



March 3rd, 2022

OVERPORT NEWS

From the Principal's Desk.

Overport Primary School
Towerhill Road,
Frankston 3199.

Telephone: 9783 8777

Email:

overport.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Website:

www.overport-ps.vic.edu.au

Dates to remember:

TERM ONE

4th March—Whole school assembly on the basketball court—9am

14th March—Labour Day Public Holiday

25th March—House Cross Country

29th & 30th March—Cyber Safety Project for students at school

8th April—Easter Hat Parade & last day of term

CSEF—If you are the holder of a concession card or a health care card, you are entitled to apply for CSEF (camp, sports and excursion fund). Please see the office for an application form.

Road Safety

Our students', your children's, safety on and around roads is critical. Please use the crossing at the front of the school and not the hump, as this is not a crossing. We also request that parents are careful where they park to avoid blocking a clear view of the road; this includes the Summit Road entrance. The "Kiss and Go" area on Towerhill Road is for simple drop off and collection with no more than a 2-minute stop and **NOT** for parking in and leaving your car. This is causing many frustrations. Please be considerate and careful.

Monterey Secondary College School-Based Apprenticeship in Horticulture.

Over the last two years due to the interruptions caused by lockdowns, we have not been able to ensure our gardens and grounds are well kept. In particular our lovely Japanese garden had become very overgrown. Through a chance discussion with Principal, Peter Langham from Monterey Secondary School, we have been fortunate to have the assistance of a group of their senior students who undertaking a school-based apprenticeship in horticultural. Along with their teacher, Susan Bollard, they visited the school twice over the last two weeks and have pruned and sorted the Japanese garden, which now looks lovely. We are very thrilled with their help and support and appreciate what they have done for us. I am sure you join with me in thanking them.

Term 2 Curriculum Day –Tuesday 26th April.

Next term will commence with the ANZAC day public holiday on Monday 25th April. We will follow this with our term 2 Curriculum Day on Tuesday, 26th April to minimise disruption for other weeks in the term. Extend will still offer care of that day should families require it. Then on Friday 29th April, we will hold our annual ANZAC assembly on the basketball court. This will be led by our student leaders. We are also pleased to have Constable Rob Gilson who will speak to the students. We welcome our families to attend.

Introducing our newest staff member — Ralph our Therapy Dog!

It is with great excitement that we introduce a new school initiative to support the health and wellbeing of students in our Overport community, our therapy dog, Ralph! Our teacher, Sophie Stevens has recently completed specialised training with Ralph to become a certified human-canine therapy team. Sophie and Ralph completed a five-day intensive course through Therapy dogs Australia as part of this training. Please see attached detailed information from Sophie Stevens.



...continued overleaf



To all students celebrating their birthdays this week and next week

Mia 2B,
Harlow PB,
Henry 2C,
Harry 3A,
William 5C, Oscar PB,
Frankie 5C,
Charlie 5C, Leila 5E,
Madeline 6B,
Oskar 6D,
Sebastian PD,
Luca 4D, Indigo PC,
Evelin 3A,
Priyanka PB,
Evie-Mae 3B, Leo 4D,
Tatum 4D, Gracie 5D,
Daniel 6B, Xavier 2C
Jett 4D,
Addison 5E,
Amiah 1D, Oscar 1E,
Thomas 3D,
Rohan PB,
Logan 2A,
Lily 5E,
Lacy 6D,
Jasper 6D

Be grateful for the calm when it is here.

One never knows when the storm may start!

Anon.

Principals Report (cont)

Primary School Students and Social Media

Current school policy requires students to hand in phones to their teachers when they enter the classroom and collect them at the end of the day.

We are noticing an increasing number of students are now arriving at school with mobile phones that can be used to access social media apps such as Tik Tok.

For your information as parents:

- Tik Tok requires users to be 13 years of age. If younger than 13, they require permission from a parent or guardian.
- An email address or mobile phone number is required set up a Tik Tok account.
- Tik Tok accounts are set to public by default and need to be made private using the setting functions.

Social media is a part of our lives that can be positive, affirming and a great way to communicate with friends and family. Our students are growing up in a world where social media will have a large impact on their lives and wellbeing. If students are not supported and taught to use these platforms well, then unfortunately this impact can be less positive.

At school, our esmart digital safety license teaches students appropriate and healthy ways to engage with technology in an age-appropriate way. Teachers continually address the importance of good online behaviour in classrooms. Students also sign a code of conduct relating to their use of technology while at school.

