

NEWSLETTER

30th October 2025

Principal's Report

Tomorrow, Friday October 31st is World Teachers' Day, and we will be celebrating with our students and staff. This day provides an opportunity to say thank you and acknowledge the incredible contributions our teachers make to our community. On behalf of our school community, I would like to express gratitude for the commitment our teachers demonstrate toward our students through the care and programs they provide to build their knowledge, skills, creativity, curiosity and resilience. Thank you for your work, patience, and support in providing optimum opportunities for our students.

Our students are currently working hard with Ms Lowndes and Ms Kacew-Brown to finalise some artworks for the PLPS Art Show. This year is our school-based Art Show, whereby our community will have the opportunity to view and experience the art showcased by our students both indoors and outdoors at school. Save the date on your calendars for Monday, December 1st. Further information will be communicated closer to the date.

Following the success at the Pakenham District Hooptime competitions, our year 3/4 girls team and our year 5/6 boys team will represent the school in their respective Regional Hoop Time Basketball Competitions. The 5/6 boys team have been competing today, and the 3/4 girls team will compete on Wednesday, November 12th. Both competitions are at the State Basketball Centre in Wantirna South. Families are invited to attend and support our teams at these events.

This afternoon, all families with students currently in Prep to Year 5 will receive information regarding book packs and parent payments for 2026. If you prefer to order a book pack through our preferred supplier, Maxim, orders **must be placed online and paid for by Sunday, 21 December 2025**. If this deadline may cause difficulty for your family, please contact Jo, our Business Manager, on 5940 9532 to discuss ordering assistance or a payment plan. All book packs ordered through the supplier will be delivered to students' learning spaces and ready for use on the first day of the 2026 school year. Students in Years 3 –5 will also receive an additional note listing items they may already own and currently use at school (for example, a calculator or headphones) that may not need to be repurchased. If your child does not have these items, please include them in your order.

If you have any questions about book packs or curriculum contributions, please call the school office.

The care and safety of all our students and members of the PLPS community is of utmost importance. This care is required and applies to our parent drivers when dropping off and collecting students at peak traffic periods before and after school. Can I please ask all drivers to adhere to road and parking rules in order to keep everyone safe. Please be considerate of the local residents by keeping their driveways clear. Stopping or parking across even a small section of a driveway impedes visibility, creating potentially dangerous situations for other drivers, bike riders and pedestrians. Please keep in mind, the staff car park is not a drop off or pick up zone immediately before or after school. Cars stopping and double parking pose a danger to all members of our community who are moving to or from their parked vehicles.

At our last whole school assembly, I sadly needed to speak to all our students in relation to the inappropriate use of our school toilets. On multiple occasions we have required a plumber to attend to blocked toilets. The reason they are blocked is due to food items and food wrappers; particularly icy pole wrappers being put into the toilets. As I outlined to our students, food items are not to be taken into the toilet building due to hygiene reasons and I'm sure this would not be happening in their families' homes, nor should it be happening at school.

It would be much appreciated if families could reiterate the health and hygiene message to their children together with the respectful use of school facilities.

Later this term we have our last Curriculum Day for 2025. This day is scheduled for Wednesday, December 3rd. Students do not attend school on this day. Our OSHClub will be operating a full day's program to support our parents and families on this day. If you require this service, you are encouraged to contact OSHClub on 0438 559 017 to book your child's place.

Another date for the calendar is our Christmas Concert. The concert will be on Wednesday, December 17th, weather permitting. The concert will begin at 9.15am and is expected to conclude at approximately 10.45am. Further information will be shared closer to the date.

Over the next few weeks, we will farewell Ms Alana Gilholm-Webster and Ms Kelly Macdonald for a period of time, as they commence their respective maternity leave. We wish Alana all the best with the new addition to her family and Kelly all the best as she begins her family.

