

# Spotswood Primary School

## Newsletter



Term 1 Week 6 • Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024

"Where everybody is somebody"



Dear families,

### **In The Yard**

I have been spending some time in the yard during recess and lunch times this week because the weather has been so nice!

I have enjoyed watching our students engaging in such a wide range of different activities and in quite diverse groups of ages playing together. I have heard many kind words exchanged, encouragement to join in and lots of laughter. I have seen teachers on yard duty chatting and laughing with students and feel very proud to lead a staff group that invests in and values building positive relationships with our young people. It has been lovely to be reminded of what a special school community we have here at Spotswood.

### **Assembly**

Today at assembly we wished Mrs Vasilevski all the best as she heads to the role of Acting Principal at Kingsville Primary School until the end of next term. I am incredibly proud of her courage and drive to take on this new challenge in her career and know that she will do a wonderful job. The process is underway for backfilling with an Acting Assistant Principal position at Spotswood until she returns in Term 3.

### **NAPLAN**

NAPLAN - The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy is a series of assessments that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit each year. It is the only *national* assessment all Australian students have the opportunity to undertake.

As students progress through their school years, it is important to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national standards.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with additional information about students' educational progress.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

For more information: <https://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/for-parents-carers>

Our NAPLAN assessments will take place on the following mornings:

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March .....Year 3 & 5 Writing (9:15am)

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March .....Year 3 & 5 Reading (9:15am)

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March .....Year 3 & 5 Conventions of Language (9:15am)

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March .....Year 3 & 5 Maths (9:15am)

...continued on next page

## Prep Information Night

This week we held our annual information night for our 2024 prep families to share more details about what a day in the life of preps looks like! We talked about our how students learn in literacy and numeracy, provided more information about other curriculum areas and shared how families can help at home. A copy of our slide show and speaking notes was emailed to all prep families as well.

Our preps have had their first full time week at school this week and we are sure there will be some very tired little preps heading home today. Luckily it is a long weekend so there is an extra day to rest!

## Prep Enrolments 2025

Even though it is early in the year, we have started to take prep enrolment enquiries. The Department have now streamlined the enrolment process for all schools and more information is available on our website. [Enrolment | Spotswood Primary School \(spotswoodps.vic.edu.au\)](https://www.spotswoodps.vic.edu.au) Enrolment applications open at the start of next term.

## Policy Consultation

Continuing on from our policy consultation process last year, we have two more policies under review at the moment.

The drafts of these can be found here:

<https://www.spotswoodps.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Child-Safety-and-Wellbeing-Policy-draft.pdf>

<https://www.spotswoodps.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Bullying-Prevention-and-Response-Policy-2024-draft.pdf>

We would welcome any feedback or suggestions for these policies via the school email [spotswood.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:spotswood.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

## Vaping

It was brought to my attention recently that there have been some occasions where parents have been vaping on school grounds before and after school, and during assembly.

Parents, carers, schools, and community all play an important role in protecting children and young people from, and educating them about, the harmful effects of smoking and vaping.

Research from the [Royal Children's Hospital](https://www.royalchildrenshospital.org) shows many parents and carers are not aware of the harmful effects or how their views about smoking and vaping can impact the likelihood of a young person taking up smoking or vaping.

## Vaping Is Not Permitted On School Grounds



- In Victoria, a person must not smoke or vape on school premises or within 4 metres of any pedestrian access point to school premises.
- The prohibition on smoking includes vaping and applies whether or not the e-cigarette contains nicotine.

