

# NEWSLETTER

## 12th March 2026

### Principal's Report

Our 2026 Student Leaders were announced at our whole school assembly last Monday. I am pleased to announce our student leadership team for 2026:

School Captain: Amelia Mastertoun

School Captain: Aarik Frend

SRC Captains: Beth Puoch, Lucy Hsu, Tanvi George, Andrew Legaspi, Ruby Kruse, Eshan Siddiqui, Sharia Fatima, Seb Burrige, Aamna Fatima,

House Captain – Botanic: Alyse Hunter

House Captain – Botanic: Hashir Waleed

House Captain – Creekwood: Ellie Scarlett

House Captain – Creekwood: Thomas Leithhead

House Captain – Parkway: Piper Allan

House Captain – Parkway: Arun Satkunam

House Captain – Waterford: Evie Hellyer

House Captain – Waterford: Surinder Virdi

Congratulations to our student leaders and I look forward to working with you all during 2026.

Last Thursday all our students started a three-week Cultural Dance Program with the Footsteps Dance Company as part of our recognition and celebration of Harmony Week. Students from all year levels are participating in the program each Thursday learning dances from a variety of different cultures. The final week of the program will be Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, coinciding with Harmony Week.

To further recognise Harmony Day, students are encouraged to wear a splash of orange on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, with their casual dress day.

Recently we had 4 students represent PLPS at the district swimming carnival. Congratulations to Elijah S in year 4, Connor D in year 5, and in year 6 Thomas L and Lucas R for their great effort when competing in their elected events. Thomas and Lucas both qualified for the Cardinia Division Swimming Carnival being held next week.

On Tuesday of last week, the students and staff were dressed in an array of colour for our school Fun Run. The students demonstrated much effort and perseverance to complete the respective distances of their races. The support and encouragement students demonstrated towards each other was great to see. Through their participation, all students were able to contribute points to their house team total. Congratulations to all the students who participated. The overall house results from the Fun Run will be announced at our next assembly on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

From this event, we will also be selecting our inter-school cross country team. They will compete and represent PLPS at the District cross-country in term two, Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to the many parents who came along to support and barrack for the children as they competed in their events.

On Tuesday last week, two members of staff, Monique Olszewski and Ebony Flentjar attended the 2026 Cardinia Schools Network Marrung Community of Practice. The

professional learning day involved 35 DET and school staff from schools across the network with Monique co-leading and facilitating this day. The professional learning involved Truth Telling within the Victorian Curriculum and the Intercultural Curriculum, with the emphasis and focus on staying curious and learning about all cultures and what can be learnt from the students within our schools. I would like to thank and recognise the ongoing commitment Monique and Ebony have demonstrated in leading this work at PLPS over recent years.

Last Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, nominations closed for positions on our 2026 School Council. I am pleased to announce the parents who will serve our school community as parent representatives on School Council this year.

Our elected parent representatives are Adriana Fitzgerald, Nicole McIntyre, Stephanie Webel, Deone Prince, Lisa Fry, Rebecca Greenway, Eve Rook and Rachel Granfield.

The staff representatives who will join me as our school representatives are Katrina Ross, Margaret Krstevski, Steven Runting and Sarah Gilmour.

I would like to welcome and thank all councillors and look forward to their contributions as we continue to provide our students with an engaging education. Our first meeting of the new school council will be Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

A sincere thank you to Samantha Scott who has recently resigned from our School Council after serving for many years whilst her children were attending PLPS and as a community member afterwards. Samantha's time and contributions to our school community during her extended time on school council, has been much appreciated.

As outlined in an earlier newsletter, this week has seen the commencement of our students in years 3 and 5 sitting the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). Our Year 3 students have participated in the writing assessment yesterday and reading assessment today. Our Year 5 students have completed the writing assessment today, after a nationwide technical glitch, and will complete the reading assessment tomorrow. Both year 3 and 5 students will complete the language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) next Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> and numeracy on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Annual privacy reminder for our school community. Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#) and the [Schools' Privacy Collection Notice](#).

Our [Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy](#) describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [Google Workspace for Education](#) safely at the school

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and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using Google Workspace for Education, please contact the school.  
For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' privacy policy: information for parents](#). This information is also available in ten community languages.

With only three weeks remaining in term 1, I would like to remind all families that OSHClub is providing their vacation care program for our students at PLPS. Any inquiries may be

directed to OSHClub on 0438 559 017.

