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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

Hello everyone.

Hello everyone.

What a lovely week with a taste of Spring weather!! It's been great to see students enjoying the sunshine in our school grounds.

This week we have welcomed our new Maintenance Team members, Shane and Michael, and they are already busy around the school and improving our facilities. Over the holidays the Department had the ramps around the school upgraded so accessibility is also improved.

Last week I was invited to speak about Officer Specialist School at the Berwick CWA meeting, and the group generously donated three iPads for our students. We sincerely thank them for their support.

Over the past couple of weeks our students have been watching Australia's achievements in the Olympics. The Paralympics will run Wed, 28 Aug 2024 - Sun, 8 Sept 2024 and our friend Beau Vernon will be representing Australia as part of the wheelchair rugby team. Beau has been a mentor for students at our school before moving to Queensland last year and he still visits us whenever he is in Melbourne. Keep your eye on the Paralympics and follow his progress!!

He is truly an inspiration after a football accident in 2012 left him with quadriplegia. His visits to school to speak to staff and students have focused on living your best life and he has been a wonderful mentor for many of our young people.

This is a link to his Facebook page where you can send messages Good encouragement. luck Beau!!! https://www.facebook.com/BeauVerno

Next week is Literacy/Book Week and Friday will be our dress up day. We are looking forward to families joining us so check the details in the newsletter for all the events. See you at the costume parade!

Thanks, everyone,

Helene Kowe

Officer Specialist School



PRINCIPALS' DAY

CELEBRATING HELENE, KYLIE, KAREN, AND LACHLAN

By Denise Jenkins

Principals' Day was officially on Friday, August 2 throughout Victoria, however, Officer Specialist School celebrated on Friday, August 9, 2024. The staff and students wanted to acknowledge all of the hard work the Principal Team put into our school each and every day. We put together a video of the students giving messages to the Prin Team, and students even delivered cards and flowers to the Prin Team throughout the day. We shared lots of laughs over the photoshopped pictures put together by one of our staff, so we had to share them with you too! We hope Helene, Kylie, Karen, and Lachlan know just how much we appreciate their support, their understanding, their guidance, and their dedication to our school.

We have an AWESOME Prin Team at OSS!

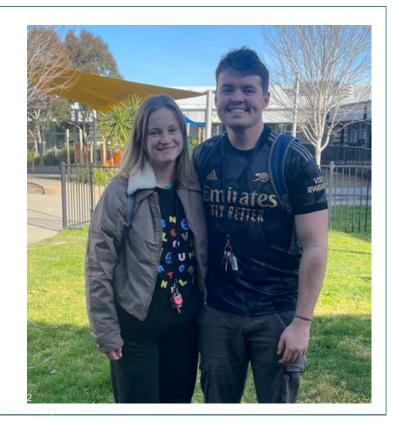
Photoshopped Pics & Where's Our Principals Game Next Page..



Goodbye Saoirse and Conor.

By - Denise Jenkins.

Last week we said, "See you later!" to our lovely Irish CRTs, Saoirse and Conor. They have been with us every day for the past 6 months and truly became part of the OSS family. Conor was mostly in the Primary Department and Saoirse mostly in the Secondary Department, however, either of them could be in any class across the school. They are both great with the students, positive, flexible, and all-around amazing! They are moving on to do the 'rural' component of their Work and Holiday visa in Queensland, but we will happily welcome them back with open arms when they have finished! Good Luck Saoirse and Conor, we will miss you!



PRINCIPALS' DAY PICS

CELEBRATING HELENE, KYLIE, KAREN, AND LACHLAN















CLASSROOM Supsup To Class 203



Classroom Teacher Maddi De Lorenzo



Classroom 2.03's Water Olympics!

Celebrating the Paris Olympics 2024, Classroom 2.03 have dived into their very own water Olympics! water-based activities Integrating learning integrated across all learning areas which has been a blast!

2.03's favourite sport throughout the Olympics was the water polo as displayed through the photos. We also enjoyed salt painting the colours of the Olympic rings (Blue, Yellow, Black, Green, Red) and learning about why they are those colours.



CLASSROOM SNAPSNOOS Welcome To Class 204



Teacher: **Clinton Lloyd**



Activities have included creative potato printing, where the kids stamped out their own versions of the Olympic Rings,. We've been moving and grooving in the Activity Room, inspired by the Olympians, and even held our very own opening ceremony in The Just Right Room, where the students sparkled under the colorful lights and bubbles!

