

ISSUE 1 | FEBRUARY 2024

10th
Anniversary
2014 2024

OSS NEWS

OFFICER SPECIALIST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



VETDSS COURSE AT CHISHOLM TAFE

**2024 SECONDARY DEPARTMENT
SAUSAGE SIZZLE AND EXPLORING POST
SCHOOL OPTIONS EXPO!**

www.officerss.vic.edu.au

**FIRST TWO
WEEKS IN 704!**

OSS NEWS

Officer Specialist School Newsletter

Contact Information.

Street Address.

3 Parker Street,
Officer, Vic. 3809



Phone:

03 5943 2800



eMail:

officer.ss@education.vic.gov.au



Webpage:

www.officerss.vic.edu.au

OSS News is the official Newsletter
of Officer Specialist School.

It is copyright protected and may
not be reproduced in any way.

All content is put together by the
amazing staff at Officer Specialist
School. The Newsletter is designed
and edited by Michael McCoy for
Officer Specialist School.



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

Welcome to 2024, Officer Specialist Community!

We would especially like to welcome our new students and new staff to our school.

Last week was a busy time with students settling into new classes and getting to know new staff.

Please remember that transitioning into a new classroom with new staff and classmates is not always easy for every child. The students are all doing very well and each class community is starting to settle into their routines with students understanding the expectations.

The Prep students have had a happy start to their school year. Tea and Tissues were available for parents and carers, and they were able to catch up with the leaders to check in there were more parent tears than Preppie tears!!

Thank you to all the parents and students who participated in the SSGs last week

COMMUNITY CONNECTION SESSIONS

We will be holding regular morning teas this year for families across the school to get together, chat with staff, and learn more about the school, programs, and any topics parents request.

Members of our PFA will also be there for you to meet. We would love to see new families be involved in our school via the Parents and Friends Association (PFA) too.

Our first session will be on Wednesday, March 6th, 9.00-10.30 am in the Common Room

Come along after you drop off the students and enjoy a chat, a cuppa, and some tasty treats.

We are looking forward to a great year at Officer.

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 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.

February

- **26th** School Reps presentation

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

April.

- **15th** - Term 2 Begins
- **25th** - Anzac Day
- **6th** - End Of term.

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

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

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 next issue.



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.

Independent Travel By Students

Dear Parents/Carers.

As you would be aware, with the increased number of cars now in the carpark and streets surrounding Officer Specialist School, the risks for pedestrians have increased. Students not travelling on the bus or accessing OSCH, must be either collected from their classroom or their allocated gate at the end of each day.

Students are not to leave the school grounds independently, without prior approval.

As part of Officer Specialist School travel education and duty of care responsibilities, the school is required to complete a full travel education assessment. Identifying any risks and supports needed to assist the student travel independently to their destination.

Any student who walks to parent/carers' cars in the carpark or adjoining streets, must have undertaken a Travel Education assessment

Travel Education

The aim is to promote independence and develop life skills in the preparation of students for future employment, study, and social opportunities.

The program covers:

- Journey Planning – Students learn about transitioning within the school, from school to home within the local community and transport in general, including public transport and how to plan and prepare for the journey.

- Behaving appropriately – Students explore and come to understand appropriate conduct and social norms in the context of travelling to different destinations.
- Staying safe – students learn how to avoid problems and manage unexpected situations.

*This training is an adaptation of the Students with Disabilities Transport Program – Travel Education Framework (Victorian Government).

Taking part in travel education

Your child's teacher will talk to you if they think your child should take part in travel education individually or as part of classroom curriculum.

About Travel Education assessment.

The assessment is conducted by a teacher or ES at Officer Specialist School. The assessment will consider; student competency, observations, practical travel tasks, problem solving skills, and environmental risks.

Once a student is assessed as ready to travel independently from school, both parents and students must sign a travel contract. This contract will indicate means of travel and agreed route. The contract will be reviewed regularly.

If you require further information on the Travel Education assessment process, please contact your child's Department Leader or Assistant Principal.

Regards

Karen Lewis

Assistant Principal

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.

Community Connection Mornings



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 cuppa
.....stay for the whole time or just a visit!





Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

All Government schools in Victoria have a School Council, consisting of Parent members and DET employee members.

At Officer Specialist School, we have four vacancies in the Parent electorate.

Parents and Guardians on School Councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

I hereby declare a Notice of Election and call for nominations for Officer Specialist School Council. Nominations are available from the school office and close at 4.00pm on Tuesday, 20th February 2024.

Important information about the roles and responsibilities of parents on the School Council is attached.

If you are interested in becoming involved on the School Council, please complete a nomination form by 4 pm on Tuesday, 20th February 2024.

Please do not hesitate to contact Helene Rowe on 5943 2800 if you require further information.

Thank you.

Kind regards,
Helene Rowe
Principal

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Continued.....



Fact sheet 1: school council elections – information for parents

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad direction of a school, in accordance with Ministerial Order 1280 Constitution of Government School Councils, and the Education and Training Reform Act 2006. In doing this, a school council may directly influence the quality of education for students.

Who is on the school council?

