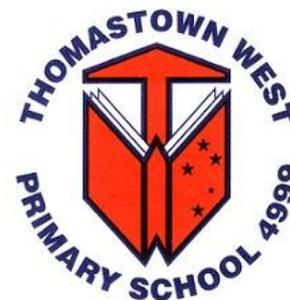


# Thomastown West Primary School

# NEWSLETTER



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Email: [thomastown.west.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:thomastown.west.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au) – Website: [www.thomwestps.vic.edu.au](http://www.thomwestps.vic.edu.au)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

16th	March	The Human Race
21st	March	<i>Harmony day</i>
28th	March	Lalor District Athletics
31st	March	Last day of Term 1 <i>1:15 finish</i>
<b>18th</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>Term 2 Begins</b>
24th	April	Curriculum Day ( <i>Student free day</i> )

NEWSLETTER No. 5

10th March, 2017

### *From the Acting Principal*

Hello everyone

Last night we held the first of our SSP Parent information sessions. SSP represents Speech Sound Pics. This is a speech to print approach NOT print to speech. SSP provides targeted skills that can support the brain to learn or to be 'rewired' in such a way that skills for successful reading, spelling and writing can be accomplished.

Mrs Cooke and Mrs Davies did a wonderful job explaining how parents can help their children at home when writing with correct letter formation and when reading how to listen for the sounds in words.



**Thank you** Karen and Kathy for providing a fun and informative evening. Well done to all of the families who attended and participated!

Research that tells us that an important factor of a student's achievement in school can also be the extent to which that student's family is able to:

1. Create a home environment that encourages learning
2. Express high (but not unrealistic) expectations for their children's achievement and future careers
3. Become involved in their children's education at school and in the community

I look forward to seeing lots of 'Duck hands' and reading in the classrooms as our Preps become more fluent readers.



KidsMatter tells us how children do benefit from Parent and Teachers working together partnerships:

- ✓ Young children flourish when the adults caring for them work well together.
- ✓ Families and staff can share discussions about how children are going and how best to meet their needs. Families know their child's strengths, personality, moods and behaviours very well.
- ✓ Staff can also get to know a child well through their daily experiences and can share their understanding of how children develop.
- ✓ When families and staff work together they can exchange information and can focus on meeting each child's needs and supporting their development.

## School Values

This term, students and teachers have been focusing on the value of RESPONSIBILITY.

Why is it important to be responsible?

Responsible people can be trusted, and this benefits both the person and the people counting on the responsible person. Responsible people develop a positive sense of self-esteem. Responsible people The hardest part is taking responsibility if something goes wrong but, even then, people respect a person who owns up to making a mistake and works to fix it.



## School uniform

Congratulations to all of the children who have been wearing our school uniform correctly. Students who consistently wear our school uniform demonstrate a commitment to their personal responsibility as well as representing a sense of pride in our school. Well done!



## School Council

The March meeting for School Council will take place on Tuesday 21st March, commencing at 6:30pm. The first part of the meeting will be the Annual General meeting to fill the leadership positions of School Council and present the Schools' Annual Report. Following this part of the meeting, the general School Council Meeting for March will take place. All parents and friends of the school are more than welcome to attend this meeting

## CSEF

The Education Department has continued the CSEF (Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund) for families who are entitled to a Health Care or Pension Card. If you hold a current Health Care or Pension Card and would like to apply for CSEF please see Mrs Baslakovska or Mrs El Zoobi in the office.

Please note these funds can ONLY be used for School Camps, Sports or Excursions. If you have any questions, please see Mrs Ilic in the office.

APPLICATIONS FOR CSEF WILL CLOSE on the 26th of May so PLEASE VISIT THE OFFICE **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY.

## School Banking

The 2017 School Banking Program is off and running. Well done to children who handed in their bank-books this week.

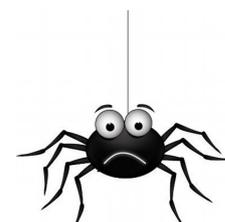
Term 1 rewards are the Cyber Handball and the Colour Change Markers. Remember, only one deposit per week, per child please. Also please do not combine tokens for you children.

