

MANORVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Department of Education
and Training

Newsletter 3

Tues, 7th March 2023

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

School Council Election

Two one-year positions are still available. If you are interested, please contact the office for the nomination forms.

NAPLAN

Families received an information sheet last week.

The testing program begins on Wednesday 15th March and finishes on Monday 27th March.

Prep Enrolments 2024

There is a new process for Prep/Foundation students to enrol at school for 2024. In government schools, enrolments cannot be accepted until term 2. During term 2 schools will be conducting tours and families can complete an Enrolment Application form.

A Fact Sheet is attached.

Public Holiday and Pupil Free Day next week

Monday March 13th is the Labour Day long weekend.

Thursday March 16th is the pupil free day when students are not required at school. Staff will be participating in a training session for the Berry Street Education Model for trauma informed practice.

School Photos

School Photos are being taken on Friday, 17th March 2023. It is important that students are dressed in their full school uniform and arrive at school on time. A whole school photo has been scheduled in the morning before the class and portrait photos and we will be unable to wait for any late students. All photo package orders including photos with siblings together need to be purchased through the COMPASS portal.

Entering and Leaving School

The gates are opened at 8.50am and students can walk to their classes.

At the end 3.15pm of the day students exit from the same gate.

We have received information that some students have been going to the shop and the river before school. Please discuss this with your students. The office is no longer locked so parents can enter without using the doorbell. *Parents and carers are welcome to come in attend assemblies.*

School Uniform

All students should be wearing their summer uniforms. The list is available on our website.

SunSmart- Hats

All students must be wearing an approved wide-brimmed navy-blue hat. These can be purchased from the office for \$15.00.

Helen Watson
Principal



SCHOOL MISSION

The school's purpose is to develop optimistic and aspirational students who have the academic and social foundations to become responsible citizens.

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

Wednesday 3:00-3:30pm

Friday 8:50-9:20am

(Times and days TBC)

Please refer to our "Dates to Remember" section of the newsletter.

Out of Hours School Care
Camp Australia
Ph: 0405 428 328

PARENTING IDEAS

Sponsored by Parents' Club

SCHOOL OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS:

Phone:

9741 6300

Email:

manorvale.ps@education.vic.gov.au

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- * Cash
- * Eftpos
- * Cheque
- * BPay



District Swimming Carnival

Last week we had four students represent Manorvale PS in the Werribee District Swimming Carnival held at the Werribee Outdoor Pool.

Natalie, Sophie and James and Hayley all competed in 50m events at the meet. James, Sophie and Natalie in the backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle events, while Hayley competed in the backstroke and freestyle.

All students had a great day with James and Sophie coming second in their 50m backstroke events. They will go on to represent Manorvale PS at the Hobson's Bay and Wyndham Division Swimming Championships to be held on Tuesday 14th March at the Werribee Outdoor Pool.

Well done to all four students for competing, and congratulations to Sophie and James for advancing to the next stage. We wish you both the very best.

Mr Boulter
PE



School Photo Day

MSP Photography will be visiting Manorvale PS **Friday, 17th March 2023.**

Orders can now be placed via the Compass Portal.

- Click the Community Tab in the Compass App
- Select Photos
- Place your order

A late/processing fee will apply for orders received 1 week after photo day.

The office will not take orders or payment for photos.



Year 3-6 News

Cross Country Trials

The students in years 3-6 will be participating in the upcoming Manorvale Cross Country trials on Friday, 10th March 2023.

The students will participate in 1, 2 and 3km distances around the school grounds. The top place finishers may be eligible for selection to represent Manorvale PS in the District Cross Country Carnival in May.

Mr Boulter
PE



Scholastic Book Club Issue #2

Book Club provides a great opportunity to purchase books for your children's home library. At the same time it is a fundraiser for Manorvale PS and provides an opportunity to add new books to the Library.

Parents can order online only through LOOP. (no cash payments accepted)
- follow directions on order form.

Orders must be entered online no later than Friday 24th March 2023.

The books usually arrive back at school within two weeks.

Mrs Hooper
Librarian



Parent Information Night - Wyndham Central College

A parent information night will be held in the school gymnasium for year 6 students and families at Wyndham Central College, Shaws Road Werribee, on **Tuesday 28th March 2023 at 6:00pm**.



