

Spotswood Primary School

Newsletter

Term 1 Week 4 • Friday 21st February 2025



"Where everybody is somebody"



Dear families,

Slow Food Market

The Slow Food Market will be on site this weekend with many exciting stalls coming along and a beautiful day to host the event. We value the good vibes this partnership brings into our school community and the funds raised are helping to build the outdoor seating options in our school yard.

Interschool Sport

Today our Year 5/6 students commenced their summer season of interschool sport in away games at Altona North Primary School. It was lovely to see students in their sports uniform heading off to enjoy their matches and represent Spotswood Primary School with pride. Over the coming weeks students will play against a number of similar sized schools in the Hobsons Bay area both here at Spotty and away at other schools.

District Swimming Carnival

Last Friday we sent a team of 13 swimmers to compete at the Altona District Swimming Carnival. They all swam amazingly well, trying their best across a range of events and they all showed fantastic school spirit when cheering on their schoolmates.

We had 9 students qualify for the Division Championships on March 6th at the Werribee Outdoor Pool. Good luck to Victoria M-L, Emma W, Molly M, Rose E, Emme G, Xavier M, Sid I, Liam H and Liam B.



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Photo Day

Due to the upcoming Division Swimming Carnival, we have rescheduled our school photo day so that our swimmers will not miss out on their photos. The new date for the school photos this year is Monday 31st March. On this day individual, class and sibling photos will be taken. Families will be able to order their photos on Compass from mid-March. We will let you know when ordering opens.

Sailing

Over the past two Thursdays our Year 5 students have been jumping on the train to head down to the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria to take part in the 'Little Tackers' sailing program. After a very windy and wavy first session that meant the students were only able to be towed along behind a safety boat, yesterday presented with ideal conditions. The light winds and calm seas meant that our students were able to use their sails to take them wherever their tiller was pointed. They had a lovely morning sailing the bay and showing off their newly learned skills.

This opportunity has been made possible for our Year 5 students over a number of years now through the Sporting Schools Grants Program and is a unique experience we are grateful to take part in.



Get to Know You meetings

On behalf of the staff, I'd like to extend thanks to our families for participating in the parent teacher 'Get to Know You' meetings last week. The opportunity to build our partnerships is important to us and we also enjoyed catching up with many families in the courtyard during our sausage sizzle. I'd like to also thank staff for their commitment to this night after a day of teaching.

School Council

Below is the 2025 Notice of Election and Call for Nominations for School Council. School Council elections are held at this time each year. A position on School Council is for a two-year term, and 'retiring' members are eligible to renominate for School Council. School Council meetings are held twice per term from 6.15pm to 8.15pm. We have included a fact sheet about School Council in this newsletter, however I encourage you to come and see me if you have any queries.

Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of Spotswood Primary School.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00pm on Thursday 27th February 2025.

The ballot will close at 4.00pm on Wednesday 12th March 2025.

Following the closing of nominations, a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school.

The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

Membership category
Parent member

Term of office	Year
From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in	2025
to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in	2027


Number of positions:	3
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Membership category
School employee member

Term of office	Year
From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in	2025
to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in	2027

Number of positions:	2
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If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Principal signature


