



# Officer Specialist School

*Dare to Dream*

## NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 15 November 2023



OFFICER  
SPECIALIST SCHOOL

*Dare to Dream*



**Halloween  
in Performing Arts**



**Cooking Muffins  
in 402**



**Maths Madness  
in 505.**

### *Principal's Message.*

We have had some crazy weather lately, but the sunny days have been wonderful!! The warm weather is certainly on the way so please remember sun hats and sunscreen are a must. All students are expected to bring their own NAMED hat and sunscreen and we will encourage them to wear hats outside. We do understand that some students find wearing a hat challenging so we will work towards it!

This week we have welcomed some of the families who will be joining our school in 2024. The Prep Transition Program will be running over the next three weeks. It's hard to believe we are heading towards the end of the year. If you have any school uniforms that your child has grown out of (not just prep size we welcome all sizes) please send them in for the Parent and Friends Association (PFA) to add to the second-hand uniform shop.

It was great to see some of our families come along to our Celebration of Cultural Diversity. The students love to have their families visit and share in the fun they are having. We hope to see many of you at our Family Picnic on Thursday, Dec 14th, 4.00pm-6.00pm. Bring along a picnic and join us in our lovely school grounds to celebrate the end of a busy year.

Just a reminder that we will be having a Curriculum Day on Monday Nov 27th when the staff will continue to engage in Professional Learning related to Trauma Informed Practice.

***Continued Inside..***



# The Arts PRIMARY Celebration



Performing Art  
Performances on  
Wed 22 November  
12 - 1pm



## VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION (21 - 30 Nov)

Invitation for families of Primary students enrolled in Performing Arts and Visual Arts in Semester 2. Come along to see your child's creative art work and performance skills at Officer Specialist School. See participating classes below.

Primary Visual Arts      1.01, 1.02, 1.03, 1.06, 1.07, 1.08, 2.02, 2.03, 2.04, 2.06, 2.08, 3.06, 4.03, 4.07, 4.08  
Primary Art Club  
Primary Performing Arts    2.01, 2.02, 3.01, 3.02, 3.03, 3.05, 3.08, 4.08, 5.05, 5.06



Contact Glynis, Performing Arts or Carolina,  
Visual Arts for more information on 5943 2800.



## ISSUE 15 - NOVEMBER 2023

## Contact Information.

### Street Address.

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### Phone:

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### Webpage:

www.officerss.vic.edu.au



### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Officer Specialist School acknowledges the traditional owners of the land throughout Australia.

We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to the elders past, present and future.

### **DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP AT SCHOOL:**

We understand that with the traffic and parking issues, you may occasionally be late to drop off or pick up your child. The gates are locked each morning so if you are dropping off late, you need to either phone or go to reception so that the classroom staff can be called to the gate to collect the student. Please make sure you are on time to pick up in the afternoon because staff are involved in meetings and preparation tasks after school and will be unavailable to supervise students. More importantly, it is distressing for our young people if they are not picked up on time. If there is an avoidable situation making you late please notify reception as soon as possible.

### **WE HAVE UPDATED AND ADDED TO OUR SCHOOL POLICIES AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE:**

Child safety and wellbeing at Officer Specialist School information for families and the school community The Victorian Government has announced new Child Safe Standards to further strengthen child safety across organisations, including schools. The new standards recognise the critical importance of families and the broader school community in maintaining and promoting child safety and wellbeing.

Officer Specialist School has reviewed and updated our child safety policies and procedures to ensure they meet the requirements of the new standards. These are available to view on the website or in hard copy from the school's front office.

We are committed to continuous improvement in our approach to child safety and wellbeing and welcome feedback from families and members of our school community on ways we can further strengthen our child safety policies, procedures, and practices.

If you have any suggestions, comments, or questions, please contact me at school by phone or email.

Thanks, everyone,

*Helene Rowe*

# 2023 CALENDAR

Here's a quick Snapshot at some of the key dates to remember for 2023. Dates are correct at the time of printing. But dates can change due to varying circumstances. We will inform the school community of any changes.

## November.

- **21st** - Art Celebration Secondary.
- **22nd** - Art Celebration Primary
- **27th** Curriculum Day
- **30th** - Duke of Ed Presentation

## December.

- **1st** - Primary Graduation
- **4th** - 13th Primary Swimming
- **8th** - Graduation
- **14th** - Celebration Day
  - Final Assembly
  - Family Picnic
- **15th** - Swimming - Primary



**VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION (21-30 Nov)**  
Invitation for families of Secondary students enrolled in Semester 2. Come along to see your child's creative art work and performance skills at Officer Specialist School. See participating classes below.