**On Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, term one will conclude at the earlier dismissal time of 2.30pm.** Parents need to make the necessary arrangements for the collection of their children at this earlier dismissal time. Our OSHClub will be operating from this earlier time to support parents and families who require this service.

**Kerrie Kingston-Gains**  
**Principal**

# Admin News

## DIARY DATES

Wednesday 11th March - Friday 20th March: Year 3 & 5 NAPLAN

Friday 20th March: Casual Dress Day (Easter Hamper Donation & Harmony Week Celebration, wear a splash of orange)

Friday 27th March - Summer Lightning Premiership (selected students)

Monday 30th March - Tuesday 31st March: 2, 3 & 4 Dance Concert "Galaxy of Stars"

Wednesday 1st April: Prep, Year 1 & Year 2 Easter Bonnet Parade 9:15am

Wednesday 1st April: Easter Raffle Drawn

Thursday 2nd April: End of Term 1 - Early dismissal 2:30pm

### Term 2

Tuesday 5th - Friday 8th May: Year 5 Beechworth Camp

# Assembly Dates

Whole School Assembly will be held in the school gymnasium

Tuesday 24th March - 9am

Thursday 2nd April - 9am



## Hats

Hats are part of our school uniform in both Term 1 and Term 4 of the school year.

It is strongly recommended that all students have their hats on when they play at recess and lunch time out in the yard.

Please remember to label your hats too!

## **LATE ARRIVALS**

Every child arriving after the 9am bell must come to the school office to collect a Late Pass to take to their teacher.

## **EARLY LEAVERS**

Should parents wish to collect their child/children from school early they must sign them out at the office. Please allow yourself extra time for collection as we only call students to the office once parents arrive.

Our lunchtime runs from 1:40-2:25pm and it can be extremely difficult for students to hear announcements over this time. If you need to collect them over this period it maybe easier to collect students before lunch commences or after lunch finishes.



## IMPORTANT MESSAGE

### Sharing of food

Sharing of food items is NOT permitted at PLPS, due to reasons associated with health, safety and family beliefs and choice. Food cannot be distributed to other students: this includes food items to celebrate birthdays. Non-food items can be shared for birthdays, if so desired.

When food items are being used within the teaching and learning programs at school, communications will be posted on Compass to parents and carers outlining the food items being used. Parents will have the option to discuss implications for their child or opt out of these activities.



## ICYPOLE FRIDAYS

We will be selling lemonade icy poles at lunch time on Fridays during term 1.

Icy poles are \$1.50 each and can be purchased from the Canteen.

Issue 2  
Open Now!

Every Book Club LOOP order earns a

**\$5** DISCOUNT CODE  
Included with order confirmation

to spend on our next Issue.

Conditions apply. LOOP orders only. Redeemable once per issue when you spend \$10.00.

SCHOLASTIC **BookClub**

**DON'T FORGET!**



SCHOLASTIC  
**Book Club**  
orders are due:  
**17th March**

SCHOLASTIC

# Book Club LOOP

for Parents

LOOP is the Scholastic Book Club  
Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for parents.

To order and pay for Scholastic Book Club by credit card visit:  
[www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP](http://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP)

GET IT ON  
Google play

Download on the  
App Store



## Important Information - Parking and Road Safety

Dear Parents and Carers

We have recently been contacted by Cardinia Shire Council regarding a concerning increase in reports regarding illegal parking, dangerous driving and pedestrian safety around schools, across the shire.

Together with Cardinia Shire Council, we wish to remind drivers of the importance of road safety and adhering to the road rules when parking around the school, at pick up and drop off times.

To ensure the safety of all pedestrians, students and members of our school community, we ask that you:

- **Adhere to the road rules:** Do not block the flow of traffic or allow students to get in and out of a vehicle while in the flow of traffic, even if the vehicle is stopped.
- **Park only in designated areas:** Parking is not permitted in or across driveways, on nature strips, no-stopping zones, no-parking zones, bus zones, or areas reserved for staff. Please adhere to all signage and the road rules.
- **Follow drop-off and pick-up procedures:** Use the designated drop-off and pick-up zones to ensure a smooth and safe flow of traffic.
- **Be mindful of pedestrians:** Follow directions from School Crossing Supervisors and take extra caution during peak times when children are arriving or leaving school.
- **Be respectful:** Council Parking Officers are required to conduct regular patrols around schools to ensure safety. Please be respectful, and courteous.

**Drivers are advised that any offences detected may lead to the issuing of an infringement notice. This may be affixed to the windscreen or posted via mail.**

Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation on this important Issue.

