

"ACHIEVING TOGETHER"



Woody Yaloak Primary School

Website: [www.woodyyaloak.vic.edu.au](http://www.woodyyaloak.vic.edu.au)  
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Principal: Corey Pohlner  
 Phone: 53 42 8565

## 2017 Term Dates

- 31st Jan - 31st Mar
- 18th Apr - 30th Jun
- 17th Jul - 22nd Sep
- 9th Oct - 22nd Dec

**Smythesdale Campus 5342 8565**  
**Scarsdale Campus 5342 8514**

**Snake Valley Campus 5344 9274**  
**Ross Creek Campus 5342 0478**

For Your Diary  
 NOVEMBER

Wednesday 22nd

- Woody Transition Day  
9am-1.30pm
- Sporting Schools-Cycling

Friday 24th

- Woody Disco #4
- Junior Swimming  
Mrs Mayman, Mrs  
Wheeler, Mrs Hughes, Mrs  
Major/Ford, Mr Snibson,  
Mrs Dwyer, Ms Wood, Mrs  
Weickhardt and Mrs Hines  
Classes

Monday 27th

- Sporting Schools-Netball  
(Last)
- Senior Swimming  
Mrs Angel, Miss Hannah,  
**Mr Bell & Mrs Webb's**  
Classes

Wednesday 29th

- Sporting Schools-Cycling
- Gr 5/6 Meet the  
Professor

DECEMBER

Friday 1st

- Casual Clothes Day
- Junior Swimming  
Mrs Mayman, Mrs  
Wheeler, Mrs Hughes, Mrs  
Major/Ford, Mr Snibson,  
Mrs Dwyer, Ms Wood, Mrs  
Weickhardt and Mrs Hines  
Classes

Permission Note and  
 Money Due

Wed 22nd Nov:

- 2018 Gr 6 Tops
- Gr 5/6 Meet the Professor  
Fri 1st Dec:
- 2018 Book List  
Wed 6th Dec:
- Graduation Dinner

## Principal Message

## Teaching staff for 2018

We are currently finishing off our staffing for 2018, with a couple of panels running at the moment. In the next Woody newsletter we will communicate which staff are teaching which year level and at which campus. This will be in time for the final transition day in December. Thank-you for your patience.

## Helping children with Anxiety

As a parent of 2 young boys, it is worrying to me how common it is becoming for primary aged children suffering anxiety. I personally know of relatives, families, colleagues and friends who are going through this with their children. I am no expert on this topic or offer any advice in how to deal with it. The purpose of my message today is to raise awareness of it, so that more people talk about it, so that we can support each other within our communities and families.

Children with anxiety difficulties tend to see the world as a scary place. They can be overly sensitive to their feelings and lack confidence in their own ability. They may try to avoid situations they see as difficult and as a result do not cope with challenges in their environment.

Anxious feelings are fed by anxious thinking. It is important not to dismiss children's anxious feelings, but to help children see that the situations they are worried about may not be as bad as they think. As early intervention is important, take note of children's worries so that their difficulties can be addressed sooner rather than later.

Here's some ways to help children with anxiety

Parents and carers can help by supporting children to understand and express their feelings and seek help when needed. Encourage children to problem solve and have a go so that they gradually build up their confidence by taking on small challenges.

1. Help to recognise and understand anxiety. A first step in helping children gain some control over anxiety is recognising when it occurs and how it affects them.
2. Model helpful coping. Being a good model involves showing children how to cope with emotions (not just telling them). Show children how you cope positively with feeling anxious or stressed and remaining calm and positive (eg. "This looks a bit scary, but I'll give it a go").
3. Discourage avoidance Try to limit excessive avoidance and reassurance-seeking behaviours. Sometimes when children say they feel sick, they are describing feeling anxious. It is important that children do not avoid things like school or homework unnecessarily.
4. Praise having a go Encourage children with anxiety to attempt new things and praise them for trying. It is very important to emphasise trying rather than success, particularly when anxiety is an area of difficulty.
5. Introduce challenges gradually Children build strength and resilience by learning to face challenges. It is important to begin with small challenges that children can meet. For example, a child who is frightened of dogs might start by walking past the house when the dog is barking without having to cross the road. This improves confidence for taking on more challenging steps.
6. Start small. Help the child to choose goals for becoming braver and to take small steps towards achieving them.

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

### 2018 School Review Year

2017 is the last year of our School Strategic Plan. Sometime during 2018, we will be required to go through a self-evaluation period, where we work with staff, parents and students to reflect on the past 4 years. During this time we look at school data over this period, have discussions with groups of people to gain their insight and plan for the next 4 years.

From 2018, a new review and improvement approach will be implemented by the Department. The new approach emphasises continuous improvement, not a fixed destination. It affirms that every student, no matter their background or circumstances, has a right to learn in a school unswervingly committed to improvement. It steadfastly holds that every school can and will improve. Good schools *will* become excellent schools. Excellent schools *can, and do*, become better.

The Department has assured schools that this approach does not require *more* work from school leaders, teachers and school councils, but *different* work. To achieve school and system improvement, the new approach requires an unremitting focus on collecting and analysing evidence about student learning, teacher practice and curriculum content.

