

DANDENONG PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Thursday 7 February 2022

Term 1 Concludes at 2:30pm TOMORROW

Friday 8 April (tomorrow) is the last day of Term 1. **Students will be dismissed from school at 2:30pm.**

مدرسه فردا ساعت 14:30 تمام می شود.

We wish all students, families, staff and volunteers a very safe and relaxing holiday period.

Successful Term 1

We have enjoyed a very successful Term 1 and we could not be more proud of the achievements and contributions of our students as we have transitioned back to a full term of face-to-face learning and teaching.

Right across the school, our students have demonstrated high levels of engagement in their learning and high levels in their sense of learning confidence.

Our Foundation (Prep) students have settled very quickly into the routines and rigour of the school day and are progressing well with their learning. This is a credit to the students, families and Foundation staff in supporting the best possible transition from a year of COVID-19 interrupted kindergarten to a very positive start to primary school.

Our community has welcomed a significant number of new arrivals from Afghanistan and Pakistan. It is a privilege to welcome and to support an increased number of English as Additional Language (EAL) learners across the school.

Year 3 and Year 5 students and staff have prepared to move to online National Assessment Program: Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing for the first time. We look forward to the roll out of the testing from 10 May 2022.

Our Year 6 student leaders have been impressive with their step up into their leadership roles across the school, conducting assemblies and community events, including our first onsite Harmony Day celebrations since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our after-school homework clubs and Community Hub programs are up and running again with volunteers and friends from various community organisations back onsite to support the best possible learning and wellbeing outcomes for every student.

We could not be more grateful for the efforts of our students, families, staff and volunteers in support of excellence in learning and wellbeing for all, as we continue to transition our way to a post-COVID normal.

Facebook & Instagram Pages

If you're on Facebook and/or Instagram, stay up-to-date with our latest news here:



www.facebook.com/dandenongprimaryschool
www.instagram.com/dandenongps



Ramadan Mubarak

Ramdan is a holy month of fasting, introspection and prayer for Muslims, the followers of Islam.

Ramadan, also spelled Ramazan, Ramzan, Ramadan or Ramathan, is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims

worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, and reflection.

Fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam. This year, Ramadem is expected to start on Saturday 2 April, although it could come a day later if the moon isn't sighted. It lasts between 29 and 30 days and to add on that the month of Ramdan is when the Qur'an was revealed as guidance of mankind.

By Talha & Sahar

Easter

Easter is more than chocolate, Easter eggs and bunnies.



Christians believe that Jesus died on the cross for the sins and wrong things that people did. This happened over 2000 years ago, in Jerusalem. It was a Friday and so it is called Good Friday. Christians all over the world remember this day and attend special church services. Some people fast or may give up something that they love for 40 days.

Jesus died but He rose from the dead on the third day as it was written in the Bible. The day He rose from the dead is celebrated as Easter. It is called the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Some people like to use the Easter egg as a symbol of the tomb where Jesus was buried and the cracking open of the egg is like Jesus coming back to life.

Easter is a great time of celebration when families and friends go to church to sing songs, pray and listen to amazing stories about the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Many like to have a bit of fun and have Easter egg hunts too!

Happy Easter to you all!

By Naomi

COVID-19: Keeping Safe & Keeping Open

Thank you for your work in supporting our school to remain as safe as possible from the impact of COVID-19 in Term 1.

Thank you to all students, families and staff who have played their role in regularly testing and following the COVID-19 safety protocols.

The work of our community has seen COVID-19 cases being picked up at the earliest opportunity, meaning less cases in our school and more time in the classroom for our students. This has meant a very successful start to the school year.

The Victorian Government has announced it is extending the RAT screening program for the first 4 weeks of Term 2. The testing recommendations will remain the same for students and staff with the recommendation to test at home twice a week (each Monday and Wednesday morning before school).