# The Lorax & Responsible Business

Our Year 5 students have been exploring The Lorax by Dr Seuss as part of our Humanities Business and Economics unit.

Using the story as a starting point, students have been discussing sustainability, environmental responsibility and how business decisions can impact the world around us.



**or**

If you pick banana you miss out on the apple

**or**

If you pick draw you miss out on painting

**or**

If you pick phone you miss out on homework

By Owais

**OPPORTUNITY COST**

If you choose the apple, you miss out on the banana.

But, if you choose the banana you miss out on the apple.

By Aadam

By Levi

Students have also been learning about opportunity cost and how the choices we make can mean missing out on other options.

The work shown here highlights how students are beginning to explain these ideas in their own words.

**MONEY OR FAMILY**

**OPPORTUNITY COSTS**

Most people would choose the money because you can get anything

or you could choose to get family time. It might be a hard choice if your greedy

# The Lorax & Responsible Business

Students have also explored the concept of entrepreneurs and how individuals identify opportunities, take risks and turn ideas into businesses.

Another focus has been human resources, exploring how different jobs help both individuals and the wider community. It has been fantastic to see students thinking about how businesses and workers contribute to society.

## Human Resources



**Police officers.**

**How do they help individuals:**

They can help people from robbers and criminals.

**How do they help the community?**

They help people and they can help people from being kidnapped.

**What would happen if this job didn't exist?**

People would die.  
People would be more likely to be kidnapped and robbed



By Ruby



## Garbage Collector



The garbage collectors pick up rubbish from the floor.

They are good for the community by making sure the bins don't fall over.

If this job didn't exist, the bins would fall over.



By Freya





# CELEBRATING CHINESE NEW YEAR IN MANDARIN

**Term 1** in Mandarin began with an exciting celebration of Chinese New Year across the school. Students learned about the traditions, symbols, and meaning behind this important festival. Through hands-on crafts, food activities, and quizzes, each year level explored Chinese culture in a fun and engaging way.

**Prep** students celebrated by creating beautiful paper lantern cuttings. They carefully cut and decorated their lanterns while learning that lanterns are an important symbol of good luck and celebration during Chinese New Year.

**Year 1 and Year 2** students enjoyed a very special cultural experience. They learned about traditional Chinese foods and had the chance to make dumplings, a popular dish eaten during Chinese New Year that symbolises wealth and good

fortune. Students were very excited to try folding the dumplings themselves! They also created colourful lanterns using recycled plastic containers, decorating them with bright paper and festive patterns to celebrate the holiday.

**Year 3 and Year 4** students made creative paper cup lanterns. They practised careful cutting and folding techniques to transform simple cups into beautiful lantern decorations, while learning how lanterns are used during Chinese festivals.

**Year 5 and Year 6** students tested their knowledge by participating in Chinese New Year quizzes, exploring traditions, zodiac animals, and cultural customs. It was wonderful to see students across the school celebrating and learning about Chinese culture together!



# Fun Run

Our PLPS Fun Run was held on Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Well done to all students that participated and gave their best effort!

Thank you to all the staff and families who supported the event and encouraged our students.

As a school we raised just under \$19 000, which is a monster effort and will help us purchase some new exciting equipment to play with in our school grounds.





# District Swimming

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, four students represented PLPS at the District Swimming championships at Noble Park Aquatic Centre.



Elijah S, Connor D, Lucas R and Thomas L put in a massive effort and we are proud of all of them.

A special shoutout to Thomas and Lucas from Year 6 who placed second in their races and qualified for the Cardinia Division Championships on March 18<sup>th</sup>.



Pakenham Lakeside Primary School's

# 2, 3 & 4 Dance Concert



GALAXY  
OF  
STARS

**Please see the Compass post for the ticketing link**

30.03.2026 | 11:30 AM & 7:00 PM

31.03.2026 | 7:00 PM

CARDINA CULTURAL CENTRE



# EASTER RAFFLE & CASUAL DRESS DAY

It's that time of year again when we look forward to holding our annual Easter Raffle. In preparation for this event, students are invited to donate an item to be included in the raffle hampers and participate in a casual-dress day which will be held on **Friday 20th March**. As this date coincides with Harmony Week, students are encouraged to wear a **splash of orange**. **Suitable footwear and clothing are expected to be worn, no thongs or singlets please.**

The Easter raffle will be drawn on **Wednesday 1st April**. Winners will be acknowledged via a Compass post that afternoon. There will be a hamper and winner drawn from each home group!

