

DIGGERS REST PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER MARCH 2023			
DATES TO REMEMBER:		THIS MONTH'S VALUE IS	
	Preps Easter Hat Parade PARENTS WELCOME TO ATTEND 9.15 - 10 am Please sign in!		
6th April	Easter Raffle Drawn	WHAT WALL	
	Last Day of Term EARLY FINISH 2.30pm		
24th April	START OF TERM 2 Students arrive at 8.50 am		
25th April	ANZAC DAY Students do not attend		
26th April	Gr. 3-6 CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL PARENTS WELCOME TO ATTEND 9.15am - Please sign in!		
28th April	Gr. 5/6 ANZAC DAY CEREMONY at the Diggers Rest cenotaph		
1st May	WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY on the basketball courts 2.30 pm PARENTS WELCOME TO ATTEND - Please sign in!		
5th May	DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY (cost involved) PARENTS WELCOME TO ATTEND Venue TBC		
10th May	DRPS SCHOOL REVIEW FIELDWORK DAY Parent session 9 - 10 am		
19th May	Gr. 1/2 WERRIBEE ZOO EXCURSION (cost involved)		
26th May	Gr. PREP - 2 ATHLETICS & WHOLE SCHOOL MARCH/HOUSE CHANTS		
	All students are encouraged to wear house colours PARENTS WELCOME TO ATTEND - Please sign in!		

—— MESSAGE FROM —— THE PRINCIPAL

Dear DRPS Families,

As we come to the end of term one, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the fantastic achievements of our students, the hard work of our dedicated staff and our supportive families.

Over the past few months, we have seen some incredible progress from our students both academically and personally. They have definitely demonstrated the 'DIGGERS WAY!' and shown resilience, creativity, and a real commitment to their learning.

I am incredibly proud of each and every one of them, especially our new Prep students, and I know they they will continue to go from strength to strength in the coming term.

I would like to thank our staff for their tireless efforts in ensuring that our students receive the very best education possible. Their hard work, dedication, and passion for teaching and learning have made a real difference in the lives of our students.

It was also fantastic to get back to what we love doing at Diggers Rest Primary School and that is celebrating our students' success with our families. It was great to see such big numbers turn out and attend our events, such as the Great Glow Show, Gr. 3 - 6 Athletics, DRPS Colour Run and the Prep Hat Parade.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a restful and enjoyable break. I hope that you have the opportunity to spend quality time with your loved ones and recharge your batteries for the coming term.

Thank you for your continued support of our school community. I look forward to working with you all in the new term.

See you at the gate,

Sheridan Thomas

PRINCIPAL - DIGGERS REST PRIMARY SCHOOL

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ADDRESS: Plumpton Road, Diggers Rest, Vic 3427





SCHOOL NEWS

2023 DRPS SCHOOL REVIEW

Every 4 years all schools must participate in a school review. The school review informs the development of the school's 4 year School Strategic Plan (SSP). The school review also provides assurance of ongoing compliance with the Minimum Standard relations to curriculum, student learning and child-safe practices.

2023 School Review			
REVIEWER	David Allibon - Parkwood Green PS		
EVALUATION DAY	Friday the 5th of May		
FIELD WORK DAY	Wednesday the 10th of May		
SUMMARY DAY	12th of May		



The first component of the review is the

pre-review self-evaluation (PRSE) where schools review their data and other evidence to form a collective view of current practice and areas for improvement. The next component of the review is to participate in an Evaluation Day, Field Work Day and Summary Day.

The Panel members will then convene to share and discuss/review findings and develop directions for the next School strategic Plan, including goals, targets and key improvement strategies. The final component of the review is the Review Report and this is developed by the reviewer and reflects the panel's views. The report is then presented to staff and the school council.

Our Reviewer, David Allibon, has already reached out and will be on-site to meet with staff on the 5th of April. He has also asked for expressions of interest from approximately 8 - 10 parents to participate in the Fieldwork Day on the 10th of May, 9 - 10 am.

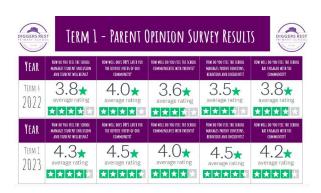
If you would like to be a part of this group, please let me know.