Jackie Green
Principal

Curriculum Update

Prep	
Reading	WALT point to words while we read WALT use pictures to help us read WALT get our mouths ready for the first sound WALT recognise the difference between upper and lower-case letters
Writing	WALT retell our weekend WALT form our letters correctly WALT make sentences
Spelling	That ant had a hat. a, n and t as in ant
Numeracy	WALT name and recognise the numbers 1- 10
SWPB / Respectful Relationships	WALT solve problems WAL about the size the of problems
Grade 1 / 2	
Reading	WALT: understand that a biography is about someone’s personal life WALT: make predictions based on information and illustration WALT: make predictions based on knowledge and personal experience
Writing	WALT write a personal narrative (Memoir) WALT focus on out handwriting (lines and curves in letters)
Spelling	ai as in snail ur as in fur
Numeracy	WALT Recognise, represent and order numbers to at least 120 using physical and virtual materials, numerals, number lines and charts. WALT Partition one- and two-digit numbers in different ways using physical and virtual materials, including partitioning two-digit numbers into tens and ones.
SWPB / Respectful Relationships	Respectful Relationships: Emotional Literacy WAL about Emotions Statuses
Grade 3 / 4	
Reading	WALT use the QAR Reading strategies when reading and responding to texts. WALT compare and contrast parts of a text WALT discuss the purpose of a text and the images they use.
Writing	WALT understand what persuasion is and why we use it. WALT convince someone of our opinion using the persuasive devices; Rhetorical question & Alliteration WALT Write persuasive texts with the correct structure.
Spelling	re as in centre tt as in letter
Numeracy	Number: Place Value and Number Concepts WALT partition, rearrange and regroup two- and three-digit numbers in different ways to assist in calculations WALT use our understanding of place value to represent to 10 000 and beyond. WALT use rounding and estimation strategies to determine whether results of calculations are reasonable
SWPB / Respectful Relationships	WALT understand and describe emotional literacy.
Grade 5 / 6	
Reading	Mentor Text: The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind WALT: use a wide range of strategies for solving multisyllabic words
Writing	WALT: set and work towards our writing goals. WALT: study mentor texts to learn the role of punctuation in adding voice to writing
Spelling	‘ch’ as in school
Numeracy	WALT: compare 12- and 24-hour time systems and solve practical problems involving the conversion between them.
SWPB / Respectful Relationships	Emotional literacy: Positive and negative self-talk



Justin Canny
Assistant Principal

WALT = We Are Learning To
SWPB = School Wide Positive Behaviour

What's Happening In Our Classrooms

Prep – Our First Incursion

Last week, our Prep students were treated to a fantastic performance of *Fairy Tales & Puppetry: Good Things Come in Threes* by Meerkat Productions. The show brought three classic fairy tales—*The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, *Goldilocks & The Three Bears*, and *The Three Little Pigs*—to life using three unique styles of puppetry: marionettes, shadow puppets, and hand puppets. After the interactive performance, students had the exciting opportunity to learn how each puppet was made, with some lucky volunteers even getting to hold and use them! Our Preps showed incredible listening skills and enthusiasm throughout their very first incursion—we are so proud of them!

Francesco, Gemma, Aria



Benjamin



Naya

Bridget Sherrin
Prep S Classroom Teacher

Year 1/2 – Wellbeing

Grade 1 and 2 students have been exploring the wellbeing room during our weekly sessions. We begin each session with guided breathing exercises to relax the body and mind and to switch our bodies from energetic outside play to calm and thoughtful exploring in the wellbeing room. There are many mindful activities for students to participate in when in the wellbeing room, a few highlights are mindful colouring, buddy reading and exploring the sensory wall. Students leave our wellbeing room sessions calm and with a positive attitude ready to continue their learning journey in the classroom.

Mihailo, Neil and Austin at the sensory wall.



Lachie and Will making train tracks.



Yu En and Luci mindful colouring.



Oliver and Billy buddy reading.



James McKimmie
1/2M Classroom Teacher

Year 3/4 – Writing

In Writing the Year 3/4s have been tuning into the technique, devices and language of persuasion as they prepare themselves for a persuasive writing unit. Students enjoyed participating in informal debates this week by choosing a side to argue for or against a specific topic. There were impressive uses of emotive language, strong modal words and rhetorical questions to make their opinions heard. Some hot topics were, “Kids should be paid to do homework” and “Books are better than movies”.



Sally Vaughan
3/4V Classroom Teacher

Year 5/6 – Inquiry

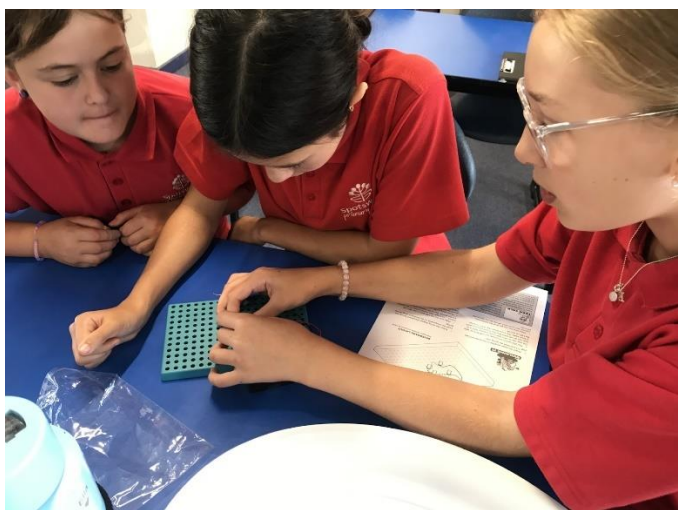
As part of their Inquiry unit *Bright Sparks*, students are investigating the production and transmission of electrical energy. Students are using circuit kits to explore a range of functions, such as converting electrical energy to sound and/or light, and the role of switches and resistors. Across weeks 3 and 4, students have all worked on the same activities; over the next few weeks, they will branch off in different directions depending on their interests.