Secondary Visual Arts & Art Clubs	3.01, 4.01, 4
Secondary Performing Arts	3.01, 5.10
Secondary Extra-Curricular Media, Visual Arts, Dr-imitation	

**Officer Specialist School**  
*Dare to Dream*  
Contact Glynn... Visual Arts for more.

**Officer Specialist School**  
*Dare to Dream*  
Contact Glynnis, Performing Arts or Carolina, Visual Arts for more information on 5943 2800.

## Save The Date!

Our Arts Celebration is on again. See pages 2 & 5 for full details.



# The Arts SECONDARY Celebration

Performing Arts  
Performances on  
Tues 21 Nov  
1:30 - 2:30pm



## VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION (21 - 30 Nov)

Invitation for families of Secondary students enrolled in Performing Arts, Visual Arts, and Extra Curricula Programs including Media, Visual and Performing Arts programs in Semester 2. Come along to see your child's creative art work and performance skills at Officer Specialist School. See participating classes below.

Secondary Visual Arts & Art Club 3.07, 4.01, 4.02, 5.01, 5.02, 6.01

Secondary Performing Arts 3.07, 5.10, 5.11, 6.01, 6.02

Secondary Extra-Curricular Media, Visual Arts, Drumming and Just Dance - Students will be provided a personal invitation.



**Officer  
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Visual Arts for more information on 5943 2800.

# CLASSROOM

## Snapshot

Classroom 203

Rachel Choi



### Welcome To 203

The term is going so fast in Room 2.03! We have had a special and exciting start to the final term with our new student Lex joining our classroom. Welcome to Officer Specialist School, Lex!

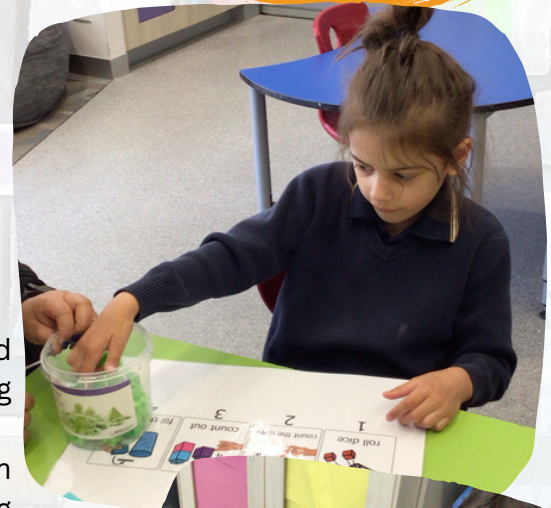
Students in room 2.03 have settled back into the classroom routines coming back from the holidays, and we are all working hard and meeting classroom expectations.

The students have been consistently engaging in mathematics activities focusing on subitising. A specific example of a subitising activity students have enjoyed is “Fill the cup”. Students use jumbo dice, blocks, and clear plastic cups for this activity to count the dots on the die, count out and build the blocks, and fill the cup with the blocks. Our students have enjoyed engaging in hands-on learning activities and are becoming more confident each week as they continue to practice subitising.

During literacy sessions, we have been engaging in our weekly shared reading sessions and students have enjoyed engaging in the follow-up activities, such as designing Elmer after reading the text “Elmer the Elephant”.

The students have also been having fun completing Halloween activities and we are looking forward to the Christmas activities await us.

Well done, 2.03! Keep up the good work.



# CLASSROOM Snapshot

Classroom 302  
Sharon Gubin

## Welcome To 302

The students in Room 3.02 had a wonderful day celebrating Culture Day. Some students dressed up in costumes to represent a given country. The class later joined students from the 300's building, for the Culture Celebration march on the basketball court. In the Performing Arts session, the students listened, sang, and danced along to cultural music. Students also played the djembes and all did well with the 'Call and Response' activity where each student had a turn at playing a rhythm and everyone had to respond by remembering and playing the same rhythm back.

During Book Week, students in Room 3.02 chose, "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," as our book for the week. Some of the students made their own "Very Hungry Caterpillar" costumes, while some students wore costumes from home. It was lots of fun to parade our book week costumes with our peers on the basketball court. It was a very exciting week, as we made a door display by sponge painting paper plates to create a caterpillar, we baked cupcakes and placed them in the shape of a caterpillar and our buddy class also visited us to read books they had written about themselves.