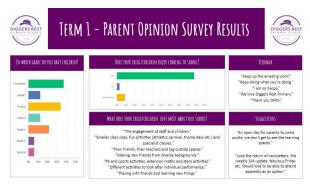
Sheridan Thomas

PARENT OPINION SURVEY

We want to say a massive thank you to those that have completed our Parent Opinion survey. We really appreciate your feedback and have taken your suggestions on board to better our school moving forward.

Please find a snapshot of the results below.







BEHAVIOUR

GO GREEN

DID YOU KNOW ... at Diggers Rest Primary we give out Green Tokens when we see students demonstrating good behaviour or good deeds at school? To give you an idea of how many have been given out this term please look at a picture of Mr. Sims desk.

Well done everyone ... Such a great effort!

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

This term we have had the least amount of movement on the traffic light since its inception in 2018.

What an awesome achievement!





STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

On Tuesday we went to the Melbourne Conference Centre. We had to catch a train from the train station at 7:50 in the morning. Once we arrived at the conference we learned what makes a great leader and did some fun activities.

During some sessions we talked with students from different schools and learned about the different things they do. For example, one school had a "Waste Free Wednesday"! The conference was super fun. I loved being there and it was an amazing experience.











HARMONY WEEK

During Week 9, DRPS students and teachers celebrated Harmony Week.

Harmony week allowed us as a school to be proud and celebrate the diversity within the Diggers Rest PS community.

As Diggers Rest continues to expand and welcome new families into our community, it is pivotal that we recognise, celebrate and respect diversity within our community.

A huge thank you to everybodies respectful contribution during Harmony week!







Let's come together to celebrate our cultural diversity.



COLOUR RUN

Wow, what a great day the students and staff had so much fun at the Diggers Rest Colour Explosion.

Events like this don't just happen. Thank you to the staff and a big thank you to all our families for their continued support towards our school.

In the end we raised a massive \$28,928.90. This will go towards new outside furniture to be placed around the school. The chairs and tables are similar to the ones in the fairy garden and out the back of 1/2A.







PREP NEWS

GRADE PREP NEWS

The month of March has flown by so quickly in Prep. We are so proud of all our Preps for beginning their learning journey at our beautiful school this Term.

Over the past month our Preps are settling into the school environment nicely. They are beginning to show more independence through packing and unpacking their bags, walking into school themselves, making new friendships and giving new things a go.

Literacy

Our phonics focus this month has been on the letters "f,g,h,i,j" and various activities surrounding this including identifying words that begin with the letter, differentiating between which words have those beginning letter sounds and correctly forming it using VIC Pre cursive. The Preps have also enjoyed shared reading time and understanding features of a text. This includes understanding the sequence, title, blurb, authors, illustrators, setting and characters.

In writing, we have begun weekend recounts with the support of their teachers. It's been wonderful to see their ideas matching their illustrations in their work.

Our Preps have started making some great habits at home. They are very eager to learn their M100W sight words and complete their readers to support growth in Literacy at home. Well done!

Mathematics In Mathematics we have been focusing on the numbers 5-10. Our Preps are beginning to form these numbers, manipulate them and use one to one correspondence to count objects. They have also been working on numbers counting orally from 1-20 and learning about 2D

shapes and their features. Our Preps have also been learning about addition and patterning.

Inquiry

In Inquiry, we have continued learning resilience through fairy tales. Some of the fairy tales we enjoyed together were Hansel and Gretel, The Little Red Hen, Goldilocks and The Three Bears and the Gingerbread Man.

Team building and fine motor skills building

Our Preps have been loving working on their fine motor skills and using play doh to do this. They have been making their names, numbers and letters

They have been developing their social skills by working in teams in development play opportunities in the classroom.

RRRR

In Respectful Relationships our Preps have been learning about how to identify emotions and how to regulate them. This aligns with the Zones of Regulation.

Our Preps also have really enjoyed their Yoga this term. Our Preps learnt about life skills through Yoga. Some values and understanding that took away from the program was resilience, teamwork, mindfulness, calming techniques, confidence, body awareness and courage.

It's been amazing to see them also participate in many school wide events which they have enjoyed immensely. Especially Harmony Day!!!

