ISSUE 2 | MARCH 2024



OFFICER SPECIALIST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

https://officerss.vic.edu.au

405'S ADVENTURES TO THE LOCAL PARK

MANNAN

HEART DAY 2024 Class 301 celebrates.

BULLS

KOBBY TURNS 1 Celebrate Kobby's 1st Birthday. Issue 2 | March 2024



Contact Information.

Street Address.

3 Parker Street, Officer, Vic. 3809



officer.ss@education.vic.gov.au



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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.

Message From The Principal

Hi Everyone

I can't believe we are halfway through our first term and it's the last day of summer!

The last couple of weeks have unfortunately seen an increase in Covid cases around the school and we have had to manage a high number of staff absences. In these instances, our staff always work together to keep the learning programs running as smoothly as possible. Please make sure that if your child is unwell, you keep them home so that we can prevent further infection across the school.

This week we celebrated Kobby's first birthday. For those new to our school, Kobby is our wellbeing dog. He is a beautiful boy and very much loved by our community. Over the past year, Kobby has been in training and as a school community, we have been learning how to support him to work across the school. At the end of last year he was attending one day a week and this term we will be increasing this to Wednesday and Friday. He helps me greet everyone in the morning, visits classes, and spends time with small groups and individual students. We will keep you updated about his activities at school.

As well as our newsletter, I will be sending a Principal Update in Compass each week. If you have any questions, please email me and I can provide information through the Principal Update.

Don't forget our COMMUNITY CONNECTION MORNING TEA 9.00-10.00 am ON Wednesday, March 6TH Join us for a cuppa and a chat!!

Regards Helene Rowe

Principal Officer Specialist School



Calendar Of Events 2024

www.officerss.vic.edu.au

Here's a quick Snapshot at some of the key dates to remember for 2024. 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.

March

- 6th Community Connection Morning tea 9.00-10.30am
- 11th LABOR Day
- 14th Post School Expo
- 18th Curriculum Day
- **19th** Tribes Cross Country Day
- 28th Celebration Assembly - School Finish 1:30pm
- 28th End Of Term

April.

- 15th Term 2 Begins
- 25th Anzac Day

May

- 1st Grads Reunion
- 6th Community Connection Morning tea 9.00-10.30am
- 24th School Photos

June

- 6th Community Connection Morning tea 9.00-10.30am
- 10th Kings Birthday
- 13th Harmony Day
- (Celebrating Cultural Diversity)
- 26th 100 Days of School
- 28th Celebration Assembly
- 1.30pm finish
- 28th End of Term

July

- 30th SSG's Primary
- 31th SSG's Secondary

August

- 5th Curriculum Day
- **7th -** Community Connection Morning tea 9.00-10.30am

September

- 9th Arts Celebration
- **12th** Community Connection Morning tea 9.00-10.30am
- 20th Celebration Assembly 1.30pm finish
- 20th End of Term

October

- **14th** Community Connection Morning tea 9.00-10.30am
- 25th Secondary Formal

November

- 5th Melbourne Cup
- 11th Prep Transition #1
- **13th** Community Connection Morning tea 9.00-10.30am
- 18th Prep Transition #2
- 19th Sec Art Celebration
- 20th Prim Art Celebration
- **25th -** Prep Transition #3

DECEMBER Dates coming issue 3.



Officer Specialist School EXPO 2024. See full details on page 11



Our Community Connections are on again for 2024. See full details on page 04.

SOCIAI MCCIA use outside of school

We are writing to advise you of a few concerns that we have regarding children's use of social media outside of school during evenings and weekends.

It has recently come to light that there are several groups of students using social media to share graphic/explicit content and persistently being unkind about other students over platforms such as Snapchat, WhatsApp and Messenger. We understand that this has included both sharing unkind comments about students and sharing inappropriate images. This is leading to both upset and concerned students within the school and is not in line with our school's digital technologies agreement, ethos, or values.

Most Social media apps are for teenagers 13 years and over, which includes TikTok. If you do allow your child to access social media, we ask for your vigilance. Just like their interactions in person, online interactions require supervision and support. What is right will vary from family to family but some strategies that are known to be successful include:

- Monitoring their devices/phones for the apps that are downloaded
- Enacting parental controls on phones and consoles.
- Reviewing the messages, they send on platforms and apps making monitoring part of a daily or weekly routine.
- Setting expectations about what space (preferably communal) and times they have access to devices.
- Encouraging them to share or discuss with you what they are doing.