**Get the facts about vaping**


THE EDUCATION STATE VICTORIA State Government Department of Education



### What are your kids breathing in?

- Vapes are not safer than cigarettes  

- There are no quality or safety standards for vapes  

- Vapes can have addictive nicotine, toxic metals and many different chemicals  



### What it does to your body:

- Vaping can cause vomiting, nausea, coughing, shortness of breath, mouth irritation and asthma  

- Chemicals in vapes can cause lung damage, heart disease and cancers  

- Nicotine harms the brain development of children and teenagers  

- Young people who vape are more than three times more likely to move onto smoking cigarettes  


### Talk to your kids about the risks of smoking and vaping

- Contact Quit at [quit.org.au](http://quit.org.au) or phone **13 78 48**
- Visit the Royal Children's Hospital website [rch.org.au](http://rch.org.au) and search 'vaping'
- Scan the QR code for more information



[vapingfacts.org.au](http://vapingfacts.org.au)

## Working Bee – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 3:30pm -6:00pm

Thank you to those who have sent an RSVP to our call out for our first working bee this year. We are looking forward to a productive afternoon!

Please let us know if you will be attending by emailing us at [spotswood.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:spotswood.ps@education.vic.gov.au) so we can plan for both the catering and the tasks list.

Include how many adults and children are attending in your email and whether you can bring equipment with you, ie. rakes, brooms etc.

Jackie Green  
Principal



## Curriculum Update – Term 1 Week 7

Prep	
Reading	WALT : recognise common words recognise the difference between upper and lower case letters
Writing	Recount Special Prep Book Making Books Handwriting Smart Spelling
Spelling	The sun was up, but it was not hot. s, u and n as in sun
Maths	100 Days of School Number & Algebra Pattern & Algebra
SWPB / Respectful Relationships	Emotional Literacy: What do emotions sound like?
Grade 1 / 2	
Reading	Mentor Text: Boy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make inferences about where the story takes place</li> <li>• Recognise and understand traits in complex characters that change</li> </ul>
Writing	Narrative Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Narratives.</li> <li>• What part characters plan in narratives.</li> <li>• Different types of settings in a narrative.</li> <li>• Problems in narratives, what makes a problem.</li> </ul>
Spelling	ck as in duck
Maths	Length Students measure and compare the lengths, of pairs of objects using uniform informal units; and compare and order several shapes and objects based on length, using appropriate uniform informal units
SWPB / Respectful Relationships	Respectful Relationships: Topic 5 Stress Management
Grade 3 / 4	
Reading	Mentor text: Earth vs Mars  Reading skill: Compare and Contrast. Identifying the main idea.
Writing	Persuasive Writing – Practice for NAPLAN
Spelling	n/a
Maths	Topic: Addition and Subtraction  Recall addition facts for single-digit numbers and related subtraction facts to develop increasingly efficient mental strategies for computation ( <u>VCMNA133</u> )
SWPB / Respectful Relationships	RRRR What is stress? Students develop a definition of stress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students recognise how stress can be felt in the body</li> <li>• Students identify experiences that can cause feelings of stress</li> </ul>

Grade 5 / 6	
Reading	Class novel- The Happiest Refugee Identifying key themes in a text.  Behind The News -listening and note taking We are learning to view current events in visual texts.
Writing	Early Harvest- Writing Continued Narrative- create your own adventure
Spelling	'si' as in division
Maths	Number and Algebra: Multiplication -Selecting and using efficient mental and written strategies, to divide and multiply whole numbers of up to four digits by a one-digit divisor  -Solving word problems involving multiplication
SWPB / Respectful Relationships	Respectful Relationships: Stress Management -A Guided Relaxation  Students recognise that we may need ways to calm our body when we feel intense emotions. Students identify a range of ways to calm and relax our bodies. Students practise some calming strategies - Guided meditation

## Not a 'Good Bye' – just a 'see ya later'!

It has been a whirlwind few weeks for me as I challenge myself with new opportunities and learnings, so I just wanted to take the time to make some acknowledgments in my last newsletter entry until Term 3!



Firstly, I'd like to thank Jackie for her support, flexibility and understanding as I tackle my first Acting Principal role. I hate to think how many times in a day I am going to be asking myself 'what would Jackie do?' but I know I have learnt from the best!

