1 August 2025.

Overport Newsflash

Overport Primary School
Towerhill Road,
Frankston 3199.

Telephone; 9783 8777
Email: overport.ps@education.vic.gov.au
Website: www.overport-ps.vic.edu.au

From Julie's desk.

Welcome to Term 3

Welcome back to school after the mid-year break! I sincerely hope everyone had the opportunity to relax and enjoy the holidays. It's been wonderful to see how eager our students are to return and reconnect with their teachers and friends.

Thank you to all families who attended last week's parent-teacher meetings. I'm sure you'll agree it's always valuable to hear about your child's progress and any support they may need for continued growth. Our teachers truly appreciate the opportunity to partner with you in your child's learning journey.

A big thank you also to our amazing Parents and Friends Club and all the volunteers who supported the Bunnings BBQ last weekend. Their dedication and hard work are very much appreciated.

The team is now busy preparing for our **Trivia Night** on **Saturday, 16 August**. If you haven't secured your tickets yet, don't delay — tables are filling fast! It promises to be a night full of fun and laughter.

What's on This Term.

In addition to the teaching and learning in our classrooms and specialist areas, we're looking forward to another fantastic term filled with exciting activities outside of this.

Last week we kicked things off with the **Lightning Premiership**. A big thank you to Mr Bryant, our Year 6 teachers, and ES staff for their support — and a huge congratulations to our students! From all reports, they were absolutely amazing, displaying beautiful behaviour, strong teamwork, and fantastic sportsmanship. Well done to everyone involved!

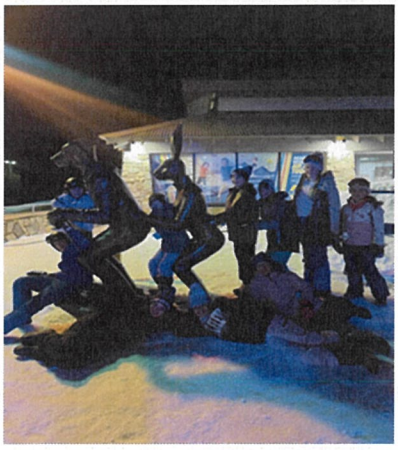
This week, a group of our students have been enjoying **Snow Camp** with Ms Alison Cumberlidge. We've had updates from the slopes and are pleased to hear they're having a wonderful time. Ms Cumberlidge sent through a photo yesterday showing the group skiing in glorious sunshine and today, we've heard it's snowing! No doubt that means a snowball challenge is on the cards. We look forward to welcoming our campers back.

Next week, a group of our Year 5 and 6 students will be participating in the **Hoop Time Basketball Challenge** — we wish them all the best and look forward to hearing how they go!

Following that, we'll be celebrating **Book Week** with our **Book Character Parade** on **Monday, 18 August**. A big thank you to Mrs Hill, our library technician, who will also be running a **Book Sale** in the library from **Monday to Thursday that week, between 3:30 pm and 4:15 pm**.

This term is packed with even more exciting opportunities, including:

- A group of students attending the **Maths Enrichment Day** with Ms Andreadis
- Our whole-school **GEM Day**
- The highly anticipated **Senior Production** on **Tuesday, 10 September**



...continued overleaf

Trialling New Timetable.

This term, we began trialling our new timetable, and we're already noticing some positive changes. Staff have observed a calmer start to the day with students settling in more smoothly in the mornings.
The longer break at 11:30am appears to be a hit — students are fresher, more active and engaging positively with one another. The short afternoon break is also proving beneficial, with the final session of the day more focused and settled.
As with any new initiative, there are still a few small adjustments to work through. We will be reviewing the new timetable with staff mid-way through the term, and we'd also value your input. If you have any feedback, please feel free to share it with your child's teacher.

STEM News - Junior Garden Club

Thank you to the family members that support the students in Garden Club on Monday afternoons to engage in the vegetable garden. Our STEM teachers have now invited interested junior gardeners to become engage and enjoy the experience of being in the garden. "Sweet little gardeners" Ms Melissa Gleeson called them when sending me these photos. They certainly made her smile. It has been delightful to see the interest in the school gardens that the students are displaying. Several of our preps very excitedly ran into the STEM room to tell Ms Gleeson that the rewilding is definitely working because they saw and owl in a tree! So there! It must be working; our preps would certainly know!

This is what Ms Gleeson and Mrs Walsh our STEM teachers had to say: We are pleased to invite our junior students (Grade prep, one and two) to join our Gardening Club, held during the first half of lunchtime on Wednesdays. This is a chance to come and do some gardening, weeding and watering. Sometimes the students will be planting and seed collecting. It will also be nice to just to be in the space and observe plants and insects! This allows the children a chance to be in nature which is so important to their wellbeing. Senior students will take turns in being garden representatives to help and support our younger students in the garden. We hope to see lots of our Junior students in the garden!

Student Absences

The Department of Education outlines clear expectations for student attendance, which includes being present for the full day. This means from the start of the morning bell to the end of the day. Regular attendance is essential for every child's academic success and social development.

Notifying the School of Absences: It is the responsibility of parents and carers to notify the school if your child will be absent. If we have not received notification by 10:00 am, an automated SMS will be sent to you. All absences must also be recorded accurately on Compass, therefore please avoid leaving them as "unexplained". **Late Arrivals:** We've noticed a growing number of students arriving between 9:00 am and 9:02 am and stopping to sign in late unnecessarily. Please note: teachers do not mark the roll until 9:05 am. If your child heads straight to class, they will not be marked late. However, there has also been an overall increase in late arrivals, often without a valid reason. These late entries are disruptive to both the class and your child's learning. Please ensure your child arrives on time. **Early Leavers:** Similarly, there has been a rise in early pickups particularly just after 3:00 pm. While we understand that traffic and other factors can be challenging, early departures also interrupt learning and can impact your child's progress. **Family Holidays During Term Time:** Family holidays are valuable experiences where children can learn about different places, cultures and people. However, if your child will be away during school time due to travel, you must notify the school office in advance. These absences should also be accurately recorded on Compass.

We understand that mornings can be challenging - juggling work, family and daily routines is no easy task. At times, children may say they don't want to come to school for various reasons and it can be tempting to give them the day off. However, sending them to school regularly, even when it's a bit tough, helps teach important life skills like resilience, responsibility and commitment. These are habits that will support their success well beyond the classroom. We are doing our best to monitor and support attendance, but we need your help to encourage all students to be at school — **on time and for the full day** — for the best possible learning and growth for not only themselves but their entire class. Thank you for your support.

"Every Student, in every school, every day, deserves a great day"

Kind Regards

Julie Gleeson, Principal.