Kerrie Kingston-Gains
Principal

Admin News

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 4th November: Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

Wednesday 12th November: Year 3/4 Regional Hooptime

**Wednesday 12th & Thursday 13th November: Prep 2026 Transition
(enrolled students only)**

Friday 14th November: Year 3/4 T20 Cricket Blast

**Wednesday 19th & Thursday 20th November: Prep 2026 Transition
(enrolled students only)**

Friday 21st November: Prep Pevan and Sarah Concert Excursion

Monday 24th - Wednesday 26th November: Year 4 Woorabinda Camp

Monday 1st December: PLPS Art Show

Wednesday 3rd December: Curriculum Day (Students do not attend on this day)

Wednesday 17th December: PLPS Christmas Concert (weather permitting)

Assembly Dates

Whole School Assembly will be held in the school gymnasium

Monday 17th November 9am

Friday 5th December 9am

Friday 19th December 9am



ICYPOLE FRIDAYS

We will be selling lemonade icy poles at lunch time on Fridays during term 4.

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

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!



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.



DAY
NOVEMBER 11

In support of the Remembrance Day Poppy Appeal, the Pakenham RSL has supplied us with a small box of pins in preparation for the Appeal on Tuesday 11th November.

The pins range from \$2.00 to \$5.00. If you would like to purchase a pin, please do not hesitate to pop into the office to make your purchase **by cash** by Tuesday 11th November.

Thank you.



Year 6 Canberra Camp



On October 6th, the Year 6's ventured off to Canberra for their last camp at PLPS. Throughout their camp experience, they were given opportunities to participate in hands-on activities and view a number of attractions that would make their 'Discovering Democracy' learning come alive!

Some of the places that students were able to go included;

- The Australian Institute of Sport (AIS)
- The War Memorial
- The Mint
- Both old and new Parliament House
- The Governor General's house
- Questacon

These prominent destinations allowed students to see first-hand some of the processes explored at school including how bills are passed. Students were able to see the politicians sit in the House of Representatives to debate a bill, something that none of the Year 6's have had the opportunity to see for the last 5 years on camp!



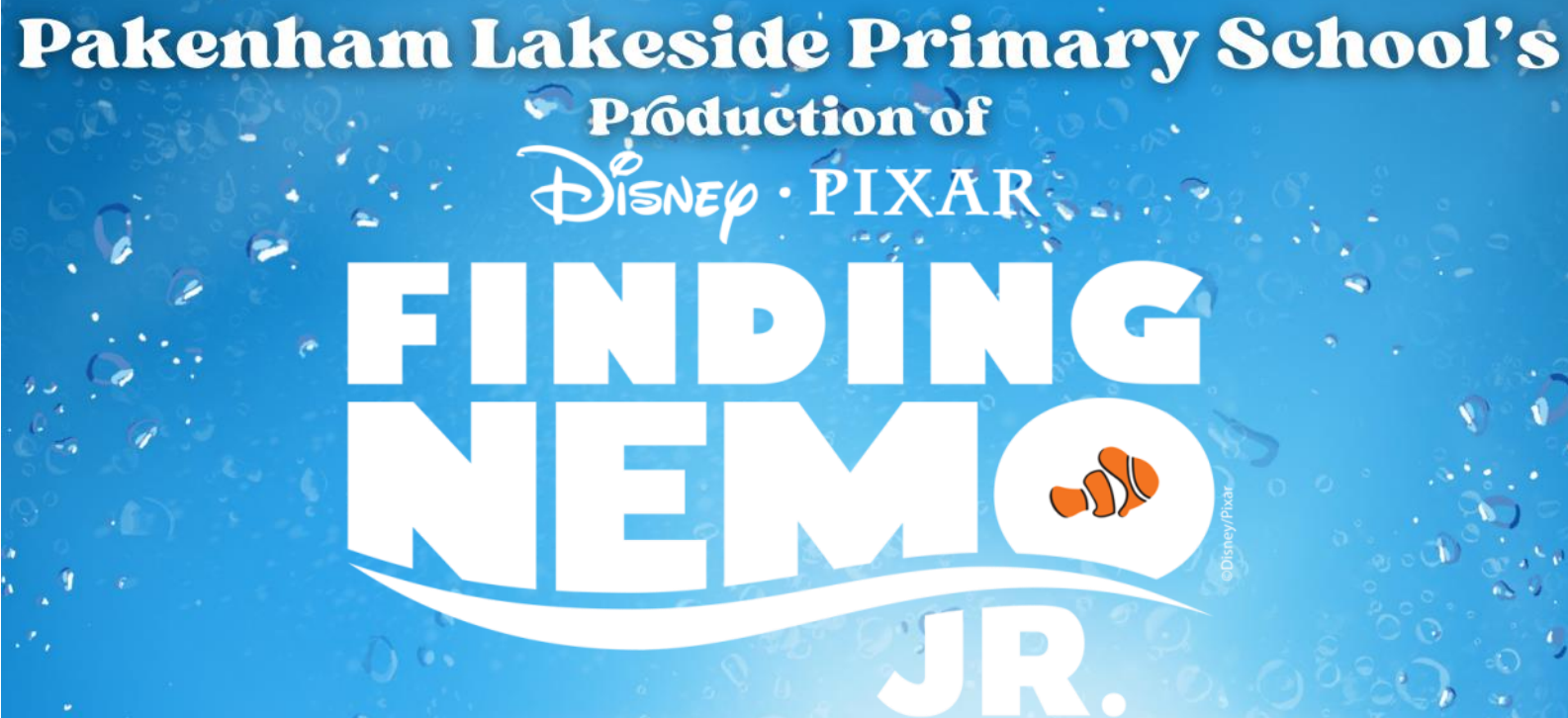
Students had the opportunity to participate in a mock election prior to attending camp and got to experience this process again while at the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC). The Year 6's journey while on Canberra camp has solidified friendships, made endless memories and highlighted the importance of a good night's sleep!

