



Woody Yaloak Primary School

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Principal: Corey Pohlner
 Phone: 53 42 8565

2018 Term Dates

- 30th Jan - 29th Mar
- 16th Apr - 29th Jun
- 16th Jul - 21st Sep
- 8th Oct - 21st Dec

Smythesdale Campus 5342 8565
Scarsdale Campus 5342 8514

Snake Valley Campus 5344 9274
Ross Creek Campus 5342 0478

For Your Diary

FEBRUARY

Monday 26TH

- Whole School P&F Meeting at Smythesdale Campus 9.30am
- Wednesday 28th
- CSEF Forms Due

MARCH

Tuesday 13th

- Ross Creek Life Ed Van
- Wednesday 14th
- Ross Creek Life Ed Van
- Thursday 15th
- Ross Creek Life Ed Van
- Monday 19th
- Scarsdale Life Ed Van
- School Council Meeting 6.30pm at Scarsdale campus
- Tuesday 20th
- Smythesdale Life Ed Van
- Wednesday 21st
- Snake Valley Life Ed Van

PERMISSION FORMS AND MONEY DUE

FEBRUARY OVERDUE:

- Student Information Please return ASAP
- DUE WEDNESDAY 21ST: Gr 3/4 Expression of Interest Camp Wyuna
- DUE WEDNESDAY 28TH: CSEF Forms
- MARCH DUE WEDNESDAY 7TH: Ross Creek Life Ed Van

Principal Message



Over the weekend we featured in an article in the Sunday Herald Sun. For those who are interested, I have included the article below.

SCHOOLS are ditching traditional morning assembly to make way for classes when children are most alert. Research showing the morning is peak learning time is prompting the shift.

Schools are increasingly favouring later assemblies on Fridays — often using them as a way to celebrate achievements of the week. Woody Yaloak Primary School is leading the switch, this semester adopting a Friday afternoon assembly as part of a six-month trial.

Principal Corey Pohlner told the Sunday Herald Sun the change was about “optimising the core learning time, which is in the first half of the day”. Feedback was already positive. “We still value parents coming in, but we’re trying to do the best thing for literacy and numeracy,” Mr Pohlner said. “It’s working well.

“Speaking to a couple of staff who run assembly, they say it’s been much better because they’re not as rushed on a Monday morning.

“Every school has its own traditions, but I suppose we’re looking at school data and the needs of kids and tweaking that.”

Karoo Primary School in Rowville is among other schools trying to make the most out of the morning, this year moving its 9am Monday assembly to Friday at 2.30pm.

“Assembly times have been changed for this year, keeping the critical learning time of Monday morning free,” a recent newsletter said.

University of Melbourne Assoc Prof Kay Margetts said schools were highly tuned to teaching children when they were most receptive.

“Kids are ‘fresher’ and more open to learning in the morning, so moving assemblies to the afternoon would definitely be worth a try,” Assoc Prof Margetts said.

“By the time the afternoon hits, kids can be sluggish, so an assembly may be more appropriate then instead of in quality learning time.

“While the kids are fresh and their bodies are fresh, they can learn more.”

At School Council this week we discussed this article and the changes this year. We had discussions around any feedback so far. A point for discussion was around children being hungry with the time changes. Some children had reported being hungry and others not. The feedback from each campus was around allowing children to ‘graze’ on snacks between recess and lunch if they were hungry. We also discussed children coming back to school after 5 weeks off, where the children’s eating routines would have been different. Added to this children are generally tired in term one, after sleeping in over the holidays. All of these factors add up and we need to give the changes time to unfold. Like all changes in workplaces, we give them time, take on feedback, then make adjustments for the better. By the end of the trial, we will come back to the main reason children attend school and that is to learn. Everything we do in schools is for the children, to utilise their learning environment to give each child the chance to shine. We will continue to monitor this space, gain feedback from staff, parents and students.

PRINCIPAL MESSAGE CONTINUED

GRADE 3/4 2018 CAMP

Last week an expression of interest note went out to all grade 3/4 students, which outlined the upcoming camp and costs associated with it. This year the timing of payment is reduced, as we had to change the time of the year when the camp happens, as the normal time was unavailable to our school. As a parent I understand that finding money for camps etc in a short time period can cause stress to households. As a school we always offer payment plans for all families who wish to take this offer up.

This year the cost of the camp is \$250 for each child attending. In 2016, the same camp was \$225. As we know prices go up over time and as a school we try our best to keep camps at a reasonable price, but often this is out of our control with buses and venues charging their own prices. As a school, camps and excursions do not run at a profit for the school, in most cases they run at a loss.

In the last two newsletters we have communicated the The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF), which is \$125 towards camps for eligible families, I would encourage those families who are eligible to apply if they haven't already. I understand that on the expression of interest form, it states that full payment needs to be paid by March 26th. After I became aware of this I have decided to give parents an option for payment. Given there is only 5 weeks until March 26th, I have decided to allow parents to start a payment plan with their campus office and pay the camp off by the end of term.

