



'Where everybody is somebody'

Term 1 Week 1 • Friday 3rd February 2017

Message from the Principal

Dear Families,

Welcome to 2017 at Spotswood Primary School!

There was a palpable energy around the school this week as students and families returned. I heard many excited stories about holiday experiences and events, but mostly children just wanted to find each other and reconnect. It was a warm reminder of the wonderful school community we have here at Spotswood.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the families that have joined us this year, either as part of our 2 new classes of preps, but also those new families who joined us at other year levels through the school. If you see a new face in the yard, please introduce yourself and welcome our growing community.

Assembly on Monday

We will be holding our first assembly for the year on Monday morning at 9:00am in the courtyard. All families are welcome to join us at assembly. At assembly we take a few moments to celebrate the achievements of our students with the presentation of certificates. This year we are going to include the names of students in our Friday newsletter who will be presented with awards on the following Monday. This will enable parents the opportunity to attend if they are able to. The full details of the awards will be included in the newsletter that week.

New Declaration

This week at our assembly we will be introducing our new declaration. We have updated our declaration to include our school motto and an acknowledgement of country. Teachers and students have spent time in class this week looking at the new declaration and learning to understand what each component represents. We look forward to starting our assembly on Monday with our new declaration.

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Spotswood primary school

Our Declaration

- This is from our old declaration: We are standing among friends we care for and respect.
- This is our school motto: We are proud of our community where everybody is somebody.
- This is an Acknowledgment of Country: We acknowledge the people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of this land. We pay our respects to the Elders both past and present.

Mornings

This is a very important message for ALL families about student safety in the mornings at school. Parents are reminded that school starts at 9:00am and that student supervision in the yard commences at 8:45am. Whilst teachers are often here much earlier than this, they have chosen to arrive at school early for a number of reasons such as planning daily lessons, gathering and setting up resources, meeting with team members and any number of other administrative tasks.

Children are being reminded not to enter the buildings before 8:45am to enable staff uninterrupted time to prepare for the start of day.

I am surprised at the number of students who are arriving very early at school, a steady stream starting from as early as 8:00am. Please do not drop your children off this early unsupervised. If your child is older and makes their way to school independently, please discuss and agree on an appropriate time to leave home that ensures they do not arrive before 8:45am.

We find that groups of children arriving early to play or 'hang out' this early is not always the best start to a day, for example if a disagreement in a game occurs, there is not a yard duty teacher available to assist and classroom teachers may then need to start the day resolving a problem before commencing their lessons.

The safety of your children is very important to us and we ask for your support in this important aspect of the start of the day.

Purple notes folders

Hopefully you have all read the note about our purple notes folders. These folders have an important job to do to ensure that notes make their way safely to and from school. We ask that you make sure the folder is in your child's bag every day in case we need to send a note home.

Nut allergies

As a school, we are not entirely nut free, however some classrooms are nut free zones. If your child's class is a nut free zone we ask that you do not send food items to school that contain nuts, to reduce the chance of exposure for others who may be sensitive.

The following classes are nut free zones:

1/2G

1/2SY

3/4B

3/4H

5L

Jackie Green
Principal



Student Awards

The following students will be receiving awards on Monday 6th February:

Prep TAtharv Mathur

Prep V Jasper Spiers

1/2G Cohan Milne

1/2H..... Rowland Walker, Harry Gillott

1/2SY Angel Arriaza

1/2T Sibella Jury

3/4B..... Jeremy Lester, Jasper Walker

3/4E..... Charlie J Francis

3/4H..... Siena Garrett

5L Angelo Damalis

5/6B..... Conner Milne

Bunnings BBQ – Saturday 4th March



We will be holding a BBQ fundraiser at the Bunnings store on Millers Road in Altona North on Saturday 4th March between 8am and 4.30pm with sales to the public between 9am and 4pm. If you are able to assist on the day with cooking or selling sausages, please complete the roster below and return it to the office.

Lucy Francis (Charlie & Molly's Mum) has kindly offered to coordinate the BBQ for us. Even though we have 4 weeks to get ready, we are hoping to fill the roster as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support.

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Bunnings BBQ – 4th March – Volunteer Helpers

Name:.....

