Thomastown West Primary School NEWSLETTER

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Mon	17 Dec	BOOK AWARDS Presentation	
Mon	17 Dec	Grade 5/6 Multicultural Party	
Tue	18 Dec	Grade 6 Graduation	
Wed	19 Dec	Music Performance - 12:30-1:30pm Keyboard and guitar performances	
Wed	19 Dec	Students MEET their 2019 TEACHER	
Thur	20 Dec	TWPS Choir visit Barry Road Seniors Group	
Fri	21 Dec	Whole School Assembly @ 12.00 pm	
Fri	21 Dec	Last day of Term (Students dismissed @ 1.15pm)	

No. 38 14th December 2018

From the Principal

A very successful and productive School Council was held Wednesday night. I am pleased to say that it was very well attended and we could barely fit around the large table in the staffroom. During the meeting we reviewed the draft school budget for 2019. We also discussed the process for completing the TWPS 2019 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP), which includes documenting our strategic targets and goals, as well as identifying key improvement strategies, actions and predicted evidence of our results. The School Improvement Team will complete the draft AIP before the end of the school year.

Something else we spoke about at School Council, was the reason for the Graduate teaching staff leaving us. While we are very sad to lose our fabulous Graduates teachers, we are also excited because we have:

- ✓ Two experienced teachers, Val Orsillo and Jess Bufalino returning from maternity leave
- ✓ Kathy Davies who was part-time in 2018, is <u>returning</u> in 2019 to TWPS fulltime 5 days a week.
- ✓ Tiz Rocca has <u>increased</u> her time fraction next year and will teach 4 days a week at TWPS
- ✓ Sally Nejkoski has also <u>increased</u> her time fraction next year and will teach 4 days a week at TWPS.

As you can imagine, a Graduate teachers salary is quite different to an experienced teacher's salary. I am sure that I am not the only person who wishes we could keep all of our staff... But the fact is, we have a limited budget that is effected by our enrolments. **Did you know** that we have more than 60 grade 6 students leaving at the end of this year and more than 60 grade 6 students leaving at the end of next year? What does this mean for TWPS? While we continue to have enrolments of 47 Preps, it means that we have more students leaving than students who are enrolling. Consequently, our budget is effected and so is the number of staff we can employ.

STUDENT VOICE MATTERS!

As you are aware, the school leadership team and staff has been involved in appointing new staff over the past few weeks to replace staff who are leaving TWPS at the end of the year. As a new initiative, we have included our student leaders as part of this process. Our 2018 School Captains Jayden and Sarah, with our 2019 School Captains Lilly and Ali, have provided the panel with valuable insights and student perspectives, as well as representing our school proudly! Below are some of their thoughts about the successful applicants:

- ✓ A great first impression!
- ✓ I liked their optimism!
- ✓ Kind, caring and very passionate about children's learning and working in a multicultural community.
- ✓ I think they would be trustworthy and non judgemental.
- ✓ Confident and a good communicator with students.
- ✓ I think they would be a great asset to our school!



Term 1		
Tues	29 th January	Curriculum Day*
Wed	30 th January	Curriculum Day*
Thurs	31 st January	Curriculum Day*
Fri	1 st February	Students in Years 1 – 6 begin
Mon	4 th February	Prep students begin *Prep students do not attend Wednesdays in February.
M-F	4th - 8th Feb	Grade 5 Cottage by the Sea Camp
Fri	5 th April	Last day of Term 1
Term 2		
Tues	23 rd April	First day of Term 2
Fri	28 th June	Last day of Term 2
Term 3		
Mon	15 th July	First day of Term 3
Fri	15 th August	Curriculum Day*
Fri	20 th September	Last day of Term 3
Term 4		
Mon	7 th October	First day of Term 4
Mon	4 th November	Report Writing Day*
Fri	20 th December	Last day of Term 4
		*Ctdoute do not ottonel colo o l

*Students do not attend school

WELCOME ANGELIQUE

On Thursday we held interviews for the 2019 Wellbeing position. We warmly welcome the successful applicant Angelique Vardis. Angelique has experience as a youth worker and as a school counsellor. She enjoys meeting new people and discovering what interests people while learning new things about them. When she's not at work, she's at home enjoying a good book or watching the latest movies. Angelique also has a keen interest in technology, computers and board games.

