

Thomastown West Primary School

NEWSLETTER



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

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thurs	8 June	3/4 Wildlife Encounters Incursion
Thurs	29 June	Parent /Teacher Meetings NO SCHOOL on this day. Students are expected to attend the Parent/Teacher meetings.
Frid	30 June	Last day of Term 2. (1:15 finish)
Mon	17 July	First day of Term 3

NEWSLETTER NO. 15

2ND JUNE, 2017

From the Principal

Hello everyone,

Have you noticed how fabulous the school is looking? Our WORKING BEE last weekend was an absolute success! Congratulations to Karen Cooke and Oreste Pompetti for their immense effort, leadership and organisation.

Special thanks to the City Life, Lalor Team who donated their time, enthusiasm, hard work and determination. The City Life team worked tirelessly in the gardens, cleaned windows and also cooked a fabulous BBQ that we all thoroughly enjoyed! Can you believe 'we' moved more than 50 cubic metres of mulch?

Nothing short of impressive!



Thank you to the wonderful families who volunteered their time at the working bee.

- ☺ The Phan family
- ☺ The Bruno family
- ☺ The Verrina family
- ☺ The Giorginelli family
- ☺ The Baker family
- ☺ Elijah, Owen & Glen



Grade 1/2 Excursion to CERES

Grade 1s and 2s had a fantastic time at their excursion on Monday. CERES offers an engaging and informative program that supports our classroom program and provides cherished memories for many years to come.

Grade 5/6 Excursion to SCIENCE WORKS

I have been told that the Grade 5s and 6s enjoyed the interactive learning at Scienceworks but the Planetarium component was the highlight of this excursion! The Planetarium presents a simulated display of the night sky that allows students to enjoy the wonder of the stars in a comfortable chair, regardless of the time of day—or the weather! The students watched an informative, entertaining and educational film about how Earth has changed over the years and climate change.

Parent / Teacher Meetings

on

THURSDAY 29th JUNE 2017

12:30pm - 7:45pm

This year we will trial using COMPASS for our Parent/Teacher Meetings. From this Tuesday afternoon YOU can book your child(ren) meeting ONLINE using COMPASS! (We will not activate the button until Tuesday. Do not panic if you can't find where to click or it doesn't work until 5:30pm Tuesday afternoon).

GREAT NEWS! When you use COMPASS to book a meeting with your teacher, it will NOW be a time that you choose, which suits **YOUR FAMILY!**

For help please look on the next page of this newsletter or go to our school website.

For parents that do not have access to the Internet at home, at work, at a friend's house, **laptops will be available at the Office from Wednesday 7th June 2017 onwards, so that parents can still make their own bookings. The Parent/Teacher meetings is strictly 10 minutes and spaces are limited.**

Parents can change their bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting COMPASS, and following the instructions. Remember to use the same COMPASS log in, you used when you made your original booking. Parents wishing to change their meeting times after the closing date, should contact the school directly on: 94654317.

Student Semester 1 Reports will be available online

A note will be sent home to families next week with instructions on how to access your child's report online via COMPASS.

If you would prefer a paper copy of the report, please complete the form (we are sending home next week) and return it to the Office.



2017 Attitudes to School Survey

This year we are increasing the opportunities for student voice to be heard and valued as a means to improve student engagement and wellbeing.

The Attitudes to School survey is an annual student survey offered by the Department of Education and Training. We will shortly be conducting this survey to find out what our Grade 4-6 students think of our school. The survey takes 30 minutes to complete and occurs during class time.

The survey results will be reported back to the school in Term 3, with a summary of information made available to students, staff and parents. The results will assist our school in gaining an understanding of students' perceptions and experience of school. Our school will use the survey results to plan programs and activities to improve your child's schooling experience.

For more information visit the Department of Education and Training website:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/management/Pages/performsurveyat.aspx>.