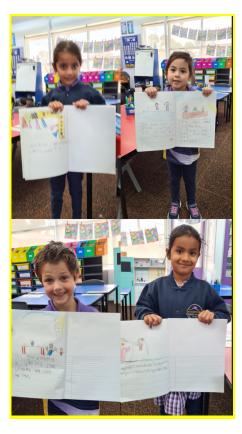
We look forward to the many weeks of learning to come and hope they have a wonderful 2 week break!

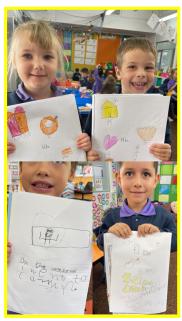
The Prep Team













GR. 1/2 NEWS

GRADE 1/2 NEWS

Wominjenka 1/2 parents and carers, we can't believe how quickly this term has flown by! We have enjoyed our first Term together getting to know each other and learning our classroom routines and expectations. Our favourite events from this Term include our Harmony Day celebrations, our AFL clinics, the Glow Show and of course, our Colour Run! Check out our awesome learning this month!



Reading: We have now learnt different reading strategies to help us decode unknown words and improve our comprehension. We have enjoyed learning different digraphs like 'sh', 'wh' and 'th'. A digraph is 2 letters that work together to make a new sound. We've also practised different skills to improve our comprehension, like making connections, predictions and visualising. We enjoy summarising stories after reading and are learning to make inferences - to think beyond the words written in the story. All of these skills help us better understand our books.

Writing: This term we have focused on:

- handwriting (correct letter formation and use of dotted thirds)
- spelling (spelling our high frequency words correctly and making reasonable attempts to spell unknown words)
- sentence structure (using capital letters and full stops correctly)

We have developed these skills through Recount Writing and Rocket Writing and will continue to build on these next term.

Maths: We enjoyed consolidating our knowledge of numbers and identifying counting patterns. We have focused on reading, writing, modelling and ordering 2 digit, 3 digit, 4 digit and 5 digit numbers! This has helped our understanding of Place Value and our Base 10 System. We love using this knowledge during fun games such as Mastermind, Mystery Number and Place Value Paths! These understandings will help us next term when we explore Addition and Subtraction and strategies like counting on, doubling and making to 10.

RRRR's: We have improved our Emotional Literacy by learning to name different feelings and their characteristics. We enjoyed sharing our experiences and acting out situations where we have felt relaxed, happy, upset, frustrated etc. We also explored our Personal Strengths and how we can use our strengths to help each other.

Yoga: We have now finished our 5 week Yoga course! We have learnt about the following values: Respect, Honesty, Team work, Care, Resilience, Confidence, Courage and Gratitude. We really enjoyed learning about our emotions, values and strategies to help us represent the "Diggers Way!"

Term 2 Topics:

Inquiry: "Living and Non-Living Things"

Reading: M100 words, Decoding strategies,

Comprehension, Information texts

Writing: SMART words, Spelling, Punctuation,

Informative writing

Maths: Place Value, Addition and Subtraction

RRRR's: Topic 3- Positive Coping

Wishing everyone a fantastic, relaxing and safe Holiday! See you next Term, 1/2 Team















STEPS AT DRPS (Support, Tutoring & Extension Programs)

TUTOR LEARNING INITIATIVE

This term as part of the government's Tutor Learning Initiative we have been able to continue to provide targeted learning support in reading across the grade one and two cohorts. Students selected for the program have been working in small groups focussing on becoming more familiar with a range of decoding strategies. Strategies covered this term have included 'Chunky Monkey' (breaking the word into chunks that you already know), 'Tryin Lion' (try to re-read the sentence and ask yourself: "What would make sense?") and 'Skippy Frog' (skip the hard word, read to the end of the sentence and then try again). We have also explored 'Word Families' meaning if we can read and write 'cat' then we also know 'hat', 'mat', 'chat' and 'splat'. More students will be joining our groups next term and letters informing parents will be sent home in week one.

Next term we also welcome Michele Gordon back from Long Service Leave. Michele will be joining the TLI team enabling us to extend our program to provide support to the middle and senior school. Currently we are analysing student data and identifying areas of need. Following this we will then select and group students with similar learning goals. Letters informing parents of student selection will be sent home by week three of next term. We are very pleased to be able to provide this additional support and look forward to meeting and working with our new groups in term two.