2019 GRADES

Our grade structures and teaching positions are listed below. Children will find out their teacher for 2019 in the last week of this term.

last week of this t		2019 Room
2019 classes	Names	2019 ROOM
Prep	Colleen Murphy	2
Prep	Sue Hrovat	3
Prep	Karen Cooke	8
Grade 1/2	Silvana Skender	6
Grade 1/2	Penny Koullinos	5
Grade 1/2	Heather Baniowski	4
Grade 1/2	Kathy Davies & Val Orsillo	1
3/4	Connie Gaeta & Violeta Colakovski	11
3/4	Fil Raif	10
3/4	Lenora Denise	9
5/6	Tiz Rocca & Jess Bufalino	20
5/6	Sally Nejoski & Alicia Bartholomew	19
5/6	Effie Santiglia	18
5/6	Mark Benatmane	15
Visual Art	Margot Sheean	Art room
Music	Oscar Rosa	Music room
PE	Selma Raif	Multi-purpose room
AUSLAN P-2	Christine Bridges	Library
STEM 3-6	Terri Allan (Assistant Principal)	STEM room
EAL	Violeta Colakovski	Room 17
Intervention	Nadine Williams Kathy Davies	P-2 Building
Teacher Aides	Genella Irons Carmen Bellofiore Rachel Palmieri Tamara Walters	Room 12

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Well done to all of the Grade 5 students who applied for 2018 leadership positions. We are very proud of you all! **Congratulations** to the students below who have been announced as our leaders for 2019! GREAT NEWS! There are still many more leadership opportunities next year.

School Captains for 2019	Lilly & Ali
Green House Captain	Talissa & Kiara
Blue House Captains	Haider & Aeisha
Red House Captains	Ceylin & Angel
Yellow House Captains	Andrew & Zayn
Student Voice Captains	Joella & Simon

THANK YOU MORNING TEA

It was a buzzing and chatty staffroom on Thursday morning, when we hosted and thanked all of our parent and carers with our annual 'thank you' morning tea. We simply could not run the school effectively without the support of our parents and carers, which is generously given in many ways, such as participating in School Council, fund-raising for our school, attending excursions and swimming!

HOUSE NAMES COMPETITION UPDATE

The online voting will begin next week! The Student Voice team encourages everyone to VOTE and have their say! The winning HOUSE NAMES will be announced in 2019!

CONGRATULATIONS

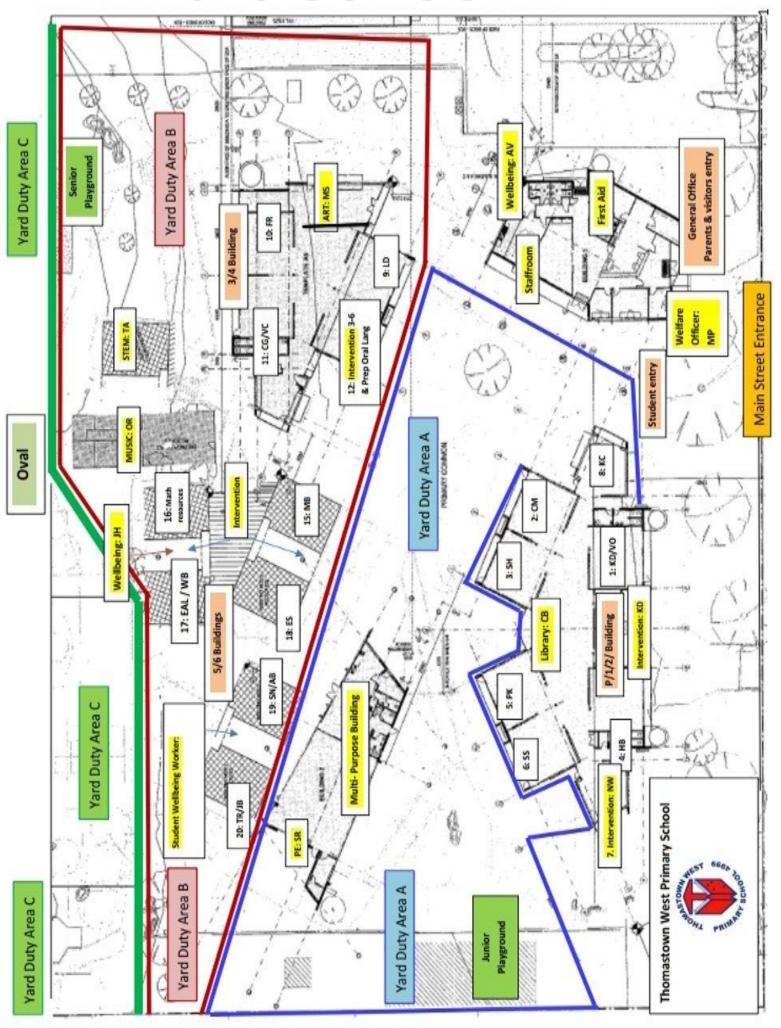
As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, last Saturday, 5 TWPS students and their Mums, as well as Mrs Santiglia and myself spent the day in **Sydney** to compete in the **NATIONAL Young ICT Explorers competition. I would like to sincerely thank Mrs Santiglia** for her meticulous organisation of this inter-state excursion. It takes a lot of planning, time and effort to coordinate such a successful outing! **Thank you** to the lovely Mums who joined their children on our adventure. **Congratulations** to our 5 students who represented our school. It was an incredibly long day but definitely a valuable one! Mrs Santiglia has included more information later in the newsletter. **Thank you to our sponsor StarRez! This trip would not have happened without your incredibly generous support!**



