

Thomastown West Primary School

NEWSLETTER



98-112 Main Street, Thomastown, Victoria 3074 – Ph: 9465 4317

Email: thomastown.west.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au Website: www.thomwestps.vic.edu.au

IMPORTANT DATES:

Thur	7 June	Gr 5/6 Sovereign Hill Excursion
Mon	11 June	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday No School
Thur	14 June	Gr 1/2 Yarrabee Excursion
Fri	22 June	TWPS Music Performance @ Assembly Multi-Purpose room 2:20pm
Thur	28 June	Parent/teacher Meetings Students attend at the time of their meeting with their Parents/Carers.
Fri	29 June	Last day of Term 2 1.15 pm Finish
Mon	16 July	Term 3 Begins

No. 14 1st June 2018

From the Principal

WELL DONE to all of the Parents and Carers who have already successfully used Compass to book their PARENT TEACHER MEETING! I hope you found the instructions notice that was sent home on Tuesday useful. **If you still need help using Compass**, I have included the help pages in this newsletter or you could contact the office for additional support.

All students are expected to attend school on Thursday 28th June at the time of their Parent/Teacher meeting.

However, students from Room 2 and Room 16 **will not** have their interviews on Thursday 28th June (and will not attend school on this day) because their teachers will be on Long Service Leave. A note has been sent home for those families to book their meeting time on another day.

Room 16 and Room 2 Students will attend school on the day of their interviews next term. A note has been sent home on Friday outlining this.

LOCK DOWN SUCCESS

On Monday morning we successfully practised our Emergency Management process for a 'LOCK DOWN'. Everything went according to plan - well done everyone! While it is very much a team effort, our success can be attributed to Mrs Sheean who leads Emergency Management at Thomastown West. Thank you Margot for the endless hours of preparation and hard work you have provided to ensure that TWPS maintains it's high standards of excellence.

Thank you Mr Ryan

As you know Mr Maurice Ryan has spent the last 7 weeks at Thomastown West PS in the role of Acting Assistant Principal. It has been an absolute pleasure working with Maurice. His loyal support and hard work has been very much appreciated and valued by students, parents, staff and especially myself.

As indicated previously, Mr Ryan's time at TWPS was a short term contract. On Monday 4th June, Mr Ryan returns to his substantive school Brunswick South West Primary School. I know that they are very happy and very much looking forward to his return.

More details on page 6 about Mr Ryan's replacement...

3/4 CAMPERS

Did you know... Teachers and Education Support Staff who attend school camps are on call 24/7 and perform a role that goes well beyond regular classroom requirements and expectations. Thank you to Mrs Koullinos, Mrs Townsend, Mr Palfrey and Mrs Raif for attending the 3/4 City Camp. We appreciate the time, energy and sleep you gave up this week and value this contribution you have made to our students! We hope you have the opportunity for an extra long 'sleep in' on Saturday and Sunday!

While the staff are exhausted from being on duty around the clock, they definitely value the opportunity to get to know your children in a different environment outside the classroom. We all agree that **quality teaching is based on really strong, positive relationships**. At camp, teachers learn a myriad of things about students in a different environment that would perhaps take a lot longer to learn in a regular classroom setting.

Special thanks to Mrs Raif for organising another highly successful camping experience. Mrs Raif's comprehensive preparation is the key to ensuring all students and staff involved had a positive experience and are left with some very special memories to cherish.



ROCKS @ TWPS

Unfortunately Thomastown West Primary School has a ridiculous amount of rocks in our school grounds. Since I returned to TWPS in Term 4, 2016 there have been a number of issues regarding the rocks that concern me. I have spoken about these issues at School Council last year and with the staff on a number occasions.

Teachers will be reminding students this week and next about how to play safely in our school yard. **Could you please speak to your children** about the potential dangers of throwing rocks. **At Thomastown West Everyone has the right to feel comfortable and safe!**

If anyone has any suggestions about how to improve our rocks issues, please hand your suggestions into the office or email me: thomastown.west.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au I will take all appropriate suggestions to our **next School Council meeting on Tuesday 26th June, 2018.**



PLEASE

DO NOT THROW ROCKS!