As this time of the year is spent on planning for next year, it was timely to update our school community of our review year in 2018.

## CAMPUS UPDATES

### CHANGES TO SEMESTER 2 STUDENT REPORTS

Based on feedback through the 2017 Parent Opinion survey and staff feedback, we are making some changes to our end of semester reports. At this point, these changes are only minor, however next year further improvements will be implemented to make the reports more purposeful, parent-friendly and informative. Some of the changes you will notice will include:

- English and Mathematics will have separate comments from other areas of the curriculum. The purpose of this is to highlight the achievements and areas for improvement in core subject areas.
- Teachers will be grading all students on effort and behaviour in English and Mathematics as separate subjects.
- **Reports will not contain 'chunks' of general information outlining the curriculum content at that level. Comments will have a greater focus on student achievement.**

Teachers will now be grading specific personal and social development skills. The grading scale will be rarely, sometimes, most times and always. (See example) Teachers may elaborate on these gradings in a general comments section. The purpose of this change is to provide parents and students with more specific personal and social development skills as assessed by the classroom teacher.

Personal and Social Development				
Independence and Responsibility	Rarely	Sometimes	Most Times	Always
Works toward learning goals	✓			
Reflects on own performance	✓			
Works independently		✓		
Makes appropriate use of learning time		✓		
Cares and accepts responsibility for belongings				✓

### END OF YEAR MOVIES (SAVE THE DATE)

Smythesdale: Wednesday December 20th

Snake Valley: Wednesday December 20th

Scarsdale: Thursday December 21st

Ross Creek: Tuesday 19th December.

### WOADY DISCO

Save the date! The final whole school Woody Disco will be on Friday, 24th November

– please see the back page for more details.

### END OF YEAR PRESENTATION NIGHTS

Smythesdale: Monday December 18th  
 Snake Valley: Tuesday December 19th  
 Scarsdale: Wednesday December 20th  
 Ross Creek: Thursday 21st December.



### WHOLE SCHOOL WALKATHON

The whole school Walkathon was held Thursday, 9th November and was a very successful day and the weather was perfect. The track walked is about 1 kilometre and some children actually completed over fifteen circuits. All four campuses raised a total of \$3,617.45. This money will help reduce the costs of excursions and camps next year. Each class teacher also selected three students from their grade who exhibited a positive attitude, continuously walked or showed great sportspersonship, these students were awarded water bottles donated to us from the Central Highlands Water Board. Thank you to all involved in making the day so successful.



### 2018 CAPTAINS AND VICE CAPTAINS

The Campus Captains and Vice Captains make up an important part of our Woody Yaloak consultative team. Students elected to this position are expected to:

- *Set a good example to others – in the manner in which they behave.*
- *Be responsible members of the school community.*
- *Assist staff with extra curricula responsibilities.*
- *Watch out for and support students in the playground.*
- *Be an ambassador for their campus and Woody Yaloak Primary School*
- *Be an active member of the student forums conducted each term.*
- *Lead the campus student leadership team.*
- *Organise and run campus assemblies.*
- *Adhere to school values.*
- *Display appropriate behaviours and uphold the school values at all times.*
- *Attend all leadership meetings and contribute to discussions.*
- *Follow through on actions from these meetings.*

Please see below our scheduled dates for our campus interviews;

November 27th: Student Leader Application Due (Captains Vice Captains)

December 6th: Student Captain/Vice Captain Interviews (Scarsdale, Smythesdale, Snake Valley)

December 7th: Captain/Vice Captain Interviews Ross Creek.

### STUDENT CLASSROOM PACKAGE 2018

Information outlining the process and costs associated with the student classroom package for 2018 was recently distributed to students. Please make sure you return this by the due date (Friday, 1st December 2017) so that we can complete the ordering process and books will be at school for the students first day. Any families that wish to set up a payment plan, please contact your campus administration officer to arrange this process.

### 2018 TRANSITION DAY (WEDNESDAY 22nd NOVEMBER)

The first transition day for our 2018 Foundation students will take place tomorrow, Wednesday, 22nd. Teachers will be working with the students, beginning the process of transitioning into primary school. The students will also meet their grade 6 buddies for 2018. Campus heads will be running an information sessions for any interested parents with a morning tea to follow.

*Corey Pehlner*  
**Principal**

**Woody Yaloak Primary School**  
**DISCO**  
Strictly Primary School Age Children  
Friday 24th November  
6.30pm-8.00pm  
Woody Yaloak Recreation Facility  
Smythesdale  
\$5 Entry  
NO PASS OUTS  
Canteen, Novelties & Raffle Prizes  
Further Info  
Contact Kaylene Trigg  
53 42 8565

## We are eSmart



Our school is proud to announce we are now officially an eSmart school.

Since we first registered with the program, we have introduced many new policies and activities to improve the way our school manages cybersafety, bullying and cyberbullying.

We feel confident our students, staff and the wider school community are now well supported to be smart, safe and responsible users of digital technology.

We encourage everyone in the school community to continue to uphold and promote eSmart behaviours, at school and at home. If you are aware of any incidents of bullying, cyberbullying or risky online behaviour, please contact the Principal or our eSmart coordinator.