Contact No:.....

I am able to assist during the following times:

8am – 9am (Set Up)

9am – 11am

11am – 1pm

1pm – 3pm

3pm – 4.30pm

● Spotty Calendar ●

Friday 24th February

District Swimming Carnival *

Monday 27th February

Preps start attending full time

Wednesday 1st March

Prep Parents Information Night (7pm-8pm) – ‘What happens in a day at school!’

Saturday 4th March

Bunnings BBQ fundraiser

Monday 13th March

Labour Day Public Holiday (No children at school)

Friday 31st March

Last Day of Term 1 (2.30pm dismissal)

* more details to follow

Lunch Orders

Lunch orders are available every Thursday commencing next Thursday 9th February. A Term 1 menu will be sent home early next week.

To place a lunch order write your child's order on a brown paper bag and include the money inside the bag. Remember to write your child's name and grade on the bag.

Year 6 Students

Today our Year 6 students were presented with their T-shirts which will identify them as leaders in our school. I am sure they will wear them with a lot of pride. The students have been having some very thoughtful and insightful discussion about what is, and what isn't, leadership. Next week they will have the opportunity to nominate for our School Captain positions and these will be announced at assembly on Monday 13th February.



Newsletter

From March the newsletter will mainly be available electronically. Please see the page headed 'Communication at Spotswood Primary School' in this newsletter for more details.

If you would still like to receive a hard copy of the newsletter each Friday, please complete the slip below.

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Newsletters

I would still like to receive a hard copy of the newsletter each Friday, sent home with my child.

Eldest Child in the Family: Grade:

Please return this slip to the office by Friday 17th February.

Our preps have started school this week, a big turning point in their lives (and their parents!) We are pleased to share some tips that could assist with this change over the next few weeks from one of our parents. These tips can also be helpful for children at other year levels who may find settling back a new challenge at this time of year. Thank you Lisa for sharing this information.

Prep Transition

The transition from kinder to school can be a big change for children (and adults!). To help support your child to prepare for this change, here are some tips that may help:

- Create a simple “social story” for your child regarding starting school. You could type one up and add photos or clipart, or just handwrite one in a notebook. A suggested template could include:
 - My name is and I have now started school. I am feeling..... (help your child with this part, e.g. excited, nervous)
 - I am looking forward to.... (e.g. learning, sport, making friends)
 - I am worried about... (e.g. missing mum/dad, knowing who to ask for something)
 - It's normal to feel Starting school is a big change and it will take me time to get used to it.
 - My teacher is and they are there to help me settle in to school. They will show me where things are, help me when I need and teach me new things. I can always ask my teacher for help when I need it.
 - I will get to school by [Mum/dad/other] will drop me off and say goodbye.
 - I will listen to my teacher and do lots of different activities. I will have a break for snack and lunch. I will get to know the school grounds, other children and spend time in the playground.
 - [mum/dad/other] will pick me up in the afternoon. I might feel tired because I have done lots of new things.
 - Starting school is a big change and it's normal to feel lots of different feelings. My parents and my teacher are on my team and can help me when I need. I need to remember to ask them questions or ask for help whenever I need. This will help me get used to school and have fun.
- Create a visual school drop off checklist to help them understand expectations of saying goodbye e.g. bag on hook, find an activity in the classroom, say goodbye
- Create a visual weekly timetable for the fridge to help your child understand the weekly school routine (e.g. with days of the week, times, who does drop off/pick up)
- Make some special 1:1 time following your child's first week to connect and reflect on becoming a prep student
- Be aware of how you are feeling about the transition. Your child can not be less stressed than you are. Make sure you allow time for yourself to process and reflect on your child's transition and your feelings about this.