We are asking for your partnership in dealing with this, as this is happening outside of school.

As a school, we are responding to this with additional teaching during Digital Technology, Online Citizenship, and Wellbeing lessons and in 1:1 conversations and teaching opportunities as they arise.

In addition, we are requesting that the following apps be deleted from devices being brought to school please:

- Snapchat
- Whats App
- TikTok
- Instagram
- Facebook

Please also find attached a helpful guide on settings for various apps and a link to the eSafety Commissioner website <u>https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents</u>

Thank you for your co-operation.

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Social Media Settings

Most social media apps are 13+ (WhatsApp is 16+) but - as we are aware some children are using them regularly - we wanted to share some important settings to keep children safe online.





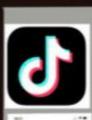


PRIVATE ACCOUNT: when this is on, only followers can see your posts and stories and you have to approve followers (recommended: on)

COMMENTS, TAGS, MENTIONS, STORY: allows you to control who can tag you, comment on your posts, mention you in their story and control your story audience

You can also restrict, block or report a user by clicking on their profile and selecting the three dots in the top right.

You can also remove a follower using this method.







PRIVATE ACCOUNT: when this is on, only followers can see your posts and you have to approve followers (recommended: on)

SAFETY: Tiktok has lots of options to restrict contact and interaction with video posts (recommended: friends)

COMMENT FILTERS: you can automatically hide comments that may have offensive words in (recommended: on)

You can also block, report or remove a follower by clicking on their profile and clicking the three dots in the top right hand corner.



PROFILE PHOTO AND STATUS: You can change who can see a profile photo and status (recommended: my contacts)

GROUPS: allows you to stop a contact being able to add you to groups (recommended for when a friend adds you without permission)

BLOCKED: can add a contact to a blocked list so they can't message you.

You can also block or report a contact/ number by clicking on the chat with them, clicking on their number/name at the top then scrolling down!



CONTACT: decide who can message you and send you snaps (recommended: my friends)

VIEW MY STORY: restrict who can see your story (recommended: my friends)

GHOST MODE: if this isn't on, contacts can see your location on a map (recommended: on)

You can also block or report a user by locating their contact, tapping and holding their name and clicking more

Annual Privacy Reminder For our School Commity.

Quick Access To Both Documents via QR Codes.



DIGITALLEARNING POLICY



PHOTOGRAPHING, FILMING AND RECORDING STUDENTS' POLICY Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or, where permitted by law, as stated in the School's Privacy Policy and the School's Privacy Collection Notice. Please click on the link to Schools' Privacy Policy and information Schools' privacy policy: information for parents | vic.gov.au (www.vic.gov.au) Our Photographing, Filming, and Recording Students Policy (*http://tinyurl.com/3kmbcfk9*), describes how we collect and use photographs, video, and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

We ask parents to also review our *Digital Learning Policy,* (<u>http://tinyurl.com/4x8n7cdr</u>). This provides guidance on how we use, *Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education* safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education, please contact the school. For more privacy information, refer to Schools' Privacy Policy information for parents.

This information is also available in ten community languages:

- * Amharic
- * Arabic
 - * Dari
- * Gujarati
- * Mandarin
 - * Somali
- * Sudanese
- * Turkish
- * Urdu
- * Vietnamese

THIS YEAR WE HAVE INCLUDED COMMUNITY CONNECTION MORNINGS AT OFFICER SPECIALIST SCHOOL

WE WILL BE WELCOMING PARENTS AND CARERS FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY TO JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA AND A CHAT! WE MAY HAVE A TOPIC PEOPLE REQUESTED OR INFORMATION TO SHARE BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET OTHER PARENTS AND CARERS AND OUR SCHOOL TEAM.







WEDNESDAY 6TH MARCH | 9:00-10:30AM IN THE COMMON ROOM

Topics we have had requests for include: What does a day at school look like?.....Supporting positive behaviour....using communication supports.. issues with food....

Our Leaders will join us and we will fill you in on plans for 2024 and you can share your ideas for topics you want to know more about.

After you dropped off the students, drop in for a cuppastay for the whole time or just a visit!



