

NEWSLETTER

26th February 2026

Principal's Report

On behalf of our staff, I would like to thank the parents and carers who accepted our invitation and took the opportunity to meet with our teachers on Monday and Tuesday afternoon last week to discuss their child and the 2026 school year ahead. Research consistently indicates that the partnership between school and home enhances the learning and wellbeing of our children. Thus, our teachers appreciate parents informing them and sharing information that may have an impact upon our students' learning, as well as the opportunity to meet parents to begin the learning relationship with each family. If at any stage you would like to have further meetings, please call our school office to organise a mutually convenient time.

Thank you to our year 6 SUP (Stand Up Project) leaders who facilitated two information sessions on Tuesday afternoon. The first session involved our teaching staff, who had an hour of being the 'students' of our SUP leaders. The students did a great job of facilitating the session with Dr Zach Grieg, founder of the Stand-Up Project. The students have a range of teams they are responsible for, with many staff throughout the school volunteering to support them in their endeavours.

The second session was our information session for interested parents. Thank you to all the parents who came along to hear the objectives, plans and important messages our SUP leaders had to share.

Next month our students in years 3 and 5 will sit the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The students will complete the assessments online, except for a paper test for year 3 writing. Our students will participate in tests in writing, reading, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The assessments will begin on Wednesday, March 11th and conclude by Friday, March 20th.

The tests, in these various disciplines provides parents with an understanding of how individual students are performing in each curriculum area at the time of testing. Pamphlets detailing further information for parents, including links to the public demonstration site, have been distributed to our year 3 and year 5 families last Tuesday via Compass. If you have any questions about your child's participation in the assessments, please contact the school.

NAPLAN testing is just one aspect of our school's assessment and reporting program and this NAPLAN data complements assessment that is conducted on an ongoing basis by our teaching staff in the learning spaces. Individual student reports will be returned to the school later in 2026 which are then distributed to parents and students.

A reminder that Tuesday, 3rd March we are conducting our annual School Fun Run and House Cross Country event for all students in years Prep to 6. Through their participation, all the students contribute points to their house total. Students are encouraged to come along in their house colours, to add to the atmosphere and fun.

As outlined in the last newsletter, this is also a fundraising event. I would like to sincerely thank our school community for the fundraising efforts and contributions so far. I look forward to sharing with our school community the final figure raised and how the funds can be used to support our students learning and improvements within our school grounds. I would like to thank Mr Vann and Mrs Kacew-Brown for their organisation. Parents are encouraged to come along to support their children and cheer them on from the side lines. A timetable of events was sent home and posted on Compass earlier this week. Please note, the times listed are approximate and may vary depending upon weather conditions.

From this Fun Run event, we will also be selecting our inter-school cross-country team, which will compete and represent PLPS at the District cross-country next term.

We are delighted to share that the development of the northeast section of our school grounds is now complete. The area will be officially open next week, giving students a wonderful new space to enjoy during recess and lunch breaks. A dedicated group of staff and students are carefully tending to the new grass and plantings to ensure they establish well and continue to flourish for everyone to enjoy.

As outlined in our last newsletter, nominations are now open for the 2026 School Council. There are still vacancies for parent representatives. If you are interested and would like further information, please contact me at school on 5940 9532.

The first of our 2026 school performances will be at the Cardinia Cultural Centre starring our Year 2, 3 and 4 students. The Dance Concert "Galaxy of Stars" will comprise of three performances being held over two days at the Cardinia Cultural Centre. Monday, March 30th has 2 performances: one at 11:30am and the other at 7:00pm. The third performance is on the evening of Tuesday, March 31st commencing at 7:00pm. Our students are currently preparing in their Performing Arts classes and looking forward to performing later this term.

Important information was posted on Compass on February 13th in regards to purchasing tickets. Further information outlining the costumes for each of the classes was posted last week.

Tickets for all shows need to be purchased through the Cardinia Cultural Centre. This can be done online, via phone or in person at the CCC. For further information please contact CCC from Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm on 1300 887 624.

Next Monday, March 2nd is our whole school assembly at 9.00am. This will be a special assembly, as our student leaders for 2026 will be announced.

A reminder that Monday, March 9th is the Labour Day public holiday.

