoon throughout the Idle Off Program



Duration of car idling in the morning and afternoon throughout the Idle Off Program



Thank You

As we are wrapping up things here at school we have been reflecting on the success of 2023. One of the highlights is definitely the fact that we were able to hold our Fete for the first time since 2019. We are very grateful to our community for the amazing support on the day of this event and look forward to seeing our new playground being installed over the holidays as a result of this fundraising.

On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank our families for their support and we wish you a Happy Christmas and restful summer break.

Jackie Green
Principal

What's Happening In Our Classrooms

Prep - Prep Celebration

The preps were delighted to invite their families to school for our Prep Celebration! The Preps prepared for the day by practising their presentations with their Grade 1 classmates and with their Grade 6 buddies who gave them lots of encouragement! At the celebration, the Prep students sang our school song in the courtyard and then brought their families into our classrooms to share their portfolios. The preps presented some of the things they've learnt this year, some of the learning they've improved at and something they are proud of. It was a joy to see students and families sharing in the amazing learning journey they've experienced this year. We are so proud of you Preps!

Melanie Voigt & Bridget Sherrin
Prep Teachers





Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 - Inquiry - Location, Location, Location!

Our Prep to 2 students have launched into the 'Going Further' component of our Inquiry process by planning and creating our own cities. Students put their planning ideas into action by actually building a city. The 'Westgate Tunnel Project' in partnership with 'Science Play Kids' provided us with a fantastic range of recycled and reusable materials to create our cities. We are very proud of the way students used problem solving skills and worked together to create many different components of a city. Amazing work Prep - 2's!

Mel Voigt, Tianne Ball, Bridget Sherrin, Ruby Cridland, Maddy Knight & Nat Leonard





Year 3/4 Classes - May the Force Be With You!

This term, the 3/4 students have been learning about the different forces present in our world. Throughout the term, we have explored the forces of push and pull, friction, gravity, and magnetism. For their final project, students worked in teams to design a Rube Goldberg machine (a contraption that uses a chain reaction to carry out a simple task. Essentially performing a very basic job in a complicated way). It has been fantastic this term to see how students built resilience, persistence and problem-solving skills as they trialed and adjusted their machines. Students were thrilled yesterday to be able to present their work to their peers and families in an exhibition of learning.



Rosie and Liam
Goal: Popping a balloon



Tabitha and Kaija
Goal: Tipping over a cup of water



Mabel and Alice
Goal: Flipping a coin

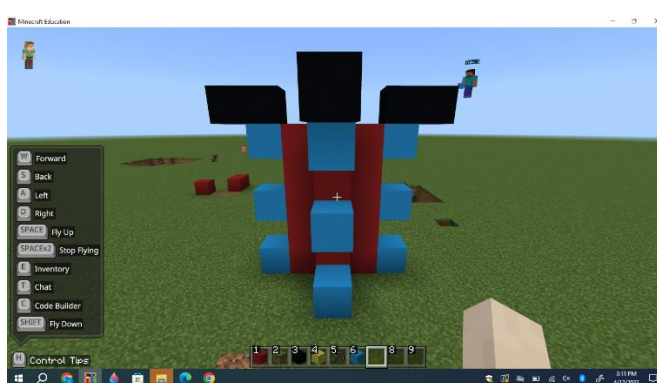
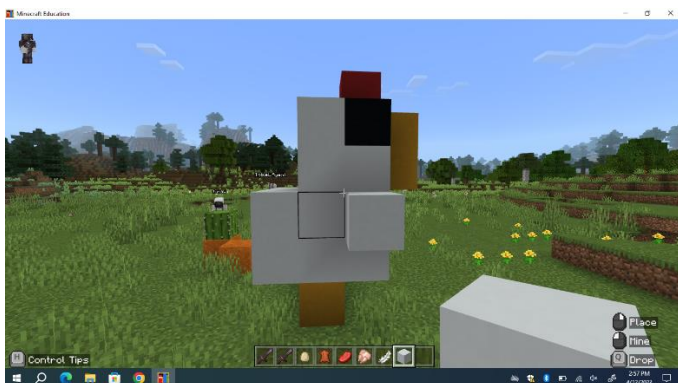
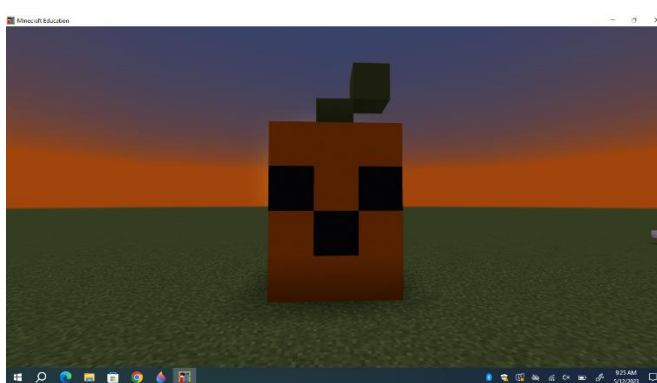