To all of the staff – thanks so much for your encouragement and words of support. I am going to miss our rigorous conversations as much as all of the fun that we have in a day! (I am hoping my timetabling legacy will get you through the next term!).

And finally to our students (and families) I learn so much from you all every day. If I am being honest, I am feeling a little scared and nervous about starting in a new school where I don't really know anyone, and the environment is brand new (I hope I don't get lost!...) but there are some words from a famous song that I keep singing over and over in my head ...It goes like this..." *We love to be our best! We're not afraid to take risks! We make mistakes, we learn from them, we get up and begin again....*" And I know that everything will be ok..... because I too am a Spotty Kid! Can't wait to see you all soon!



Emma Vasilevski  
Assistant Principal

## Hobson's Bay Division Swimming Championships

On Wednesday this week 13 of our students represented our District at the Division swimming championships. They all competed with energy and a great attitude, achieving some fantastic results, including our Boys 11yo Freestyle Relay team who finished 2nd.

Congratulations also to Liam Hartigan who finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Backstroke and will now be competing in the Regional Finals in Geelong on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March. Best of luck Liam!

## Silent Auction – More Items Available Now

Ampol in Newport are supporting our fundraising activities this year by donating tickets to various AFL games throughout the year.

We will put the tickets up on our Silent Auction website as details are received. More tickets have been uploaded today!

You can bid on the first 5 items by going to <https://www.32auctions.com/spottypsafltickets24>



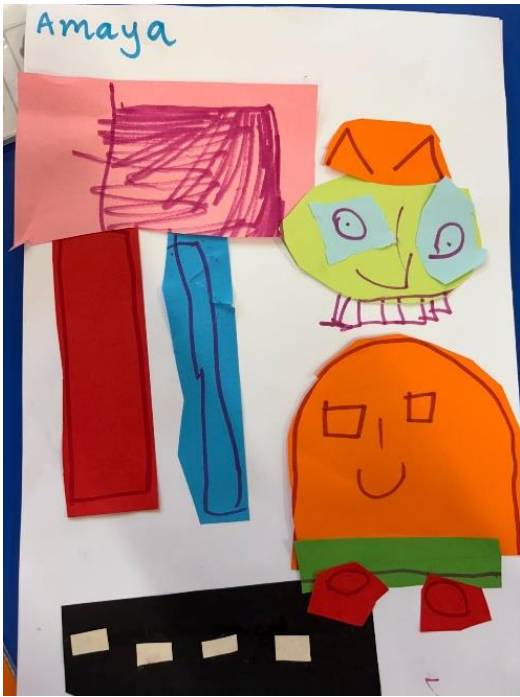
## What's Happening In Our Classrooms

### Prep – Shapes

For the last two weeks students in Prep have been learning all about shapes for maths. We have identified different shapes and learnt that shapes have corners and sides. We have also looked at different shapes around us. We read the story 'Big Box of Shapes' and had a go at creating a picture out of different shapes. Some people created houses, cities, animals and were so creative! Well done Preps!!







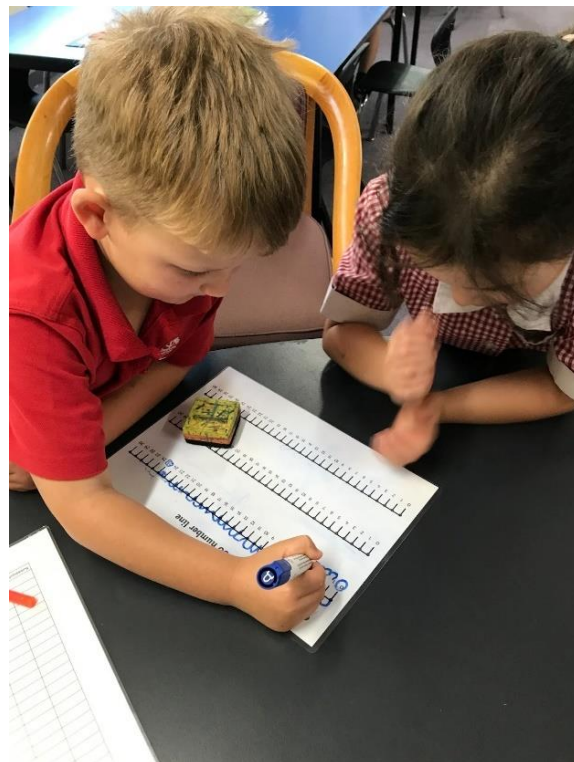
Bridget Sherrin  
Prep S Classroom Teacher