The fun didn't stop there! The kids got mushy in the classroom, crafting artistic flags out of mashed potatoes and food coloring! They competed in friendly potato games, including the Potato Sweeping Race, Potato Shotput, and a Potato Tug-of-War maths challenge. They even had a Potato River Race in the Water Sensory Yard!

To top off our spectacular celebrations, the children prepared tasty "Gold Medal" pizzas which were quickly gobbled up along with a side of hot chips!

Now, we're looking forward to exploring Personal Histories, and investigating how each of the kids has grown and changed from being tiny babies into the amazing individuals they are today!

Thanks for reading about our spud-tastic Potato Olympics!







Classroom Teacher Ros Stewart



Room 2.07 celebrated NAIDOC week recently. Students explore indigenous culture through sensory-based activities. We joined with other students in our building to celebrate this occasion.







LAMP SPELLING BEE – ALL STUDENTS CAN PARTICIPATE (FOCUS IS ON MOTOR PLANNING)

·1-2 HIT WORDS ON THE LAMP WORDS FOR LIFE

·1-4 HIT WORDS ON THE LAMP WORDS FOR LIFE

WORDS SPELLING BEE (SPELL, WRITE & SCORE) – ALL STUDENTS CAN PARTICIPATE (ONCE CONTESTANTS ARE FINALISED, ADJUSTMENTS CAN BE MADE)

·SPELLING BEE - Little Learners Love Literacy (LLLL)

·SPELLING BEE - Magic Words

·SPELLING BEE – Fountas and Pinnell (Benchmark Assessment)

Winners for the Spelling Bee Competition will receive medals during the awarding ceremony at the end of the term assembly celebration.

Parents are invited to come and award the winning medals.

Spelling Bee will be held at the gym and the competition schedules will be released closer to the date.

If you have any questions, please contact the English Team.





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CLASSROOM Supplies



Welcome To Class 407

Teacher: Melinda Valenzuela

This term has already had a busy start to it. In the first week of Term 3, the students in room 4.07 celebrated NAIDOC week by hearing a story by Aunty Fay Muir and Sue Lawson called 'Respect'. Students discussed what respect is and how we can show respect. This all happened in our yarning circle where the students also made their own yarning sticks. Heading into the next couple of weeks of the term, some students participated in work experience at Waverley Industries, where they have been re-packing, labeling, and gift packaging. The graduating students in rooms 4.07, 4.08, and 5.10 have headed out on trial-supported days at post-school options. This has been great for them as they have had the opportunity to see what places are out there and where they could attend next year.

We joined up with room 4.08 and room 4.04 students to participate in a Mini- Olympics to celebrate the Olympic Games that are in Paris at present. Students were divided into three groups and rotated around the different activities. The activities included basketball shooting, dribbling the basketball around the cones, throwing the vortex, throwing beanbags into hoops, throwing the frisbee and finishing up with a relay run. The finishing touch being eating hot dogs together in our independent living kitchen area.





CLASSROOM Secondary Department CLASSROOM Room 4-07- Continued.



Classroom Teacher Melinda Valenzuela



The class is in full swing with our independent living skills, washing, hanging basketball uniforms to dry and then folding them. Delivering classroom breakfast club orders once they have found the items on the shelves and then packed them into bags. The students enjoyed a cooking experience with room 4.04 and room 4.08. They assisted to cut up and prepare all the ingredients for the wraps that they were to make. Each student got a chance to choose which food items they wanted to add to their wrap and then got to sit down and eat it. The unexpected favourite in a lot of the student's wraps was beetroot.

This term we have gone out Travel Training on a Friday with two other classrooms. We ventured off to the new train station, East Pakenham as well as Narre Warren to visit an OP shop and last week headed to Hallam to a little café where students got the opportunity to purchase a drink and some purchased a snack too. The social groups within the class have headed out to yard where they like to play a throw and catch game with beanbags.

Hope you enjoy our photos!





CLASSROOM Symposius



Welcome To Class 509

Teacher: Tanya Mischler

Delving into history this term, students in 5.01 have been looking at how we are the same and different from other people. We saw some great moves as students practiced different dance moves from across the decades and compared music, video color and clothing from history to now. Based on student's voices students chose their favorite job from the 1920s, learned about school in the olden days, and practiced cursive handwriting. The Olympics has been a fun feature of this term, as students watched the Olympics during lunch eating time, created Olympic torches, and designed their own Olympic rings. Students discussed how the style of Olympic uniforms has changed, and how we can show respect to the land, people, and places, as we delved into NAIDOC week. Students have used their senses to figure out which foods come from which countries based on similar and different ingredients. A highlight was making guacamole which comes from Mexico and identifying spices in Indian spice mixes. Students created a personal information sheet which was put into the classroom time capsule, we are looking forward to opening it at the end of the term.