Esme and Tabby



Emme, Mabel, and Millie



Zoe, Olivia, and Ella



Fred and Ayla

Simon Pollard
5/6P Classroom Teacher

Specialist – Visual Art



Year 3/4s are learning about Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. Last week the students spent a lesson designing a pattern for a teacup influenced by the artist's work. This week they began their project by drawing a large teacup on pasteboard, followed by adding a coat of white paint. Next week they will cut out their teacup and add a base colour. This project will take us a little while to complete but we know they're going to look AMAZING when they're done!

For more updates on this project and others, please visit our Instagram account @spotswood.art

If you're interested in learning more about the artist, Yayoi Kusama is currently exhibiting her work at the NGV until the 21st of April. Check their website for details:

<https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/exhibition/yayoi-kusama/> and <https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/exhibition/kusama-for-kids/>

HARMONY DAY MARCH 21ST 2025

HARMONY DAY POSTER COMPETITION

Theme: **Harmony – We All Have A Role To Play**

Entries Close: **April 12 2025**

Specifications: **A3 drawing, painting or mixed media work**

If your child is interested in entering the competition, please visit this website for more information <https://movingforwardtogether.org.au/poster-competition/>

Cindy Asp
Visual Art Teacher



Student Awards:



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

- Prep B** Gemma Turnbull – for your incredible effort in writing and drawing in your special book. Fantastic work, Gemma!
- Prep S** Lucille-Grace Pirola-Fava - for being an inclusive friend and making sure everyone has a friend to play with.
- 1/2K** Alexander Westhorpe - for having a fantastic attitude towards school and trying his best in all areas of his learning.
- 1/2M** Nikki Youning - for having a fantastic two weeks in our class. Making great friends and showing all of the Spotswood Values.
- 1/2V** Mala Nagesh-Hobbs - being a patient and kind classmate who is engaging enthusiastically in everything we do in 1/2V. Amazing work Mala!
- 1/2W** Carys Nock - for helping and supporting her classmates, both inside and outside the classroom, and contributing to a safe and happy environment. You are a great role model!
- 3/4H** Emma Ward - for actively contributing to class discussions and consistently trying her best and having a 'can-do' attitude when attempting work tasks. Well done Emma!
- 3/4K** Morgan Spiers - for coming to school ready to learn and enthusiastically contributing to all aspects of learning. Thanks Morgan!
- 3/4O** Gus Turner - for skilfully using author's craft techniques, including precise verbs and adjectives, to create vivid imagery in his narrative writing. Well done, Gus!
- 3/4V** Zoe Szulikowski – for supporting your peers by displaying kindness, patience and guidance to reach a common goal when working with a group or with a partner.
- 5/6M** Clem Oldfield - for coming prepared to book club conferences and sharing insightful ideas with the group. Well done!
- 5/6P** Bram Phillips - for excellent listening and attention to safety during our sailing excursion.
- 5/6T** Odin Miller - for contributing valuably to class discussions, and helping establish a safe and supportive learning environment for his peers. Great stuff Odin.
- PE** Edison Welsh - for showing excellent hockey skills during our first session this week. Your reverse stick work is top class.

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

- Prep B** Archie Studley - for trying your best to listen on the carpet and putting your hand up when sharing. Awesome effort, Archie!
- Prep S** Prai Hadkowski - for always trying his best and giving everything a go. Well done, Prai!
- 1/2K** Una Sekesan - for putting 100% effort into all of her learning tasks and always setting her work out neatly. Keep up the great effort Una!
- 1/2M** Jessica Sigle - for being a dedicated learner who has put in a great amount of effort with writing about a special celebration this week.
- 1/2V** Liam Tran - being an all-round fabulous class member who is always trying his best. You are a star Liam!
- 1/2W** Vincent Mattern - for coming to school ready to learn and giving everything a go with a positive attitude. Keep up the great work!
- 3/4H** Summer Rust - for her hard work and determination in completing a challenging math task. She showed persistence and demonstrated a 'have a go' attitude. Well done Summer.
- 3/4K** Ziggy Yasmine - for arriving at school with a positive attitude, enthusiastically participating in all classes, and gladly helping others when needed. Great work Ziggy!