Officer





Department of Education

Our school is very excited to be part of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Navigators Initiative. NDIS Navigators will be in all Victorian government specialist schools by 2025 to help you navigate and understand the NDIS and get the most out of the support available to your child.

ncis

From the start of term 1, 2024 Susan Daniel will be the NDIS Navigator at Officer Specialist School.

The role will include:

- Provide information and advice on the NDIS and available support.
- Support with accessing the NDIS.
- Guidance on where to look for services and how to make the best selection for your child.
- Support with ongoing management of NDIS plans and how to raise questions or concerns with the NDIS or NDIS-funded organisations.
- Assist you in connecting with an NDIS Local Area Coordinator Partner (Latrobe Community Health Service) and/or Early Childhood Partner (Link Community Health Service) for advice and support.

If you would like to talk about how the NDIS Navigator service can support your family, please contact:

Susan Daniel

NDIS Navigator Officer Specialist School Phone: 03 5943 2800 Email: <u>susan.daniel@education.vic.gov.au</u>





The Association for Children with Disabilities (ACD) is the Victorian advocacy service for children with disability and their families. The ACD helps families gain the knowledge, skills, and confidence to advocate for their children.

ACD Services are free and include:

- Information Resources
- Workshops and peer support
- The ACD Support Line a telephone advocacy service

To learn more please visit Website <u>https://www.acd.org.au/</u> Facebook Page: <u>https://www.facebook.com/acdvic/</u>

Upcoming Workshops.

The ACD runs many Online Workshops for families. During March they are running some sessions on First Steps to Support and Connection. This workshop series is about providing practical information to help you decide where to start and find what you need to support your child and family.

Follow the link to book your session https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/associationfor-children-with-a-disability-7575063849

Upcoming workshop



First Steps to Support and Connection

Practical information to help you decide where to start and find what you need to support your child and your family.



Download our 2024 January to July workshop program in PDF format from our site. <u>www.acd.org.au</u>



The School Carteen

The school canteen will begin serving this year on 14th March and will be open every Thursday after that.

All orders are through the Flexischools app.

If you are new to OSS, simply download the Flexischools app from the <u>Apple</u> or <u>Google</u> stores and follow the prompts to create an account. Once setup, click "Order Food" to see the online catalogues available, place your order and pay. Orders can be placed at any time, up until our specified cut-off time (as shown in the App). At OSS, this is 8am each Thursday.







Travel Education Support Levels

Requires 1:1 supervision walking to gate/bus/OSHC

With prompts walks to gate/bus/OSHC

Walks independently to gate/bus/OSHC

> Students with School ID Card & Large Green Dot -

independent travelers to destination outside of school grounds

Travel Education Initiative

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are excited to inform you about an upcoming initiative aimed at enhancing our students' travel experience to and from school. Over the next few weeks, we will be implementing a new system to identify how our students travel and what level of support they require to transition to their mode of transport.

Each student will be provided with bag tags containing essential information such as their name, room number, days of travel, level of support needed, and mode of transportation (bus, car, OSCH, walking/cycling). This system will not only streamline our efforts but also ensure the safety and efficiency of our students' travel arrangements.

We believe that this new system will greatly benefit our students, from Preps to our most senior students, by supporting their ongoing travel education. It will also enable our staff to identify students and provide the necessary assistance for a smooth transition to their designated travel options quickly and accurately.

Our support levels will be categorized using a traffic light system:

- Red: 1:1 support by either parents or staff
- Yellow: Supervised support
- Green: Independent travel

On the next pages, you will find posters providing examples of the tags and further details regarding the traffic light support system.

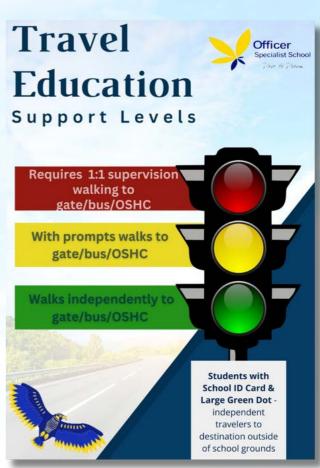
If your child misplaces their tag, please notify the classroom staff, and replacement tags will be promptly provided to ensure continuity in their travel arrangements.

We are committed to prioritizing the safety and well-being of our students, and this new system underscores our dedication to child safety. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this initiative, please do not hesi contact us.