College Tour Dates:

- 15th & 22nd March 2023 at 5:00pm
- 4th & 5th April at 6:00pm

Please contact Wyndham Central College to book your tour on 8744 8900.

CSEF Information (Camps, Sports, Excursions Fund)

The CSEF provides payments to assist eligible families to cover the costs of camps, sporting activities and excursions.

Payments are made directly to an eligible student's school. Schools must use a CSEF payment only for the eligible student and not for that student's siblings or any other student (except where the eligible student leaves the Victorian education system and there are remaining and unspent funds).

Some common examples of school-organised programs for which a CSEF payment may be used include:

- school camps/trips
 - swimming and other school-organised sporting programs
 - outdoor education programs
- excursions/incursions.

It is the responsibility of the families to submit a CSEF application. Families new to Manorvale PS with a healthcare card need to complete an application and return it to the office. Any **new siblings** enrolled this year, where families already receive CSEF, will need to complete a new application for that child. Applications are available from the office.

The CSEF program for 2023 closes on 23rd June 2023.

Working with Children Check Clearance and Child Safe Policies

Dear Parents- Carers,

Any person undertaking any paid or volunteer work at the school needs to have a Working with Children Check clearance and be familiar with some of our Child Safe policies to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students.

If you would like to be involved in the school by:

- hearing students read
 - supporting classroom or specialist program activities
 - attending excursions/incursions
 - assisting with school events
 - supporting Parents' Club
 - being a member of school council
- etc

It is important that that you obtain a Working with Children Check Clearance. Please refer to the following website to register for a WWCC card: <https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/>

Once you have received your WWCC card, please present it at the office so a copy can be made. The Child Safe Standards declaration form also needs to be completed, signed and presented at the office. This form is available from the office.

Lily Ibrahim

Assistant Principal

State Schools' Relief

State Schools' Relief is a not-for-profit organisation that supports families by providing uniforms and school shoes for those in need.

To make an inquiry email Tyson Smith on tyson.smith@education.vic.gov.au or make an appointment at the office



Parents' Club News

Parents' Club is run by volunteer parents of students who attend Manorvale PS. It's a great way to get to know a little more about what's going on at school; get to know other parents and potentially raise money for projects that benefit the school. **We would love your help.**

The next Parents' Club meeting will be held **Friday, 10th March 2023 at 9:00am in the staffroom.** All welcome.

Rochelle Reynolds
Parents' Club President

Dates to Remember

Term 1	2023	
Yr 3-6	School Cross Country	10/03/2023
All parents welcome	Parents' Club meeting @ 9:00am	10/03/2023
All Students	Labour Day Public Holiday - no school	13/03/2023
Selected students	Hobson's Bay/Wyndham Division Swimming Championships	14/03/2023
Prep students	RACV Incursion	14/03/2023
Yr 3 & Yr 5	NAPLAN Testing (between dates)	15-27/03/2023
All	Pupil Free Day	16/03/2023
All	Student School Photos	17/03/2023
Yr 6	Wyndham Central College information evening	28/03/2023

Manorvale Primary School
232-246 Greaves Street North
P.O. Box 591, Werribee. 3030
Principal: Helen Watson
Assistant Principal: Lily Ibrahim and Tyson Smith
Phone: 03 9741 6300 Fax: 03 9742 5703
E-mail: manorvale.ps@education.vic.gov.au
Website: www.manorvaleps.vic.edu.au

	TERM DATES 2023
Term 1	27th January to 6th April
Term 2	24th April to 23rd June
Term 3	10th July to 15th September
Term 4	2nd October to 20 December

	SCHOOL HOURS 2023
Start	8:55 am
Lunch in rooms	11:30 am to 11:40 am
Lunch Play	11:40 am to 12:10 pm
Medication Bell	12:30 pm
Snack in rooms	1:50 pm to 1:55 pm
Recess Play	1:55 pm to 2:25 pm
Dismissal	3:15 pm

REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES

To avoid receiving a phone call or a note/letter from the school when your child is absent please remember to contact the school using one of the following methods:

1. Reporting on the Compass Portal
2. Contact the school by telephone on 9741 6300
3. Send an email to manorvale.ps@education.vic.gov.au
4. Write a letter or note to the classroom teacher explaining your child's absence
5. Verbally inform the classroom teacher.