For most primary school councils, there are several possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected parent member category – members of this category generally comprise more than one third of the council's total membership. Department employees can be parent members at their child's school providing that they are not engaged in work at the school.
- A mandated elected school employee member category – members of this category make up no more than one-third of membership. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

- An optional community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experience. Department employees are not eligible to be community members.
- A small number of school councils have nominee members.
- For all schools with a Year 7 and above cohort, there is an additional category of membership:
- A mandated elected student member category, two positions.
- Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Indemnity for school council members

- School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in:
- The exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or
- The reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of power or the performance of a function of a council.
- In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by the council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP *Continued.....*

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations in Term 1 of each year. Council elections must be completed by 31 March, unless varied by the Minister for Education.

If you stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or, you can nominate yourself in the parent member category. You can only be nominated by another member of the same category that you are eligible for (e.g. a member of the parent electorate may only nominate another parent of that electorate).

Department employees with a child enrolled at a school where they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for parent membership at that school.

Return your completed nomination form to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt via post, email or by hand delivery.

Generally, if there are more nominations than vacancies a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.



Remember:

- Consider standing for election to the school council.
- Ask the principal for instructions if you are not sure what to do.
- Be sure to vote if the election goes to ballot.
- Contact the principal if you are unsure about what is required at any stage of the election process

How can you become involved?

By participating in, and voting in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.



The School Canteen

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 [Apple](#) or [Google](#) 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.

HOW TO REGISTER



WITH *flexischools*

- 1 Download the Flexischools app and select “[Register](#)”.
- 2 Type in your email and submit to create an account.
- 3 Go to your inbox and click the link to verify your email (remember to check your junk).
- 4 Follow the registration process, creating a password and adding your personal details.
- 5 Add your student under “[Profile](#)” and start ordering online!



Download Flexischools app

Annual Privacy Reminder For our School Community.

Quick Access To Both
Documents via QR Codes.



DIGITAL LEARNING 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*, (<http://tinyurl.com/4x8n7cdr>). 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



ALLIED HEALTH 2024

The Allied Health Team welcomes everyone back for 2024!
We hope you all had a fun and safe holiday and are ready for
another year of learning.

Please meet our Allied Health Team for 2024



CLASSROOM

Snapshot

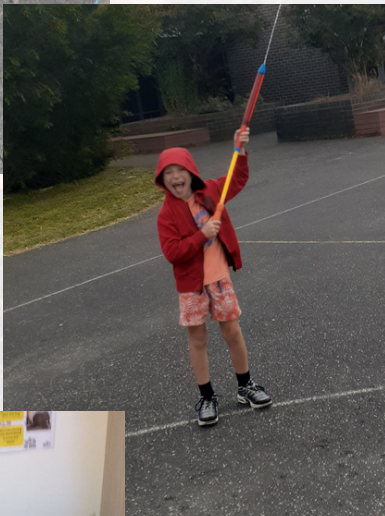


Classroom Teacher
Antony Zuccon

Welcome To Class 305

What a positive start to the year Class 305 has had!

We did some chalk outside of things that make them happy, we had '305' a house, car, tree, and family. We had a fun water activity during our beach theme involving water sprayers, we finished the day with a calming name-coloring activity based on the sea and ocean. We enjoyed Pancake Day, each student got to cut up strawberries and bananas, mix their pancake batter, and cook their pancakes. We're looking forward to an amazing term!



Water Play in 305

CLASSROOM

Snapshot



**Classroom Teacher
Mel Valenzuela**

Welcome To Class 407

The students in room 4.07 have settled back into school routine, following the holidays, and are loving their new classroom. We have been focussing on getting to know you activities, as well as being busy discussing our school values. Focussing on one value each day of week two, with the last day putting these values to practice out in the community. All students walked with their buddies to the park following road safety rules. They all had a ball exploring the play equipment, especially the flying fox, and displayed all the school values.

This year our class is venturing into trialing a new program called ASDAN (Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network) This will be looking at independent living skills and using our new area kitchen and living room, for the students to practice their skills. The students have participated in many tasks so far, such as matching socks and folding them, using the dust buster to vacuum up any mess on the carpet, cleaning their tables at the end of the day, loading the dishwasher, and making their sandwiches.

..... *Continued Next Page*



CLASSROOM

Classroom 407 Continued.

Classroom Teacher Mel Valenzuela



Students will get the opportunity in the weeks to come to experience travel training, heading to the local supermarket, and purchasing food items. These items will be used when the students follow a recipe to make a particular edible item. Students will have a choice of whether to eat the item they have made or take it home to share with their families.

All students are experiencing social eating situations by coming together with two other classrooms to eat their morning tea and lunch at the table in the kitchen or living room. They are learning to use the sandwich press to heat up their sandwiches to make them a toasties and using the microwave to heat up leftover meals.

We had a very special 18th Birthday for Lily last week and celebrated her turning 18 with a party in the classroom.

Hope you enjoy our photos!