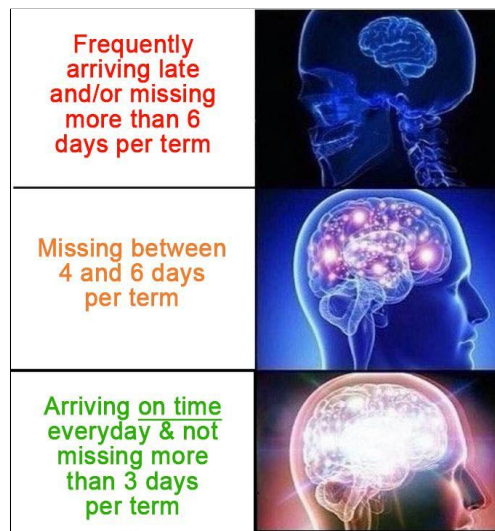
As we approach winter and flu season, the vaccination of children aged 5 to 11 and booster shots for students 16+ remains the best way to ensure protection for students and staff. The Easter break is a good opportunity to get your child vaccinated ahead of this, with many options across GPs, pharmacies and the state run vaccination clinics.

If you have any concerns or worries about getting your child vaccinated, please get in contact with your GP or another health professional who can answer your concerns.

Term 2

Term 2 begins on Tuesday 26 April 2022. We have much to look forward to including:

- Mother's Day celebrations
- NAPLAN testing
- Education Week
- Year 5 Malmsbury Camp
- National Reconciliation Week
- Refugee Week, and more!



Harmony Day 2022

Australia is a vibrant and multicultural country - from the oldest continuous culture of our first Australians to the cultures of our newest arrivals from around the world. Our cultural diversity is one of our greatest strengths and is at the heart of who we are. It makes Australia and Dandenong, in particular, a great place to live and learn.

Thank you for celebrating Harmony Day with us in 2022!



Dandenong Primary School's Very Own Make Your Move Ambassador

Adapted from:

<https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/make-your-move-ambassadors/peter-ogunyemi-dandenong>

Peter is a local aspiring Paralympian with his sights firmly set on competing in Paris in 2024. Peter is a man of many talents also playing Wheelchair AFL for Essendon and has previously played wheelchair rugby and badminton. He also happens to be an important member of the Dandenong Primary School community, as a father to Naomi and Nadia and as a school council member.

But it's not all training and games for Peter, with the social aspect of being active being one of the most important factors to him. He enjoys trying new things and meeting new people through being active.

Why did Peter want to become an ambassador?

"To help motivate not just people with disabilities but everybody I come across".



In 2020, Council launched the Greater Dandenong Make Your Move Physical Activity Strategy 2020-30 to support the community to become more educated on the many benefits to a healthy lifestyle and the many opportunities available in Greater Dandenong to support this.

A component of this strategy is the Make Your Move Ambassador program, focused on celebrating local members of the community and showcasing how they stay active and make their move.

Our Ambassadors provide a local face to the community and aim to inspire others in Greater Dandenong to get active through their own stories, experiences and advice. Thank you for inspiring us all, Peter!

Tutor Learning Initiative & Supporting Students to "Catch Up"

This year the Victorian Government has provided our school with around \$150,000 to staff and support our Tutor Learning Initiative team as it works to support students whose learning has been disrupted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a school, we have chosen to provide additional funding to expand this team's work in order to support more students.

The team now comprises 5 tutor learning staff and has so far provided support to 120 students across the school (or around 30% of the total student population).

In Term 1, the Tutor Learning Initiative team has supported students with:

- Reading
- Writing
- Spelling
- Mathematics

Check out the Term 1 report from our Tutor Learning Initiative team on the next page...

Homework at Dandenong Primary School

According to [Evidence for Learning](#), there is “stronger evidence that [homework] is helpful at secondary level, but there is much less evidence of benefit at primary level”.