PROGRAMS.

TRAVEL TRAINING



Travel Training.

Teachers.
Rachel & Melinda

Staff from 404, 407 and 408 have facilitated community engagement for students through travel training each Friday. Students engage with developing life skills, body movement, improving communication and gaining important independent life skills. Travel training offers opportunities in communication, numeracy, literacy, health, social and personal development.

The group is responsible for their own Myki cards, water bottles and clothing choices (guided and supported at all times by staff). Students travel to Officer train station, crossing at the appropriate locations and tapping on with their Myki cards. Students then locate the visuals at the station to assist with time recognition and distance to the desired location. They wait in the set location which is accessible for all students.

Staff ensure students are safely seated and encourage drinking water whilst the train moves to our destination. Students explore the various signs and symbols located within the train, learning about travel etiquette, digital message boards, special announcements and enjoying socialising with other students.

Our destination varies from going to IGA, Libraries, Opportunity Shops, Cafes and parks. Providing students with skills in shopping, locating set items within stores and interacting with store staff. Students locate dedicated items in the shops then scan items through, locating the bar codes and recognising the cost for each item. The items purchased are then used within the Independent Living space for cooking or other projects that are completed each term.

The growth and confidence students have shown over the year has been wonderful to watch. Staff have been able to gradually release support as students have become more independent and involved in the process. Many students have said that travel training is their favourite thing for the week.

Secondary Teachers Rachel & Melinda – PLC 7







PROGRAMS.

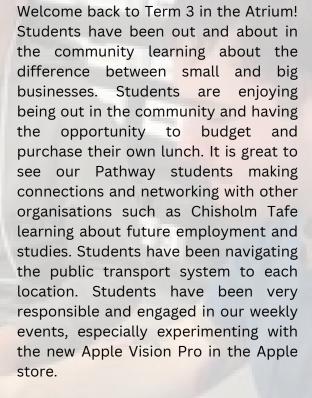
The Atrium

Written By - Raul Vigilanti













Whole School Events.

Science Week

By Ros Stewart

We have recently celebrated National Science Week Officer, and students had an amazing time participating in a range of different science-based learning throughout classrooms and in the playground. There were rockets being launched, chemical reactions using vinegar soda, communications and through paper cups and string, and sink and float experiments.





SSV STATE CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS & THE VICTORIAN ALL SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Belynda Drew

On Thursday the 18th of July, we had three primary and seven secondary students participate in the SSV State Cross Country Championships, held at Yarra Valley Racecourse in Yarra Glen. It was the most students we have ever had qualify for the event, which was very exciting! The weather was not the best and the track was extremely muddy with many students finishing their races being covered in mud from head to toe. Our primary school students, Luke, Brandon, and Dylan did an amazing job in their 2km races, finishing 6th, 5th, and 7th. We were very proud of their efforts and how much they had all improved their running abilities from the SSSSA Cross Country event a month prior. Our secondary students all battled through the extremely muddy conditions to finish their 3km runs and put in their best efforts. Riley, Ollie, Kobi, Ethan, and Maison all ran in the 12-14-year age group coming in 4th, 8th, 12th, 13th, and 15th with Jordyn running in the 16-year age group where he placed 15th. Joseph finished the day off running in the 17-20-year age group coming in an impressive 2nd place to finish on the podium with other amazing runners.

Congratulations to all our runners on the day. You did yourself so proud and represented our school in such a positive way.

Only two days after running his 3km race at the SSV State Cross Country Championships, our amazing Joseph backed it up with another 3km run at the Victorian All Schools Cross Country Championships held at Bundoora. With so much positivity, determination, and passion for his running, he was ready to do it all again, that one last chance to qualify for the National Cross-Country Championships whilst in his last year at school and boy did, he smash it. He went out there in the windy conditions finished in a good time and placed 2nd, claiming another medal. He also achieved his goal by qualifying for the

Nationals coming up in a few weeks' time in Tasmania.

A big congratulations also goes to Brandon in primary who also qualified for the Victorian Team to participate in the National Cross-Country Championships held at Yarra Valley Racecourse over four days at the end of this month.

We wish both Joseph and Brandon the very best for their upcoming competitions. It is such a massive achievement, and we are all very proud of you both!

Officer Specialist School Newslett







GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

What are Gross Motor Skills?

Gross motor skills involve the large muscles in the body. They are used to coordinate large movements which help us to complete everyday tasks such as running, jumping, playing ball sports but also sitting upright at a desk.

