

10th Anniversary
2014 2024

ISSUE 12 | SEPTEMBER 2024

OSS NEWS

OFFICER SPECIALIST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

<https://officerss.vic.edu.au>

LITERACY WEEK COSTUME PARADE!



CASEY BASKETBALL

CLASS 102 VISIT
MOORABBIN AIR MUSEUM

OSS NEWS

Officer Specialist School Newsletter

Message From The Principal

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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.

Hello everyone.

Last week was a big week of celebration at our school for Book Week finishing with a dress-up day and parade on Friday. Thank you to the staff and families who got into the spirit with lots of exciting and fun costumes!

This year we had to have our parade in the bus bay but next year we will have our new community space completed, and we will be able to share these events as a school community....no matter what the weather does!

The weather has certainly been changeable over the last couple of weeks with a taste of Spring before the winds and rain. With the warmer weather, it is a good time to remind you that we are a Sun Smart School so in term four students will need to bring hats and sunscreen (named please). Although we have a number of students who are reluctant to wear hats our staff will continue to encourage and model by wearing hats themselves.

Our PFA held a Father's Day stall for students on Thursday and Friday and we had lots of happy shoppers. Thank you to our PFA for all the work that they put into these events. They are organising a social night on Saturday, October 19th so save the date and stay tuned for more details!!!

I hope all the dads, grandpas, and other special people had a great Fathers Day!

Thanks, everyone,

Helene Rowe

Principal
Officer Specialist School



Outdoors Victoria

Outdoors Victoria is keen to hear from people living with a disability(s) about their experiences accessing and participating in outdoor recreation activities and has prepared a short survey.

The survey aims to understand the barriers they face, their needs, and opportunities to improve engagement with outdoor activities. The information gathered will be used to update the existing toolkit for Outdoor Education Providers, Tour Operators, local communities and other organisations, to help them offer more inclusive and universal outdoor recreational activities.

As well as people living with a disability(s), the survey can also be completed by parents, carers, and other support workers. It should only take 5-10 minutes and can be found at:

The survey closes on Sunday 13th October 2024.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024OutdoorsVictoriaDIToolkitParticipantSurvey



Outdoors Victoria's existing toolkit for Outdoor Education.



www.outdoorsvictoria.org.au/projects/disability-and-inclusion-in-the-outdoors/





The OSS PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

& Morning Tea

For our Principal Award winners this fortnight. These students are nominated by teachers across the school for their effort and ability to demonstrate the school values. We enjoyed sharing afternoon tea and a chat!

- **Henry Cook:** for sportsmanship
- **Olivia Tuck:** showing care and support
- **James Hopgood:** trying hard and supporting classmates
- **Sebastian Balwin:** positive attitude
- **Samuel White:** being a great role model
- **Lyla Fernanado:** building her confidence to request breaks
- **Nina Rando:** being kind to peers and showing resilience
- **Rylan Broadby:** being kind and showing resilience



BOOK WEEK COSTUME PARADE

Reading is

Magic



BOOK WEEK COSTUME PARADE

Reading is

Magic



BOOK WEEK COSTUME PARADE

Reading is

Magic



BOOK WEEK COSTUME PARADE

Reading is

Magic



CLASSROOM Snapshots



Welcome To Class 102

Teacher:
Jess Keane

Recently, we visited the Moorabbin Air Museum as part of our History Inquiry Unit. Class 1.02 enjoyed exploring a variety of different commercial and warplanes, getting to play the part of passengers as well as experiencing the cockpit and controls of the aircraft. It was such an enjoyable day!