# CLASSROOM

# Snapshot

Classroom 408

Jade Kercheval



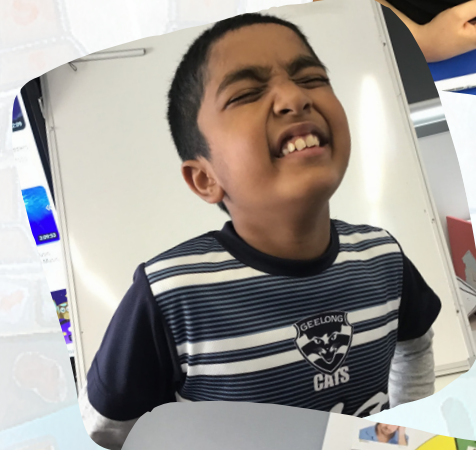
Welcome To 408

In Term 4, students in Room 4.08 have been like busy little bees in a beehive! They have continued to work on their letter formation, sentence writing, reading, and place value skills.

We have had some changes this term, where students have said goodbye to a friend who has moved away, and welcomed a new friend who has joined our class. It has been great to see students being so welcoming and friendly to our new students.

We received a cute visit from our school wellbeing dog named Kobby! It was a mixed reaction in our class. Some students were happy and excited to greet Kobby, and some students felt a little scared. Students are feeling excited about their upcoming excursions to Ross Reserve Playground this week, and later in November, our visit to the Big Goose Petting Zoo! Yippee!

I could not resist showing off some footy dress-up photos from last term! There is always lots of fun to be had at school!





# CLASSROOM Snapshot

Classroom 505  
Rachel Shaubrook

## Maths Madness in 5.05!

This term, 5.05 students have been learning about Money. We have thoroughly enjoyed becoming familiar with Australian money and explored the features of each coin and the color of each note. Students have looked at the values of each coin and note and are learning to compare the values of each one, which is 'more' and which is 'less' when compared with another coin or note. It has been fabulous to see students grouping money by matching coins and then counting how many of each coin they have. Some students are just beginning to make a bar graph to show the number of coins in each group. Some students have also been using their knowledge of counting patterns to total the amount of money they have. For example, we can count 10c coins by using our 'tens' counting pattern. We can use counting by 2s to total groups of \$2 coins.

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# CLASSROOM

## Snapshot

Classroom 505  
Continued

The highlight of our money activities has been setting up a shop and students selecting some items they wish to buy. Some students have made their purchases by finding the right coin to match the cost of the item. Others are counting coins or totaling dollar notes and a coin to buy their snacks and treats. The students thoroughly enjoyed having chips or Tiny Teddies, chocolate or cheese from the shop and it made it fun to do 'real shopping'!

The other focus in Maths at the moment is learning more about Time. Students have worked together as a class group, constructing a clock and using this to look closely at the movement of the hands. Students are learning the placement of numbers on an analog clock and moving their hands to demonstrate how time passes from 3 o'clock to 4 o'clock or from 3 o'clock to half past 3. It is exciting to see student recognition at different times throughout the day. Students are making their own clock faces, practicing matching the same times on analog clocks, and sequencing daily activities in the order in which they happen. Students love drawing the 'hands' on laminated clocks as well as manipulating the 'hands' on 'real' clocks. As we learn more about time, we will also be exploring digital time.



# CLASSROOM Snapshot

Classroom 402  
Sally Cooper

Denise Van Der Nest

Welcome to 402.

If you've been around 4.02 lately you know that we love to make healthy muffins for morning tea, or an afternoon treat.

Making muffins is great fun for our students, we don't use a mixer and we don't have to worry if there are lumps in your batter. These baking sessions, provide students with yummy treats as well as, Math, English, and Science learning opportunities.

Muffins are incredibly forgiving, despite the occasional spill and occasional missed or extra ingredients, we've never had a batch turn out truly horrible. As you can see, our primary focus on having a great time baking with the students.



# SunSmart

## at Officer Specialist School

It is that time of the year, the weather warms up and also the UV levels rise. The sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation is the major cause of skin cancer. UV damage also causes sunburn, tanning, premature aging, and eye damage. The good news is you can prevent damage – and skin cancer – by being SunSmart.

**For the best protection, we at Officer Specialist School use all five SunSmart steps in Term 4 and 1 (when UV 3 or above):**

- **Slip on covering clothing**
  - Students wear our school uniform which has been chosen as it covers as much skin as possible with its collar, sleeves to the elbow, and shorts to the knee.
- **Slop on SPF 30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen.**
  - Parent/Carers are to supply personal, suitable, SPF 30 (or higher) sunscreen for their child in their bags.
  - The school will supply an emergency supply of sunscreen for when personal sunscreen is temporarily unavailable.
  - Parents/Carers need to fill out sunscreen permission every year.
  - Staff will encourage and remind students 20 minutes before recess and lunch play to apply sunscreen.
  - On campus and on excursions, students will be reminded and encouraged to apply sunscreen every 2 hours.
  - Staff will help students to apply sunscreen if needed.
- **Slap on a hat**
  - Students are to bring a hat to school.
  - Students are to wear a hat for recess and lunch play and when participating in outside activities.
  - Choose, a broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket-style hat which shades your face, nose, neck, and ears.
  - Caps and visors do not provide enough protection.
- **Seek shade**
  - Students can seek shade by using trees or shade structures.
- **Slide on some sunglasses.**
  - Sunglasses can be worn to reduce UV radiation exposure to the eyes.

