5thrd February, 2024.

First edition—2024

Overport Newsflash

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From Julie's desk.

Welcome back - 2024!

Happy New Year to all our students and families. I trust that you all had an enjoyable holiday, a well-earned rest and that our students have returned ready for the year ahead. We are delighted to see them all return as well as be able to welcome our new little preppies, who have arrived very excited and eager to start school. Our year five students will begin developing Welcome to 2024 which we all hope will be another wonderful year for your students at Overport PS. I would like to wish our Year 5s very well developing their relationships with the new preps as their buddies...they just can't wait! We would especially like to warmly welcome our new students and families and invite them to take every opportunity to be a part of our wonderful family centred community. This year, we currently have 691 students across 31 classes.

Staff News

I would like to warmly welcome our new staff members, Annie Hall who joins our prep team on Thursday and Friday, Laura Hilli who joins our year 5s, Amy Acciarito, who joins us in the library for term one and Lexie Coventry, speech therapist. They join our wonderful team of staff who are here to support your children.

Curriculum Days

Please be advised that we are holding our first student free Curriculum Day Friday 8 March. The focus will be promoting student voice and wellbeing. We are also having one on 4 November, the day before the Cup Day public holiday, with a focus on mathematics with Michael Ymer. We have two more yet to be finalised and will notify families as soon as possible. Extend will be operating and offer on-site care for the day. If required, please use their booking site to book in your child/ren: https://www.extend.com.au/families/enrolments-and-bookings/.

Important Reminders.

There are a number of important things to be brought to your attention:

1. Assemblies: We will hold two whole school assemblies each term, parents are welcome to attend. The first for term one will be on Friday, 16th February from 9.05 am on the basketball court. Preps will not attend. Our second one will be on the final day of term, Thursday 28th March, which will be our Easter Hat Parade. Preps will attend.

2. Communication with Staff: Teachers can be contacted via the school email address, which is: overport.ps@education.vic.gov.au Please mark attention to the particular teacher who will then email you a reply giving you their correct address. Year level newsletters, outlining the program in each area will be sent out early in each term. I also send out the 'Newsflash' three times each term and further information comes our through Compass.

3. Attendance: ***It's Not Okay to be Away! Every Day counts!*** It is a requirement that all school age children attend school. Regular and timely attendance is essential to allow them to reach their full potential. However, if your child is unwell, especially with cold or flu-like symptoms, please keep them at home and advise the school on Compass as an attendance note prior to **10.00 am.** If their symptoms, are cold or flu-like, it is recommended that you see a doctor or undertake an RA test. Students who are diagnosed with COVID must remain absent for 5 days before returning to school. They should not return unless they are well.

4. At the beginning of the school day, at 8.50 am, music will play to indicate that the classroom doors are now open for all students to make their way inside. The bell will go at 9.00 am for class to begin. It is **critical** for children to **arrive on time** ready to start the day. This ensures their own learning as well as not disrupting others. If they arrive after 9.00 am, they must sign in at the office and collect a late pass.

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5. As the department of education and early child development does not offer individual cover for student's personal injury, I recommend parents consider insurance. JUA underwriting agency offer a "Student Health" - Personal Injury and Accident Protection Insurance - www.studenthealth.com.au

6. School uniform is **compulsory**. Our uniform policy is located on the website. Please note extreme hairstyles such as mohawks, and non-natural colours are not permitted. **Please also ensure that all students whose hair touches their shoulders must have hair tied back or up off shoulders.** Only small earrings such as studs are permitted. Only medical or religious jewellery is permitted and should be worn under uniform for safety reasons. Our Sun Smart policy is also on our website. Broad brimmed or legionnaire hats must be worn until the end of April and from 1st September. A plain navy blue one is also acceptable. We encourage the use of sunglasses. Please note that PSW can be found in Mornington at 1/22 Watt Road. Telephone: 97680346.

7.Children riding bikes or scooters to school must wear a helmet and must be in year 4 or above unless accompanied by an adult. They are to dismount and walk their bikes etc once in the grounds. Bikes can be stored behind the black gates at the Bayview Learning Centre or in front of the Towerhill Learning Centre. These areas are out of bounds however, we do strongly recommend a bike lock.