CLASSROOM

Snapshot

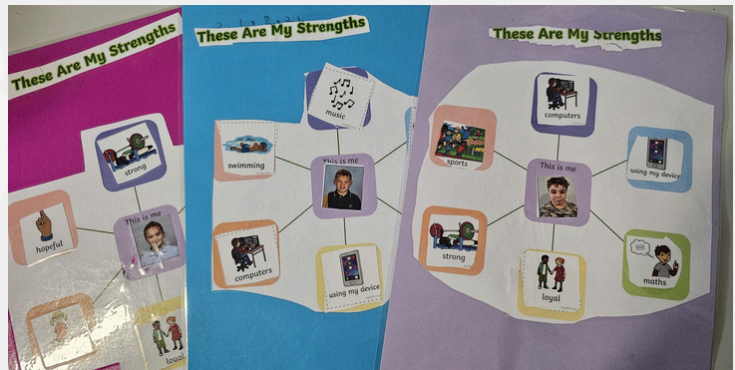
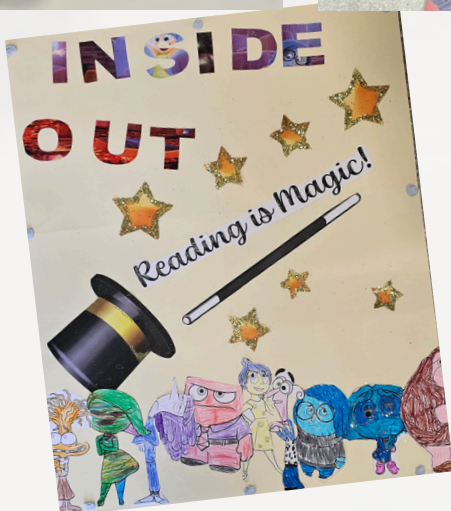
Welcome To Class 504



Classroom Teacher
Sarah Hobbs



This term, Classroom 5.04 have been focussing on the question, “How am I Unique?” We have introduced a yarning circle where students are invited to share their ideas and feelings in a non-judgemental and respectful manner. Students decorated their own yarning sticks using colored wool and looked at the history behind yarning circles from an Indigenous perspective. We have also been studying our new class text “An Aussie Year”, where we look at a year of celebrations and interests of 5 children and their dog.



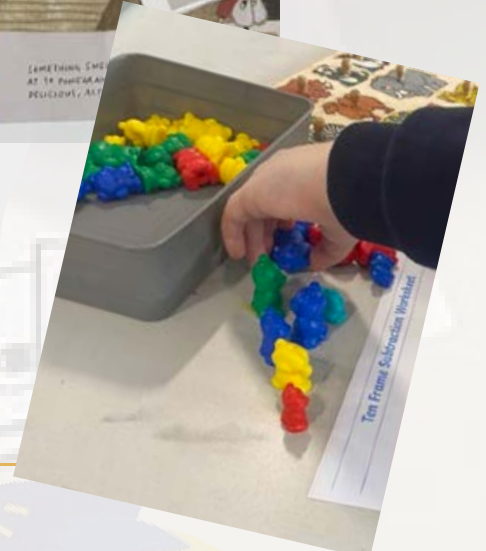
CLASSROOM Snapshots



Welcome To Class 502

Teacher:
Gayathri Almeida

In Term Three, 5.02 students have been busy engaging in a variety of hands-on activities. This term we are learning to be Historians. Students have been attending various activities to explore the concepts of 'Same' and 'Different'. We created 'Our Class Family Tree' including our baby and current photos. This encouraged students to compare their babyhood and teenage hood with visual and verbal prompts. At present, 5.02 students have been experimenting with different recipes mentioned in the Term 3 Inquiry-based story 'Lunch at 10 Pomegranate Street'. Furthermore, in writing, they are practising making sentences with PECS. In Maths the focus has been on mastering the concepts of sequencing, one-to-one correspondence, addition, and subtraction.



CLASSROOM

Snapshot

Welcome to Room 507

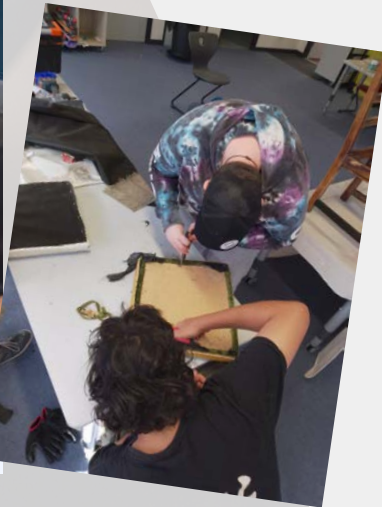
Classroom Teacher
Anissa Diaz



During our Thursday pathways programs, students have the opportunity to refurbish old furniture. Students are learning how to use different tools and are completing the safe@work modules, which is given them skills to be ready for work.

They have been very lucky to work with a professional maintenance person, who has volunteered to teach the students new skills.

We look forward to making old things to new products.