Protect yourself in **five ways** from skin cancer



**SLIP**



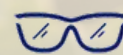
**SLOP**



**SLAP**



**SEEK**



**SLIDE**

# HALLOWEEN

## In performing Arts!

By Glynis.

In Performing Arts we focused on the emotion 'scared' and dressed up in scary costumes. Students did hand movements to 'The Monster Mash' and danced to 'Spooky Scary Skeletons' and 'Ghost Busters'. Some rooms had a visit from Insy Winsy Spider. Jess visited classrooms and did face or hand paint on students and Denise, who looked very scary, visited with treats.

A wonderful week having fun and with celebrating 'SCARED!'



# HALLOWEEN

In performing Arts!

By Glynis.



# Performance

## PRACTICE.

By Glynis.

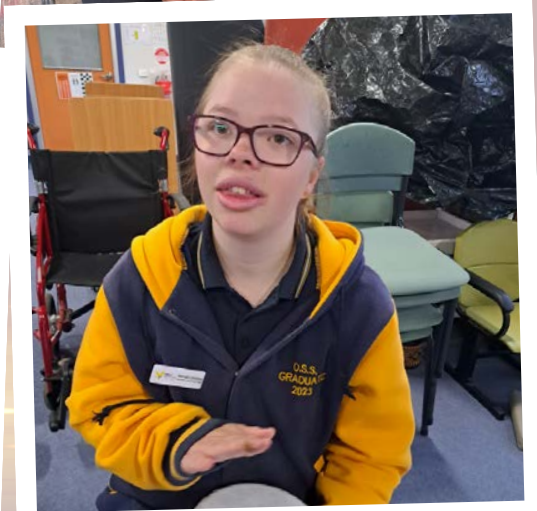
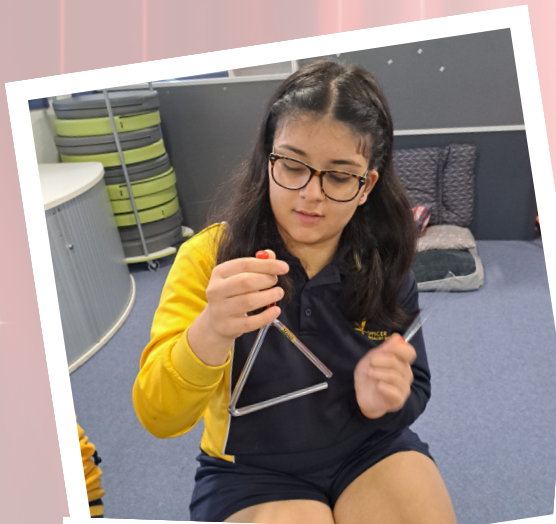
Students practice each week in the Performing Arts room and in their classroom, their performance items for the Arts Celebration Days. So come along, join us, and see our students perform.

Secondary-Tuesday the 21st of November with the theme 'Express yourselves with Confidence'.

'Seven Nations Army', 'We Will Rock You', and 'Ghost Busters' plus our Friday Extra Curricula performances.

Primary on Wednesday the 22nd of November with the theme 'What's Up?'.

'The Dingle Dangle Scarecrow', 'The Spring Song', 'Dance, Dance, Dance', 'Surfs Up', 'We All Go Travelling By' and 'The Cha Cha Slide'



# THE THERAPY Corner



## Steering in the Right Direction.

We're having a wheely good time at Officer Specialist School! Bikes are used as part of some therapy and class-based sessions for students of all abilities. Riding a bike has amazing benefits to our growing students' health and physical development. Bike riding can support a child's self-confidence, physical health, mental wellbeing, and overall development through movement.

Modified and 3-wheeled bikes are a great tool to learn the basics of bike riding and to gain the benefits of physical movement. There are many different bike options to suit individual abilities to promote participation in bike riding. At Officer Specialist School, we have a range of bikes that include modifications such as training wheels, 3 wheels, 4 wheels, and supportive seating. Bike programs are run by both our Physical Education teachers and Physiotherapists.