In order to have your banking processed, please do the following:

- ✓ Make sure your name and 2017 grade is on the front of your wallet
- ✓ Include correct money. Large amounts of change should be inside a sandwich bag to stop it getting lost \* Complete fully your deposit slip and the receipt tab
- ✓ Hand your wallet to your classroom teacher first thing Tuesday morning
- ✓ If claiming a reward, include your 10 tokens and a note/ reward card letting us know what your child wants.

We're looking forward to another great year of banking!

## Creepy Crawly Update



Since the beginning of term we have tried spraying, catching, squashing and bombing with the insect spray!

The spiders, although harmless continue to return to the 3/4 building! Our cleaners have been working hard every day to remove them but new spiders return every day.

Today we have called a PEST CONTROL company to help us completely remove our not so little 'friends'.

## Community Garden

Have you all noticed how fabulous our Community Garden is looking? The Gardeners did a great job in tidying up our 'jungle.' Next term we are hoping to have a TWPS working bee to keep our school grounds looking great. More details coming soon...



## Tree Maintenance Update

Shannon the Tree Lopper will be visiting our school during the school holidays to ensure all of the trees in our playground are safe during strong winds.



Education Matters, Teachers Make a Difference  
& Every Day Counts!

Sandi Young

Acting Principal



## Need to talk?

At Thomastown West Primary School you can talk to:



- ✓ Teachers
- ✓ Teacher Aides
- ✓ Office staff
- ✓ Miss Bagnara  
(Student Welfare Officer)
- ✓ Mrs Mulholland
- ✓ Mrs Wright
- ✓ Mrs Young

Tell a teacher or any adult at your school if you feel unsafe.



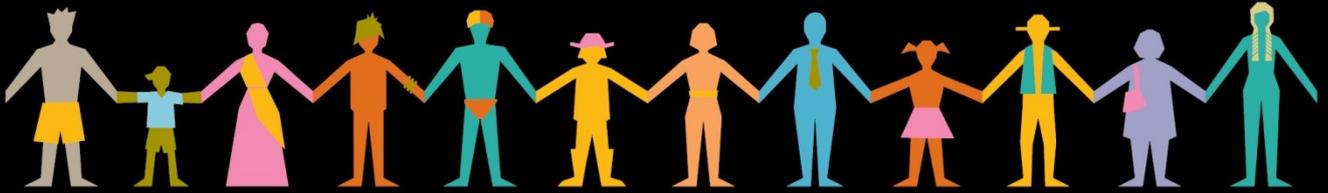
*Anyone who stops **learning** is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps **learning** stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your **mind** young.*



Australian Government

21 MARCH

# HARMONY DAY



We would like **every child** on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March **to wear a orange clothing or a 'splash' of orange** to school.

(A 'splash' could be an orange hat, scarf, ribbon, nail polish etc)

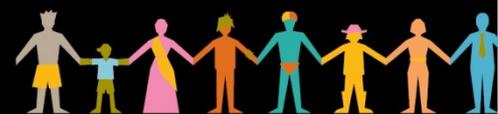
We would love every child to bring at least one **orange balloon tied to a piece of string or ribbon.**

Balloons will then be tied to the front fence of the school to demonstrate to our community that

**we celebrate our diversity** and that **'everyone belongs'** at Thomastown West PS.



**EVERYONE BELONGS**  
[www.harmony.gov.au](http://www.harmony.gov.au)



# Stars of the Week



Term 1 Week 6

Room 1

Mohammed & Ali

Room 18

Ilina

Room 2

Sahayra

Room 20

Stephanie

Room 3

Kyesha

Room 4

Alexander

Room 5

Luke

Room 6

Tina & Matteo

Room 9

Aiesha

Room 10

Peng

Room 11

Zahraa

Room 12

Haider

Specialist: Art

Lucas

Specialist: Stem

Khoder



# Student Welfare Report



Hi everyone!



## Breakfast Club

It has been lovely to see so many students come to the breakfast club. It is fantastic to share a healthy meal and some great conversation before class. I want to commend the students on their beautiful manners.

Recently, many students have showed courage by trying *new* food and drink. A number of students tried Grapefruit juice earlier in the week and found out that it is actually very yummy!

Come in and join us from 8 am to 8.30am every day in the Multi-purpose room!