### Year 1/2 – The Mathematician's Toolbox

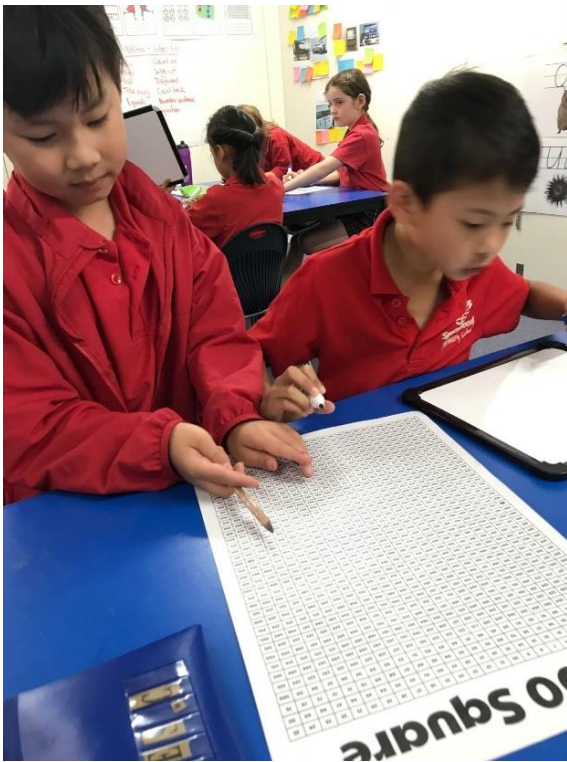
Our Grade 1/2 students have spent the past three weeks investigating the principles of addition and subtraction, including the links between the two. To do this, students have dipped into the Mathematician's Toolbox, an array of tools to help turn abstract concepts into physical activities. This week's tools focused upon number lines, hundred charts and thousand charts, allowing students to explore number concepts at appropriately challenging levels.