Hayfever

As the seasons change, we've noticed an increase in students experiencing hayfever symptoms, including irritated eyes, sneezing, and general discomfort.

If your child is affected by hayfever, we recommend administering their medication at home before they arrive at school. Alternatively, you may provide medication to be signed in and stored at school, should your child require it during the day.

Thank you for helping us support your child's wellbeing.



If you would like to order a DVD or USB copy of our Finding Nemo JR Musical please visit or contact the school office on 5940 9532. DVD's \$25 & USB's \$30. Production pictures can also be ordered at the office.



School Crossings

Shearwater Drive and Everly Circuit

This is just a reminder to parents of students that use the school crossings.

As the safety of our students is our number one priority, could parents please remind and ensure students are crossing the roads at the designated crossings along Shearwater Drive and Everly Circuit and are not crossing the roads on their own.

Important Information - Nearby Parking

Cardinia Shire Council's parking officers would like to remind the school community that it is an offence to park across a resident's driveway. This has become a regular problem around the school, but particularly in Radiata Cct.

Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated by the residents.

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 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:

- 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.

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

YAKKERBOO FESTIVAL

On 15 February 2026, Yakkerboo will proudly celebrate the 50th anniversary of its beloved community festival.

Much like Moomba, the Yakkerboo Festival features rides, market stalls, community displays, stage performances, fireworks, and a vibrant walking parade.

Traditionally, this event has been a highlight on the local calendar and a wonderful opportunity for schools and kindergartens to take part in a large-scale community celebration. As we mark this milestone year, we would be thrilled to see strong participation from local educational communities and invite you to be part of this special occasion.

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

Parade

There is no cost to join the parade. You may walk with banners in uniform or dress to our 2026 festival theme, "Celebrating 50 years of Mr Yakkerboo".

Stage Performance

There is no cost for a 15-minute performance on the stage.

Market Stall

A 3m by 3m space will be provided at no charge to not for profit groups and \$85 for all other groups.



Contact Us

entryforms@yakkerboo.org.au



More Information

<https://yakkerboo.org.au>

Socials:



10AM - 4PM

15
FEBRUARY
2026

**PB RONALD
RESERVE**

JOHN ST.,
PAKENHAM





Hub Art Club

A six week art club for local kids and their families, facilitated by a La Trobe University Master of Art Therapy student, Michelle.

All art materials and afternoon tea provided.

No art skills needed. Just be ready to have fun making art together.

Contact:

0457 825 076 or
cfccardinia@anglicarevic.org.au

Communities for Children are funded by the Federal Govt. Visit dss.gov.au

When:

Tuesdays: 3:30 - 4:45pm
October 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
November 4th, 11th

Where:

Parent Zone Hub, 75 Army Rd,
Pakenham

Click [here](#)
to register or
scan the QR
code.