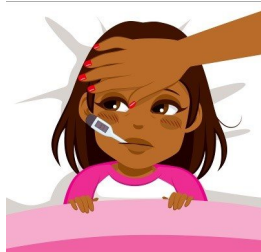
UNWELL STUDENTS

As the weather becomes colder we are more likely to have children who become sick at school. Please ensure your child is well enough to cope with the demands of a classroom if they have already been unwell in the morning or over the weekend. We have sent some sick children home over the last fortnight and in a number of cases they have come to school being unwell.



Thomastown West PS staff can only offer basic first aid. If your child is running a fever, coughing persistently and/or obviously unwell, they really need a warm bed and rest.

Please do not send sick children to school as it is your responsibility to make provision for their care. If we ring you to collect your child it is important that you come straight away or make arrangements for your child to be collected.



FORTNITE CONCERNS

You may have heard on the TV, radio or social media about the concerns relating to the free online game called Fortnite.

What is Fortnite?

Fortnite is a strategic adventure game now available on PC/ Mac, Xbox and PlayStation. It can be played in solo mode or in a team of up to 4 players. The premise of the game is that a storm has wiped out 98% of the earth's population, and the player's role once dropped into the zone by a battle bus, is to build structures to gain an advantage over others, gather resources and kill everyone to be the last person standing.

Despite its M rating and an age rating of 12+, there are children at TWPS younger than 12 who are playing this game along with teens and adults.

The games allows players of **different ages** from anywhere in the world and can chat with each other whilst they play online.

Please review the information below and on the following page. It has been collated from the following websites:

<http://www.essentialkids.com.au/>
and <http://www.safeguardinghub.co.uk>

How can children play?

Fortnite and Fortnite Battle Royale can be played on most IOS or Android devices.

What are the dangers to young people?

Fortnite Battle Royale is an online game. Therefore, undoubtedly the greatest threat to a child's safety, is their potential exposure to online predators. Online grooming has risen dramatically in the last 5 years. It is therefore vital that parents, carers and safeguarding professionals know the dangers that Fortnite might pose, although it is not just Fortnite, but also the vast majority of online games.

Online Grooming – who are your children playing with? Fortnite is a 'Massive Multiplayer Online' (MMO) game with over 40 million players online. It goes without saying that there is a high probability that a child will come across people with a variety of views and opinions. People with a disturbing, extremist and hateful views. People that use inappropriate and abusive language. People with a sexual interest in children. Whilst children can add friends if they have an account, **you cannot generally select who you are playing against.**

Look at it this way – **would you drop your child off unsupervised**, at a house for a couple of hours, **with 99 other people** of various ages (many adults), that you have **never met before and don't know anything about?**

Violent Content – the violence and animation in Fortnite Battle Royale is cartoonish in nature, non-bloody, does not show graphic violence and is not littered with corpses. Whilst some reviews describe Battle Royale as having no disturbing content, the concept of the game is to kill other players characters, using a variety of weapons, firearms, axes and knives. When a character sustains a gunshot there is no gore, but instead a number appears from their body to indicate how much damage the character has sustained. Killed characters disappear.

Personal Information – to play Fortnite you must create an account, which means you have to supply some personal information. In the last few months there have been many examples of social media platforms secretly tracking children's browsing habits to target them with advertising. Whilst this doesn't necessarily apply to online gaming, parents or carers should be aware that any personal information provided by a young person, is susceptible to being sold onto companies who will then target their interests.

Hidden Costs – whilst Fortnite Battle Royale is free to play, there is a temptation to progress through the game by purchasing add-on packs, which will allow them to access different items, experiences and weapons. Whilst these are not necessary to play, the game will automatically show prompts which will allow players to purchase those extras if they want to. The additional packs are not crucial to success in the game, but there may be peer pressure to obtain the latest and best in-game goods. If you were to purchase all the add-ons, the bill would come to more than \$150.00.

Addictive in nature? – Battle Royale has been specifically designed so that players will want to play as long as they can, returning again and again. It is after all why the makers have made it free to use. There is a real chance that children will want to spend hours playing this game and resist attempts by parents or carers to get them to put the game down. If a child you care about has an obsessive nature, then any video game can become addictive. When not playing the game, children are liable to want to discuss characters, scenarios and the latest game they played. This may well disrupt other healthy activities, school or homework.

What the experts say about Fortnite — The program was sensational in nature and the experts appearing, including child psychiatrist Dr Philip Tam, who is a specialist in internet and computer related disorders, only had a couple of minutes air time to discuss the complex issue at hand.