Morgan and Angus



Otis and Arielle



Myles and Oliver



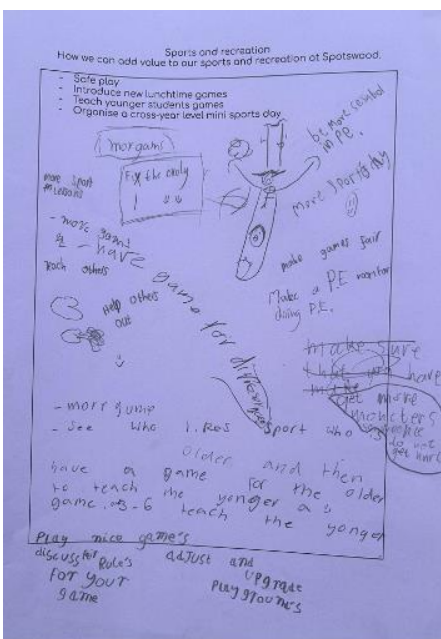
Halle and Oscar

Simon Pollard  
1/2P Classroom Teacher

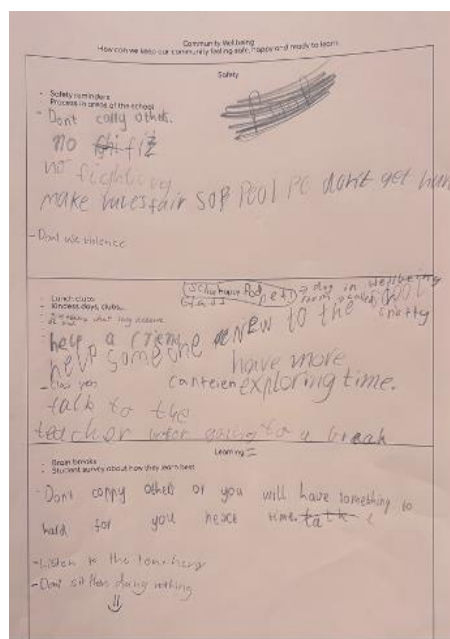
### Year 3/4 – Inquiry – How Can You Make Your Voice Heard?

The Year 3/4s have been investigating what services the council provides for the community. We developed five main areas that we could apply to our school community as we enter the 'going further' stage of our Inquiry process. These areas are Community and Wellbeing, Sports and Recreation, Sustainability and Conservation, Arts and Culture and Facilities. The students chose an area of interest, then generated ideas of action they could take, to benefit members of our school community.