If families have not advised the school of a student absence, a text message will be sent at 10:00am alerting the family. Families are expected to respond to the school with a reason for the absence as soon as possible.



The Focus For Term 1 Is RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, ASPIRING, CARING

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to the following students for being named as STUDENT OF THE WEEK.

PREP SIOMOS	Adalyn and Shiven for actively participating in daily "Sounds Write" lessons.	3/4 JOHNSTONE	Natalie for taking pride in her learning and seeking feedback to improve. Anna for trying her best, being a flexible thinker and learning from her mistakes.
PREP McCORMACK	Gabriella for using the first sound to write unfamiliar words. Bradley for looking after his classmates and being a caring friend.	3/4 PULFORD	Bissi for making relevant comments and asking thoughtful questions in class discussion. Hannah for writing a well structured persuasive text with persuasive devices.
1/2 BATES	Kee Meh for consistently being a focused learner and completing set tasks. Athiyan for his efforts to improve the formation and neatness of his handwriting.	5/6 KOCISKI	Rivealea for always pushing her own knowledge and striving to improve her learning. Htee Kah Porn for following our class expectations and group plan.
1/2 ANDERSON	Lois and Jayda for predicting what might happen in the text using text clues to explain.	5/6 RIEKSTS	Amelia for being caring and flexible in working with a new buddy. Oliver for making an enthusiastic contribution to all lessons.
1/2 BOS	Rebecca -for always taking care and presenting her school work very neatly. Mia for being a caring friend who helps and includes others.	5/6 KHALIF	Toby for showing kindness and always coming to class with a positive attitude ready to learn. Zoe for putting forth genuine academic effort and demonstrating outstanding class participation.
3/4 RUSSELL	Shee Lwe for regularly reading at home and bringing his Take Home Books to school every day.		
SIGNORA MAIORANA LOTE		MRS HOOPER LIBRARY	Veronica for caring by helping her class and the teacher by reshelving books in the library correctly. Natalie for being responsible and helping out in the library without being asked.
MR BOULTER PE	Sayler for outstanding participation in Cricket, and great team skills.	MS CARLISLE ART	Oskar for working well, and helping a friend by describing in detail how to draw a 2 point perspective drawing.



NAPLAN

Information for parents and carers

2023

Why do students do NAPLAN?

NAPLAN is a national literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students have the opportunity to undertake.

As students progress through their school years, it's important to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national standards and over time.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It doesn't replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with additional information about students' educational progress.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

Your child will do the NAPLAN tests online

Schools have transitioned from paper-based to computer-based assessments. All Year 3 students will continue to complete the writing assessment on paper.

Online NAPLAN tests provide more precise results and are more engaging for students. One of the main benefits is tailored (or adaptive) testing, where the test presents questions which may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses.

Tailored testing allows a wider range of student abilities to be assessed and measures student achievement more precisely. A student's overall NAPLAN result is based on both the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions challenging; they may be taking a more complex test pathway.

What does NAPLAN assess?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum.

Students sit assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.

All government and non-government education authorities contribute to the development of NAPLAN test materials.

To find out more about NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au.

Participation in NAPLAN

NAPLAN is for everyone. ACARA supports inclusive testing so all students have the opportunity to participate in the national assessment program.

Adjustments are available for students with disability who have diverse functional abilities and needs.

Schools should work with parents/carers and students to identify, on a case-by-case basis, reasonable adjustments required for individual students with disability to access NAPLAN. Adjustments should reflect the support normally provided for classroom assessments.

To help inform these decisions, you may consult the [NAPLAN public demonstration site](#), the [Guide for schools to assist students with disability to access NAPLAN](#), or our [series of videos](#) where parents/carers, teachers and students share their experiences in using NAPLAN adjustments.

In exceptional circumstances, a student with a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background, may be granted a formal exemption.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on adjustments for students with disability or the process required to gain a formal exemption.



What if my child is absent from school on NAPLAN days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule.

What if my school is closed on NAPLAN days?

Schools with compelling reasons may be given permission to schedule tests after the 9-day test window.

What can I do to support my child?

Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN. You can support your child by reassuring them that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and reminding them to simply do their best. Some familiarisation and explanation of NAPLAN is useful to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the tests. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of services by coaching providers.