An increasing number of middle school students appear to be using social media apps like Tik Tok outside of school. This means that students are interacting with one another online outside of school hours. Like all online communication, these interactions have the ability to be positive and uplifting. Unfortunately, there are times where students communicate in ways that knowingly, or unknowingly, are distressing other students. This is where the lines between what happens at school and outside school become blurred. Classroom teachers are spending more and more time working through issues that have happened online outside of school but are impacting on student relationships and classroom learning. The restorative conversations that occur are a great opportunity to reinforce good online behaviours, however they can be time consuming and take away from classroom learning time.

If your children are using any forms of social media, including Tik Tok, we encourage you to discuss with them how to interact in positive ways with others. There is a lot to learn and they will benefit from guidance as they navigate social media.

Kind Regards,

*Julie Gleeson,
Principal.*

Privacy Note: The Department of Education and Training (which includes all Victorian government schools, central and regional offices) values the privacy of every person and is committed to protecting information that schools collect. Please view the Overport Privacy Policy and all other policies on the Overport website.

Community News

SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

Overport PS is participating in the Colgate Community Garden Challenge again this year.

Through Terracycle, schools have a chance to win a community garden kit for the school grounds. We can win everything we need to create a little ecosystem in our school and teach students about how flowers, plants and insects work together to grow our food.

Between 24 February - 31 October, collect oral care waste, drop in the collection box at the office and vote for our school to earn Garden Points. More information: <https://www.terracycle.com/en-AU/contests/colgategardenonline-au>

Program accepted waste: Toothpaste tubes and caps, manual plastic toothbrushes, electric toothbrush heads, toothbrush plastic packaging, floss containers.

BULLYING NO WAY

On Friday the 18th of March we will be taking part Bullying No Way! Day. You might like to wear something orange like a scrunchie or ribbon for your hat or wrist to help show that we are taking a stand.



Positive Start—FREE Holiday camps

Dear Parents and Carers

During the past 2 years, the COVID-19 pandemic has meant that many students have missed out on the opportunity to experience outdoor activities in an organised, social and supportive environment.

The Victorian Government is committed to supporting the health and wellbeing of all children and young people and is offering the chance for eligible students to attend a free camp program as part of the Positive Start in 2022 initiative, during the 2022 school holiday periods. Please see the attached information to the newsletter to express your interest today.

Community Sport News

Overport Allstars Basketball Club Winter Competition

Dear Overport Families,

Is your child keen to start playing basketball? Now is the time to register their interest for the upcoming Winter season, played over Terms 2 and 3. We are seeking girls and boys of all ages. Our preference is for you to create your own team and provide us with the players, Coach and Team Manager, however we know this can be difficult when you are new to a sport or school.

If you have identified your own brand new team to join the Allstars (wow!!) add your team to this form by **Friday 11th March**. <https://forms.gle/2TSkEycGBUPTp48Y9>

If your child is brand new to the Club and you haven't been able to identify a team, please complete this Expression of Interest form by **Friday 11th March** too. <https://forms.gle/2TSkEycGBUPTp48Y9>

The Club will be creating new teams and helping fill gaps in existing teams from those children who register their interest. Our youngest teams are Under 8s (Prep/ Year 1/ Year 2), right up to U14s in Year 6 (and some teams beyond!).

Our website is up to date and will help answer any questions you have: <https://overportbasketball.com/>
Adding your child's name means we will do our best to find them a team. If their interest changes, please advise us ASAP. Basketball teams are small and late withdrawals can mean a team becomes unfeasible.

If your child is a current member of the Allstars, their ongoing interest will be captured by the Team Manager and this form is not required.

Regards

Overport Allstars Basketball Club Committee

overportbasketball@gmail.com

Facebook: Overport Allstars Basketball Club

SCHOOL FUN RUN

The logo for School Fun Run features the word 'SCHOOL' in large, bold, yellow letters with a black outline, and 'FUN RUN' in large, bold, blue letters with a black outline below it.

1800 FUN RUN (386 786)
INFO@SCHOOLFUNDRAISING.COM.AU
SCHOOLFUNDRAISING.COM.AU

The Fundraising Group (Australia) Pty Ltd
ABN 44 090 756 488

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We will be holding the School Fun Run as a major fundraising event this year on Wednesday 6th April. We're doing it to raise much needed money to upgrade our school grounds and ICT equipment.

The School Fun-Run BIG SHOW is all about Fun! There will be huge inflatables, and you will get to meet Chase the Cheetah! Think of it as a Fun Run carnival! This will be one of the most exciting days on our school's calendar, with everyone's participation the aim, so please make sure they attend of the day and cheer the other kids on!

Please see the following page for all the information on this fantastic day!



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About the Day

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How Does My Child Fundraise?

Firstly, go to schoolfunrun.com.au and create a student profile page. Everything to do with your fundraising revolves around this page.