Travel Training With 407

CLASSROOM

Snapshot



Classroom Teachers
Sally Cooper & Fiona Hart

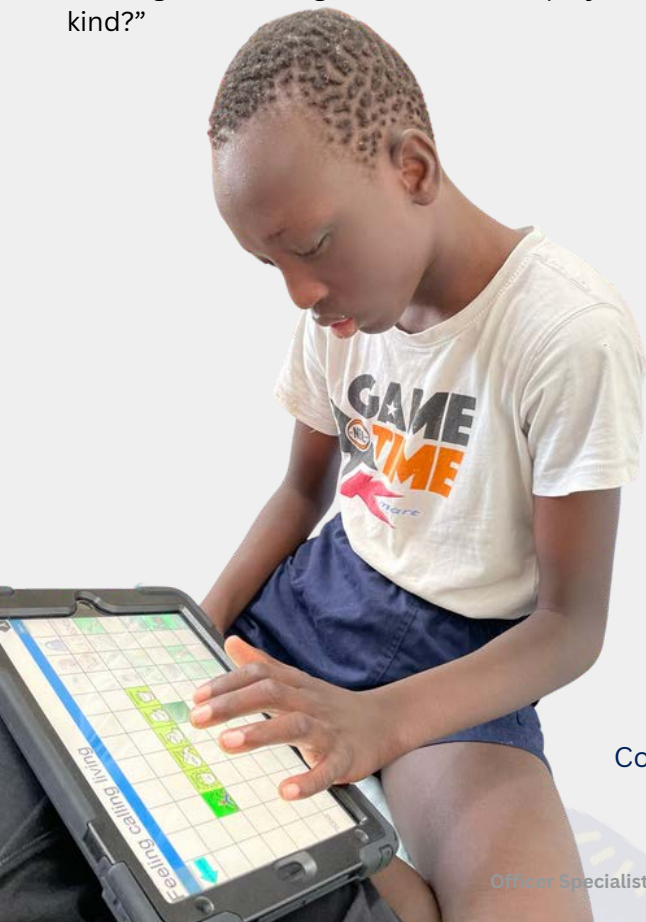


Welcome To Class 402

The 2024 school year has begun and the students in 4.02 have been exploring a range of fun, new “getting to know you” classroom activities. Students have enjoyed discovering the new sensory spaces and activities. There are new staff and new students in the classroom and it is lovely to see how quickly everyone has settled in and how comfortable everyone is in our classroom!

This term our learning is focused on communicating using our picture visuals (PECS) and communication devices LAMP. Our students are keen to access LAMP and hear how different words sound on the iPad.

Our focused learning text is ‘Kindness Makes Me Strong’ by Sophia Beer. Our students will be supported to participate in a range of activities that link to the story and our school values. Students from 4.02 will be working on creating a classroom display titled “Who is kind?”



Communicating
With Ruon

CLASSROOM

Snapshot



Classroom Teacher
Sonal Kaur

Welcome To Class 704



The First Two Weeks in 704

The first few weeks of class have been incredibly engaging and productive! It's wonderful to see that the students of Class 7.04 have settled well into the classroom environment and have actively participated in various activities to get to know each other better.

The completion of the "All About Me" project was a fantastic way for our students to share their interests and preferences, fostering a sense of community and understanding among classmates. Additionally, social time with students from other classrooms helps in building relationships beyond their immediate peer group, promoting inclusivity and a broader social network.

The Beach Theme Party was a fantastic event that offered a mix of fun activities, including water play, beach volleyball, a picnic, and coloring activities. Providing such diverse experiences not only makes learning enjoyable but also strengthens bonds among students as they engage in shared experiences.

Overall, it's evident that the first two weeks have been filled with opportunities for students to connect, collaborate, and enjoy themselves in the classroom. This positive start sets a great foundation for a successful and enriching academic year ahead.



CLASSROOM

Snapshot



Classroom Teachers
Maija Gusts

Welcome To Class 402

510 has had a great start to 2024!

We have already been busy working on our VPC projects planning trips out into the community exploring our personal goals about work and everyday life and building on our strengths.

Students have also begun exploring the senior pathways options by participating in the Hospitality Program.

All the students enjoyed and worked hard in the busy kitchen to prepare meals for their peers and staff.

On their first day they made toasted sandwiches and hot chocolates for the morning session, and hot chips and salad rolls in the middle session.

510 is looking forward to undertaking surf lifesaving later this month and continuing to build their friendship circles and working academically.

Well done and let's keep working hard and having fun!



Creating Amazing Lego

VET at Chisholm TAFE

VETDSS Course at Chisholm

Adam Marchant

We are excited to share that we have our first group of students enrolled in a VETDSS Course at Chisholm TAFE completing the Certificate II in Computer Building! Last week, the boys attended their orientation day where they were introduced to their new classroom and teacher and even got their official student ID cards. The VETDSS course is run in conjunction with their school pathways program where they attend TAFE one day a week. As you can see from the photos, the boys are already making full use of the TAFE Café and student recreation area.





OFFICER SPECIALIST SCHOOL EXPO 2024

Exploring 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.**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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



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

2024 SECONDARY DEPARTMENT SAUSAGE SIZZLE AND EXPLORING POST SCHOOL OPTIONS EXPO

Continued.....

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.



The Expo is also open to students & 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.





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

This event cannot be live streamed



Communities for Children is an initiative supported by the Australian Government

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