[Evidence for Learning](#) highlights:

“One study of homework in OECD nations revealed mixed evidence on whether or not the use of homework leads to more successful education systems. There is some Australian-based evidence for non-academic benefits of homework. For example, it may help to develop a routine for students and self-motivated working patterns. Nonetheless, there remains a dearth of research literature on the impact of homework on primary students’ learning and outcomes specifically in an Australian or New Zealand context.

Since 2012, evidence reviews on homework in schools have been published in New South Wales and Victoria. Both reviews concluded that there was little evidence that homework improves academic performance for primary school students, but noted that homework could have other benefits, such as promoting parental engagement”.

At Dandenong Primary School, we aim to provide “just the right amount” of homework around literacy and numeracy learning aimed at:

- providing opportunities for students to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills
- providing opportunities for students to apply new knowledge
- providing opportunities for students to prepare for future lessons
- encouraging students to enrich or extend knowledge individually, collectively and imaginatively

- fostering good lifelong learning and study habits
- supporting learning partnerships with parents/carers.

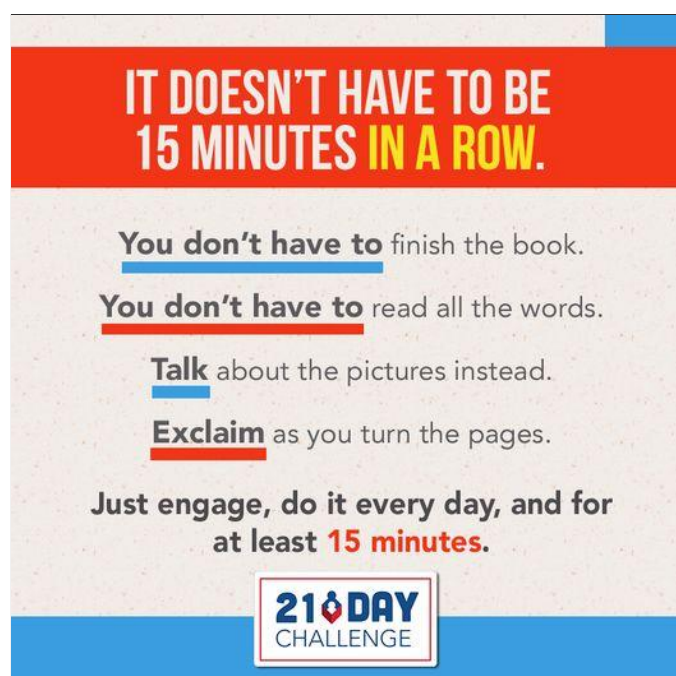
Some families within our community prefer less homework while others prefer more. Next term, we will be surveying students and families around our school’s approach to the setting of homework. We would love for you to add your voice when the call comes!



**BULLYING.
NO WAY!**

If your child talks to you about bullying:

1. **Listen** calmly and get the full story.
2. **Reassure** your child that they are not to blame.
3. **Ask** your child what they want to do about it and how you can help.
4. **Visit** www.bullyingnoway.gov.au to find some strategies.
5. **Contact** the school.
6. **Check in** regularly with your child.



**IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE
15 MINUTES IN A ROW.**

You don't have to finish the book.

You don't have to read all the words.

Talk about the pictures instead.

Exclaim as you turn the pages.

Just engage, do it every day, and for at least 15 minutes.

**21 DAY
CHALLENGE**



TUTOR LEARNING INITIATIVE NEWS

Term 1 2022

This term the Tutor program has supported students with:

- Reading
- Writing
- Spelling
- Numbers
- Counting
- Problem Solving strategies

This term we have had:

- 5 Tutors
- 120 students (30% of school population) participate.
- Students receiving support in Literacy, Numeracy or both.



Reading:

This term, students in the reading program have been learning about letter sounds.

We have been blending letter sounds together to read new words.

We have been practicing reading with words, cards, games and books.

The easier we find it to blend, the more we are able to focus on understanding what we are reading.



Spelling:

To practice our spelling, we listen to the sounds we hear in words. We are learning new sounds every day and this helps with our spelling.