Remember to keep up with your daily reading over the holidays. Why don't you mix things up a bit? Maybe you could read outside enjoying the crisp Autumn air with a favourite teddy or snuggle up in your Oodie in a cosy spot. You could read to a member of your family or you could check out these stories read aloud online.

Enjoy the holidays and happy reading!

Mrs. Ritchie





Lips the Fish







GR. 3/4 NEWS

GRADE 3/4 NEWS

What a busy and fun-filled Term 1 we have had! We have been working hard to become more organisedand independent in our learning, as well as enjoying all of the extra special events that have been happening in our school. We were particularly excited to participate in our Athletics Day, Harmony Day, Colour Run and Glow Show. Our RRRR's Learning has helped us to join in these events respectfully, responsibly and ensure a fun day was had by everyone.

Reading:

Throughout the term, we have continued to practise developing students' ability to improve our understanding of what we read by identifying descriptive language and visualising what is happening in the text, as well as making connections between the text they have read, other texts, themselves and the world around them. Our reading responses have become much more detailed and we have been able to share our understanding of what we read with others.

Writing:

In writing, students have increased their capacity to write persuasive texts that use strong language when expressing their opinion in order to persuade their target audience to agree with them. We considered our purpose for writing and who we were trying to convince, and wrote some very thoughtful pieces about topics affecting our environment, school and personal interests.

Mathematics:

In mathematics, students have continued to expand their knowledge of place value and build their understanding of our Base 10 system and how we can rename a range of numbers into ones, tens, hundreds and beyond. We have also begun learning about 2D and 3D shapes in our environment and their features and how 3D shapes are made up of one or more 2D shapes.

TERM 2 SUMMARY

Students will be developing their ability to ask questions about and summarise the texts they have read. In writing, students will be focusing on their researching skills and creating informative texts to engage and inform their readers.

We will begin to unpack the concept of multiplicative thinking by focusing on multiplication and division. Students will also be developing their understanding of measurement by learning about length, perimeter, area and volume.

For inquiry, our focus is on Earth and Space. During this unit, students will be focusing on the earth's rotation on its axis and how earth's surface changes over time as a result of natural processes and human activity.

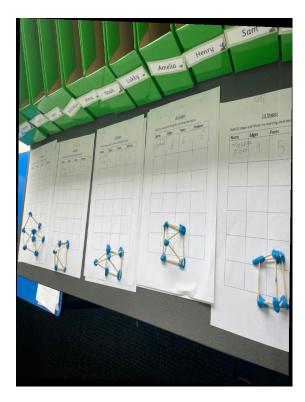




Inquiry:

For Inquiry, our topic was Geography and Intercultural Capabilities. During this unit, students investigated their family background and learned how to research reliably to find out about different countries around the world. They then chose a country of interest to practise their researching skills and form an engaging presentation to share with others. Students were very motivated and focused and came up with creative ways to share their learning. Well done to everyone!







GR. 5/6 NEWS

GRADE 5/6 NEWS

Inquiry

This month in 5/6 students have been working towards designing and presenting a project in inquiry. We have immersed ourselves in the geographical features of the world. In groups the students were tasked with creating a travel agency that required them to create a business name, logo and slogan. Students were then required to plan a multi destination holiday which included an itinerary and brochure outlining the details of this trip. They were then required to design a poster to display in our Travel Expo which provided a summary of their trip. The 5/6 students enjoyed visits from the rest of the school community which allowed them to showcase their hard work. We ended our Expo with visits from the parents which was an absolute highlight of the term for the students. Thanks to everyone who came and supported our 5/6 students.

Writing

Students have been working hard on finishing their good copies of their narratives. We were very impressed with the students' improvement throughout the term and they have worked extremely hard. Students have also revisited persuasive writing as they wrote a text persuading the reading as to why the reader should visit their country.

Maths

In Maths, we have continued to work on solving addition and subtraction problems. Students have been exploring a variety of strategies including the split strategy, the compensation strategy, the jump strategy and vertical addition to solve these problems.

Thank you for a fantastic, jam packed term. Enjoy your holidays and we look forward to returning in Term 2.





















ART NEWS

ART

What an absolutely fantastic end to an 'end of an era' in the art room with the great success of 'The Great Glow Show'.

Parent teacher Interview night proved the perfect opportunity to have as many families as possible through the show. The excitement levels of our students were priceless and it was wonderful to receive such wonderful feedback from our parents and other school community parents.