Kerrie Kingston-Gains
Principal

Admin News

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 3rd March: School Fun Run

Monday 9th March: Labour Day Public Holiday

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

Monday 30th March – Tuesday 31st March: 2, 3 & 4 Dance Concert “Galaxy of Stars”

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

Monday 2nd March - 9am

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.

If you need to drive to school, get your child into the habit of using the kerbside doors, away from traffic.





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.

Learning in Year 3

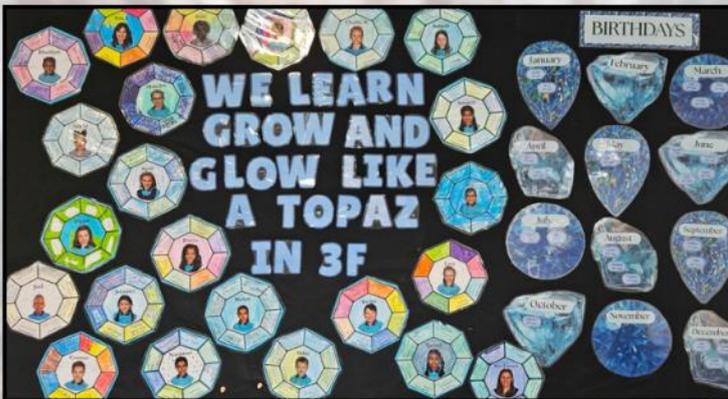
Great Southern Land

Our Year 3 learning spaces have been named after natural treasures found across Australia as part of our Unit of Inquiry, Great Southern Land. Students learn together in Obsidian, Opal, Emerald and Topaz, and come together as a community in our shared space, Uluru.

During our Social and Emotional Learning sessions, students shared their ideas about how we can create a positive Year 3 culture. They discussed what it means to be safe, responsible, respectful and a good communicator, and why these qualities matter.

Students explained that being safe helps everyone feel comfortable and ready to learn, while being responsible means looking after our spaces, our belongings and each other. They shared that being respectful is about listening, using kind words and valuing different opinions. Being a good communicator, students said, helps us share our ideas clearly, solve problems and build strong friendships.

By sharing their voices and learning from one another, students have helped create a caring, inclusive and collaborative Year 3 community, where everyone belongs and learning can thrive.



Uluru



Be Safe

Examples Looks Like	Non Examples	Examples Sounds Like
Not throwing things	Being dangerous	Not Swearing
Not slamming doors	Being rough	Not lying
Not climbing trees	Climbing trees	Active listening
Not fighting	Fighting	Being respectful
Not being physical	Being physical	Telling someone where you are going
Asking for consent	Not asking for consent	Not littering
		Not talking over people
		Speaking nicely



Be Responsible



Be Respectful



Self-Reflection A Respect Questionnaire

Read the sentences below. Determine how often you do the activity described in the sentence - often, sometimes, rarely - and record your answer. There are NO wrong answers! When you are done, add the total of your points to see how strong your respect skills are.

Showing Respect	Often	Sometimes	Rarely
1. I put my trash where it belongs.			
2. I use kind words when I speak to others.			
3. I complete my chores as soon as I am asked.			
4. When the teacher is talking, I listen.			
5. I hold the door open for others.			

Be a Good Communicator



Examples Looks Like	Non Examples
Use my words not my body	Being physical and not using my words
Be conscious of my body language	Not being aware that my body can send different messages to my words
Say what I mean and meaning what I say	Not having integrity
Be mindful of other people's feelings	Being selfish and only thinking about myself
Be kind	Be unkind
Use my manners	Speak rudely
Ask questions nicely	Demand things
It's not what you say but how you say it (be mindful of tone)	Not being aware of my tone

Visual Art

STUDENTS IN YEARS 2, 3 & 4 HAVE BEGUN THE YEAR WITH A FOLLOW THE LEADER DRAWING OF EITHER A BEACH SCENE OR A WATERFALL LANDSCAPE. REINFORCING SKILLS LEARNT WITH THE WATERCOLOUR PAINT AND BLENDING TECHNIQUES TO CREATE SUNSET SKIES AND LIGHT AND SHADE AREAS.



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



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

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/)