Why are gross motor skills important?

Gross motor movements support us to perform a range of everyday activities that require strength, balance, coordination, flexibility, and endurance. For example,

- Shifting weight from one foot to another when balancing to thread pants on your legs when you are getting dressed
- Sitting upright at the table when eating, leaning forwards to pick up a drink and bring it to your mouth
- Balancing on one foot whilst stepping into the car, turning around sitting down in your seat

It is important that we help our students to develop their gross motor muscles so that they can sit upright at the table to eat and complete tabletop activities such as drawing and writing at school.

These are some gross motor activities that you can try at home:

- Riding a bike
- Helping to carry the groceries in the house after shopping
- Crawling on uneven surfaces such as pillows
- Jumping on a trampoline
- Dancing to music
- Move like an animal
- Hitting a balloon
- Play catch
- Kick a soccerball
- Go to the park





WELLBEING CORNER

AUGUST 2024

ISSUE #1

The Student Wellbeing Team has been established to support the Mental Health and well-being of students across the school.

The Wellbeing Team can support with:

- Addressing student wellbeing concerns and helping understand what is going on for the student.
- Support staff by mentoring, sharing information & resources, and upskilling staff around student mental health and wellbeing.
- Directly work with students (individually or in small groups if appropriate)
- Support students & families to access external supports

How can students access support from the Wellbeing Team?

Wellbeing Officers – Please speak with your child's teacher to discuss your child's wellbeing concerns. The classroom teacher and/or Department Leader can complete a referral to the Wellbeing Team on your behalf.

NDIS Navigator Program – If you would like support to learn about the NDIS or to access support outside of school, please contact Susan Daniel directly on 03 5943 2800 or via email

susan.daniel@education.vic.gov.au



Susan – Social Worker / NDIS Navigator
What's your favourite colour? Blue
What's your favourite food? Ham, egg and
salad roll (from the school canteen)
What do you to support your own wellbeing?
Listen to music and go for a walk



Jake – Wellbeing Officer
What's your favourite colour? Green
What's your favourite food? Sushi
What do you to support your own wellbeing?
Boxing and watching how I met your mother



Mel – Wellbeing Officer
What's your favourite colour? Purple
What's your favourite food? Chocolate
What do you to support your own wellbeing?
Shopping / Retail Therapy

Special Guests.

On the 26th of July, two local police officers, Loren and Matt, attended Officer Specialist School for a community engagement morning. This was a very exciting morning for our students. Matt and Loren walked around the school, met with students in their classrooms, and played a few games of basketball. They talked about how they help people in our community, which gave the students an

opportunity to ask questions and find out more about what it is like to work as a police officer.

As a part of the community engagement program, our policing friend Loren and Matt, will be back to spend some more of their time in the classrooms, further promoting positive relationships. Loren and Matt will be back at Officer Specialist School on the 2nd and 16th of September.



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 cutoff time (as shown in the App). At OSS, this is 8am each Thursday.

HOW TO REGISTER WITH Sflexischools

- Download the Flexischools app and select "Register".
- Type in your email and submit to create an
- Go to your inbox and click the link to verify your email (remember to check your junk).
- Follow the registration process, creating a password and adding your personal details.
- 5 Add your student under "Profile" and start ordering



Download Flexischools app



If there is a school age student at your home and you don't have an nbn connection, you could qualify for free home internet until the end of 2025.



School Student Broadband Initiative

An Australian Government Initiative Powered by nbn

FREE HOME INTERNET FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

This is an Australian Government program that offers free home internet to families and carers who look after school age children and are struggling to pay the bills.

To apply, follow the four steps below:

- 1 Contact the National Referral Centre on 1800 954 610 Monday - Friday, 10am - 6pm (AEDT) or visit anglicarevic.org.au/student-internet
- They'll ask you some questions to see if this offer is right for you.
- If you qualify, you'll get a voucher.
- Use the voucher to connect through your chosen participating internet provider before 31 December 2024.



EARN MORE

Scan QR Code to learn more.

THE BEST PART IS



Free home internet until 31 December 2025



The Wi-Fi router is free and you can keep it



There is no lock-in contract



Assistance provided by the National Referral Centre



Callback, webchat and interpreting are available







Become a Berry Street foster carer

Partner with us and support a local child on their journey.

Childhood is a journey, but not every child starts in the same place.

In our local community there are many children and young people who need a safe place to live.

As a Berry Street foster carer, you'll be a part of a team that is committed to supporting children who are unable to live with their family.