8. Please discourage children from bringing precious items to school. All personal items of students, including bikes, mobile phones, special toys, etc, if brought to school, are done so at a student's own risk.

9.Mobile phones must be handed into the class teacher, who will keep these safe and be collected at the end of the day. Smart watches must have the phone/text component turned off once they are in the grounds for the school day. Students are not permitted to use phones or phone watches within the school grounds. The 'Mobile Phone Policy' which is a Department of Education policy that all schools must adhere to, can be found on our website.

10. All forms and payment for excursions, incursions, etc must go via COMPASS.

11. Parking for drop off and pick up: ***Please do not park in no parking zones or in the "Kiss and Go" area opposite the school. Please note this incudes the Summit Road entrance.*** The fines for this area are very heavy and the council regularly patrols. If you have parking concerns, please contact the Frankston Council on 1300 322 322. As parking is at a premium, particularly at pick time, if you are close enough, we strongly encourage you to walk.

12.Canteen: Our Canteen is run by Stir Crazy Kids. It is open from 8.30 am and they offer coffee for parents or hot chocolate for students. They are open for window sales at recess and lunch. Parents can order lunches on the Stir Crazy Kids app or send an order in a paper bag. You can order online up to 9.00 am daily or prior to 9.00 am on line or at the canteen window.

13. Also located on our website are two policies you may find helpful; 'Parent Community Code of Conduct' and 'Parents Complaints; Raising Concerns'. However, we are here to assist in any way we can, so do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher with queries or concerns. Mrs Jill Wathen and Miss Marie Yanni are our Assistant Principals and we are all happy to help.

14. The Department of Education and Training values the privacy of every person and is committed to protecting information that schools collect. All staff of the Department, including our school, must comply with Victorian privacy law and this policy. In Victorian government schools, the management of 'personal information' and 'health information' is governed by Victorian privacy law. The link for the policy is https://www.education.vic.gov.au/pages/privacypolicy.aspx#link101

It explains how our school collects and manages personal and health information, consistent with Victorian privacy law.

Year 4 to 6 House Swimming Carnival.

Our year 4 to 6 students will be going to the Pines Swimming Centre Thursday, 15th February for trials in all swimming events. There will also be lots of fun events in the pool and on the water slide. Please ensure you submit your consent on Compass for your child/children to attend. We know they will have a great time and at this stage the long range forecast suggests that the weather is looking good.

Centrepay.

Parents may pay by Centrepay. Centrepay is a voluntary fee/bill paying service which is free for Centrelink customers. It really helps with payment of camps and excursions. If you would like to set up an account, the easiest way is through your Centrelink online account or lodge your form online via www.humanservices.gov.au/submitdocumentsonline Overport PS Business Centrelink Reference Number is 555 106 972 S If you have any queries or would like a form emailed to you please contact overport.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Extend—Our Out Of Hours School Care Program.

Our Out of Hours School Care program has been run by Extend for over ten years now. We have a wonderful partnership with them and look forward to continuing this. While not all families need to use this servcie, sometimes unexpected things can happen. Car break down, traffic jam, etc. Therefore, it is always recommended that you register your child at OHSC just in case there is situation where you will be late to pick up. It is free to register and does not need to be used, however, it can ease the mind of parents if an unusual situations arises. The educators in Extend are well trained and offer amazing care.

Child Safe Policy.

Overport Primary School is a child safe organisation. All staff at Overport believe all young people have the right to feel and be safe. Victoria's Child Safe Standards were put in place in 2016 to protect children and young people from harm and abuse. In 2022, the Child Safe Standards were revised for schools to ensure compliance. Our school review in 2023 have approved our compliance of all Child Safe Standards. Information about all 11 Child Safe Standards can be found here in the information sheet:

https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/New-CSS/Child-Safe-Standards-Information-Sheet-30.01.23.pdf

Last year, we developed an 'addressing and preventing racist bullying' action plan that you can access on the school website. Here is the link to the document that outlines all that we are currently doing and would like to do to stop this from happening to any child: https://www.overport-ps.vic.edu.au/uploads/1/0/8/4/10847507/dec_1_preventing_racist_bullying_planning_tool.pdf

It is also important to impress upon your child/ren to speak to their teacher if they have any issues or concerns. Sometimes social issues arise that can be easily addressed and are not the same as bullying. We are all in a partnership, families and school, to help children develop sound social connections. We are also keen to send the message to all students that bullying is not tolerated!