Payment Plan

Monday March 26th: \$125 to be paid for the camp for each child attending.

End of Term 2: Full payment of \$250 to be paid for camp for each child attending.

*Those parents who are successful in the CSEF fund, can use this \$125 towards the camp when it becomes available.

***If a family hasn't paid \$125 before March 26th, we will assume your child won't be attending the camp.**

*Individual circumstances can always be discussed at a campus level, so please keep the communication channels open with your campus head.

EXCURSION FORMS

Excursion forms are now being generated through the schools Cases 21 system. All student information is now printed on the forms re contact details, medical conditions etc, saving parents time. Parents only have to put an emergency contact number for that excursion. PLEASE NOTE: There is no provision on the form to mark 'not attending', therefore if excursion forms are not returned by the due date, it is assumed the student is not attending. Excursion forms are no longer available through the website or flexibuzz as we cannot make a blank excursion form. Any student requiring another form will have to get one through the office.

2018 KEY DATES

I have listed below a number of dates for key school events throughout 2018. More information will be distributed about these events throughout the year. More activities and dates will be distributed as they are confirmed.

March

Tuesday 13th-Thursdays 15th Ross Creek Life Education Van Visit

Monday 19th-School Council Meeting 6.30pm at Scarsdale campus
-Scarsdale Life Ed Van

Tuesday 20th-Smythesdale Life Ed Van

Wednesday 21st-Snake Valley Life Ed Van

Friday 23rd-LDSSA Sports Day at Linton Oval

Tuesday 27th-LDSSA Back Up Sports Day

Thursday 29th-Term 1 Ends 1.30pm Finish

April

Monday 16th-Term 2 Begins

Wednesday 18th-Friday 20th – Grade 3/4 Camp

Monday 23rd-School Council Meeting 6.30pm at Ross Creek campus
-Teeth on Wheels Ross Creek

Tuesday 24th-Teeth On Wheels Snake Valley

Wednesday 25th-Anzac Day public holiday

Thursday 26th-Teeth on Wheels Smythesdale & Scarsdale

Friday 27th-Curriculum Day (Student Free)

May

Friday 4th-School Disco #1

Friday 11th-Curriculum Day (Student Free)

Tuesday 15th-Thursday 17th- NAPLAN Testing

Monday 28th-Tuesday 29th- School Photos (Day to be confirmed)

PRINCIPAL MESSAGE CONTINUED

June

Monday 4th-School Council Meeting 6.30pm at Snake Valley campus

Monday 11th-**Queen's Birthday public holiday**

Friday 15th-School Disco #2

October

Monday 8th-Friday 12th-Gr 5/6 Canberra Camp

November

Thursday 8th-Walkathon

Thursday 15th-Back up Day Walkathon

December

Thursday 13th-Gr 6 Graduation

Monday 17th-Ross Creek Presentation Evening

Tuesday 18th-Smythesdale Presentation Evening

Wednesday 19th-Snake Valley Presentation Evening

Thursday 20th-Scarsdale Presentation Evening

Corey Pehlner
Principal

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

SCHOOL REVIEW

Over the holiday period, we were informed that our school review will take place during term 2, 2018. The Department has changed the process around school reviews, which will be different from the last one in which Woody Yaloak PS was involved. There will be training in February for leadership, to help understand the new process. The actual review will take place over 3 days and will involve leadership, staff, school council, parents and students. The first part of the review will be writing our self-evaluation, which is a reflection on the past 4 years of work, in order to write our new Strategic Plan for the next 4 years.

ATTENDANCE

Over the school holidays Minister for Education, James Merlino announced changes to the School Attendance Guidelines. Government schools must notify parents of unexplained student absence as soon as practicable on the day of absence. Prior to the announcement, Government schools were advised to attempt to make contact with the parent within three days of an unexplained student absence. We are working with our software program for reporting to enable an SMS system to let parents know of any unexplained absences. We all know the importance of having good attendance records for our students, as it gives them the best possible chance to learn both academically and socially. If we are able to implement the SMS system for finding out why a child is absent, parents will be able to respond to the text, which will give us the details to update the attendance report, therefore no need to send a hard copy note. In the meantime, some parents may receive calls from teachers asking for a reason for the absence.

READING FOCUS

This year our main focus in our Annual Implementation Plan is around reading. We understand the importance of a quality, comprehensive reading program in every classroom. Last year our campus heads were involved in a full year course on the 'Big 6' of reading.

Oral language and vocabulary are the foundations for reading development.

Phonological awareness, letter-sound knowledge, comprehension and fluency are developed through expanding oral language and vocabulary.

Anyone interested in some further research on these areas of reading, I have a number of documents that I'm happy to share, please let me know and I can email you a copy.