And by providing them with a safe and nurturing home – you'll be there for them at a crucial moment in their life.



BERRÝ STREET



Tuning in to Kids™

A six-session parenting program for parents or carers of children aged 2-10 years. Tuning in to Kids is underpinned by a five-step emotional coaching tool.

Tuning in to Kids will help children understand and identify their emotions and learn more effective ways to express their emotions.

Tuning in to Kids aims to:

- Help parents and carers to gain knowledge on emotional intelligence.
- Support parents to emotionally coach their child by tuning in to their child's emotions.
- Provide parents with the tools to help their child learn to manage their emotions and solve problems.
- Explore ways parents can teach their child to manage with conflict in their life.

Cost

Free

Date

Every Thursday between 1st Aug – 5th Sep 2024

Time

10am until 12:30pm

Venue

Cranbourne Library

65 Berwick-Cranbourne Rd, Cranbourne VIC 3977

Light refreshments will be served

Bookings Essential

Please complete the following online registration form:



https://forms .office.com/r/ vp8f0phf15

General enquiries can contact: 03 5990 8400 or groupwork.south@vt.uniting.org

unitingvictas.org.au





Volunteer with us to create meaningful connections with people with a disability and their families!



Volunteering is FUN and feels GREAT!

Extended Families has been connecting volunteers with people with a disability for over 45 years!

As a Volunteer, you will have a meaningful impact on the lives of people with disabilities and their families by supporting with 1:1 community participation activities. You will create positive change in the community, enhance your skillset and build industry experience.

Extended Families thrives on the diversity of our communities, embracing and supporting people of all abilities, identities and cultures. We offer specialised multicultural services and we actively respect and celebrate the rich heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures to create and inclusive environment for all.

Contact us today via the details below, or scan the QR to express your interest!

Contact: Samantha-Jane Potter
Volunteers & social Groups Coordinator
E: samantha@extendedfamilies.org.au
M: 0406 229 071

www.extendedfamilies.org.au





Parenting and Mental Health

A six-session parenting program for parents or carers of children aged 0-18 years.

The group promotes respectful, caring, and nurturing relationships between parents and their children, whilst supporting parents experiencing mental health difficulties.

Our Parenting and Mental Health program is facilitated in partnership with FaPMI (Families where a Parent has a Mental Illness) and input from a Consumer Consultant from the Mental Health program at Monash Health.

The program aims to:

- Provide a supportive learning environment for parents to develop new skills
- Learn more about brain development and how this influences a child's thoughts, feelings, and behaviours.
- Provide information, support and ideas to help parents remain calm when challenging behaviours present
- Explore ways of increasing self-care and wellbeing.

Cost Free

Date

Every Tuesday between 30th July - 3rd September 2024

Time

10am until 12:30pm

Venue

Outlook Community Centre

24 Toomuc Valley Rd, Pakenham VIC 3810

Light refreshments will be served

Bookings Essential

Please complete the following online registration form:



https://forms .office.com/r/ vwePu18apF

General enquiries can contact: 03 5990 8400 or groupwork.south@vt.uniting.org

unitingvictas.org.au



Families where a Parent has a Mental Illness







Extended Families Join In!

Join In our dynamic social groups tailored for **disabled** children, young people, and their families in South/Southeastern Melbourne.

Supported by HACC funding, our inclusive programs support participants living in Cardinia, Casey, City of Greater Dandenong, Glen Eira, Bayside, Kingston, and Frankston areas.

During school holidays, Join in:

Our Family Fun Day: Experience exciting activities while building capacity and life skills for disabled children and their whole families.

Plus, enjoy a dedicated Parents/Carer's Mini Retreat to recharge and relax.

Our School Age Events: Engage in FUN activities focusing on capacity building and life skill development for school-aged disabled children with their carer's or parents.

Monthly, Join in:

Our Explorer Youth Club: Embark on inspirational activities aimed at enhancing independence, social and life skills for young adults aged 16-26.

Come Join in! for enriching experiences and the opportunity to build lasting friendships!

We are a diverse organization committed to supporting individuals from a wide range of multicultural backgrounds. We faster an atmosphere of inclusivity and acceptance for all abilities, identities and cultures and we actively respect Aboriginal culture.



Contact: Samantha-Jane Potter M: 0406 229 071 E: samantha@extendedfamilies.org.au (English speaking)

or Mai Tinh Nguyen: M:047 724 0563
E: mai-tinh.nguyen@extendedfamilies.org.au
(Vietnamese & English speaking)

Or scan our QR code:



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