Whilst Dr Tam advised that **children playing it could become aggressive**, he also pointed out that certain groups (for example, those with depression) were more susceptible to negative effects. He also advocated for a "healthy digital diet pattern".

This is a sentiment echoed by cyber-psychologist and head of Digital Nutrition, Jocelyn Brewer. She avoids using the term addictive due to the complexity of its clinical meaning but does concede that games are "designed to be played and to keep your attention, challenge your skills and build communities around participation." Brewer goes on to explain that **"there are ways to play all games in a balanced way and enjoy the benefits** without the negative impacts that come with excessive and unsupervised gaming".

Fortnite's array of weaponry and the fact that players must kill everyone to win is a concern to parents who fear that it will desensitise their children to violence. Brewer explains that children's developmental level, rather than their age, will determine how they view violence. However, she explains that "the key with all tech use is to balance it with other aspects of life – the offline interactions you have, the family culture and values, their other strengths and weaknesses."

Brewer cannot stress highly enough that **the key to kids and technology is parental involvement**. Parents need to understand what is being played, set limits and most importantly, have conversations with their children.

Fortnite, like any game, has the potential to help develop positive skills in children but Brewer asserts that while "some kids will get these benefits inherently – explicit elicitation of these through verbal communication is helpful."

Please talk to your children and ask them if they are playing Fortnite. I would also like to encourage you to do your own investigations about the game. I have already noticed that Fortnite is influencing some of our students. Every day I have students approach me and talk to me about the game or I see students 'acting out' a version of the game during play time and mimicking the characters.

Thomastown West Primary School is an accredited eSmart School. eSmart is where the smart, safe and responsible use of information and communications technology is a cultural norm. We support students, teachers and the wider school community to be ready to embrace the best these technologies can offer, while being savvy about the dangers.

If you would like to find out more information about online safety for your child you could copy the link below into your Internet browser:

<http://esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent/staying-safe>

or visit our school website:

<http://www.thomwestps.vic.edu.au/page/64/Online-Safety-for-your-Child>

**Education is Powerful, Student Voice Matters,
Teachers Make a Difference & Every Day Counts!**

Sandi Young
Principal

GRADE 3/4 CITY CAMP



GRADE 3/4 CITY CAMP





WELCOME MR DOWNING

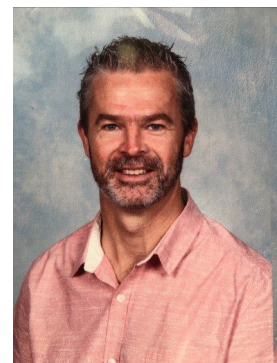
Yesterday afternoon the panel completed the interview process for the Acting Assistant Principal at Thomastown West PS.

Michael Downing was appointed. Michael's first day at TWPS will be this Tuesday 5th June and Michael will be with us at TWPS until the end of the year.

Michael is already a substantive Assistant Principal from Ascot Vale Primary School and has a wealth of experiences and expertise!!!

I am really looking forward to working with Michael and building a strong *Principal class team*! I am confident that Michael will make a significant contribution to our school in a short period of time, supporting our goals and plans for continuous improvement, to help make TWPS be the best it can be for every student!

Please find the time to come and introduce yourself to Michael this week or before the term ends.



WE ARE NOW TAKING ENROLMENTS FOR OUR 2019 PREP CLASSES

Please remind your family, friends and neighbours that if they have a child starting school next year and would like them to come to our school, then **PLEASE ENROL THEM SOON!**

It is important that children are enrolled by the end of Term 3 so that they can participate in our successful Prep Transition program Term 4.

PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS THURSDAY 28th JUNE 2018

Earlier this week we sent home a notice with your **LOG IN** details with very easy instructions to follow.

****Similarly to last year, parents and carers will use COMPASS to book their meeting time.**

Need help with COMPASS?

You might need to reset your password...

Click on: **'Can't access your account?'**

You can also ask the lovely office staff for help.