- 3/4O**..... Abby Napier - for showing kindness, respect and initiative in the classroom. You always offer to help your peers and extend yourself in everything you do. Well done, Abby!
- 3/4V** Loke Waller - for settling into Spotswood Primary with a friendly, confident and positive attitude. You have been an excellent role-model to others in the classroom by applying effort to your learning and listening to others.
- 5/6M**..... Olivia Grundy - for challenging herself to try new experiences and step outside her comfort zone during sailing this week. Awesome job!
- 5/6P** Olivia Van Maanen - for being a diligent and kind buddy in the playground.
- 5/6T** Sebastian De Lawrence - for showing great discipline and composure during our Leadership Unit of Inquiry. Impressive stuff Sebastian.
- Art** Harvey Barker - for working hard on his teacup design and 'checking in' to make sure he's on track. Absolutely awesome Harvey!



To:

Maverick, Eve, Juin Khye, Miles C, Miles R, Chloe G, Henry G, Olivia Ward, Clem

Dates To Remember:

- Saturday 22nd February Slow Food Market (9am-1pm)
- Tuesday 25th February..... Finance meeting (5.30pm)
 School Council meeting (6.15pm)
- Wednesday 26th February No Preps at school
- Thursday 27th February School Council nominations close
- Friday 28th February Year 5/6 Interschool Sport (Round 2) – vs St Martin de Porres PS, Laverton
 Assembly (3.15pm)
- Monday 3rd March..... Preps commence school full time
 Young Leaders Day
- Tuesday 4th March Prep 2025 Parent Information Night (7pm)
- Thursday 6th March..... Hobsons Bay Division Swimming Carnival
- Friday 7th March..... Year 5/6 Interschool Sport (Round 3) – vs Altona College
 Assembly (3.15pm)

Fact Sheet : School Council Elections – Information for Parents

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad direction of a school, in accordance with Ministerial Order 1280 Constitution of Government School Councils, and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. In doing this, a school council may directly influence the quality of education for students.

Who is on the school council?

For most primary school councils, there are several possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected parent member category – members of this category generally comprise more than one third of the council's total membership. Department employees can be parent members at their child's school providing that they are not engaged in work at the school.

A mandated elected school employee member category – members of this category make up no more than one-third of membership. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experience. Department employees are not eligible to be community members.

A small number of school councils have nominee members.

For all schools with a Year 7 and above cohort, there is an additional category of membership:

A mandated elected student member category, two positions.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills and a range of experiences and knowledge that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

Each member brings their own valuable skills and knowledge to the role, however, in order to successfully perform their duties, councillors may need to gain some new skills and knowledge.

It is important to have an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

Code of conduct for school councillors

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the *Public Administration Act 2004*.

School councillors must comply with the Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to:

act with honesty and integrity – be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty

act in good faith in the best interests of the school – work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds

act fairly and impartially – consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self-interest

use information appropriately – respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available

exercise due care, diligence and skill – accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school

use the position appropriately – not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage

act in a financially responsible manner – observe all the above principles when making financial decisions

comply with relevant legislation and policies – know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law

demonstrate leadership and stewardship – set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable.

Indemnity for school council members

School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in:

- a. the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or
- b. the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council.

In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

How can you become involved?

By participating in, and voting in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might consider:

standing for election as a member of the school council
encouraging another person to stand for election.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations in Term 1 of each year. Council elections must be completed by 31 March, unless varied by the Minister for Education.

If you stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or, you can nominate yourself in the parent member category. You can only be nominated by another member of the same category that you are eligible for (e.g. a member of the parent electorate may only nominate another parent of that electorate).

Department employees with a child enrolled at a school where they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for parent membership at that school.

Return your completed nomination form to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt via post, email or by hand delivery.

Generally, if there are more nominations than vacancies a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

Consider standing for election to school council.

Ask the principal for instructions if you are not sure what to do.

Be sure to vote if the election goes to ballot.

Contact the principal if you are unsure about what is required at any stage of the election process.