It also helps us with our writing because we are able to record our ideas more quickly and accurately.



Maths

Students in the mathematics program are working on counting, breaking numbers into parts and problem solving strategies.

We are using hands on materials to help us understand numbers and solve problems.

The quicker we are at recalling number facts, and the more we understand about numbers, the more we are able to focus on using maths strategies that we are learning.



How can I help support my child at home?

Read to or with your child every day and talk about new words.

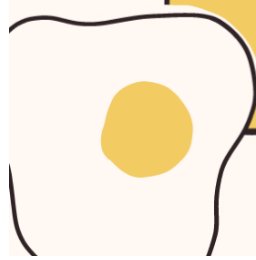
Focus on the sounds that letters make rather than the names of the letters

Count with your child every day

Ask your child what sounds they can hear in words

Talk about maths problems in every day life

practise vowel sounds
a e i o u



Onsite Before & After School Care Coming Soon!

Our school has been successful in applying for a 3-year, \$75,000 per annum 'OSHC Establishment Grant' which will see the commencement of before and after school care and school holiday programs onsite at Dandenong Primary School.

Earlier this term, expressions of interest were invited from potential Outside of School Hours Care (OSHC) providers for our school. The school council then worked to determine a preferred provider. We will be able to share news of the successful provider very early next term so stand by for more information!

It is likely that the chosen provider will be up and running for a winter school holiday program before the commencement of before and after school care for the beginning of Term 3.



The poster features a basketball hoop and ball at the top. Below it, the text reads: 'Welcoming Clubs Welcome to the Game INCLUSION CAMP'. Logos for 'AUSOME HOOPS BASKETBALL' and 'DANDENONG BASKETBALL' are shown. A yellow box says 'April 19 DANDENONG STADIUM'. A QR code is present. Text at the bottom describes the camp as a safe, inclusive, free, and fun basketball experience for children and young people from multicultural backgrounds with disabilities, autism, or additional needs. It lists two sessions: Session 1 (10 AM - 12 PM, Age 5-11) and Session 2 (1 PM - 3 PM, Age 12+). Contact information for Jessica (jessica@welcoming.org.au, 0411097762) and the registration link (welcomingaustralia.typeform.com/DBInclusionCamp) are provided. The bottom of the poster shows a group of children in a gymnasium.

Ausome Hoops at Dandenong Basketball Stadium

The team at Ausome Hoops is thrilled to be running another Inclusion Camp in partnership with Welcoming Clubs Aus and [Dandenong Basketball](#)

A safe, inclusive, free and fun basketball experience for children and young people from multicultural backgrounds who have disabilities, autism and/or additional needs.

Ausome Hoops provides:

- 1:4 coach to player ratio minimum
- A sensory space
- Individual support if required (please communicate this need on your registration).

Parents, carers, siblings, friends encouraged to actively support participation as required.

For more information, contact:
jessica@welcoming.org.au or telephone 0411097762

To register, visit:
welcomingaustralia.typeform.com/DBInclusionCamp

We hope to see you there!

The Fathering Project

Dandenong Primary School is partnering with [The Fathering Project](#) in order to give children the best fathers and father figures they can have so they can thrive academically, socially, physically, and emotionally.

Research shows that schools that specifically target fathers will see better outcomes for students.

When fathers participate in school activities, meetings and events, children enjoy school more, are less likely to have behaviour issues and are more likely to participate in extracurricular activities. Children are also more likely to engage more in school and perform better academically.

Stay tuned for more information in Term 2!





KEEPING SAFE & OPEN AT DANDENONG PRIMARY SCHOOL

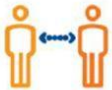
MEASURES TO LIMIT VIRUS TRANSMISSION:



Face masks compulsory when indoors for students in Year 3 to 6 and all staff (exemptions apply in limited circumstances)



Free twice-weekly voluntary testing at home



Physical distancing & limits to indoor cohort mixing apply (e.g. staff and students to maintain year level 'bubbles')



Air purifiers, open windows & doors, outdoor learning (where practicable)



No entry to classrooms for parents & carers for the time being (exceptions apply). Students and staff must stay home if unwell

RESPONDING TO CONFIRMED CASES:



If a student tests positive, parents & carers must notify the school as soon as possible

Students who report a positive result must isolate for 7-days and must not attend school during that 7-day period.