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

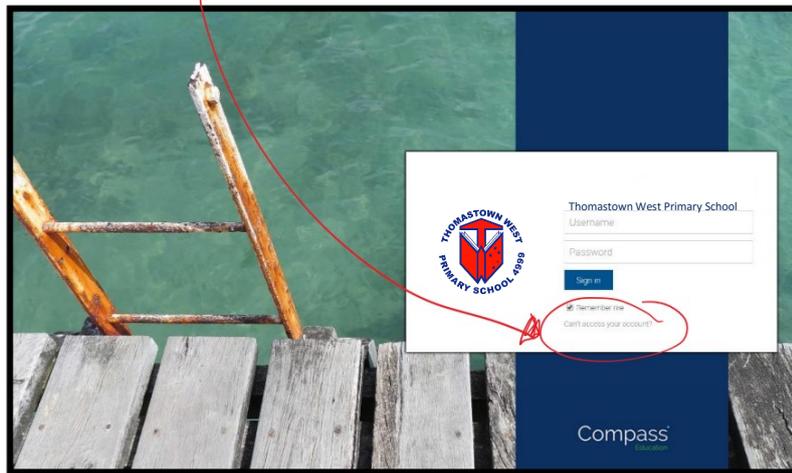
Sandi Young
Principal



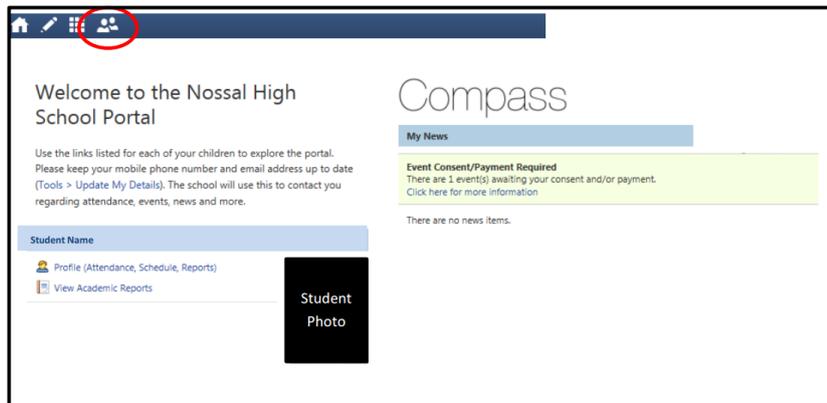


To book your time for the Parent/Teacher meeting on Thursday 29th June:

1. Login to Compass: <https://thomwestps-vic.compass.education/login.aspx>
2. Using your parent login details (please do not give these to your child). If you do not know your login, please use the **'Can't access your account?'** Click the link on the login page.



3. Go to the icon of 2 people (top left hand side of the Compass toolbar), circled in red. [Click this symbol](#)



4. From the drop-down box , click on Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences.
5. Click on your child's name.
6. Click the time you would like.
7. Click the  and then click on a teacher.
8. Click Update
9. To make a meeting time for your other children... Click on their name (Look on the right hand side of the screen)

- ✓ Please be aware that due to the high volume of parents accessing the booking system at any one time, this may cause a delay in your ability to logon.
- ✓ If you intend accessing the booking system via your place of employment, please ensure you carry your login codes with you.
- ✓ Should you experience any difficulties logging on please retry three times before contacting the school office for assistance.

PLEASE NOTE: Specialist teachers will be available during the day if you would like to have a meeting.

LOGIN DETAILS: The login details are unique to you and provide you with ongoing parent access to Compass



Stars Of the Week

Term 2 Week 7

- Room 1 Aliya
- Room 4 Haydar
- Room 5 Glen
- Room 6 Mehrad & Vae
- Room 9 Seref
- Room 12 Theo
- Room 16 Sarah
- Room 17 Seamus
- Room 18 Elena





Hi everyone,

Cup of Life



Every Day Counts!

Well done to all the boys and girls who are coming to school as much as possible. This week, the winner of Cup of Life is à

Room 18.

Congratulations to all the boys and girls in Room 18. That makes two wins this term! Keep up the amazing work!

Breakfast Club



Breakfast club runs every day from 8am to 8.30am in the Multi-Purpose room. Everyone is welcome and we are always happy to see new faces.

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

Grocery Stall. Take Two



Due to the overwhelming success of our first grocery stall, we are going to do it all again next Monday. We still have a number of overstock items namely beans and oats.