CLASSROOM Snapshots



Welcome To Class 703

Teacher:
Lance Cabigas

In Term 3, the class dove straight into their academics with a growing focus on mastering fundamental mathematical operations such as addition, subtraction, and money skills. We have also consistently practiced regrouping to enable us to calculate higher number problems. The students in 7.03 have also engaged consistently with our reading tasks in History-focused lessons. We have explored the different histories of animation, animals, and food.

The students have also joined in different activities to promote awareness and appreciation of the Aboriginal culture, such as our yarning circle at the beginning of the term. The class took turns to talk about their favourite memories as they contributed to a yarning stick which will be kept as a class.

Lacrosse has also been a focus for the class where they have been supported by the coach to learn and apply the fundamental skills of the sport.

During Literacy Week, the students joined a hero-themed scavenger hunt as well as an obstacle course. The students practiced whole-body movement to run through the course while also applying what they had learned from the lesson on the history of Marvel and its designs by searching for pictures of Marvel characters throughout the school.

Well done on such a strong performance for the term, 7.03!



LIBRARY

News

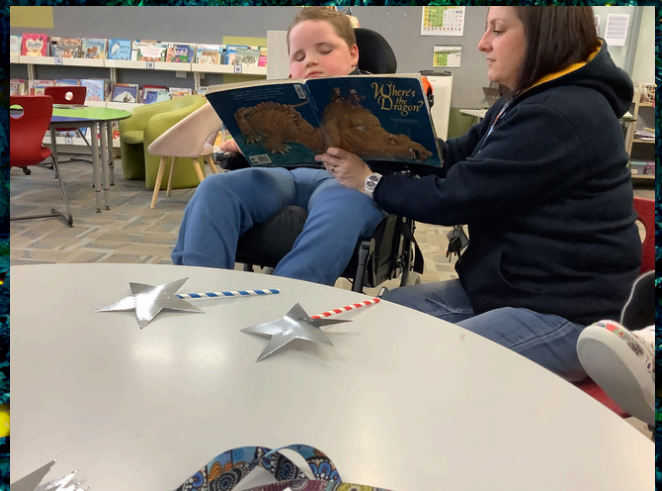


By - Amber Cron
Teacher

Last week the library was a magical place to read and learn.

From fairy wands to wizard wands, the students were carried away to dragons' lairs and other magical destinations.

We worked hard all week on Father's Day by sharing stories about the mums and dads out there and what a special day Father's Day is.



THERAPY CORNER

STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT COMMUNICATION

- Be sure to gain your child's attention before communicating with them. Say their name and wait until they look towards you or stop their activity.
- Please don't speak too fast. Give only keywords of an instruction. Some children may benefit from shorter sentences, for example, rather than saying "Come and sit down on your chair please", we could say "Sit on the chair" whilst pointing to the chair.
- When giving an instruction to a child, provide one step at a time. This increases your child's chance of remembering instructions and carrying them out successfully e.g. if you are telling them to "come and sit down on the chair, take your shoes off and put them by the door" it could be broken down into
 - **"Sit on a chair"**
 - **"Take off shoes"**
 - **"Put shoes by the door"**
- Use simple visual cues; such as gestures while you speak.
- Give your child time to process questions and instructions before you repeat them. Sometimes your child may require up to 30 seconds to process.
- Try not to always predict your child's needs, even if you know what they may want. Give them the opportunity to communicate their wants and needs.



CASEY BASKETBALL

By - Hayley Ayres



We have experienced a remarkable start to our Casey basketball season, enhanced by the addition of a significant number of new students to our teams. This growth has enabled us to field four basketball teams this year.

Our students have diligently worked to enhance their skills, improve teamwork, and consistently demonstrate exemplary sportsmanship. We are immensely proud of all four teams for their passionate and excellent representation of our school. I look forward to witnessing the continued success and development throughout the remainder of the season. Keep up the outstanding work.

Kids
Kite Festival



SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER 2024
RIPPLESIDE PARK
GEELONG
11AM - 2PM

www.kidsplus.org.au/kites



School Saving Bonus

Information for government school parents and carers

About the School Saving Bonus

The Victorian Government is making life that little bit easier for families by providing a one-off \$400 School Saving Bonus.

This support will help cover the cost of school uniforms, textbooks, and school activities like camps, excursions and sports.

The School Saving Bonus is in addition to existing and continuing means-tested supports for Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) and the Affordable School Uniforms Program.

The School Saving Bonus will be provided to schools and families in Term 4, 2024.