From balance bikes without pedals to modified bikes, there's a wide range of options to meet children where they are at with bike riding. The more opportunities they have to practice, the more comfortable and confident they will feel when riding a bike, and the more fun they will have!





# Hay Fever & Thunderstorm Asthma Information

By Angie - School Nurse

## HAY FEVER SEASON – October - December

It is that time of the year again when we have students and staff suffering from hay fever symptoms.

1. Hay fever treatments:
2. Minimise exposure to allergens.
3. Medicine – eg. Nasal spray, antihistamines, and decongestant sprays
  - o Follow your doctor’s recommendation for taking medicine for hay fever.
  - o If it is a daily non-drowsy antihistamine or nasal spray, then this should be taken in the morning before school or work.
  - o If your child requires antihistamine at school then parents need to:
    - Supply antihistamines to the school
    - Fill out a Student Medication Authority
4. Monitor pollen levels by downloading the “Melbourne Pollen” app or looking on the “Melbourne Pollen” website.

## THUNDERSTORM ASTHMA

**Thunderstorm Asthma is triggered by high pollen levels and certain types of thunderstorms.**

- October – December is the highest risk period.
- Pollen particles are released in high winds prior to thunderstorms.
- Particles are breathed in and lodge into the respiratory tract and asthma symptoms rapidly arise.

### Who is at greatest risk?

- People with asthma now or in the past
- People with hay fever, allergy to grass pollen
- Undiagnosed asthma

**NOTE: Thunderstorm asthma can affect people who have never had asthma**

### Common symptoms of asthma and thunderstorm asthma:

- Wheezing
- Breathlessness
- A feeling of tightness in the chest
- A persistent cough

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**healthdirect**

[www.healthdirect.gov.au](http://www.healthdirect.gov.au)

 **Better Health**  
Channel

[www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au)

# Hay Fever & Thunderstorm Asthma Information

## How to prepare if at increased risk of thunderstorm asthma:

- People with asthma:
  - Always have a reliever inhaler (blue puffer) and spacer with you.
  - Have an up-to-date Asthma plan and follow this when having any asthma symptoms.
- People with hay fever:
  - See a GP or pharmacist about a hay fever treatment plan.
  - Check with your GP or pharmacist if you should have an asthma reliever puffer.
  - Check the daily pollen count by visiting **Melbourne Pollen Count and Forecast**
- During high risk of thunderstorm days – avoid being outside during thunderstorms and during wind gusts before a storm. Close doors and windows and if using the air conditioner switch to recirculate/recycle.
- Be alert to and act on the development of asthma symptoms as explained in your asthma action plan if you have one or if you don't, use asthma first aid.
- Check the epidemic thunderstorm asthma forecast during the grass pollen season at **VicEmergency**.

## Officer Specialist School, Measures to keep our school community safe as the risk of thunderstorm asthma increases:

- All teachers and many ES staff are trained in asthma first aid.
- The school will monitor the VicEmergency app to receive thunderstorm warnings and where appropriate, keep students indoors when weather forecasts identify greater risk.
- Inform parents when Asthma plans need to be updated.

### References:

- <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/hay-fever>
- National Asthma Council
- <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/thunderstorm-asthma>



**PERFORMANCES . DUNK CONTEST . GIVEAWAYS .  
FOOD + BAR . LIVE ART . CYPHER . HENNA ARTIST .**

# **JUMPER IN**

**FEAT.**

**VOL. 4**

## **MIKO MAL**

**ALEXANDRE . J VERSE . KINGS ONLY CREW  
KODJO . M4R6 . MONIQUE NIGHTINGALE  
SHRETA . THATKIDMAZ . YTS GUCCIBOI  
STANDOUT BBALL . UNSOLVED**

**HOSTED BY WINTANA**

**FREE ENTRY**

**FRIDAY 17 NOV . 4PM - 9:30PM**

**BUNJIL PLACE, NARRE WARREN**



City of  
Casey



Bunjil  
Place



RIDDIM  
STUDIOS

## We're excited to announce that our Annual VIP Sale will be running again soon for 2023!

For our Pakenham store, the sale will be running from Saturday 18th of November to Saturday 25th November. Families can receive 20% off Beleza-branded items during this sale period, so it's a great opportunity for families to prepare for the 2024 school year and save on some of those back-to-school costs.



**2023 VIP SALE**  
**20% OFF\***  
**AVAILABLE IN STORE ONLY\***

### **BELEZA PAKENHAM**

7/99 Bald Hill Rd, 3810

#### **TRADING HOURS**

Mon to Fri: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Sat: 10:00am - 1:00pm



\*CONDITIONS APPLY

Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer, voucher or discount. Discount available on full priced Beleza branded items only.