**Reminder:** Unless attending Breakfast Club, children are not to be in the school yard before 8.30am when there is teacher supervision. This is for the safety of all children. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Cup of Life



Last week, I had a long conversation with Mr Brown about the Cup of Life and it sounds like great fun! I hope that it will help to motivate everyone to come to school **EVERY DAY!**

So without further ado, the winner of Cup of Life this week is.....**Room 3!** Well done to all students from Room 3!

**Remember! Every Day Counts!  
Every Day Is A Learning Day!**

Whittlesea Community Connections  
(WCC)

As I mentioned last week, we are very fortunate to have a number of great support services in our local community. This week, I want to shine a spotlight on Whittlesea Community Connections and tell you about all the different types of support they offer!

**Emergency relief:** If you are experiencing financial stress (bills, housing stress, no money for food or transport etc) and live in the City of Whittlesea, WCC can assist with short term financial assistance. Appointments are necessary and are taken by calling 9401 6644 on Monday morning at 8.30am. Please be aware that there is a great demand for this service so you may need to wait on hold for a little while.

**Casework Support:** If you are experiencing some difficulties and need practical support, WCC can assist! Case support workers can assist with issues such as accessing services (housing, financial counselling, etc), providing information about lots of issues (family violence, immigration issues), assisting you to negotiating your rights and many more issues. Just give them a call and ask! Phone: 9401 6666.

**Community Legal Service:** If you have questions or need support in regards to legal issues, WCC can help with this too! The service is free and independent and provides legal advice, legal referral, legal casework and legal education. Appointments are necessary and can be made by calling 9401 6655.

Drop in legal advice is available every Monday from 6.30pm – 8.30pm.

**Settlement Services:** If you are a migrant or refugee who is newly arrived in Australia, WCC can provide specialist casework services. WCC provides practical casework support, assistance to find work and learn English, assistance to help family members to migrate to Australia, referrals to services (housing,

financial support, local medical professionals etc), help to make friends and community connections, driver education, citizenship support and groups for Arabic and Farsi speakers.

**Community Transport Service:** This program offers transport services to people who reside in Whittlesea, are disadvantaged and need support to get to health appointments, social groups or other important appointments.

**If you want more information or to self refer, contact WCC or drop in!**

Phone: 9401 6666

Address: Shop 111, Epping Plaza. Corner of High Street and Cooper Street, Epping. (They are located on the outside of the shopping centre next to the Bank of Melbourne).

*Bianca Bagnara*

*Student Welfare Officer*



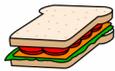
Hi Everyone!



***Does your child use that excuse?***

**I'm sure you have heard that excuse when your child has been asked to do something at home. We often hear this excuse at school when a student forgets to bring back a notice, their homework, etc.**

**Our students are fortunate that we are able to provide a sandwich at lunchtimes when a family has run out of bread or are going through a difficult time financially.**



***BUT many students are coming for a sandwich because 'they didn't get time to make it' or 'I was too lazy to make my lunch' or 'I forgot it'. THIS IS VERY DISAPPOINTING AS ONE OF OUR SCHOOL VALUES IS 'RESPONSIBILITY'.***

***I'm sure that you wonderful parents aren't even aware of it – occasionally I have rung parents and they have been very surprised as they thought their child had lunch.***

***As we have a limited supply of bread, etc.. would you kindly ensure your child has lunch in their school bag BEFORE HE/SHE LEAVES THE HOUSE.***

***I believe that parenting is the most important, but hardest job in the world! When my two children were little, I often asked my mother, 'how did you do it?' She raised seven of us!!***

**So let's work together and help our children/students to grow into responsible young people.**



Please contact the school office if you have any concerns regarding your children and wish to meet with me.

Robyn Mulholland

Student Wellbeing

## Child Safe Standards

Thomastown West Primary School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making.