Students who raise just \$10 will be able to choose a prize! The more they raise, the better their reward – don't forget to check these out in the sponsorship form! We have educated students on the dangers of door knocking without supervision, and we encourage you to reiterate this at home. The great thing about online fundraising is that you can share the link to your child's profile with friends and family via email, SMS and Social Media.

Online Fundraising

The easiest way to help your child raise money is through online fundraising, where students raise an average of \$120. On top of raising more money, it's also safer and easier than doorknocking and you don't have to worry about handling money! To start fundraising online, go to your student profile page at schoolfunrun.com.au and share your online fundraising link.

Competition Time

To get our event off to a flyer, we're starting our BIG SHOW with a super easy competition! The class with the most online profiles registered by **18th March** will win a class party! To help your child's class win, simply create your profile at schoolfunrun.com.au.

Getting Involved

Not only can you support the school and students with your sponsorship – but you can join in on the fun! We would love to welcome parents and family members to attend the *School Fun Run*. If you would like to volunteer on the day, please contact me on the details below. I can't wait to see you at our event!

Ordering Prizes – ALL PRIZES MUST BE ORDERED ONLINE

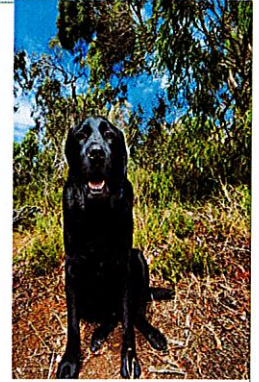
Please contact your school's coordinator if this isn't possible.

Prizes MUST be ordered between the **13th April** and **29th April** Simply visit schoolfunrun.com.au to log into your Profile Page between these dates. Then click on the 'CLAIM YOUR PRIZE' button and follow the prompts. If you have any questions, please contact the *School Fun Run* team on 1800 FUN RUN

Dear Parents,

Sophie and Ralph have completed a five-day intensive course through Therapy dogs Australia and as part of this training, Ralph has demonstrated a high-level of obedience and good impulse control and as a result deemed suitable to work with children within a school environment. In addition, Sophie has demonstrated appropriate animal handling skills and a sound awareness of animal welfare topics supporting them to be a proficient dog handler to a Therapy Dog.

Ralph is a 6-year-old labrador. He enjoys cuddles and walks. Ralph can be playful and is always eager to meet new people.



Research continues to acknowledge the positive impact animals have on our health and wellbeing. Through the development of the human animal bond (HAB), we can experience reductions in blood pressure, increased oxytocin levels (associated with love and bonding), a reduction in cortisol levels (stress hormone) among many other beneficial physiological and emotional responses. As animals are non-judgmental, and provide an unconditional love they not only assist in increasing the engagement between teacher and student but also assist as an intrinsic motivator to support participation.

Through Ralph's presence within the school environment it is envisaged that he will support student engagement, assist with social skill development, aid with self-regulation and calming, among many other benefits. Ralph will be engaging with students in a variety of ways including (individual interventions, small group and class interventions) as well as a presence across a range of all school events.

Interacting with Ralph is completely voluntary. All students and staff will choose to interact with Ralph if they feel comfortable. He will be closely monitored and managed using verbal commands and leads to manage his behaviour throughout the college campus. Due to the busy nature of a school environment it will not be possible for Ralph to attend school each day. Ralph's coping and fatigue will be closely monitored to ensure he is happy and managing the many requests for cuddles each day.

Understandably some parents will have concerns about their child's interaction with an animal within the school environment. These concerns may relate to your child's fear or phobia of animals, or a health and safety concern. We would like to assure you that all precautions are being taken to minimise risks and as a result, a risk management plan is available for your perusal should you wish to better understand our planning. In addition, further information about commonly asked questions and concerns is available on the attached document for your consideration.

If you do not wish to consent to your child having any interactions with Ralph please ensure you discuss this decision with your child. You are also required to complete a 'Non-Consent or Consent Withdrawal for Canine Interaction form' which is available from our school administration. Completing this document will ensure the school is aware of your decision and will support staff to monitor your child's proximity to Ralph. It will also be your child's responsibility to ensure they expresses their concerns with relevant staff and not approach Ralph if parent permission has been withdrawn.

Should you wish to discuss any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Sophie Stevens or Marie Yanni.. Please also contact the school office should you wish to attain a copy of the risk management plan, commonly asked questions and concerns document, information about zoonosis or to request a 'Non-Consent/Consent Withdrawal for Animal Interaction Form'.



Finally, as Ralph has undergone specialised training to ensure his suitability to a school environment, we remind you that no unauthorised animals are to enter the school premises without the prior written permission of a member of our school leadership team. We thank you for your ongoing support and look forward to sharing some exciting adventures of Ralph's time at Overport Primary School

Sophie Stevens & Marie Yanni.