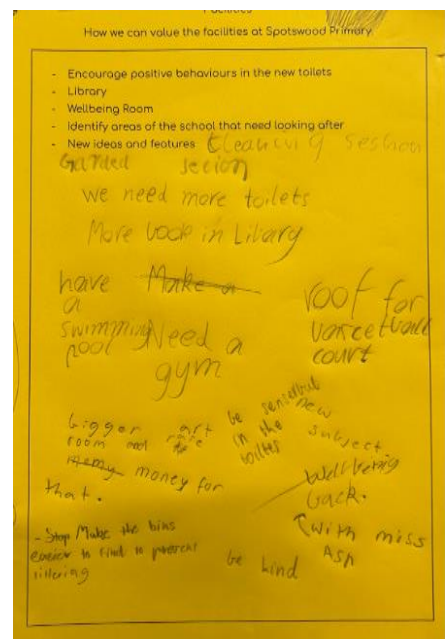
#### Sports & Recreation



#### Community Wellbeing

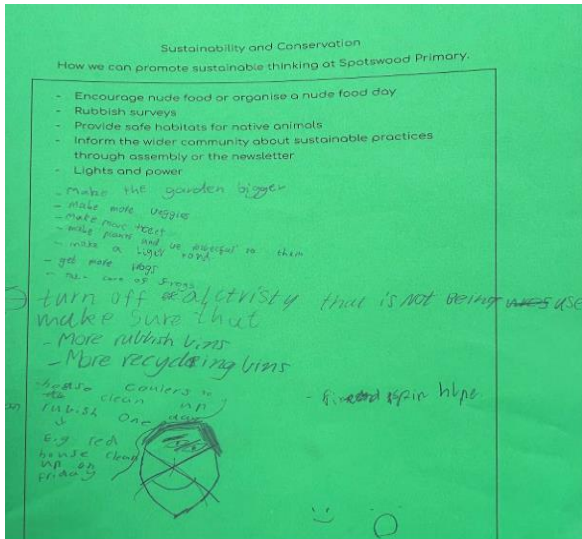


#### Facilities

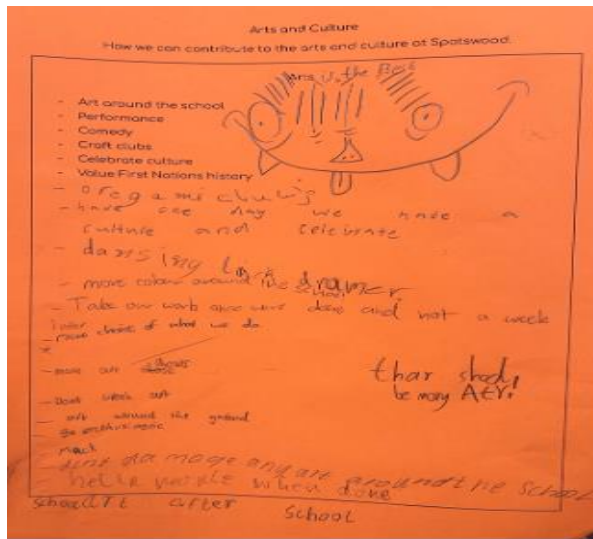




## Sustainability & Conservation



## Arts & Culture



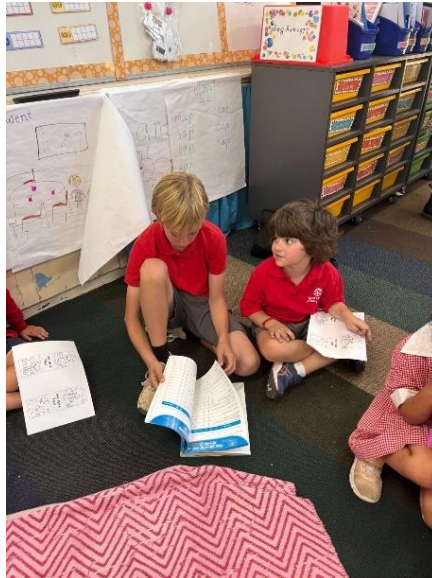
Sally Vaughan  
3/4V Classroom Teacher

### Year 5/6 – Buddies

This week the 5/6s met with our buddies for a special activity! Each class took our 'Buddy Bear' down to the Prep classrooms. The 5/6s and their Prep buddies read a story together, and then they made some special bookmarks. It was wonderful to see how kind, patient and supportive all the students were towards one another. Well done everyone!



Will T, Callan, Jack S



Liam H, Mihailo



Ruby, Asli

Emily Matheson  
5/6E Classroom Teacher



## Specialist – PE

Our 1-6 classes have begun a unit of work around the game of Volleyball, which is one of our Summer inter-school sports. Students in Grade 1/2 are focusing on the skills of throwing and catching using the volleyballs, making sure we keep our eyes on the ball at all times.

Our 3/4 students are working on their serving, digging and setting skills, which are the 3 main skills of the game, as they work towards playing a modified version of volleyball. While our 5/6 students are focussed on using all of our skills to play games of volleyball with the focus on movement and court positioning.



Chris Lamb  
PE Teacher

## 5/6 Interschool Sport Reports

### Volleyball Boys

Last week we played St Martins and they were a great team; however, they weren't good enough to beat us! Our highlights were that we had a lot more rallies, we communicated more than what we did in our last match and we played well as a team. Both teams were very fair and we won both games, 21/11 and 21/15.

By Liam, Ayden and Sid

### Volleyball Girls

Last week, we played an amazing game of volleyball. We have really improved in the areas of serving and hitting the ball over the net. We had a close match, but in the end they won 21/20. Lots of people tried to go for the ball and some of our stand-out players were Hagir and Tabby. Next week we are looking forward to practising in PE to get better at the sport. We are hoping for a win.

By Mabel and Zoe Y

### Basketball Girls

On Friday the 1st of March, the girl's basketball team played a match against St Martin's De Porres Primary School. It was a very even and close game. We played fair and had an enjoyable game. They were determined and very strong players, but we had lots of teamwork and put a lot of effort into our game. We tried our best and got many shots. In the end we won with a score of 12 - 6.

By Esme and Zoe S

### Basketball Boys

Last week, the boys in basketball played against St. Martins in an amazing game. The scores at the end were 18 to 8 with Spotty taking the win. They played well, but we fought hard as a team. Both teams showed good sportsmanship and everyone showed respect.