Where a student is a household contact of a positive case (that is, they have spent more than 4 hours with someone who has COVID-19 inside a house) they must inform the school and isolate for 7-days and not attend school during that 7-day period



The school will keep students, families and staff up-to-date with any relevant information when a student or staff member that had attended school has returned a positive COVID-19 test result

Important Dates for 2022

January

- Curriculum Day 28/1 (Induction)
- Curriculum Day 31/1 (First Aid Training)

February

- ~~Term 1 Starts 9am Tuesday 1/2~~
- Lunar New Year - Year of the Tiger 1/2
- Mother Language Day Sunday 21/2
- Updated **Asthma & Anaphylaxis Plans Due 28/2**
- Enrolment Census 28/2

March

- Pancake Day/Shrove Tuesday 1/3
- International Women's Day Tuesday 8/3
- Labour Day Monday 14/3 **School Closed**
- National Day of Action Against Bullying 19/3
- Harmony Day Monday 21/3

April

- Ramadan Begins Evening 1/4
- Autism Awareness Day Saturday 2/4
- Term 1 Ends 2:30pm Friday 8/4
- Good Friday 15/4
- Easter Sunday 17/4
- Orthodox Easter Sunday 24/4
- ANZAC Day Sunday 25/4
- Term 2 Begins Tuesday 26/4
- Mother Earth Day Friday 22/4
- Ramadan Ends Evening 30/4

May

- Mum & Me Friday 6/5
- Mother's Day Sunday 8/5
- NAPLAN 10-20/5
- International Day of Families Sunday 15/5
- Education Week
- Year 5 Malmsbury Camp 25-27/5
- Australia's Biggest Morning Tea 26/5
- National Reconciliation Week 27/5 - 3/6

June

- Queen's Birthday Holiday 13/6 - **School Closed**
- Refugee Week 19-25/6
- World Refugee Day 20/6
- Semester 1 Reports Published 20/6
- Learning Conferences 22/6
- CSEF applications close (TBC)
- Term 2 Ends 2:30pm Friday 24/6

July

- Welcome to Country Ceremony - TBC
- NAIDOC Week 3-10/7
- Eid al-Adha Begins Evening 9/7
- Term 3 Begins Monday 11/7
- Eid al-Adha Ends Evening 13/7
- Schools Tree Day Friday 29/7
- International Day of Friendship 30/7
- Schools Tree Day Friday 31/7

August

- National Science Week 13-21/8
- CBCA Book Week 20-26/8
- Daffodil Day
- Teacher Aide Appreciation Week 30/8 - 3/9

September

- Indigenous Literacy Day
- Father's Day Sunday 4/9
- International Literacy Day 8/9
- R U OK Day 8/9
- Year 6 City Camp 12-14/9
- Term 3 Ends 2:30pm Friday 16/9

October

- Term 4 Begins Monday 3/10
- Swimming Program Begins (TBC)
- World Mental Health Day 10/10
- Dad & Family Night Thursday 13/10
- Diwali Thursday 24/10
- Walk Safely to School Day (TBC)
- Birth of the Báb 25-26/10
- Prep 2022 Enrolments Due 28/10
- Teachers Day Friday 28/10
- Halloween 31/10

November

- Melbourne Cup Tuesday 1/11 - **School Closed**
- Coach Approach 3/11 (TBC)
- Remembrance Day 11/11

December

- Community Picnic 5/12
- Year 6 Graduation 15/12
- Semester 2 Reports 16/12
- School Year Ends 1:30pm Tuesday 20/12

If you have an important community date to add to our calendar, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your suggestion.