

"ACHIEVING TOGETHER"



Woody Yaloak Primary School

Website: [www.woodyyaloak.vic.edu.au](http://www.woodyyaloak.vic.edu.au)  
 Email: [woody.yaloak.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:woody.yaloak.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Principal: Corey Pohlner  
 Phone: 53 42 8565

## 2020 Term Dates

- 29th Jan - 27th Mar
- 14th Apr - 26th Jun
- 13th Jul - 18th Sep
- 5th Oct - 18th Dec

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

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

FOR YOUR DIARY  
2020

## OCTOBER

Friday 23rd

- AFL Grand Final - Public Holiday

Monday 26th

- School Council Meeting

Friday 30th

- Book Week Dress Up Day & Incursion

## NOVEMBER

Tuesday 3rd

- Melbourne Cup - Public Holiday

Wednesday 4th

- School Photos - Snake Valley and Scarsdale

Thursday 5th

- School Photos - Smythesdale and Ross Creek

Monday 16th

- Curriculum Day - Report Writing Day

## DECEMBER

Tuesday 15th

- Grade 6 Graduation

Thursday 17th

- Last day of Term 4 - 1.30pm Finish

PERMISSION FORMS  
AND  
MONEY DUE

DUE 21/10

- Book Week Incursion form and payment due



*Woody Yaloak Primary School was formed on the lands of the Wadawurrung people of the Kulin Nation.*

*We pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.*

*We also acknowledge the First Nations people throughout Victoria.*

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

This week I want to update our school community on a number of items that have been flagged during the year.

**School Uniform Update**

The first one is our change of school uniform. Earlier this year, before Covid 19 disrupted everything, at school council we had a number of meetings reviewing our current school uniform colours and student items. As a result a consultation strategy was developed and was communicated to our school community. These results were analysed, then we started to work with a couple of companies to come up with some possibilities to then work with our students to finalise what changes we were going to make.

Since Covid really halted all our plans, there has been little we could actually proceed with, due to the fact that we haven't been able to meet as a school council face to face and also school uniform companies started working from home or not working at all.

Even if none of Covid happened, this was going to be a slow transition. We have said from the start, there will always be a transition phase of 1-2 years with any changes, to allow parents time to adjust and not have a financial burden. The idea of this is for parents to only buy items over this period, when they actually need to, meaning when their children grow out of their existing uniform items.

All of this work will continue into 2021, but today I am communicating that our uniform colours and styles will remain the same for the start of 2021. Our new Foundation families will buy the existing uniform for the start of 2021. Next year at school council we will continue to work of this and keep our school community informed of any updates. Again whatever is decided will be a transition from the existing uniform of 1-2 years. In line with our school uniform policy a major part of any changes will be around affordability for our parents.

**2021 Parent Payments**

Currently each year as a school in term 4 we communicate to our parents the required classroom supplies (booklists) that each student will require for the following year. We also communicate in the newsletter some approximate costs for each year level excursions, so that parents can budget or make regular payments through the school year.

This year all schools are required to implement the new changes by the government around parent payments. Over the next couple of weeks a parent payment document for each year level will be sent home to each family. Within this document, we will communicate the following information to parents;

*Continued over page....*

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE Cont...

- Payment methods
- Financial support
- Essential student learning items
- Optional items
- Voluntary contribution items
- Example payment plans

The items above that have been bolded, are all items under a 'fee schedule'. As a school we have to be as explicit as possible in what parents are actually paying for. Teachers have been working together to come up with all the items that parents will have to fund in 2021. This might look overwhelming all on one document, as it is the costs over a whole school year, but it is a requirement by all schools from 2021. This will hopefully make more sense when you see the document for each year level. We will try and keep it as simple as possible and include as much information as possible. With some costs it is hard to get an exact figure, as there are many variables that change costs months before an event happens, most of them out of our control. The purpose of communicating approximate costs to parents the year before, is to allow parents to plan ahead and budget or make contact with the school to start a payment plan.

The purpose of this document for each year level is for schools to be as transparent as possible to parents.

### Technology Device

The third item I wanted to update our parents is around a school device. In the past we have had Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program, where our senior students have been able to bring an Apple iPad to school, in line with our school policy. Last year we started a review of this program, as there were many factors that we had to consider for school use and at home.

We understand that many parents have been asking what the plans are for 2021 for our senior students, which is why we are updating this information today. This year I have been working with a team of teachers and the Digital Learning Division in Melbourne to unpack all the options around this space. It is a complex task that has taken even longer, due to Covid and the changes to the parent payment policy.

Today we are communicating to parents that students in the senior grades **will not** need to purchase a new device for 2021 at the beginning of the school year. 2021 grade 6's will be able to bring their device to school for next year, as they have already purchased one. As a school our plan is to finalise our program by the end of term 1, 2021 and ready to implement the program from term 2, 2021.

We are developing a program that is affordable for both our school and families from foundation to grade 6. A big part of the program from foundation to grade 6 will be having a clear narrative around its purpose for its use in the classroom, which is directly linked to the curriculum. Through our consultation process with parents, school council and staff, we have learned allowing students to take devices home has been problematic for some families.

I hope these updates clear any questions or wonderings that parents might have at this time of the year. Any questions or feedback, please don't hesitate to ask, either through leadership or your school council rep.

*Corey Pohlner*  
Principal



\*VIP SALE CONDITIONS:  
Discount applies ONLY to Beleza brand full retail priced items.  
Blazers & Discounted items excluded. Other exclusions apply. 10% off cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer, voucher or discount.