Thomastown West Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Thomastown West Primary School is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

Every person involved in Thomastown West Primary School has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

Parents are encouraged to log in to **Compass** and view our **Child Safe policy** and supporting documents. You will find them in the Community area under School Documentation, or you can copy and paste this link into your browser:

<https://thomwetps-vic.compass.education/Communicate/SchoolDocumentation.aspx>

**We welcome feedback on our policies and procedures.**

The Thomastown West Primary School Choir and Band were invited **today** to perform at the **Women's Chamber of Commerce International Women's Day Luncheon**. This was a great opportunity for TWPS Choir and Band students to showcase their musical talents and support a great event. **Congratulations to Mr Rosa, Miss Bufalino and our talented students who represented our school superbly!**



# Year 5/6 Leadership Incursion

## Room 16

On Tuesday the 7th, year 5/6 were lucky enough to take part in a Leadership incursion. Throughout the day the children were engaged in a range of exciting and fun activities, all

focused on the values of becoming a successful and positive leader.

'There are different types of leaders depending on their strengths. You could be a 'prophet leader' with all the ideas, a 'planner leader' that is focused on getting things done or a 'people leader' who builds relationships quickly with others. It is important to remember that leaders are made, not born. You can continue to develop your

leadership skills in every area.'

Room 16

We enjoyed the leadership programme because Hogan told us short stories about how you could be a leader without a badge. The speaker told us a number of real stories that had happened to him throughout his life and explained how important it was to be a strong and kind person. We played a number of games that focused on teamwork, communication, getting to know each other and being positive. We all had an awesome time and learnt so much!

Room 16 Eva



## News Flash from STEM



There has been enormous progress made in STEM in just 6 weeks by the grades 3-6 students. Students have been learning how to code (write a computer program). We have already got some fabulous Shark Attack computer games and students will be working on developing their own computer game by the end of the term.



Students are also learning about the insides of computers and how they work by using Raspberry Pi computers. As you can see from the photos they really enjoy the challenges presented by STEM.



# Interschool sports Term 1 results for Thomastown West

## Round 4 Thomastown West played Lalor Primary

Rounders results boys **TW 8** and Lalor 3  
 Rounders results girls **TW 17** and Lalor 10  
 Cricket **TW 30** and Lalor 32  
 Softball **TW 23** and Lalor 20  
 Bat Tennis boys **TW 36** and Lalor 12  
 Bat Tennis girls **TW 44** and Lalor 12



**YMCA**  
**SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN**

ENROL TODAY FOR 5 DAYS AND GET THE 5TH DAY FREE  
**PLUS!**

WITH A DIFFERENCE!  
 Our School Holiday program gets your kids in the pool and having fun!

Cooking experiences - Kids Combat & Bootcamp  
 Stadium sports & games - Arts & Crafts  
 Excursions & Incursions  
 Secure your Vacation Care spot today.  
 Ask our friendly staff for details.

**TRAC**  
 Thomastown Recreation & Aquatics Centre  
 9463 0700  
 54 Main Street, Thomastown  
 e: [ilovetrac@ymca.org.au](mailto:ilovetrac@ymca.org.au)  
 w: [www.ilovetrac.com.au](http://www.ilovetrac.com.au)

DAREBIN ARTS' LOUD MOUTH PRESENTS...

# The Ball Room

*A Theatrical Play for Children and Families*

**8 – 12 April 2017**  
**Northcote Town Hall**

**LOUD MOUTH**

Come and play with us in The Ball Room, a contemporary theatrical space for children young and old.

Embark on a journey through highly theatrical environments that inspire the imagination. What else could this ball be? An eyeball, an apple, the earth...

Performers make physical a poetic narrative and let you follow the trajectory of over 2,000 balls onto the stage. Here we bend the rules of theatre and truly let you play.

Crafted to a stimulating sound score and accompanied by live musicians, this experience will have you bouncing to a beat and dreaming of ballrooms from yesteryear.

The Ball Room encourages a 1:1 child to adult ratio.

**Artistic Directors**  
 Nancy Sposato & Cat Sewell

**Performers**  
 Nancy Sposato & Teresa Blake

**Sound Artist**  
 Zoe Barry

**Visual Artist**  
 Claudia Sangiorgi Dalimore

**Lighting Designer**  
 Sam Doyle

**Production Designer**  
 Cat Sewell

**Easter School Holidays**  
 8 - 12 April | Northcote Town Hall  
 10:30am: 2 – 5 years  
 2pm: 6 – 8 years

**Book tickets at**  
[darebinarts.com.au/loudmouth](http://darebinarts.com.au/loudmouth)  
 or call 9481 9500

**Darebin Arts**

**CREATIVE VICTORIA**