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

Sandi Young, Principal

2019 SCHOOL MAP



From the Acting Assistant Principal

Dear TWPS community,

With the end of the school year approaching so too is my time here with you all. It has been a privilege to be part of our/your great school and as I leave, I reflect with a smile on my face.

The staff here are passionate and dedicated to their roles; focussed on the development of every single child. Led impressively by Sandi Young and an array of other school leaders, the school is in great hands as it moves into the second half of its four year strategic plan. Data and feedback from staff, parents and students shows an upward trend in most areas. All schools have an improvement focus; we all try and be the best we can. It's exciting for TWPS to enter the next school year with a Learning Specialist teacher, with a focus on improving teacher practice. Sally Nejkoski's new role will support TWPS's improvement focus, ultimately, improving student outcomes.

To do this I ask all parents and caregivers to help out. For students to develop and improve they need to be at school. Statistically compared to other schools, TWPS student attendance and punctuality is poor and parents and caregivers play a vital role to ensure their child/ren are at school regularly and on time. If you need support or strategies to help you influence and improve your child's attendance, please see Mike Palfrey, our Welfare Officer, or speak with your classroom teacher.

The end of any school year is a time to celebrate your great school: your wonderful ARTS and STEM programs, your cultural inclusivity, ability to support student's needs, your language intervention programs, very talented sports people and wonderful PE

program, community HUB programs, wonderful teachers and support staff, school wide positive behaviours (including school values and rights) the student leadership programs and the importance of students having a voice. Having students being part of our/your new Assistant Principal's (Terri) selection panel is a perfect example about how serious TWPS is about giving students a say and influencing the day to day running of the school. I leave you learning a lot. Make sure you make Terri Allen feel welcome as she joins your school in 2019.

I thank you all for your support. Every single student, staff member and parent. Having time to reflect is important. Equally important is being kind and thankful. Can I ask all parents and students to take some time during the last school week to thank a teacher or staff member and tell them why they are thankful?

As I head back to my substantive position, I am thankful for working closely with Sandi, Suzi, Sakina and Mike; a truly efficient, hardworking and caring group of people who work tirelessly for the students in our care. I will miss them dearly.

I hope you all have a great holiday and festive season.

Michael Downing
Acting Assistant Principal



TWPS ICT YOUNG EXPLORERS

We started driving to the Melbourne airport, and waited for the other students, parents and teachers to arrive. Once they all arrived, we decided to go on the plane, unfortunately, one of the parents had to go on the next flight, when we arrived, we had some delicious breakfast.

We caught a taxi and arrived to the university. When we went inside the University of Technology we had to find our lanyard we made our way upstairs to our table and set up our things. We were very excited. We first meet together in the one room and talked about the different schools who have made it to the national finals.

It was time for judging. The judges came to our table. They asked us about what our digital technology device does. We talked about our BBC Micro bit and how it measure soil moisture. We talked about how it can be used around the world and help people with growing crops. Other teachers and students came to our table and we explained what our device works.