It's EASY to BOOK your Parent / Teacher Meeting

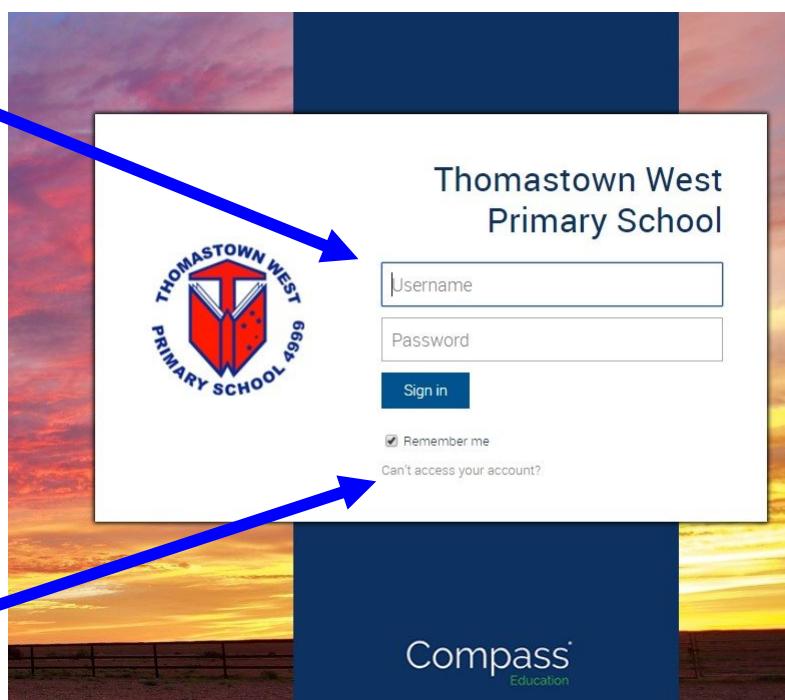
To book a time for your Parent/Teacher meeting for Thursday 28th June:

1. Login to Compass:

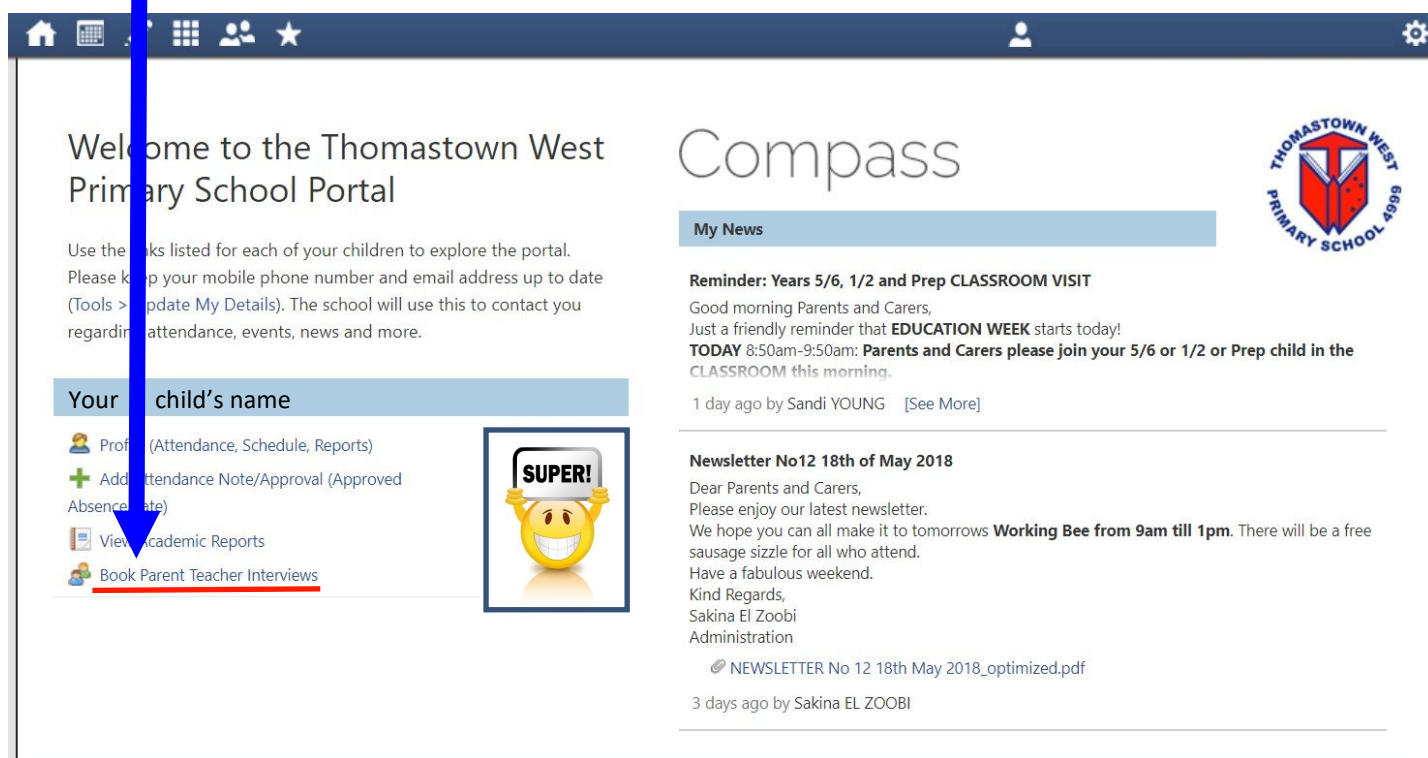
Use your parent login details -

Your details are on the last page of this form.

- Please do not give these to your child.
- Your login details are unique to you and provide you with ongoing parent access to Compass and information about your child(ren).
- If you have problems... click on the: **'Can't access your account?'**



2. Click Book Parent/Teacher Interviews



3. If you have one child... Click here then... Go to Step 4

Conference Bookings

Please select the event to manage your bookings.

Available events		
Event	Student	Status
2018 Parent /Teacher Meetings - June 2018	Your child's name	Open for booking

Conference Bookings Home

If you have two or more children... Click on a name

Conference Bookings

Please select the event to manage your bookings.

Available events		
Event	Student	Status
2018 Parent /Teacher Meetings - June 2018	Your child's name	Open for booking
2018 Parent /Teacher Meetings - June 2018	Your child's name	Open for booking

4. Click the time you would prefer.

You might have to try a few different times—not all times are available.

To view which times are available **click on the teacher's name**

2018 Parent /Teacher Meetings - June 2018:

2018 Parent /Teacher Meetings - June 2018

Click the booking time to make/modify a booking. For further assistance, click the blue help icon at the top of the page.

28/06 12:00 PM	Available	28/06 02:40 PM	Available	28/06 05:20 PM	Available
28/06 12:10 PM	Available	28/06 02:50 PM	Available		STAFF DINNER
28/06 12:20 PM	Available	28/06 03:00 PM	Available		STAFF DINNER
28/06 12:30 PM	Available	28/06 03:10 PM	Available		STAFF DINNER
28/06 12:40 PM	Available	28/06 03:20 PM	Available		STAFF DINNER
28/06 12:50 PM	Available	28/06 03:30 PM	Available	28/06 06:10 PM	Available
28/06 01:00 PM	Available	28/06 03:40 PM	Available	28/06 06:20 PM	Available
28/06 01:10 PM	Available	28/06 03:50 PM	Available	28/06 06:30 PM	Available
28/06 01:20 PM	Available	28/06 04:00 PM	Available	28/06 06:40 PM	Available
28/06 01:30 PM	Available	28/06 04:10 PM	Available	28/06 06:50 PM	Available
28/06 01:40 PM	Available	28/06 04:20 PM	Available	28/06 07:00 PM	Available
28/06 01:50 PM	Available	28/06 04:30 PM	Available	28/06 07:10 PM	Available
28/06 02:00 PM	Available	28/06 04:40 PM	Available	28/06 07:20 PM	Available
28/06 02:10 PM	Available	28/06 04:50 PM	Available	28/06 07:30 PM	Available
28/06 02:20 PM	Available	28/06 05:00 PM	Available	28/06 07:40 PM	Available
28/06 02:30 PM	Available	28/06 05:10 PM	Available	28/06 07:50 PM	Available

Key Available for booking Not available Current booking

Conference Bookings Home

2018 Parent /Teacher Meetings - June 2018

Bookings for your Child

Print All Bookings

5. Once you have found an available time... Click on the time.

My Bookings

Click the booking time to make/modify a booking. For further assistance, click the blue help icon at the top of the page.