Sincerely,

Karen lewis

Assistant Principal





Bag Tags

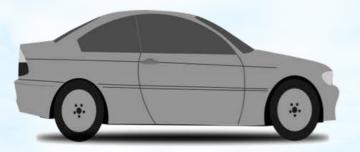


ознс



Pakenham - Yellow Bus

Outside School Hours Care



Parent or Carer transporting



HI D0002

Independent Travel outside of school



Berwick - Purple Bus



Pakenham - Green Bus



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OSS NEWS



Kobby is our Wellbeing Dog, and he celebrated his 1st Birthday at school last week.

D

P

Kobby has very quickly become a very important member of our school community, from greeting everyone in the mornings with Helene, visiting classrooms, and hanging out with small groups of students across the school.

His birthday was a busy day for Kobby, being spoiled all day by everyone at school, and finishing off his visit with a special Birthday Party and cake outside.

Kobby loved the Birthday cake the Hospitality Team made for this special occasion.

Please enjoy the photo album on the ext page of the day's activities and the amazing artwork students made to celebrate his Birthday.





BIRTHDAY

















THE CLOURING WALL Located - Atrium 500's Building







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tayler



Classroom Teachers Carme Alincomot

Welcome To Class 108

The Prep students in Room 1.08 have been settling well into their new learning environment. They have started to learn the routines in the classroom and making friendships with the staff across the school. They love to go to school every day, and they have started to enjoy experiences in the classroom that are new to them. It is such a delight to see them achieve micro-successes as they come to school each day!

Hooray to Prep! We will create wonderful memories this year, and our journey has just begun!!











ps://officerss.vic.edu.au

CLASSROOM Snapsne

Classroom Teacher Monique Hartman

Welcome To Class 301

Students from Classroom 3.01 have had a wonderful start to the school year! They have embraced many learning experiences so far, exploring a range of different concepts. We have been exploring the social concept of kindness by analysing the question 'How do we show kindness?' and reading our focus text 'Kindness Makes Us Strong.' In English, we have been strengthening our writing and spelling, and in Maths we have been focussing on our number skills by exploring number bonds. Students have also participated in our Fun Fridays, such as 'Heart Day' and 'Crazy Hair Day,' which supported them in getting to know each other and forming positive friendships with their peers. I am very proud of how all students have settled into the routines of school and demonstrated a willingness to try

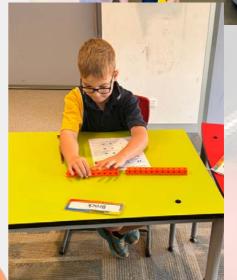
new things. Well done!



Classroom Teachers Valentine Chepkorir

Welcome To Class 306

What an awesome start to the year, students in 306 enjoyed their time in the activity room. The students also enjoyed playing around with blocks for numeracy practice.



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Classroom Teachers Jade Kercheval

Welcome To Class 503

Students in classroom 5.03 have done a great job in settling into their new year of school.

They have been working hard in the classroom and have particularly enjoyed our Hairy Maclary book focus and using describing words to describe the different characters.

We have been working on greeting our peers and developing our speaking skills to answer yes/no questions through fun activities.













Welcome To Class 504

During Term One, class 5.04 have been on building focussing routines and connections. Being a social cohort of students, we enjoy the opportunity to learn through play using hands-on manipulatives and games. We have explored our individuality through our learning by creating a birthday graph, measuring our heights, and developing a reward system using our PBS tickets! We look forward to visiting different areas of the school such as the Activity Room, our buddy class (7.03) and specialists, where we can continue to develop friendships with our peers, as well as satisfy our curiosity independently. What a great start to the year class 5.04, let's see where the year takes us!



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Classroom Teachers Rachel Gordon

Welcome To Class 405

It has been a wonderful start to the new term, getting to know the students and setting up the room.

405 have been involved in social games to get to know each other. Morning circle with a student leading each session. Travel training, Art, Feast, and PE. It was wonderful to connect with cares and families at the recent SSGs. This is an important process that helps staff better understand the needs of each student. These meetings help us better support your students as they navigate through the secondary years.

In 405 staff are encouraging independence through role modeling, support, and visual and verbal instructions. All students are proving just how capable they are, building on their confidence and giving them a sense of pride. Staff are there to support them every step of the way.