I will have a table of the available food on **Monday 5th June at 3pm** underneath the **School Noticeboard**. Please come and have a look at what is available to see if it would be useful for your family. Please make sure to bring your own bag.

Bianca Bagnara

Student Welfare Officer





Hi Everyone!

HAPPY WINTER!

Warm fires (or central heating), electric blankets, life giving rain, the wonder of snowflakes – each with its own unique shape, the beauty of icicles on plants, flowering camellias, heart-warming soup, a roof over our heads, indoor family time, football – GO HAWKS! etc..... Winter also helps us to appreciate the warmth to come.

Actually, my son, who is currently working in St Louis USA, has told me that I don't know COLD until I have experienced winter in St. Louis and surrounding states! SO 'HAPPY WINTER'!

Resilience can include enjoying and making the best of the Winter season.



IS YOUR DAUGHTER A SHARK, TURTLE OR OWL?

Friendship problems – one of the hardest life issues to navigate are friendships, especially as we head towards early adolescence. Recently a number of girls have approach the student well-being team, looking for resolution and support around friendship issues.

Help your daughter safely navigate the murky waters of peer and sibling conflict with advice from Michael Grose, Educational Psychologist, in clear and easy to understand way.

One of the big differences between girls and boys lies in how each gender handles conflict. Typically, boys are more likely to manage peer or sibling conflict physically (i.e with a push, a shove or a even a punch) while girls often get very personal or they avoid it altogether. We often feel uncomfortable with the physical side of boys' conflict but generally the conflict finishes as quickly as it begins. Sworn enemies one minute, best mates the next. "What argument? We're having fun," they say. As a parent you need to focus on getting your son to stop, think, find out and talk rather than react to conflict situations. Easier said than done, but it's a simple goal for parents.

Helping girls manage conflict is more complex. Conflict with a peer or sibling tends to linger longer taking up unwanted mind space, wasting the emotional energy that should be put into having fun with your friends. "She's so mean to me. I hate her," say many girls.

Girls typically handle conflict in one of three ways – like a shark (aggressively), a turtle (passively) or an owl (assertively). Let's take a look at each style:



Shark (Aggressive). A shark is intent on winning. This style is aggressive and, like its namesake, relies on power and intimidation. Shark behaviours include a raised voice, shouting, physical contact, threats and name calling. Sharks often get what they want but often at the cost of meaningful close relationships. Shark behaviours are the domain of so-called 'mean' girls that we hear so much about.



Turtle (Passive) A turtle pulls hides in its shell when conflict arises. Typically turtles don't express their feelings or their needs, accommodating others rather than standing up for themselves. They express opinions apprehensively indicating by their body language or choice of words ('maybe', 'perhaps', 'not sure but let's see') that they don't expect others to take notice of their needs. When treated unfairly they retreat into themselves experiencing frustration, anxiety and even sadness. In extreme cases turtles become targets for "less than pleasant" girls who know they won't retaliate.



Owl (assertive) – An owl deals with conflict without avoiding the issues. An owl asserts her rights and needs in positive ways and does their utmost to resolve problems, rather than just gain a personal win. An owl uses strong body language; chooses her words wisely and remains in control when resolving conflict. The strength of owl behaviour is that girls are able to deal with an issue by honestly expressing how they feel and asking for what they want. They use assertive communication strategies rather than high power (aggression) and passive (acceptance) when they are in potentially conflict situation with peers and siblings. Most girls use all three ways of managing conflict according to the situation and the people involved. A girl could be a shark to her younger sibling; a turtle with older girls at school and an owl with her mother (as she feels she can express herself comfortably with her mum). It's important to recognise these differences but at the same time encourage your daughter to become more assertive (owl like).

Encourage girls to use I-statements:

Learning to use these statements empowers girls to take responsibility for communicating how they feel. I-statements help girls express their feelings appropriately without being aggressive or intimidating.

The script for I-statements is:

"When you I feel/ felt.....because..... I would like"

Teach your daughter to shrug:

If your daughter wears her heart on her sleeve and reacts personally to the taunts of others encourage her to feign nonchalance – appearing not to care can take the wind out the sails of mean, unsociable girls and in-your-face brothers as well. There are four ingredients to a good shrug:

- a) A ‘whatever’ look.
- b) A shrug of the shoulders
- c) A simple, non-combative, non-sarcastic line such as, “You may be right”, “Good point” or “I hadn’t thought of that.”
- d) A final break of eye contact that indicates that they are in control.