See the types of questions and tools available in the online NAPLAN assessments at nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site.

NAPLAN timetable

The NAPLAN test window is 9 days. This is to accommodate schools that may have fewer devices.

The NAPLAN test window starts on Wednesday 15 March and finishes on Monday 27 March 2023. Schools are advised to schedule the tests as soon as possible within the testing window, prioritising the first week.

How is my child's performance reported?

Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each assessment. This scale indicates whether the student is meeting expectations for the literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be provided by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school.

How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students and parents/carers may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help identify students who need greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas of need to improve teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review the effectiveness of programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see information about the performance of schools over time at myschool.edu.au.

Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at nap.edu.au/TAA
- visit nap.edu.au

To learn how ACARA handles personal information for NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy.

Test	Scheduling requirements	Duration	Test description
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 3 students do the writing test on paper (on day 1 only) • Years 5, 7 and 9 writing must start on day 1 (schools must prioritise completion of writing across days 1 and 2 only, with day 2 only used where there are technical/logistical limitations) 	Year 3: 40 min Year 5: 42 min Year 7: 42 min Year 9: 42 min	Students are provided with a 'writing stimulus' (sometimes called a 'prompt' – an idea or topic) and asked to write a response in a particular genre (narrative or persuasive writing)
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be completed after the writing test • To be completed before the conventions of language test 	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts and then answer related questions
Conventions of language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be completed after the reading test 	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 45 min Year 7: 45 min Year 9: 45 min	Assesses spelling, grammar and punctuation
Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be completed after the conventions of language test 	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Assesses number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability

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Enrolling in primary school for 2024

Starting school is an exciting time for children, parents and carers. We want to help make the enrolment process as easy as possible for you.

In Victoria, your child has the right to attend their designated neighbourhood school (your 'local school') under the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*.

You can also apply for a place at a school that is not your local school. The school will consider your application in line with the Placement Policy. For more information on the Placement Policy, visit the [Enrolling in school](#) page.



New statewide timeline for Foundation (Prep)

The first year of primary school is called Foundation or Prep. We have released a new Foundation enrolment timeline for all Victorian government primary schools to follow (see page 3). The timeline aims to help you understand when and how to enrol your child into Foundation for the 2024 school year.

When should I enrol my child in their first year of primary school?

Your child must be 5 years old by 30 April in the year that they start school.

Schooling is compulsory for children who have turned 6 years old.

To enrol your child in a Victorian government primary school for the 2024 school year, submit an enrolment application to the school by 28 July 2023.

How do I enrol my child in their first year of primary school?

Take these steps to enrol your child in their first year of primary school:

1. Find your local school on the Find my School website (see below).
2. Contact a government primary school to book a school tour or to learn more about the school and the enrolment application process.
3. Download the Foundation (Prep) enrolment information pack from [Enrolling in Foundation \(Prep\)](#) (available from 24 April 2023).
4. Submit an enrolment application for Foundation **by Friday 28 July 2023**.
5. You will be notified of the outcome of your application **by Friday 11 August 2023**. If you receive an offer of placement, you should accept the offer **by Friday 25 August 2023**.
6. Take part in enrolment information and transition sessions **during Term 4 2023**.
7. Your child will start Foundation **from Tuesday 30 January 2024**.

How do I find my local school?

Find your local school on the Find my School website by following the steps below:

1. Enter findmyschool.vic.gov.au into your browser.
2. Enter your permanent residential address under 'Enter your address to get started'.
3. Select 2024 under 'Enrolment year'. **Note:** 2024 school zones will be available late Term 1, 2023.
4. Select Primary under 'School type'.

The map will then show your address, your local school, and on the left the contact details for the school. If you scroll down, it will also show you the five closest schools to your address.

You can also search by school name under 'Search for school'.

Department
of Education

Can my child apply to a government primary school that is not our local school?

Yes, you can apply to schools other than your local school. The school will consider your application in line with the Placement Policy and available space. You can find information on how applications are prioritised on the [Enrolling in school](#) page.

What happens if I receive a letter saying my enrolment application was unsuccessful?

You should apply to enrol your child in another school. Your child is guaranteed a place at their local school. Your child's local school is determined on the basis of their permanent residential address. Visit [Find my School](#) to locate your child's local school. The [Enrolling in school](#) page can also help you to confirm your child's address for enrolment.