28/06 12:00 PM	Available	28/06 02:40 PM	Available	28/06 05:20 PM	Available
28/06 12:10 PM	Available	28/06 02:50 PM	Available		STAFF DINNER
28/06 12:20 PM	Available	28/06 03:00 PM	Available		STAFF DINNER
28/06 12:30 PM	Available	28/06 03:10 PM	Available		STAFF DINNER
28/06 12:40 PM	Available	28/06 03:20 PM	Available		STAFF DINNER
[No Booking]		28/06 03:30 PM	Available	28/06 06:10 PM	Available
Update	Cancel	28/06 03:40 PM	Available	28/06 06:20 PM	Available
28/06 12:50 PM	Available	28/06 03:50 PM	Available	28/06 06:30 PM	Available

6. Click on the teacher you wish to see.

My Bookings

Click the booking time to make/modify a booking.

28/06 12:00 PM	Available
28/06 12:10 PM	Available
28/06 12:20 PM	Available
28/06 12:30 PM	Available
28/06 12:40 PM	Available
[No Booking]	
[No Booking]	
Margot SHEEAN	
Fil RAIF	
Oscar ROSA	
Effie SANTIGLIA	
Selma RAIF	
28/06 01:30 PM	Available

7. Click on the UPDATE button

My Bookings

Click the booking time to make/modify a booking.

28/06 12:00 PM	Available
28/06 12:10 PM	Available
28/06 12:20 PM	Available
28/06 12:30 PM	Available
28/06 12:40 PM	Available
Fil RAIF	
Update	Cancel

8. Success! The teacher's name

My Bookings

Click the booking time to make/modify a booking.

28/06 12:00 PM	Available	2
28/06 12:10 PM	Available	2
28/06 12:20 PM	Available	2
28/06 12:30 PM	Available	2
28/06 12:40 PM	Fil RAIF	2

9. To make a meeting time for your other children... Click on their name and go to Step 4.

Should you experience any problems logging on please retry three times before contacting the school office for assistance.



Stars of the Week



Term 2 - Week 7

Room 2 Istbrq
Room 3 Emad
Room 4 Abdul
Room 5 Mary
Room 6 Harrison
Room 8 Rupinder

Room 11 Matteo
Room 17 Sarah
Room 18 Mustafa
Room 19 Ali
Room 20 William





Hi Everyone!



My children were in their late high school years when Facebook was becoming popular.

My son has never taken an interest in it, but my daughter found that in her VCE years the girls in her year largely kept in touch via Facebook! So we relented in her final year of school as long as she applied all the privacy settings and did not post photos or personal contact details.

We did not have to navigate Snapchat, WhatsApp, Instagram and other social media as parents do today – THANKFULLY!! The effects of Social media on young children and teens have become a VERY REAL CONCERN in our present society worldwide.

The Wellbeing team at TWPS, often deals with the difficulties that can arise, especially among the girls.

I hope you find the following article informative. It may help you, as parents/carers, to navigate this difficult area of parenting. Putting in boundaries BEFORE problems arise may save many arguments!

Mental health risks to girls who spend more than an hour a day on social media – new study March 20, 2018

Cara Booker Research Fellow and Deputy Director of Graduate Studies, Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex

For tweens and early teens, the rise in time spent on Snapchat, WhatsApp, Instagram and other social media is really quite dramatic.

Our new study set out to look at patterns of behaviour among ten to 15 year olds in the UK, and their levels of well-being, to see if all this time spent online was having a detrimental impact on their mental health. We found that teenage girls are by far the highest users of social media, and those who are using it for more than an hour a day are also at the highest risk of developing well-being problems in later teen years.

We used the youth participants' data from the UK household longitudinal study, Understanding Society, following almost 10,000 young people from diverse backgrounds across the whole country between 2009 and 2015.

We asked the young people to report on how much time they spent on social media on a "normal school day". A few reported no internet access or no time spent at all, but some were on it for four hours or more. We found that 10% of ten-year-old girls reported spending one to three hours a day (compared with 7% of boys) and this increased to 43% of girls at age 15 (and 31% of boys).

We assessed two measures of well-being for these young people. The first was a combined score of their answers to questions about satisfaction with schoolwork, friends, family, appearance, school and life as a whole. The second measure was a well-established questionnaire which asked the young people about their social and emotional difficulties.

At age ten, girls who interacted on social media for an hour or more on a school day had worse levels of well-being compared to girls who had lower levels of social media interaction.