The best way to break the toxic cycle of taunt-react-taunt that girls can become involved in is for them to learn to change their typical reaction, and become more owl-like in their approach to conflict situations.

You can learn more great strategies to help your daughter confidently express herself in conflict situations as well as 100’s of other practical ideas to help you raise happy, confident and compassionate girls in Michael Gross’s Parenting Girls course at www.parentingideas.com.au/product/parenting-girls/



It is with sadness I keep our special Iraqi community in my prayers at this difficult time. May this time of Ramadan bring unity and love for all.



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

Robyn Mulholland (Student Well-being)



Year 7 LEAP - 2018

(Learning & Enhanced Achievement Class)

Testing round 2 is scheduled for
Tues 27th June 2017 at 5pm in the
College Library

Inspire • Believe • Achieve

The Thomastown West Primary School community is committed to creating and maintaining a positive, safe and supportive environment. By upholding our values we encourage every child to reach their academic potential and social growth in an inclusive and innovative learning environment.





SCIENCEWORKS

EXCURSION



In line with our Inquiry unit for term 2, **Protecting Our Planet**, the grade 5/6's visited **Scienceworks**. Here are some snapshots of how **ROOM 20** enjoyed their day and some student quotes. Needless to say, the **Planetarium was a big hit!!!**

"My favourite part was the Planetarium because it felt like I was at the movies. When the show finished I felt dizzy" - Merlinda

"My favourite part at Scienceworks was the Planetarium. I had a lot of fun and learned many things. One of them was that we can never see the whole moon" - Melani

"Over time, Earth's rotational path has change which is affecting our climate" - Maysa

"Perhaps in the future, more building rooftops will have trees" - Khoder

"I liked the Planetarium because it showed us how Earth has changed over time" - Noura

"I liked the Planetarium because it was like 3D. We learned about air pollution and volcanic eruptions that killed the dinosaurs" - Ahmed

"I enjoyed the Planetarium. The most fascinating thing was learning how human life began and how far technology has come" - Ahmad





2018 Prep

TWILIGHT TOUR

THURSDAY June 15th

4:30pm - 6:30pm

Thomastown West Primary School

98-112 Main St, Thomastown VIC 3074

**FACE
PAINT**

BALLOONS

**DOOR
PRIZE !**

**SCHOOL
BAND**



Last week we held a **Biggest Afternoon Tea** with the children and parents of After care.

It was very exciting as the children baked delicious cupcakes and cookies. They took great delight and care in the preparation of the special treats.

We had many parents drop by and share a cuppa, a sweet dessert and a little conversation. It was a lovely catch up!

The Biggest Afternoon Tea is a wonderful way to raise awareness in supporting the Cancer Council to fund research, prevention and support services to those affected by cancer.

Big thanks to all that donated.





AFTER CARE

Pupil Free Day - 29th June 2017

When / what / how:

Date: Thursday 29th June 2017.

Please book prior to Monday 26th June 2017.

Times: 8.45am to 6:15pm

Cost: \$13.56 - \$52.00.00per child (depending on your CCB/CCR entitlements)

How to book: Please log in to your account online at www.oshclub.com.au and book in under the After School Care bookings tab.

What happens: Loads of fun for all ages including art/craft, games, sports, drama, board games and fun with friends.

What to bring: Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Also wear/provide appropriate clothing including hats.

Please note: **we require a minimum of 15 children to run the day.** Parents will be notified by the end of business on **Monday 26th June 2017** if the day will proceed.

Further Important Information for this Day:

- Once you have booked there are **no refunds** for cancellations.
- A \$10 late booking fee applies for any casual attendances on the day.
- All regular Before and After Care bookings have been removed.

Parent Information

OSHC program phone: 0407 372 056

Coordinator: Desiree Bustos

Assistant: Carmen Bellofiore

Program email: oshclub.thomastownwest@gmail.com

OSHClub Head Office: 03 8564 9000

Regards, TWPS OSHClub Staff