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

-Department of Education

Kind Regards

Julie Gleeson,

Principal.

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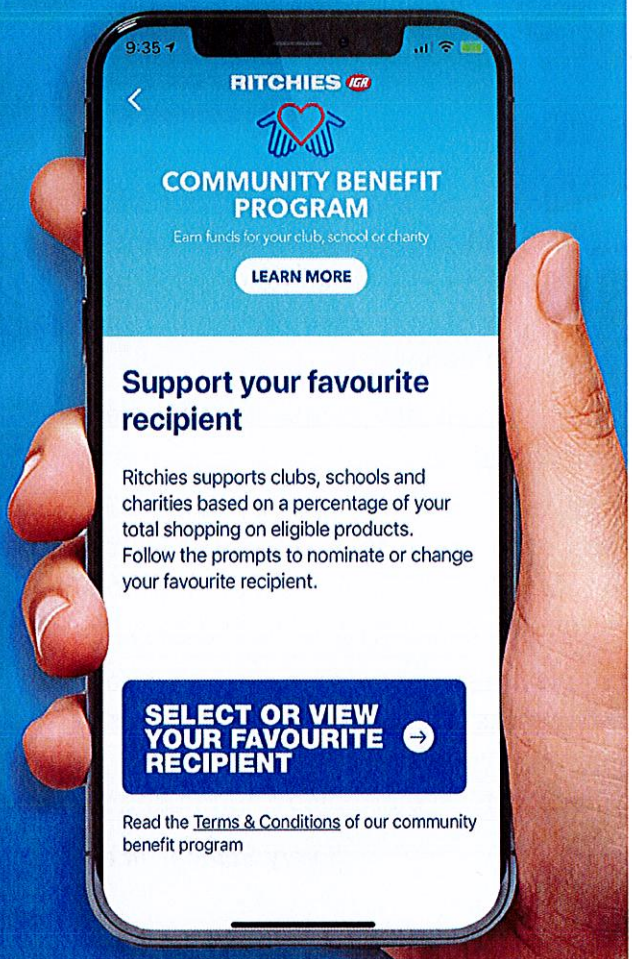

*CONDITIONS APPLY. Go to ritchies.com.au/loyalty for further information.

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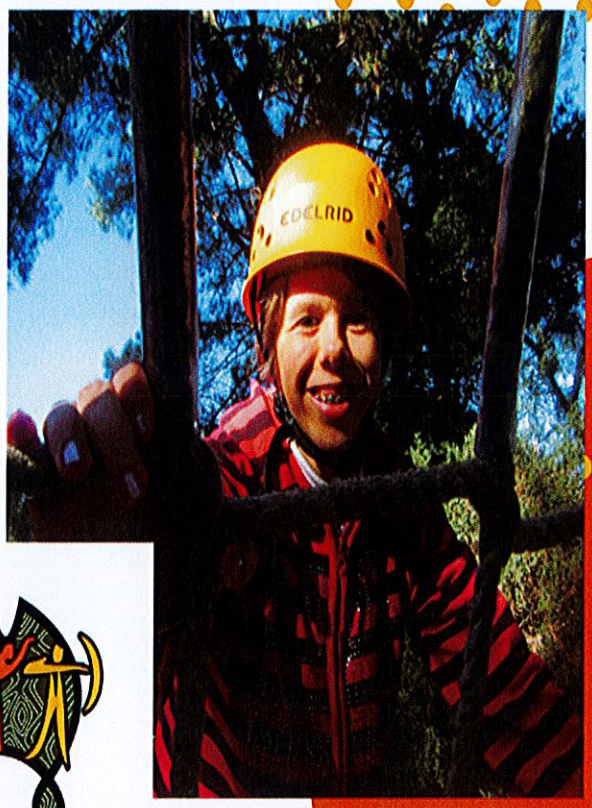

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