



PORTARLINGTON PRIMARY

Newsletter

December 20th
2023
ISSUE 19

That's a Wrap 2023

It is just incredible that we have reached the end of another school year. Schools are places where everyone achieves and we are so proud of all our children and staff for the growth and progress that has taken place.

Portarlington Primary is a very special school and we have been truly heartened by all the feedback and support that we have received this year. I am so very proud to lead Portarlington Primary.

This year was the 150th anniversary of our school and we were proud to recognise the significant history and all the learning that has taken place through a century and a half including the Depression, 2 World Wars and most recent Covid Global Pandemic.

Throughout all the challenges, our school has continued to support children to learn and grow socially, emotionally and academically.

As we move forward into another year, we are very excited to be continuing the wonderful learning for our children in 2024.

In this newsletter:-

1. School Structure and staffing.
2. School Leaders for 2024 have been confirmed.
3. 2024 Communication and Learning Progress Diaries.
4. School Council December Summary



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

From all the staff and the school council at Portarlington Primary School we hope that all of our families and wider community have a sensational break from school. Stay safe and healthy! We absolutely can't wait to see you all in 2024!

Lesley-Ann Allbutt
Principal

20th December

Last Day of Term – **1.30pm finish**

2024- Term 1:

29th Jan:

Staff commence.

30th Jan:

Curriculum Day

31st Jan:

Years 1-6 children start school

7th Feb

Foundation children start school

15th Feb

Prep Breakfast

21-22nd Feb:

Parent/carer/teacher interviews

23rd Feb:

5/6 District Cricket Lighting Prem.

1st March:

Whole school cross country

8th March :

Teacher Professional Practice Day: No School

11th March :

Labour Day: No School

12th March

Digital Tattoo: Years 3 to 6 Cyber Safety

12th March –Parent Education: 7pm

Digital Tattoo: Parent Education session

From 13th March

NAPLAN process commences for years 3 and 5

18th March

Harmony Day Kick off P-6 Dance In-cursion

29th March:

Last day of Term 1: 2.30pm finish

Term 2:

17th Apr -

School Photos

12-14th June - 3/4 Camp Sovereign Hill

19-21st June - 5/6 Camp Campaspe Downs

Our Values: Respectful, Responsible, Safe and Kind Learners

Our Learning Vision: Empowering life long learners to achieve success and make a difference in a rapidly changing world.

2024 School Staffing

Principal	Lesley-Ann Allbutt
Assistant Principal	Renata Rice
Learning Specialist	Jasmine O'Brien
Business Manager	Lisa Gale
Primary Welfare Manager	Bec Pavez
Administration /Reception	Julie Serbo
Technical Support	Brendan Beattie
Teachers- Home Group	Kim Mikelsons/Tim O'Hara: LC1 / Prep
	Melissa Meaney LC2 / Year 1-2
	Brooke McLaren LC3 / Year 1-2
	Jess Wailes LC4 / Year 3-4
	Sarah Evans LC5 / Year 3-4
	Dylan Dunoon LC6 / Year 4-5
	Michelle Primmer LC7 / Year 5-6
	Jasmine O'Brien / Danielle Vagg LC8 / Year 5-6
Teachers- Specialist Program	TBA (Language)
	Melissa Russel (Physical Education)
	Tim O'Hara (Visual Arts)
	Danielle Vagg (STEM)
	Beth Rogers (Tutor)
Education Support Staff	Bec Anderson
	Karren Sheard
	Tanya Portelli
	Adele Boyce
	Charlene Forssman
	Elise Liddicoat
Regular Replacement Staff	Marlene Cain <i>-teacher</i>
	Michael Cain <i>-teacher</i>
School Groundsman	Neil Sheard
Cleaning	Fiona McGeary

2024 School Structure

- **Year Prep** 1 home group
- **Year 1-2** 2 home groups
- **Year 3-4** 2 home groups
- **Year 4-5** 1 home group
- **Year 5-6** 2 home groups

Our Land of Portarlington Primary

The traditional owners on which we learn at our school are the Wadawurrung People of Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to them— past, present and emerging.



Staffing—Welcome

We warmly welcome the following staff to our school for 2024.

- 😊 Michelle Primmer—welcome back Michelle after 12 months of leave.
- 😊 Melissa Russell—Physical Education Specialist
- 😊 Danielle Vagg—STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths) specialist
- 😊 Elise Liddicoat—Classroom Education Support
- 😊 Language Specialist—To be confirmed.