Who receives the School Saving Bonus

The School Saving Bonus is available for parents and carers of all Victorian government school students from Prep to Year 12 in 2025, except for full-fee international students, home schooled students, TAFE students and students attending kindergarten in 2025.

Actions for parents and carers

Parents and carers of children who meet the School Saving Bonus eligibility above are required to do the following by **Friday 18 October 2024**:

- **Complete enrolment**

If your child, or children are changing government school for Term 1 2025, or starting Prep or Year 7 in 2025, please complete enrolment. For more information, read about [Enrolling in School](#).

- **Check your contact information**

Ensure your contact information is up to date with your school. You can check this information by contacting your school directly.

Accessing the \$400 School Saving Bonus

You do not need to apply for the School Saving Bonus.

The Department of Education will email you in November 2024 with your \$400 School Saving Bonus. You will be able to access it via an online system.

You can decide how to best use the School Saving Bonus for your family's needs. You can choose how to allocate the \$400 in the online system.

The bonus can be used towards 2025 school costs, which may include:

- camps, trips, excursions and incursions
- swimming and sporting programs
- outdoor education programs
- graduations
- school uniforms
- textbooks.

The bonus can be used at your school's approved textbook or uniform suppliers either in-store or online, or through State Schools' Relief. The list of suppliers may include a school uniform or bookshop. Any amount that you choose to allocate to textbooks and uniforms will be valid until 30 June 2025. It will then transfer to your child's school account for future activities.

Funds will roll over for use in future years if it is not all spent in 2025.

Families with more than one eligible child

Families who have more than one child at the same school can combine their School Saving Bonus payments to use on one child, or for a specific activity. So, for example, a family with 3 children who are all government school students would receive support to the value of \$1,200 and choose how they spend those funds. The School Saving Bonus cannot be combined across different schools.

More information

To learn more about the School Saving Bonus visit vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus. Translated information will also be available on the School Saving Bonus website in the next few weeks.

Join us for an action
packed afternoon at...



Fusion

A social space for young
people to explore their
interests and make new
friends.



Every Monday from
14 October to 9 December,
3.30pm - 5.30pm.

Officer Community Hub
2 Parker Street, Officer.

For young people aged 12 -17 years.

For enquiries, phone
1800 4YOUTH (1800 496 884) or
email myplace@cardinia.vic.gov.au.



All Cardinia Youth Services
activities are fully supervised
drug, alcohol, vape and
smoke-free.



DO YOU QUALIFY FOR FREE HOME INTERNET?



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
- 2 They'll ask you some questions to see if this offer is right for you.
- 3 If you qualify, you'll get a voucher.
- 4 Use the voucher to connect through your chosen participating internet provider before 31 December 2024.



LEARN 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



An Australian Government Initiative





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.



**BERRY
STREET**

Cardinia Youth Services Spring School Holiday Program



Bookings for our Spring Teenage School Holiday Program are now open! Secure your place by scanning the QR code, phoning **1800 496 884** or visiting www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/tshp

Ice skating at Olympic Ice Skating Centre

Glide into fun and make memories on the ice rink.

Oakleigh South

Tues 24 Sep, 12pm - 2.30pm

Cost: \$15

Library lock in at Emerald Library

Join the Youth Services team for pizza and games – can you beat the staff?

Emerald Library, Emerald

Wed 25 Sep, 5pm - 7pm

Cost: Free

AFL footy day

Bring your competitive spirit and put those AFL skills to work.

My Place, Pakenham

Thurs 26 Sep, 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Cost: Free

Ceramic painting

Create personalised artwork keep sakes.

My Place, Pakenham

Mon 30 Sep, 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Cost: Free

Koo Wee Rup skate, scoot and BMX competition

Bring your good vibes and Skater skills for an afternoon of friendly competition.

Koo Wee Rup Skate Park

Tue 1 Oct, 11am - 3pm

Cost: Free

Hip Hop class

Join us for an afternoon of energetic hip hop dance moves.

My Place, Pakenham

Wed 2 Oct, 1.30pm - 3pm

Cost: Free

Spring sweet treats cooking class

Get ready to mix, stir and create some yummy treats.

My Place, Pakenham

Thurs 3 Oct, 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Cost: Free



All Cardinia Youth Services activities are fully supervised drug, alcohol, vape and smoke-free

myplace@cardinia.vic.gov.au
1800 4 YOUTH (1800 496 884)



Parents and Carers

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



Compass

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