It was time for the awards. We didn't place but we were very proud to have made it to the national finals. It was a tough competition.

So we pack up and left. We walked to the park and enjoyed the warm weather. Then we went into 2 taxis and made our way to Sydney airport.

Then at 10:45 pm we went to the airport, we were very sleepy. All of us were sleeping. It was time to head home from a big day!

Overall it was a good experience and we had a chance to fly on a plane and go to Sydney, where most of us haven't been before. We learnt a lot even though we didn't win, it was a tiring day but it was worth it.

Thank you to Mrs Santiglia for organising this amazing excursion! Thank you to Mrs Santiglia and Mrs Young for giving up their personal time to support us! Thank you to our Mums for joining us on our ICT Young Explorer Adventure! Special thanks to our generous sponsor StarRez!!!

Written by Alissa, Rossella and Jasmine.









SRC 2018 in Review

What a successful year the SRC have completed. They have worked well as a team from the beginning and missed out on many lunchtimes during the year so they could bring the school community closer. The SRC is a wonderful student body who chose to support causes close to their heart, "RISE (Refugees Survivours and Ex-detainees) and "RU OK? Day".



Ali, Rosella and Bethany's favourite part of being SRC was "organising the events".

Dom and Sanaa enjoyed the "Disco" and, Kiara and Haider "enjoyed the RU OK? Day, and meeting up with other SRC members."

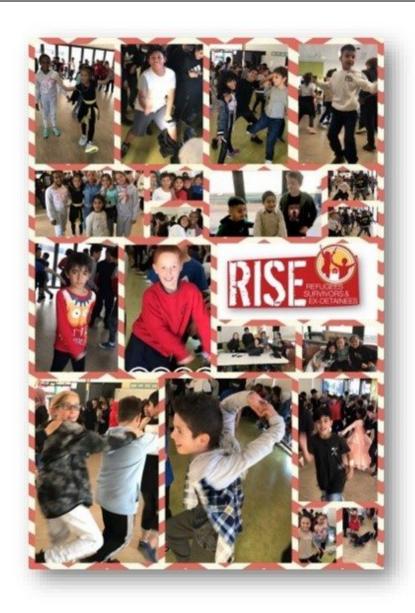




Jamil's favourite memory was "doing the, 'RU OK?' day announcements on the PA system for the whole school to hear".

Rihanna and Elina "enjoyed all the dress up days and all the parties they had." Amanni "enjoyed making all the students happy". Jeyda "loved everything!"





As
leaders,
you can
tell, they
thoroughly
adored
supporting oth



supporting other students around the school.

The SRC members all came to the conclusion in our last meeting, that there is so much more they would like develop and support around the school, and within their community in the future. We are so lucky at Thomastown West to have incredible aspiring and developing leaders.

If you would like to be part of the School

Representative Council next year, make sure you speak to the SRC leaders before school ends. I am sure they will encourage you to be part of such an important part of our school and local community. Anyone can make the change, will the next person be you?



Merry
Christmas
From Mrs
Townsend
and Miss
Butler 2018!



A number of us in grade 5/6 have had the opportunity to come together and form the first 'Student voice team'. The student voice team creates a platform for all students in the school to have a voice, which we think, is extremely important. It has been an amazing opportunity for the students, to not only have a voice that is heard but also have the chance to make positive changes in and around the school.

Some of the successes we have accomplished in the last two terms have been:

The student voice team set up the 'Rubbish busters club'. This has allowed the students to come together and take an active role in looking after the school grounds and the environment. An incentive to keep this going has been rewarding students with house points and the feeling of playing a major role in taking care of our school.

Another success has been building our understanding of student voice and the impact we can have as students. We have also set strong foundations for future 'student voice teams' in years to come. It has been great to know that our voice can be heard and feeling part of a productive team making a difference. A recent example being when we designed a competition to rename our schools house names.

We have been through many challenges throughout the year as a team. A challenge that we have faced was taking minutes at our meetings. Some of the students need more training on how to take minutes and we need to give students more opportunities to learn this skill.