By Finlay

### Tennis Boys & Girls

Last week on Friday, we went to the Donald McLean Reserve and we set up all the courts. As the other school was running a bit late, we played some practise games. When they arrived the girls and boys teams played their games. We all played fairly and had a great time. The girls won for Spotswood, and the boys won for St Martin's. We all had great fun, and left with a sense of achievement.

By Winter H

### Tee Ball Boys & Girls

Last week we played with two mixed tee ball teams against St Martin's. We were able to play three rounds in which we drew two and lost one. We are able to say that we all showed amazing sportsmanship both us and the St Martin's team during our matches. We demonstrated great teamwork when practising and playing tee ball. We are so proud of everyone who had a go and showed their best effort (p.s that was everyone). We congratulate St Martin's on their win and can't wait to play them again next year.

By the Tee Ball Captains Angus and Frankie

## **Student Awards:**

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



**Prep S** ..... Yu En Ooi - for her amazing effort in learning our common words. Well done, Yu En!

**Prep T** ..... Aiden Fazlic - for making a huge effort writing his spelling words out this week. Great work Aiden!

**Prep V** ..... Oscar Butler - using some excellent cutting skills to create shapes and pictures in maths. Excellent work Oscar!

**1/2B** ..... Oliver Townsend - for taking your time to complete writing tasks with such beautiful handwriting! Your letter formation is fantastic!

**1/2K** ..... Remy Dobson - for settling into classroom routines so smoothly, for her willingness to try new things and for asking for help when needed!

**1/2P** ..... Luke McGraw - for taking responsibility for helping everyone to better understand appropriate noise levels in the classroom.

**3/4C** ..... Jory Nock - for using text features, different fonts and punctuation to read with engaging expression during your reading conference!

**3/4K** ..... Mabel Suckling - for applying effort to all of her school work, and taking herself out of her comfort zone and having a go at the swimming carnival! Excellent growth mindset Mabel!

**3/4M** ..... Lasika Chandrasekera - for role-modelling how to listen respectfully as well as contributing thoughtful ideas to enrich our class discussions.

**3/4V** ..... Dante Wong - for being proactive about ensuring the schoolyard is clean and free of rubbish.

**5/6E** ..... Benjamin Tran - for persisting and putting your best effort into our writing incursion this week. You created an amazing 'choose your own adventure' story. Well done!

- 5/6M.....** Esme Suckling - for contributing wholeheartedly in our 'Early Harvest' writing incursion this week. I am looking forward to reading your 'choose your own adventure' story.
- 5/6O.....** Jayden World - you have worked so hard this week in subtraction, you should be so proud of your test score. Well done Jayden.
- PE.....** George Green - for being a helpful and enthusiastic class member during all of our PE sessions. You always bring a great attitude to lessons, no matter what the game or sport is.



**To:**

Abigail, Otis F, India, Mia, Lily

### **Dates To Remember:**

- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March ..... Labour Day Public Holiday (no children at school)
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March ..... NAPLAN Year 3 & 5 Writing (9.15am)
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March ..... NAPLAN Year 3 & 5 Reading (9.15am)
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March ..... Year 5/6 Summer Sport Round 4 (Away vs Bayside College)  
 Assembly (3.15pm)  
 Working Bee (3.30pm-6pm)
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March ..... NAPLAN Year 3 & 5 Conventions of Language (9.15am)
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March ..... Year 5 Sailing
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March ..... NAPLAN Year 3 & 5 Maths (9.15am)
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March ..... Year 5/6 Summer Sport Round 5 (Away vs St Mary's PS, Altona)  
 Assembly (3.15pm)
- Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March ..... Slow Food Market (8am – 1pm)
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March ..... School Council meeting (6.15pm)
- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March ..... Year 5 Sailing
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March ..... Auslan Day (more details to follow)  
 Last Day of Term 1 (2.30pm dismissal)
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April ..... First Day of Term 2  
 Year 5/6 Camp
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April ..... Year 5/6 Camp
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April ..... Year 5/6 Camp