2018

As a school we understand that giving our students the best chance of learning these key areas of reading, happens in the first 2-3 years of primary school. This year our junior grade teachers will be involved in a full year course, working closely with a speech pathologist in a program called, "Speaking and Listening Supporting Early Literacy"

Speaking and Listening Supporting Early Literacy (SAL SEL)

The SALSEL initiative is based on the Oral Language Supporting Early Literacy (OLSEL) project conducted by the Catholic Education Office. SALSEL seeks to develop the oral language competence of students in the early years to facilitate early literacy development.

The goal of this initiative is centred around professional learning and regular support with a speech pathologist to assist teachers to effectively plan and implement strategies which specifically target the development of oral language skills in the early years of schooling. It is not a program **about adding extra activities or "doing" oral language.**

Teachers consider the language demands of existing lessons and are supported to implement strategies to teach this language explicitly.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

The initiative focuses on four areas of oral language that explain the most variance in reading comprehension:

- Vocabulary
- Understanding & using complex sentences
- Story Grammar
- Phonological Awareness

As you can see, this program has direct links with the course the campus heads completed in 2017. We all know that our children learn to speak, before they can read or write and if children aren't competent in speaking and listening, gaps start to appear later in primary school grades. All of the teachers will be attending a 2 day professional development this Wednesday and Thursday in Ballarat.

CAMPUS UPDATES

COMMUNICATION

Research has proven that open communication between home and school is very important in providing the best support for students to achieve their best at school. Throughout the year, there will be times you will need to contact the school / class teacher for various reasons. Generally speaking, the classroom teacher is the first point of call for most general classroom inquiries. Unless otherwise arranged with the teacher, the best method to contact staff is in person or by phone. Social media, home phone etc. are to be avoided.

We do ask that meetings / discussions that are likely to take longer than a couple of minutes are to be arranged at a suitable time where time can be allocated to properly work through an issue. Contact details for the school, including email, can be found on the school website.

DROP OFF PROCEDURES

Drop off procedures may vary from class to class, depending on the age of the child and the stage of the year. Encouraging independence at this time of the day can be a great way for students to take responsibility for their own belongings. E.g. handing in their own notes, putting away their bag, preparing their belongings. Unless otherwise arranged with staff, students do not have access to the building prior to 8.40am.

PARENT PORTAL

We understand that parents received an email notification inviting them to a parent portal. This was a system generated notification by our reporting software program. The email address that parents have supplied the school is used for this communication.

It wasn't the school's intention for this email to go out to parents, without an explanation of the portals use or purpose.

The portal is a secure website that allows parents to log in and view all information that our school has uploaded relating to your child. The information on the portal is in PDF form and allows parents to access information like;

*Semester reports *Notes

*Behaviour incidents *Individual learning plans

*Absence information

Our staff are yet to start to use this portal and when we intend to, we will give our parent community the time required to prepare for such a change. We apologise that this automatic system error happened, we would never roll something out to parents without notice.

THE CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

The Victorian Government has announced funding over four years for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund, to ensure all eligible students are able to participate in school trips and sporting activities. Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. \$125 per year will be paid for each child at primary school. Payments will go directly to the school. Parents who are eligible for this payment need to apply by completing the application form distributed last week along with a copy of their current health care card and return to school by Wednesday, 28th February.

BOOKLIST

Parents are reminded that booklists must be paid for by the end of term one.

WHOLE SCHOOL P&F MEETING

A whole school P & F meeting will take place on Monday, 26th February at the Smythesdale campus. This meeting commences at 9:30 a.m.

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

Newsletters can be emailed each week. If you would prefer this option make contact with your campus office.

Newsletters are also available through the smart phone flexibuzz app and school website.



SEBASTOPOL CAMPUS

INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday 13th March, 2018

Campus Expo and Tours from 5.30pm
Information Briefing from 7pm

Parents and prospective students
are warmly invited to attend our
Information Evening.

The evening begins with an Expo and tour
of the Sebastopol Campus from 5.30pm
followed by discussion with Campus Leaders
and Teaching Staff in the Learning Resource
Centre at 7pm.

A comprehensive Information Package with
details about our Academic Achievers SEAL
Program, Academic Curriculum, Community
Scholarship Opportunities, Performing Arts
and our Sports Program will be provided.



Phoenix
P-12 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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The College Principal Team or School Leaders would be pleased
to conduct a personalised tour of the College at any time.
Bookings can be made by contacting the General Office on 03 5329 3293.

"In Knowledge there is Opportunity"



Woody Yaloak

Primary School

"Achieving Together"

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 key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

WHO IS ON THE SCHOOL COUNCIL?

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

- A mandated elected Parent category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
- A mandated elected DET employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category – members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. Department employees are not eligible to be Community members.

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 that can help 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 life skills and knowledge to the role. Councilors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

HOW CAN YOU BECOME INVOLVED?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term one 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 following the commencement of Term one each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

Department employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

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

REMEMBER

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the principal for further information.

Woody Yaloak Primary School

Smythesdale - Snake Valley - Scarsdale - Ross Creek