You can also appeal the decision. The [Enrolling in Foundation \(Prep\)](#) page has information on the process to appeal an enrolment application outcome.

What happens if I miss the enrolment timeframes?

You can apply to enrol your child into Foundation for the 2024 school year at any time from Term 2, 2023.

While you are asked to submit an enrolment application by Friday 28 July 2023, applications after this date will still be accepted from those families who miss enrolment timelines, move permanent residence or newly arrive to Victoria.

Enrolment applications submitted after 28 July 2023 will be processed by the school as they are received, in accordance with the department's Placement Policy.

Where can I find further information on enrolling in primary school?

You can ask your local primary school for further information on the Foundation enrolment process.

At the start of Term 2, 2023 you can also find an information pack on the Foundation enrolment process on the [Enrolling in Foundation \(Prep\)](#) page of the Starting School webpage.

If you require help translating the information pack, please talk to your local primary school for assistance.

Who do I contact for help?

The Transition Coordinator, Enrolment Officer or Principal of the primary school you want to apply to can help you with any questions you may have about the enrolment process.

Useful links

Please find some useful links below that may be helpful for you as your child starts primary school in 2024:

Find my School – findmyschool.vic.gov.au

Information on school zones – vic.gov.au/school-zones

Enrolling in Foundation (Prep) – vic.gov.au/enrolling-foundation-prep

Enrolling in school – vic.gov.au/how-choose-school-and-enrol

Disability and inclusive education – vic.gov.au/disability-and-inclusive-education

Regional office contacts – vic.gov.au/office-locations-department-education-and-training



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Timeline for 2023-24

2023 Dates	Activity
Term 2: Monday 24 April 2023 – Friday 23 June 2023	
Terms 1 and 2, 2023	Primary schools conduct tours, information sessions and other activities for families seeking Foundation (Prep) enrolment for their child for 2024.
By the start of Term 2, 2023	School zones for the 2024 school year go live on findmyschool.vic.gov.au . Parents/carers should go to findmyschool.vic.gov.au to locate their designated neighbourhood school for 2024. The Enrolment Information Pack for Parents/Carers is available to download from Enrolling in Foundation (Prep) .
From Week 1, Term 2, 2023	Primary schools may distribute the Enrolment Information Packs to prospective families and their school community.
From Week 1, Term 2, 2023	Enrolment applications open – parents/carers may submit their completed enrolment application to a government primary school from this date.
Term 3: Monday 10 July 2023 – Friday 15 September 2023	
By Friday 28 July 2023	Enrolment applications due – parents/carers submit their completed enrolment application to a government primary school by this date.
By Friday 11 August 2023	Primary schools notify parents/carers in writing of Foundation (Prep) enrolment outcomes, as per the 'Priority Order of Placement' under the department's Placement Policy. This may include a letter confirming enrolment, a letter of offer, or an unsuccessful application letter. Parents/carers sent an unsuccessful application letter may start submitting written non-placement appeals to their preferred primary school.
By Friday 25 August 2023	Parents/carers sent a letter of offer indicate acceptance of their child's place by this date.
By Friday 25 August 2023	Closing date for parents/carers to submit a written non-placement appeal with their preferred primary school.
By Friday 15 September 2023	Primary schools notify all parents/carers, in writing, of the outcome of their non-placement appeal by this date.
Term 4: Monday 2 October 2023 – Wednesday 20 December 2023	
During Term 4, 2023	Primary schools host transition sessions.
By Friday 20 October 2023	Closing date for parents/carers to submit a written non-placement appeal with the relevant Regional Director, where they have been unsuccessful with their appeal to their preferred primary school.
By Friday 17 November 2023	Regions notify all parents/carers in writing of the outcome of Regional Director non-placement appeals by this date. This only applies to appeals received by the closing date of Friday 20 October 2023.



Wyndham City's

**Draft Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2023-2025 is now
available for public consultation and will be open for
feedback until Friday 14 April.**

Visit The Loop and share your thoughts



Wyndham City's Draft Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2023-2025 is [now available for public consultation](#) and will be open for feedback until Friday 14 April.

Wyndham is also inviting all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander - First Nations' Community members to attend a Yarning Workshop at the Civic Centre on Monday 20 March.