405 ventured to the local park, went travel training at the supermarket, and made chocolate balls. Staff have many learning adventures planned, providing students with academic, social, and hands-on learning opportunities through engaging and fun activities.

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COLOUND COLOURS

CLASSROOM

Classroom Teacher Anissa Diaz

Welcome To Class 507

In 507 the start of the year has been exciting meeting new students and Educational support staff that we will be working with this year.

Students have enjoyed participating in team building activities where students had the opportunity to work together.

In one of our team building activities students had to work in pairs and build the biggest tower using straws and sticky tape and blu tack.

Well done.

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CLASSROOM





Classroom Teacher Hayley Ayres

Welcome To Class 511

The students in room 5.11 have settled back into the school routine, following the holidays, and have taken to Secondary fabulously. We have been focusing on getting to know you activities, as well as discussing our school values. Choosing a new value each day to work on demonstrating both in the classroom and the school community. Students created their Graphic design artworks that highlighted all their interests. It has been fantastic to see all the students engaged and eager to participate in their learning.



THERAPY CORNER

FIRST/THEN VISUAL

At Officer Specialist School we use visuals with all of our students, on a daily basis. One of our most effective visuals is one that indicates what a student is required to do FIRST, THEN what will follow it. We find this visual is useful for...

- Helping students to understand very basic sequencing
- Helping students to complete activities (both preferred and not preferred)
- Being a building block for students to successfully use a more complex visual schedule
- Increasing students' ability to complete tasks and participate in their daily schedules with more independence
- Assisting students with transitions within the school
- Helping students to know what to expect
 next
- Encouraging students to understand choice making

Note: Pictured here is the visual we use at school. Feel free to print it and use it at home with some highly motivating activities for your child. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Therapy Team.



First	Then

How to use the First/Then Visual.

•We start with the scheduled activity being followed by a strong reinforcer (e.g., first work with the teacher, then play dough). •Then show the student the first/then card, point to the two symbols, and say "First (Activity 1), then (Activity 2)". If the student resists or gets off task, show them the card again and repeat this phrase.

- When the first activity is done, show the student the first/then card again and say "(Activity 1) is finished!" while pointing at the first visual on the card. Then point to the second activity and say "Now, (Activity 2)."
- Begin Activity 2 immediately so that the student can form the connection between the visual and the activity.

TRY VURTUAL REALITY!

OFFICER SPECIALIST SCHOOL EXPLOYING Post School Options.

This is an opportunity to spend time meeting other students/families in the Secondary Department whilst having the opportunity to learn about what options are available for students when they transition from school when they graduate.

> THURSDAY 14TH MARCH 4.30PM - 6.30PM

OFFICER SPECIALIST SCHOOL 3 PARKER STREET OFFICER.

SAUSAGE SIZZLE

VISIT OUR WEBSITE https://officerss.vic.edu.au/

OSS NEWS



Please come along to our 2024 Secondary Department Sausage Sizzle and Exploring Post School Options EXPO on Thursday 14th March.

This is an opportunity to spend time meeting other students/families in the Secondary Department whilst having the opportunity to learn about what options are available for students when they transition from school when they graduate.

Gre8 will be providing sausages in bread and helping coordinate a BBQ along with some of our Secondary students. We will also have students making coffee, tea, and hot chocolate whilst showcasing their Barista and Hospitality skills.

Services represented at the EXPO include:

- Open Employment
- Supported Employment
- apprenticeships / Traineeships
- Further Education & Training
- Microenterprises
- School Leaver Employment Support Programs
- Group Based Activities (previously day programs)
- Individualised Support
- Volunteering
- Other (Support Coordination, alternative therapy options, holiday programs etc)
- NDIS

OSS NEWS

2024 SECONDARY DEPARTMENT SAUSAGE SIZZLE AND EXPLORING POST SCHOOL OPTIONS EXPO

As we have students of varying ages that attend the Expo, this year a strong focus has been on also inviting services that can offer some supports whilst your child is still at school (e.g. holiday programs, 1:1 support, therapy etc).

It is also a great opportunity for you to speak with providers to let them know what type of services / support your child may be looking for when they transition from school. This will give them an opportunity to help understand future needs in our local community.

Please come along to support this event (even if you have been before). It takes up a lot of valuable time from the service providers and we want them to feel it is valuable to come each year!