Ethan and Milli
Goal: Ringing a bell

Emily Matheson
3/4M Classroom Teacher

Year 5/6 Classes – Minecraft Maths

Last week, students used the digital building program Minecraft Education to create sculptures during their work on Shape and Space. They were then challenged with building the sculptures in real life, quickly discovering that Minecraft gravity and real gravity work in very different ways!



Simon Pollard
5/6P Classroom Teacher

Year 5/6 Classes - Inquiry Lap Books

Last week, the 5/6 cohort proudly shared their summative task at their final Exhibition of Learning for the year. The unit focussed on Disasters with a central understanding, "Sudden geological changes or extreme weather conditions, can affect the earth's surface'. Below is a small sample of the Lap Books the students created to demonstrate their learning about their disaster. We are in awe of the commitment, effort and determination demonstrated by each student.



Gabe Mullins
5/6M Classroom Teacher and Learning Specialist

Specialist – PE

We finished up our Hot Shots tennis unit last week, which was the last sport for the year. Students picked up the skills of the game really quickly and by the last 2 weeks we were rallying like old pro's. It's been another fantastic year in our PE program with the students all giving their best and making our lessons full of fun and learning. I'm looking forward to doing it all again next year!



Chris Lamb
PE Teacher

Student Awards



Congratulations to the following students who received a Student Award at assembly on Friday:

P/1S	George Green - for his outstanding behaviour all year and constantly showing all Spotswood Values. Well done, George!
P/1V	Lottie Harvey - being a kind friend, a helpful classmate and for growing in confidence. You are a champion Lottie!
1/2B	Kingston La - for an absolutely outstanding term. You have continued to amaze me with your incredible work ethic and amazing behaviour throughout 2023! Superstar!!
1/2C	Alyssa Barclay - setting a great example for her peers and always willing to be a helping hand for her classmates. Well done Alyssa on a wonderful year!
1/2J	Summer Rust - for being a wonderful friend, you're always one of the first to put your hand up to help a friend in need! What a star!
3/4K	Hunter Bastian - for displaying great problem-solving skills when creating his Rube Goldberg Machine.
3/4M	Marwa Abdo - for being a wonderfully supportive classmate to everyone in 3/4M this year. Your positive attitude to school is infectious. Well done Marwa!
3/4T	Rubi Nugegoda - for continually demonstrating a strong sense of classroom and school safety. You are a calm and thoughtful learner who contributes to a positive learning environment.
3/4V	Clem Oldfield - for demonstrating incredible patience when making adjustments to your Rube Goldberg Machine. You applied an excellent growth mindset every time!
5/6M	Marli Weldhagen - for completing your Inquiry Lap Book about Avalanches with much confidence and determination. You should be enormously proud of your efforts this term.
5/6P	Finn Taylor - using deep thought and problem-solving skills during our unit on coding.
5/6T	Mallory Mackie - for producing a wonderful looking and very informative Inquiry lapbook. Your concentration and application was wonderful to see. Well done.
PE	Zoe Catania - for always coming to PE lessons with a happy, have a go attitude. You have been an absolute pleasure to teach!



To:

Griffin, Esme S, Otis, Edison, Gus, Abdul, Mika

[During School Holidays: Victoria, Chloe L, Milli, Annabelle, Wilco, Flynn R, Campbell, Victor, Xavier, Arianna, Orla, Georgia T, Kit, Seb N, LJ, Molly, Daya, Madeline J, Hunter, Brooke, Angus W, Argyle, Josh, Annabel H, William Hesketh, Eli, Luke T, Max P, Freddie J, Hendrix, Remi M, Jory, Kyal]

Dates To Remember:

Wednesday 20th December Last Day of Term 4 (1.30pm finish)

Assembly (1.10pm)

2024

Monday 29th January Teachers return to school

Tuesday 30th January Pupil Free Day – Teachers Planning and Professional Learning

Wednesday 31st January Years 1-6 students return to school

Thursday 1st February..... Prep students commence school (9am-12.30pm)

Thursday 8th February School Photo Day (Individual & Class Groups)