Another challenge we faced was ensuring that we followed through on all initiatives and making sure everyone was committed to achieving the best possible outcome. We initially found the structure of the meetings challenging but have made vast improvements as the year has progressed. An example is when we were all excited about what we had to say and at first talked over one and another. We soon found out that this was not productive and the most efficient way to run a meeting. In latter meetings, we made sure that we all showed our school values by listening and showing respect to the person that was speaking. Students from the team felt that they wanted to have more opportunities to express their opinions about the topics covered during meetings and we would like to have more control over this.

We have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the student voice journey and look forward to TWPS continuing with this student leadership opportunity next year!

CUP OF LIFE

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

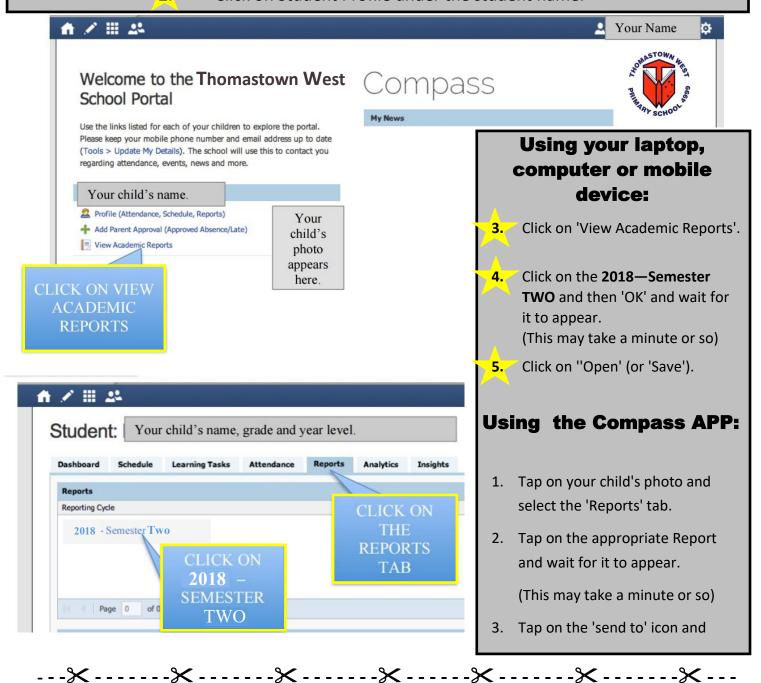
CONGRATULATIONS

- ✓ The room in Term 4 Week 7 that had the BEST ATTENDANCE is Room 19
- ✓ The room in Term 4 Week 8 that had the BEST ATTENDANCE is Room 5
- ✓ The room in Term 4 Week 9 that had the BEST ATTENDANCE is Room 10
- ✓ The room in Term 4 Week 10 that had the BEST ATTENDANCE is Room 20

How do I access my child's Semester 2 report on COMPASS?

Student Reports will be available online from 3:30pm Monday 17th December 2018

- **1.** Log in to your Compass Parent account.
- 2. Click on Student Profile under the student name.



This note was sent home last Friday please return the tear off slip to the Office if you:

- <u>DO NOT</u> have access to the Internet and <u>CANNOT</u> view or see your child's report online using COMPASS
- <u>CANNOT</u> access a smart phone, device, laptop or computer
- Would like the school to PRINT A REPORT for your child(ren)
 (We will send the paper report home on Wednesday 19th December, 2018)

✓ YES, please print my child(ren)'s REPORT(s):				
Name	Room			
Name	Room			
Name	Room			

Parent Code of Conduct at Thomastown West PS

A code of conduct for parents and visitors ensures that everyone who visits the school site is able to do so in a safe and harmonious manner and to ensure that students, staff, parents and other visitors are not subjected to aggressive, hostile or violent behaviours.

At Thomastown West Primary School we believe the following:

- ✓ We all have the right to do as much work and learning as possible.
- ✓ We <u>all</u> have the right to feel comfortable and safe.

We have 5 key school <u>VALUES</u> which we encourage everyone to *live* by our school values:

Respect Responsibility Resilience Empathy and Strive to be our best

We teach the children that:

- ✓ Values guide the way we think, speak and behave.
- ✓ Values help us to decide what is right and what is wrong.