This workshop will be run by Wadawurrung woman, Bonnie Chew and will be an opportunity to:

- find out about the Draft RAP
- give the team ideas on how you want to be communicated with
- tell us how often you want updates on the RAP
- stay informed about other important messaging throughout the consultation process.

[Visit The Loop](#) to find out more, share your thoughts, or book your spot at the Yarning Workshop.



We would like to invite Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander - First Nations' community members who live, work or visit Wyndham

This Yarning Workshop will be an opportunity for First Nations' Community members to:

- Find out about Wyndham City Council's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)
- Tell us how you would like to be communicated with
- Tell us how often we should give you updates about the RAP
- Let us know how we can make it easier for you to be involved
- Give us your ideas on how we should get feedback on the RAP from local First Nations' Peoples

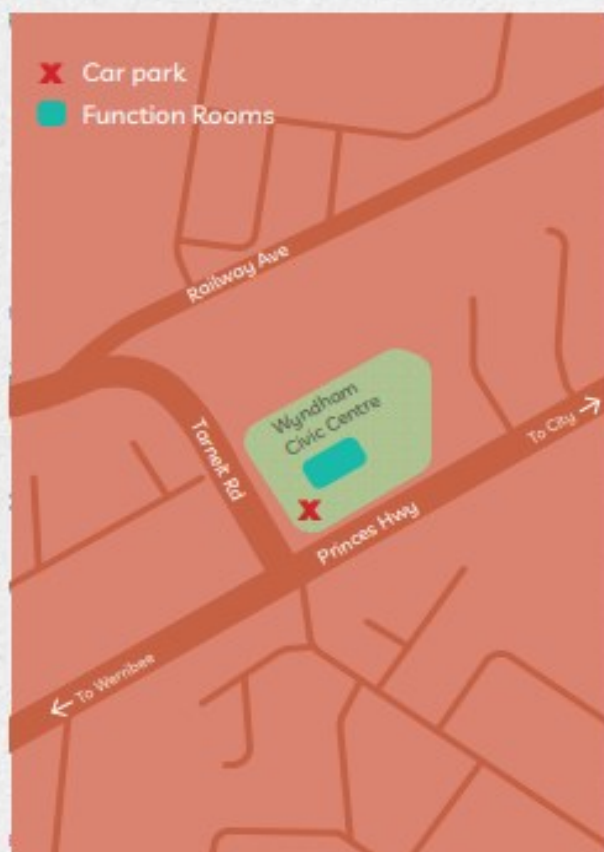
To attend a Yarning Workshop
At Wyndham Civic Centre,
Function Rooms
45 Princes Highway Werribee
(see over for exact location)

Monday, 20 March 2023
2.00pm – 4.00pm

Note: This workshop will be run by a First Nations person

How can I get involved?

Please scan the QR code to book your place and let us know if you have dietary requirements for your afternoon refreshments.



I need support to attend

If you need support to attend this Yarning Workshop or have any questions, please contact Narelle Keleher:



1300 023 411



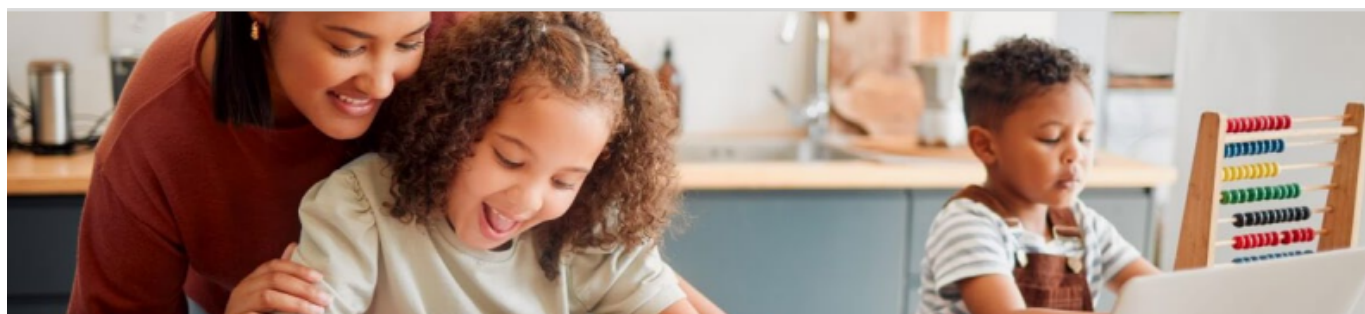
Text name, number and the word RAP to
0482 088 380



communityplanning2@wyndham.vic.gov.au

What else do I need to know?