To assist with catering there is a RSVP form to complete, which has been sent out already. Can you please return this to your classroom teacher by:

23rd February 2024.

SAUSAGE SIZZLE



The Expo is also open to students & and families that attend other schools in our community and/or have graduated in previous years and are looking for other options. If you have a friend who would like to attend, please ask them to RSVP directly to:

susan.daniel@education.vic.gov.au .

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Susan Daniel (Secondary Department Transition Coach / NDIS Navigator) via email or phone.

Regards Susan Daniel

(on behalf of the Secondary Team)

Secondary Department Transition Coach / NDIS Navigator Email: susan.daniel@education.vic.gov.au Phone: 03 5943 2800



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST WEEKEND CAMP ILUKA RETREAT

22-24TH MARCH 2024 MORNINGTON PENINSULA

Iluka Retreat is set on a stunning 36 acres on Victoria's beautiful Mornington Peninsula, with a diverse landscape, including a large lake for water sports, natural springs, wetlands, Bird Hide, Low ropes obstacle course, tree climbing, orienteering courses and more.

Scan QR Code to complete Expression of interest.



Calming Waves Support Services 0431 464 951

shelly@cwss.com.au



Cranbourne East Primary School is proud to present a FREE community event.

Supporting Resilience in Children

A presentation from two of Australia's most highly regarded Children's Psychologists.

+ an opportunity for Q+A.



Dr Michael Carr-Gregg As seen on the top-rated Morning Show on 3AW with Neil Mitchell



Dr Justin Coulson As seen on Channel Nine's Parental Guidance



Scan QR code or click the link HERE for tickets

Thursday 7th March 2024 6.00pm-8:30pm

Location: Cranbourne Community Theatre Brunt Street, Cranbourne 3977

Join us from 5pm for coffee and an opportunity to meet our local wellbeing supports.

Please note this is an **adult only** event.

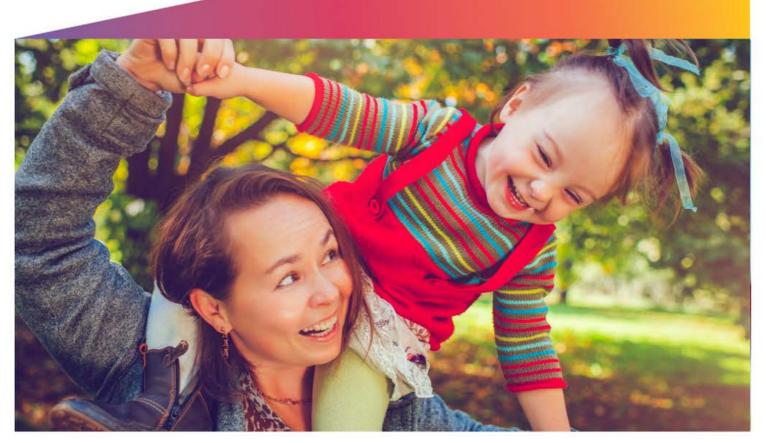
For more information please contact: David Muzyk or Jenni Kelly PH: 5990 0400



Communities for Children is an initiative supported by the Australian Government

This event cannot be live streamed





Early childhood developmental delays -Accessing Services

Presented by Nicole James (Link Health and Community), and Fiona Moseley (Monash Community Health)

- When would I be concerned about early childhood developmental delay?
- How do I go about accessing services?
- Where and to whom do I speak to if I have concerns?

PARENT*ZONE*



CFC is funded by the Australian Government, Department of Social Services. See www.dss.gov.au for more information.

Date: Tuesday, 12 March, 2024Time: 1 - 2.30pmWhere: Online via Zoom

ENQUIRIES: <u>CFCCardinia@anglicarevic.org.au</u> or call 0457 825 076

Register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register /WN_03Sdv5dKTLqztchlOhrN0g



or scan QR code



anglicarevic.org.au

Parents and Carers

Want to be more involved in your child's school experience?



Parent and teacher communication plays a significant role in a child's learning experience.

The Compass app enables parents to engage closely with school to see how their child is performing and feeling, book their next teacher conference, pay fees easily, and get ready for the next excursion.

The Compass app gives busy parents access to everything they need to know.

Any queries after downloading the app, please contact the school directly

www.compass.education