At Thomastown West Primary School, Parents and visitors are expected to:

- ✓ Treat all persons associated with the school with respect and courtesy.
- ✓ Ensure their child/children are punctual to class.
- ✓ Make appointments in advance of expecting to obtain an interview.
- ✓ Allow staff to supervise, investigate and manage students without interference.
- ✓ Discuss issues or concerns about the school, staff or students through the correct procedures.
- ✓ Follow school procedures governing entry and behaviour on school grounds, including any restrictions that may be imposed.

Under no circumstance are parents to approach another student or parent regarding any incidents or issues.

Your co-operation is sought in maintaining a safe and happy school.









Stars of the Week



Term 4 - Week 10

Room 1 Whole Class Room 10 Whole Class

Room 2 Fatima & Room 11 Aris

Pip

Room 3 Emad Room 12 Whole Class

Room 4 Musa

Room 5 Whole Class

Room 6 Whole Class

Room 8 Sienna

Room 9 Bianca











Hi everyone!

It's hard to believe my first year at TWPS is nearly over, time has flown by!

During the course of this year it has been an absolute pleasure getting to know the students, parents and staff here. We are all so lucky to be part of a multi-cultural school community that has so much passion for children's learning and wellbeing. Thank you for making me feel so welcome.

I'd like to acknowledge **Mrs Mulholland** who is leaving us next week. Mrs Mulholland has been an important member of the wellbeing team at this school for years and will be sorely missed by students and staff alike. It has been a pleasure working with her and I hope our paths cross again.

I'd also like to say farewell to **Mr D!** Although only here for a short time, I learnt so much from him and am grateful for his input on student wellbeing. I'm sad there is no longer the absolutely brilliant "Team Michael" but wish him the best.

I would also like to wish the Grade Six students all the very best for their transition to high school. After attending Grade Six camp and also accompanying some students on their high school transition tour, I was so impressed by their maturity and responsible behaviour. You are all a fine example of our school values and I know you will go on to achieve great things.

At this time of year, it's important to remember those families in need. If you are a family who celebrate Xmas (or gift giving) and would like to donate a gift to those less fortunate, here are some suitable charities that can assist:

Berry St- www.gifts.berrystreet.org.au Barnardos- www.barnardos.org.au/gifts-for-kids Salvation Army- www.salvationarmy.org.au/en/ get-involved/Christmas

Mike Palfrey Student Wellbeing Officer

Thank you CityLife!

Members of CityLife Church kindly donated presents for some of our students. We would like to thank them for their kindness and generosity, we know the students will absolutely love them.









Hi Everyone!



Uz redzēšanos Näkemiin До свидания Hoscakalın **Totsiens** Uz redzēšanos Viso gero Poroporoaki Slán Arrivederci Goodbye Agur Tchau Farvel Баяртай Tot ziens Viszontlátásra Au revoir Auf Wiedersehen להתראות Do widzenia 안녕히 가세요 Збогум Tam biêt नमसकार Avtio Ha det bra Selamat tinggal

A hug for you, my friend I think we all can agree that saying goodbye is never easy.

> What a privilege it has been to spend special times this week with your children. There have been

tears and HUGS - I HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT HUGS ARE THE BEST THINGS IN THE WORLD, **GIVING LOVE AND WARMTH!**

And while the word "goodbye" has a rather negative emotional connotation in society, there is another way, a more positive way, to perceive it.

Author A.A. Milne, who is perhaps best known for teddy his books about а bear named Winnie-the-Pooh, once wrote:

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

While saying goodbye does mean accepting that a part of our life is now over, it also provides us with a chance to realise just how blessed our lives have been.

To look back and reflect on the journeys I've shared with some wonderful people, while being exposed to amazing and invaluable experiences.

Regardless of how long someone has been a part of our lives, whether it's five minutes, five years, or five decades, their impact will always remain with us—even after we utter that simple, yet hard to say, two-syllable word.

The quote below, from Walt Disney, continually provided me comfort on days when I'm feeling sad and lonely and need a little reminder of the blessings I've been bestowed.

"Goodbye may seem forever. Farewell is like the end, but in my heart is the memory and there you will always be."



So, once again I say THANK YOU to the entire Thomastown West Community vou have enriched my life forever!



On a much brighter note, I would like to wish you all, regardless of culture/faith, a very happy time together of joy and sharing over

Christmas! May you all have a safe and relaxing holiday time, full of special family times.

TAKE CARE!