Bringing Up Great Kids Berwick

Bringing Up Great Kids (BUGK) is a six-session program for parents and caregivers of children aged 2 to 12 years.

It focuses on building positive and supportive relationships between parents and their children.

The program encourages mindfulness and reflection to improve communication and helps parents understand what influences their parenting.

BUGK aims to:

- Encourage parents to think about their parenting and strengthen their bond with their children.
- Teach about brain development and its impact on a child's thoughts, feelings, and behaviours.
- Help parents understand why children behave in certain ways.
- Identify challenges that may make parenting more difficult.
- Explore ways to improve parents' self-care and overall well-being.

Please note: This program is designed for caregivers residing in the City of Casey, Cardinia Shire, and Greater Dandenong who have at least 50% custody. Please be aware that children cannot attend the sessions, and childcare services are not provided.

COST

Free

DATES

Mondays

October: 20th and 27th

November: 10th, 17th and 24th

December: 1st

(no group – 3rd Nov)

TIME

10am until 12:30pm

VENUE

Bridgewater Community Centre
45 Bridgewater Blvd,
Berwick VIC 3806

Light refreshments will be served

Bookings Essential

ENQUIRIES

P: 9704 8377

E: groupwork.south@vt.uniting.org

REGISTER

<https://forms.office.com/r/nnzAPnahzL>



Uniting



Circle of Security Parenting™ - Narre Warren Empower Your Parenting Journey

An eight-session course designed for parents of children aged 4 months to 6 years.

Are you ever puzzled by your child's behaviour, unsure of how to respond to their needs? Imagine confidently understanding and addressing what your child is truly seeking from you.

The Circle of Security Parenting™ program offers a transformative opportunity to strengthen your parent-child relationship, grounded in decades of research.

Through this program, you will:

Decode Your Child's Emotions: Learn to interpret and respond to your child's emotional cues effectively.

Foster Emotional Resilience: Equip your child with the tools to manage their emotions successfully.

Boost Self-Esteem: Support your child's confidence and self-worth.

Trust Your Parental Instincts: Embrace your natural wisdom and commitment to your child's security.



This program is in partnership with the City of Casey and designed for caregivers residing in the City of Casey. Please note children cannot attend the sessions, enquire with us in relation to child care options.

COST
Free

DATES
Mondays [8 weeks]
October: 13th, 20th, 27th
November: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th
December: 1st

TIME
10:00am until 12:00pm

VENUE
Bunjil Place - Library
2 Patrick Northeast Dr,
Narre Warren VIC 3805

Light refreshments will be served

Bookings Essential
ENQUIRIES
P: 9704 8377
E: groupwork.south@vt.uniting.org

REGISTER
<https://forms.office.com/r/39QvnX22Wt>



Uniting



Tuning in to Teens™ Pakenham

This engaging six session parenting program is designed for parents and carers of adolescents aged 10 to 18 years.

Based on an easy-to-follow five-step emotional coaching approach, Tuning in to Teens™ empowers families to build stronger relationships and support adolescent's emotional well-being.

Join us and make a lasting impact on your family's well-being!

By participating, you'll learn how to:

- Understand and nurture your teen's emotional intelligence.
- Confidently coach your teen through big feelings by tuning in to their emotions.
- Equip your teen with tools to manage emotions, solve problems, and navigate challenges.
- Teach your teen healthy ways to handle conflict and build resilience.

Please note: This program is designed for caregivers residing in the City of Casey, Cardinia Shire, and Greater Dandenong who have at least 50% custody. Please be aware that children cannot attend the sessions, and childcare services are not provided.

COST
Free

DATES
Wednesdays

October: 22nd, 29th

November: 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th

TIME
10am until 12:30pm

VENUE
James Bathe Community & Sports Hub
67 Caversham Drive, Pakenham
3810

Light refreshments will be served

Bookings Essential
ENQUIRIES
P: 9704 8377

E: groupwork.south@vt.uniting.org

REGISTER
<https://forms.office.com/r/sLkafyAQFN>



Uniting