I am super proud of everybody and would particularly like to thank our staff for all of the staff that spent recess and lunchtime pitching in to help get all of our displays up in time.

As of next term art classes will be held in our new library space. We are very lucky to have the

opportunity to have this space to use over the interim between builds but please be aware the students will be focusing a little more on their techniques and understandings of art rather than creating artworks using paint and glitter.

Thanks everyone and hope you a have safe and happy holidays
Mrs Taryn Patera







ITALIAN NEWS

Wow! Italian has been super busy this Term. My focus across the school has been the celebrations of different cultures. Each week we looked at a culture and a special celebration that was significant in the students culture and participated in the activity. As well as organising Harmony Day the students were responsible for the promotion of the events of the day. A couple of sessions were allocated for students to make posters.

Some of our activities this Term have included the making of Carnevale Masks for Italian culture. All students participated in this activity.

The Grade 1/2 students worked on numbers and colours this Term. Students were taught these through engaging activities such as scavenger hunts.

The Grade 3/4 students worked on numbers to 50 in Italian. We played some Italian maths games in order to consolidate our numbers to 50.





















P.E. NEWS

What a busy Term 1 it has been in Physical Education and Sport at Diggers Rest Primary. Students have worked amazingly at learning and developing their athletics, catching, throwing, minor games, European Handball and fundamental movement skills.

Following on from the District Swimming Carnival, students in Years 3-6 had the opportunity to participate in our House Athletics Carnival at Boardman Reserve. The students did a brilliant job of demonstrating their athletic prowess and earning points for their respective houses.



Unfortunately, our P-2 Athletics Carnival was postponed due to poor weather on Friday the 24th, so we will need to show patience as we wait to find out which house will come out on top in 2023.

March also saw our students attend the District Athletics Carnival. Here, the students competed admirably against the other like-sized schools to finish in 3rd place on the points table. At this stage, we have 2 students heading off to the next level of Athletics; Carter Sims for 12/13 Open Discus and Hope Paulete in the 10 Year Old Girls' Hurdles.

To connect with the start of the AFL season, our 1/2 classes have been involved in AFL Clinics. The students and teachers looked fantastic in their footy colours for the first session and I'm sure after the second session, we will see plenty of footballs flying around the oval in Term 2.

Looking forward, early Term 2, we will have the School and District Cross-Country events taking place, so hopefully, the Year 3-6 students' cardiovascular systems are ready to propel them for 2 kms (8/9/10/11 Years) or 3 kms (12/13 Years).

Keep active, engaged and enjoy the upcoming Easter Holidays.

Ewen Hildebrand
Physical Education Teacher





CRITICAL & CREATIVE THINKING NEWS

As term one comes to a close and I reflect on the introduction of CCT - STEM at Diggers Rest Primary School, I couldn't be more proud of what we have all achieved.

Throughout the term, our students have learned to define STEM as Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths. They have loved opportunities to explore this new subject through a series of crafty, complex and crazy activities, which have challenged them to collaborate and develop critical and creative thinking skills.

Our students have been so enthusiastic about STEM as the new subject at DRPS and it has been a pure joy to teach class after class of keen, excited and clever kids!





While the ongoing building works at DRPS has meant constant room switches and last minute reshufflings, I need to thank everybody for their flexibility and understanding. Our brand new STEM classroom is now within reach and we will be moving in at the beginning of term two.

Our new classroom will provide the space and facilities for us to continue building the STEM curriculum at DRPS. In term two, our students will engage in a cyber safety unit, as well as explore digital presentation skills, traditional animation and stop-motion animation.

Thank you again everybody for all of the support that you've provided this term.

Enjoy a safe and happy holiday!

Ben Takacs - STEM teacher



COMMUNITY NEWS

SUNBURY DOWNS COLLEGE OPEN NIGHT

Monday 1 May 2023

Tours between 5:00pm and 7:30pm

Presentation at 7:30pm

Bookings Essential

Additional Tours By Appointment

Saturday 29 April between 10am-2pm

 Tuesday 2 May—Friday 5 May (assorted times)

On our Open Night

Join College tours

Meet our students

and teachers

Experience our culture

Explore our facilities

For more information call 9744 0500 148-174 Mitchells Lane Sunbury www.sunburydowns.vic.edu.au

'Confidence to Achieve'