Robyn Mulholland, Student Wellbeing





ENVIRONMENT



Here are some ideas to spread some cheer to family and friends this festive season and at the same time help the environment.



Christmas tree and decorations

- Buy a native tree and plant it in your garden after Christmas
- Decorate an existing indoor pot plant instead of buying a tree
- Recycle your real Christmas tree by booking it in for collection through our bundled branches collection service
- Buy only good quality Christmas decorations that you will want to reuse next year.



Presents

- Avoid giving cheap, poor quality gifts which may not last long
- Make one of your presents a second-hand toy for your children
- Give experiences or event tickets rather that material items, for example:
 - Movie tickets
 - Entry or membership to the Melbourne Zoo, Melbourne Aquarium or Melbourne Museum
 - Entry to Funfields Water Park in Whittlesea, WaterMarc in Greensborough or the Diamond Valley Miniature Railway
 - Buy a second-hand book from Lalor, Thomastown, Mill Park or Whittlesea Library
 - Transform a plant pot you already have into a pot fairy or dinosaur garden



- Use your children's artwork as Christmas wrapping paper or wrap gifts in reusable objects like a reusable shopping bags, tea towels and t-shirts
- Keep gift bags and reuse them next year.

Food

 Choose food that is locally grown by heading to your local farmers market or purchasing produce that's in season



- Visit lovefoodhatewaste.vic.gov.au for tips on reducing food waste and recipes for using up Christmas leftovers
- Put your festive food on your special crockery and avoid using cheap disposal plates and cups.



New Year's resolution

Make a New Year's resolution to continue reducing your waste, reusing and recycling as much as you can in 2019.



Things to do this

The summer months are the perfect time to get outside and soak up the sunshine. Here are our top local picks for how to make the most of the warm weather. For more ideas head to whittleseatourism.com.au

Pack a picnic and venture out to the

picturesque Toorourrong Reservoir Park, which is just outside the Whittlesea Township, or visit Yan Yean Reservoir, a popular spot with beautiful views. Add a spot of shopping at one of the local markets for a fun family day out.

If you're looking for something more active, get on your bike and try out our extensive on and offroad cycling routes, or book a round of golf at the Growling Frog or Whittlesea Golf Course.

Shoppin

Support local businesses and do your Christmas shopping at one of the following retail precincts:



- Aurora Village Shopping Centre
- Bundoora Square
- Church Street, Whittlesea Township
- Lalor Shopping Centre
- Laurimar Town Centre
- Mernda Village
- Mill Park Stables
- Pacific Epping
- Thomastown Shopping Centre
- Uni Hill Factory Outlets
- Westfield Plenty Valley.

unfields

Every year the popular theme park Funfields adds more rides and attractions, and this season will be no different.



Victoria's very first heated outdoor wave pool is set to open to the public this December with a volume of 1.5 million litres of heated water, pumping out waves of up to one metre high.

This latest addition will join the already fantastic line up of over 24 rides and attractions, including nine thrill seeking adventure rides and over 850 accumulated metres of waterslide action.

From its first incarnation as the Alpine Toboggan Park back in 1985, Funfields Theme Park has transformed into a world-class amusement destination and last year was voted "Victoria's Hottest Theme Park".

All of this right on your doorstep.

Alfresco dining

We are spoilt for choice when it comes to outdoor dining options so why not check out these local favourites:



- Farm Vigano outdoor dining with a community orchard, tennis courts and bocce
- Turners Bakehouse courtyard dining and a lovely historic building
- Two Beans and a Farm space for the kids to run around and a restaurant that uses locally grown





OSHClub AFTER CARE NEWS

Program Information

14/12/18

This week our program theme's is "Christmas". We started making Christmas decorations and displayed them on our board for everyone will feel the Spirit of Christmas in our program. The children made a variety paper plate crafts and came up a with Christmas tree on our wall.

They've also engaged in different group activities like twister, dress ups, role playing mums and dads, and the all-time favourite Mobilos and Lego constructions. They've also enjoyed conversations with their friends regarding their plans on Christmas, gifts that they like to get and friends and families that they're planning to give surprise gifts.





Parent Information

Important Reminder: The last day of Term 4 is Friday 21st of December. It is an early finish day and Oshclub will be operating from 1.15 to 6.15pm. Don't hesitate to book your child online.

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.