Suggestions for items to donate may include wrapped Easter eggs and chocolate, Easter themed items, soft toys, books, small games and colouring books. If you require more tickets please collect them from the school office.

Funds raised will contribute to the Parents & Friends Association (PFA) initiatives that benefit all students.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

**PLPS Parents & Friends**





# OUR NEW PLAYGROUND



Recently we have been able to open our new playground area for our students. The area was designed in conjunction with our SRC students who worked with staff to outline the spaces they would like and the equipment to be included. The area is designed as a passive area where students can gather and play, sit and chat, build and create in the sandpit or enjoy walking the pathways and bridges all amongst lovely gardens in a natural and relaxing environment. This latest addition to the grounds is connected by pathways to the log pile and ninja course. Students have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the new spaces. Many students, particularly from year 4, have been busy watering and caring for the new plants and garden, ensuring they get the best start as they get established. Thank you to Mrs O for coordinating and assisting the students with their gardening activities.





MAESTRO'S CORNER

**Enrol in lessons for 2026**

Contact Jared : 0411 083 631  
maestros.corner.music@gmail.com

# **MUSIC LESSONS**

At Pakenham Lakeside P.S.

## **Group Lessons**

\$16 a week during school  
terms



Learn keyboard or guitar  
during school hours

Enrol at anytime

ENROL: [maestros.corner.mymusicstaff.com](http://maestros.corner.mymusicstaff.com)

# Y E A R 7 I N F O R M A T I O N E V E N I N G 2 0 2 7

**DATE:**

Tuesday 17th March, 5pm-7pm

**LOCATION:**

Officer Secondary College



**OFFICER**  
Secondary College

**All families welcome.**

Registrations essential via Trybooking.  
Link available on the college website.



**OFFICER SECONDARY COLLEGE**

*School tours for prospective  
Year 7 students are now  
underway!*

SEE OUR CLASSES IN ACTION AND TOUR  
OUR FANTASTIC FACILITIES.

**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL.**

TO BOOK GO TO:  
[HTTPS://WWW.OFFICERSC.VIC.EDU.AU/BOOK-A-TOUR/](https://www.officersc.vic.edu.au/book-a-tour/)





Cultural  
Hearing  
Asking  
Telling



## CHAT ENCOUNTER

### 4 DAYS OF HOLIDAY FUN SPORT FOOD CULTURE

### What is a CHAT Encounter Culture Holiday Program?

CHAT is an acronym for Cultural Hearing Asking Telling. CHAT is a four day program where you can enjoy yummy food, sport, basketball, dance and drama, play djembe drums, make new friends, win prizes and share the experience of different cultures whilst we learn how to show respect and curiosity towards one another.

Each day builds on the last, with a performance , sideshow alley carnival games & sausage sizzle for the family on the last day. So make sure you come to all four days to rehearse !

### Your local Holiday Program with a difference!

**LOCATION** PAKENHAM Baptist Church Community Hall , 1 Bentley Court. Pakenham

**WHEN** 9am-3:30pm on Mon 13th April- Thurs 16th April -2nd wk of school holidays

**WHO** Grades 4-8 (co-ed)

**HOW MUCH** **EARLYBIRD \$40** (or \$50 after 6<sup>th</sup> April) per student for all **4 days** including morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea (family discount)

**ENQUIRIES** Samantha Bond 0468 314 499 E: [samantha.bond@suchaplaincy.org.au](mailto:samantha.bond@suchaplaincy.org.au)

**REGISTER** Ask for a form via email, or register online via [su.org.au/camps](http://su.org.au/camps) or QR code





**GET READY TO TRAIN!**  
**ALL BOYS & GIRLS WELCOME!**



**WEDNESDAY '4TH MARCH!**

- TRAINING EVERY WEDNESDAY FOR ALL AGE GROUPS  
**5:30PM – 6:30PM**
- UNDER 12 GIRLS FITNESS & GAME PLAY ON THURSDAYS  
STARTING THURSDAY 5TH MARCH  
**5:30PM – 6:30PM**

**JOIN US & MEET YOUR NEW TEAMMATES!**

✉ [ctjfc.footyops@outlook.com.au](mailto:ctjfc.footyops@outlook.com.au)

📘 @CardiniaTigersJFC

📷 @CardiniaTigersJFC

**SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO REGISTER!**



**SCAN THE QR CODE  
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