Staffing—Farewell

- Tara Barry—returning to family leave
- Renee Aloï—returning to family leave
- Mel Giblin—returning to her base school: Christ the King
- Vinnie Clementson—full time position at Armstrong Creek School
- Kahlia Chapman—Roslyn Primary School
- Morgan-Lee Hickey—Queenscliff Primary School

We thank all our staff members who are leaving Portarlington Primary for their dedication to our students and for their passion for teaching.

Year 6 Graduates

We wish all of graduating students all the success and best wishes as they move on to secondary school.

Student Leaders 2024

Last Friday at our final assembly, the student leaders for 2024 were announced.

Congratulations to the following children:-

There will more opportunities for student leadership in 2024 with the announcement of the Junior School Council and the Outdoor Mentors at the beginning of next year.

School Captains

Sam Champion de Crespigny
Isaac Field
Maddie Liddicoat
Maddie Shepherd

House Captains

Blue House-Fenwick

Seth Pike, Pepper Wright, Vylan Marston

Red House-Newcombe

Abby Lingdren, Hunter Moorhouse

Yellow House-Batman

Tigi Champion De Crespigny
Harper Soall

Green House- Fisher

Charlotte Evans, Reef Ansell

School Council Update:

General Business

- The 2024 Annual Implementation was approved.
- Focus for 2024:

Literacy

- Explicit teaching of spelling and implementing the SMART spelling framework from P-6.
- Encoding and decoding pedagogy applied to reading and writing.
- Vocabulary focus.

Numeracy

- Review of the new ACARA Victorian F-10 Maths 2.0 curriculum for implementation.

Wellbeing

- School Wide Positive Behaviour :- Review and update of all processes. Coaching and Mentoring of staff.
- Continue with parent and carer engagement in student education.

Reports Presented

1. **Principal Report**– This report provides information to school council on how our school is working towards the goals and priorities outlined in the School Strategic Plan.
 - 2024 school structure and staffing.
 - Attendance and absences.
 - Extra-curricular report
2. **Finance Report**– The finances for November 2023 and the school purchasing card statements and payments were tabled and accepted.
3. **Grounds and Buildings Report**–
 - A short review of the year was discussed and the 2024 working bees were ratified as the 3rd Sunday of each term.
 - The performance deck has been completed and the hall will be painted over the summer holidays.
4. **Fundraising, Grants and Sponsorship Report**–
Fundraising, Grants and Sponsorship
 - Some fundraising was allocated to the STEM (\$3000) and the Kitchen Garden (\$2000) programs for 2023.

PORTARLINGTON PRIMARY ...

Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our school councillors for 2024 for their contribution to another productive year at Portarlington Primary.

Our major highlights were: -

The commencement of the development of our communication strategy: -

This work is ongoing however, school councillors are the voice of our parent and carers, and you were all able to provide feedback and opinions on what we needed to do to improve our practice.

Our **2024 Learning Progress and Communication Diary** is the first step in our strategy, and we are looking forward to implementing this next year.

The 150th Celebration: we had many creative conversations on how to best recognise such an important milestone for our school. The school council were an integral part in the decision-making processes and the 150th recognition was therefore a magnificent success.

Sub Committees of management: -

Fundraising/Grants/Sponsorship: thank to everyone involved in our fundraising for the year. All of our events were successful from the Mother's /Father's Day stalls, hot cross bun drive, the colour run etc. Thank you also to Lisa Gale for her work in securing grants for our school (such as the tree safety grant).

Thank you to school council for contributing to the STEM and Kitchen Garden program for 2023 and again for 2024. These are important engaging programs for our children, and we appreciate the support of the school council.

Buildings and Grounds- two sensational working bees that achieved so much in keeping our school clean, tidy and beautifully landscaped. Seeking donations of plants and equipment boosted our projects. The working bees also served as a bringing together of our community which was also a wonderful achievement.

Thank you for also supporting the building of our performance deck and exterior fence which has taken so long to finally be built.

Finance: Thank you to Jess and Lisa, for all their work on the finance team to ensure that the resources were available for all of our curriculum learning programs.

On behalf of the school community, I would like to sincerely thank the school council for their commitment and enthusiasm for our school. You all play a vital role in the governance of Portarlington Primary and the whole school community is very grateful for all the time that you put into our projects.

From an executive perspective, Lisa, Renata and I are so appreciative of your support, your capacity to let us call on you for ideas and feedback and for your genuine commitment in supporting us to make this school the great place that it is.

Lesley-Ann Allbutt
Principal