These resources have some great tips about 1:1 time and supporting an anxious child with separation:

http://www.ahaparenting.com/blog/How_To_Special_Time

[http://www.child.com.au/page?page=child-blog-separation-](http://www.child.com.au/page?page=child-blog-separation-anxiety.jsp&utm_source=child.com.au&utm_campaign=992be2cd70-Blog%3A+Separation+Anxiety+21%2F01%2F17&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_12b23edb0e-992be2cd70-311674365&mc_cid=992be2cd70&mc_eid=6cd207c638)

[anxiety.jsp&utm_source=child.com.au&utm_campaign=992be2cd70-](http://www.child.com.au/page?page=child-blog-separation-anxiety.jsp&utm_source=child.com.au&utm_campaign=992be2cd70-Blog%3A+Separation+Anxiety+21%2F01%2F17&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_12b23edb0e-992be2cd70-311674365&mc_cid=992be2cd70&mc_eid=6cd207c638)

[Blog%3A+Separation+Anxiety+21%2F01%2F17&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_12b23edb0e-992be2cd70-311674365&mc_cid=992be2cd70&mc_eid=6cd207c638](http://www.child.com.au/page?page=child-blog-separation-anxiety.jsp&utm_source=child.com.au&utm_campaign=992be2cd70-Blog%3A+Separation+Anxiety+21%2F01%2F17&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_12b23edb0e-992be2cd70-311674365&mc_cid=992be2cd70&mc_eid=6cd207c638)

Hope these ideas will be helpful!

Lisa Catania

Clinical Psychologist

Communication at Spotswood Primary School

We are always trying to improve our communication between school and home and we now have a few different ways to help busy parents keep up with notes and events happening here.

<p>Newsletter</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: red; font-size: 1.2em;">Newsletter</p> <p>The first point of call is our newsletter which is produced weekly. During February a hard copy of the newsletter will be sent home to all families. It is also available to view on our website and is sent via the Skoolbag App at approximately 4pm on a Friday.</p> <p>If you would like to receive the newsletter as an email you can subscribe on our website at www.spotswoodps.vic.edu.au and click on 'Contact Us'. You will then receive an email once the newsletter is available to view on our website.</p> <p>From Friday 3rd March the newsletter will mainly be available electronically. This will assist us to reduce printing costs at the school. If you would still like to receive a hard copy of your newsletter please complete the slip provided in this newsletter and return it to the office by 17th February.</p>	<p>Skoolbag App</p>  <p>We currently have over 400 subscribers to our Skoolbag App and this is a great way to keep in touch with activities and events at our school.</p> <p>Once you download the App via the App Store (or Android equivalent) – search for 'Spotswood Primary School' - you will receive the newsletter each Friday as well as important reminders about upcoming events or deadlines for notes due back at school.</p> <p>You can also advise us of your child's absence via Skoolbag as well as any change of address or contact number for emergency contacts.</p>
<p>Qkr</p>  <p>Qkr is a financial App designed to assist families to pay for their child's school fees and excursions costs quickly and easily at home or work and any time of the day (or night!).</p> <p>We encourage all families to download Qkr as all excursions and other school payments will be added to Qkr as excursions etc are planned.</p> <p>The App can be downloaded from the App Store (or android equivalent) – look for 'Qkr by Mastercard' - and follow the instructions on the sheet sent home today.</p> <p>For assistance or to provide feedback please email Sharon at spotswood.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au</p>	<p>Website</p>  <p>Our school website can be found at www.spotswoodps.vic.edu.au</p> <p>Although we largely use our App for communication now, an archive of information can be found on our website.</p> <p>If you would like to receive the newsletter as an email you can subscribe on our website at www.spotswoodps.vic.edu.au and click on 'Contact Us'. You will then receive an email once the newsletter is available to view on our website.</p>
<p>Purple Notes Folder</p> <p>On Wednesday, notes are sent home with students in a blue notes pocket. They can be returned to teachers via the notes pocket on any day.</p> 	

Our School's use of Social Media

The school does not have an official Facebook page. All school information is communicated via our App, website, Qkr and newsletter.

<p>Instagram</p>  <p>Communications to families about what is happening in the Art Room is done via the Art Room's Instagram account. If you are interested in a glimpse into our Art Room you can follow along at spotswood.art and see some of the things happening.</p>	<p>Twitter</p>  <p>We also have a school Twitter account @spottypstweets for families to view our tweets. Children are not identified or named on our social media accounts.</p>
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Parents are always welcome to call us on 9391 1323 or contact us via email at spotswood.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au – even though a lot of our communication is now done electronically, it is always nice to see your faces and speak with you on the phone!