Additionally, these girls with higher social media interaction at aged ten were more likely to experience more social and emotional difficulties as they got older. While our study was unable to say that the higher level of social media use among young girls directly caused the mental health issues, there was a strong association.

For both boys and girls, levels of happiness decreased between the ages of ten and 15, however the decrease among girls was greater than that of boys.

What makes girls different?

There are number of possible reasons why girls are more affected by social media use than boys. Girls participate in more comparisons of their own lives with those of the people they are friends with or follow. Viewing filtered or photo shopped images and mostly positive posts may lead to feelings of inadequacy and poorer well-being. Girls also feel more pressure to develop and maintain a social media presence than boys. Social media presence requires constant updating and having friends share or like their content. If their perceived popularity decreases over time, there may also be an increase in social and emotional difficulties.

Boys, on the other hand, are much more likely to participate in gaming online and via consoles than they are social media, and that wasn't covered by our study. Boys' levels of well-being may be more related to gaming.

So what can be done to help protect young people from the potential damage to their mental health for life in a digital age?

There have also been calls for the technology industry to look at in-built time limits. Our study really backs this up – ***the amount of increasing time online is strongly associated with a decline in well-being among the young, especially for girls.*** Of course, young people need access to the internet for homework, for watching TV and to keep in touch with their mates. ***But they probably don't need to spend two, three or four hours chatting, sharing and comparing on social media every school day.***

I believe that this study is relevant to 10 to 15 year old's worldwide. I hope it helps you and your family.



Robyn Mulholland (Student Well-being)

Cup of Life

Well done to all the boys and girls who are coming to school every day.

Congratulations

The room that had the **BEST ATTENDANCE**

in Week 7, Term 2 is... **Room 11**



Cross Country Divisional

Well done to Hysun and Siham who competed in Divisional Cross Country Championships at Bundoora Park this week. Hysun finished 37th and Siham finished 31st in a very competitive race. Well done to the girls for their excellent efforts.



Introduction to Basic Book Keeping & MYOB Skills

Starts: Thursday 19th July, 12.30– 3.00 pm, 16

Sessions at Merrilands Community Centre, 35 Sturdee St, Reservoir Please ring the PRACE office on 9462 6077 or see our website www.prace.vic.edu.au



Illustration by Chris Gash



Highlight of the week

This week the children participated in some fun and simple science experiments. They got to see how wonderful science really is.

The children enjoyed the suggested Coke and Mentos experiment, the making of Elephant Toothpaste and Bubbling Lava Lamps.



Cooking Club

It was surprising to learn that the majority of the children had not tasted passionfruit before. We therefore explored a Vanilla Panna Cotta and Lime Jelly dessert topped with passionfruit.

And the children.....loved it!!

Next Week's Activities 4/6/18 - 8/6/18

Program Theme

WORLD ENVIRONMENT WEEK

Goal: To increase awareness in looking after the environment.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
After Care Activities	Animal Poster	World Environment Day	Cooking Club- Vegetable Salad Creations	Ocean Diorama	Portable Gardens

After Care Activities	Bug Hunting	Campsite Dramatic Play	Plants v 's Animals Game	Nature Hunt	Noisy Animals Game
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Parent Information

OSHC program phone: 0407 372 056

Coordinator: Desiree Bustos

Assistant: Carmen Bellofiore

OSHClub Customer Service and Billing Team: 1300 395 735

All families must be enrolled to attend the program, remember this is Free!! Please create an account online at www.oshclub.com.au all bookings and cancellations can also be managed via your online account. For on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program.

Thomastown West Community Hub

98 Main Street
Thomastown West



TERM 2 2018

Day	Time	Program
Monday	3:30 – 4:30	Club EAL (TWPS students only)
Tuesday	4:00 – 6:00	Refugee Support Group Conversational English Class
Wednesday	9:00 – 1.30	Learn English (PRACE) Conversation Class
	1:30 – 2:15	Board Games @ the Hub
	3:30 – 5:00	Homework Club @ the Hub
Thursday	3:00 – 4:30	Cool Learning Club (TWPS students only)

For further enquiries please contact:
Georgianna on 9401 6635 gbrooks@whittlesea.org.au

A PARTNERSHIP OF:

Shop 111, Pacific Epping
571-583 High St, Epping VIC 3076

(03) 9401 6666



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Community
Connections