- The location has plenty of car parking
- There are a number of bus stops within 500m of the Wyndham Civic Centre
- Staff will be on site to greet you at the door
- We will provide catering at this workshop
- You will be able to ask questions anonymously



INSIGHTS

happy families. 

ISSUE 2 | TERM 1 | 2023

School belonging starts at home

Belonging is a hot topic right now. It's on posters and internet memes, with some schools making it their number one priority. A sense of belonging at school has been linked to many benefits – including better grades, improved physical and mental health, and positive outcomes for future education or employment. But what does school belonging mean and what steps can you, as a parent, take to encourage it?

In psychology, a sense of belonging refers to the feeling that you form an integral part of your surroundings. Humans can be highly motivated to seek out a sense of belonging. For many people belonging emerges from relationships and bonds with other people. These bonds come from many sources. Most children first begin to form bonds with their family circle. As they grow up, their social connections expand beyond the household. Naturally, since kids spend a significant portion of their days at school, the school becomes a key environment to form connections and experience feelings of belonging

Benefits of school belonging

The most accepted definition of school belonging comes from psychologists Goodnow and Grady (1993). They describe school belonging as “the extent to which students feel personally accepted, respected, included, and supported by others in the school social environment.” Psychologists often view school belonging from an ecological perspective. In other words, multiple supports (teachers, parents, peers, etc.) come together to encourage school belonging.

Overall wellbeing, academic achievements, better physical and mental health, and increased self-esteem are often cited as benefits of school belonging. Similarly, prosocial behaviours, including participation in classroom and extracurricular activities, have been reported in students who feel connected to their schools. School belonging can also have the potential to prevent negative outcomes such as school dropout, low academic achievement, low self-esteem, behavioural issues, and feelings of anxiety and loneliness.

Now that we've established the importance of school belonging, let's explore the role that parents play. The following suggestions are actions that you can take to support your kid's sense of belonging at school.

Offer academic support and encouragement

In a 2007 study of American middle school girls, Pauline Garcia-Reid found that parental support is directly related to school engagement. School engagement (e.g., participation in class or extracurriculars) is a facilitator of school belonging. The students in Garcia-Reid's study who reported higher levels of supportive parental behaviours were more positively engaged in school.

Examples of academic support and encouragement include having regular conversations about school, classes your kid is taking, and plans for the future. These conversations can help nurture a desire to engage and achieve at school and inspire plans for higher education.

Get involved

There are many ways to get involved in your kid's education – at home and at school. Ideally, your kid's school will provide opportunities for involvement, such as invitations to school activities or opportunities to provide



input in educational decisions. Other examples of at-home involvement include sharing educational values and supervising school activities (e.g., monitoring homework).

Contrary to popular belief, research suggests that parental school involvement is just as important during the middle and later years of education as it is for younger years (Mo & Singh, 2008). Of course, that may be easier said than done. As teens gain more independence and busy schedules get in the way, it is common for parents to step back from school involvement. But remember – school involvement comes in many forms. Small steps, like attending a parent evening or getting in touch with a teacher, can still go a long way for your kid's engagement and performance in school.

Form close family relationships

Positive family relationships, for example, parent-child relationships, incorporate all of the strategies we have explored so far. Supportive behaviour, encouraging communication, and active involvement in your kid's life – at school and beyond – all contribute to a strong relationship.

Close family relationships may not seem especially relevant to education. However, research shows that family relationships directly affect school connectedness and academic performance (Kelly et al., 2012; Mo & Singh, 2008).

At the end of the day, it's about being there for your kids. When kids feel like they can come to you for support and advice in their everyday lives, that feeling will extend to support for school. A sense of belonging at home, in the community, and at school can do wonders for your kid's academic engagement and achievement.

Most of us take the first steps to a healthy sense of belonging at home, closely followed by school. Although we continue to form our sense of belonging throughout our lives, school belonging plays a crucial role in kids' development and motivation to belong moving forward. Teachers, educational policymakers, and parents all have a role to play in encouraging school belonging.

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