Kidsmatter: Harmony Day

Harmony Day is held each year on 21 March. It’s a day to celebrate our cultural diversity. It’s about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

The message of Harmony Day is **everyone belongs**!

As part of our Kidsmatter program and to support Harmony Day, our students this week worked with their buddy class on a variety of activities that aimed to recognise diversity in our school community. Posters that depicted similarities and differences between cultures were made and displayed in classrooms. At Parkhill, we are proud to say that we have 21 different cultures in our school community each one of them unique and vital to our community. Parkhill is a wonderful example of how we can all live together in harmony!

**Foundation students go fulltime in Term 2:**

Our Foundation students, commencing in Term 2, will attend school full time.

**Student Free days: Monday 11 and Tuesday 12 April**

A reminder that the first 2 days of Term 2 will be student free days. On Monday 11 and Tuesday 12 April staff will be attending a 2 day workshop which will launch the International Baccalaureate – Primary Years Program at Parkhill. This is an exciting time for our school and I look forward to informing our community of our progress over the coming years. Ms Brady, our PYP coordinator, will be holding further information sessions throughout the year, so please keep an eye out for dates, alternatively please feel free to make a time with either myself or Ms Brady at any time to answer any queries you may have.

Osh Club is looking for enrolments on these days and will go ahead if there are enough numbers.

**Staffing:**

In Term 2, Mrs Moorhouse will be reducing her teaching days to 4 days due to family commitments. In wishing her well at this time, I am pleased to welcome back to Parkhill Mrs Carlie Eriksen who will be returning from Family Leave. Mrs Eriksen is well known to Parkhill families who have had siblings move through the school in past years. Mrs Eriksen is a very experienced and well respected member of staff and I know that our 4M students will benefit greatly from Mrs Eriksen’s experience. Mrs Eriksen will work in 4M on Fridays for the remainder of the year.

**Reading together is still important after children start school**

I recently came across a great article that I wanted to share with you all that reinforces the importance of reading with your children on a daily basis.

Parents who stop reading to their children once they reach primary school are missing out on an emotionally rich time and could also miss out on the benefits of reading aloud in old age, a
literacy expert has said.

Comments from Professor Bridie Raban, at the University of Melbourne’s Graduate School of Education, come as a Galaxy poll of 1200 Australian parents found that just 23 per cent of parents read to their child every day. The poll found that 40 per cent of parents of toddlers and preschoolers read every day to their child, but this dropped to 24 per cent by the early primary school years. Just four per cent read daily to their child by the time they were aged 9 to 12 years.

Parents blamed making dinner and doing housework (19 per cent), work (12 per cent) and tiredness (12 per cent) for skipping the nightly read with their child.

“When children come home from school the pressure is on to get things done,” Professor Raban said. “But reading is different. It isn’t like you read a bedtime story across the room. It is done in close proximity and reading a book to a child is an emotional arena – it is very intense,” she said. “Children grow up quickly and when they leave home it is done. Reading a book together extends that period of closeness well beyond the preschool years,” she said.

The parents surveyed were worried about reading. Half believed reading was the most important skill for a child to learn. Nearly one-third of the parents surveyed felt guilty or a sense they had let their child down when they did not read to them.

Up to 83 per cent wanted their child to read more and one in five believed their child was reading less than they did at the same age.

Professor Raban said some parents believed that when a child went to school they no longer needed to read aloud to their child but she said reading aloud in old age was found to help with diseases like Alzheimer’s disease. “Reading is not like learning to kick a football or swing a golf club, it is a life-long experience,” she said.

Nine out of 10 parents encouraged their children to read. One in 10 said they bribed their children to read with lollies and money but the most common incentive was giving children books as gifts (64 per cent). Professor Raban said bribery was all right as it was part of how children learned to negotiate. She said the trick was to make reading together a treat rather than punitive. “That’s how families are. If it isn’t books it will be something else,” she said.

Theresa Collignon, general manager of the Smith Family in NSW and the ACT, said literacy foundations were built in the primary and early secondary school years.

“Research identifies a clear link between the development of good literacy and numeracy skills at an early age and higher levels of educational achievement, employability, higher earnings and social participation later in life,” she said.

Despite the bells and whistles of digital books, 86 per cent of Australian children preferred a traditional book.

Reading tips

Make reading part of the daily routine. Make a bedtime story something to look forward to.

Read regularly yourself.

Join a local library.

Read books on different topics and find themes that interest your kids.
Play word and word association games.
Talk with your child: it builds communication skills, vocabulary and increases confidence.

The article was written by Deborah Gough and published in the Sydney Morning Herald on August 27th, 2013.


**Last day of Term 1: Casual Clothes Day Thursday 24 March**

Thursday 24 March is the last day of term and the timetable for the day will be slightly different.

- **9am – 1.00pm** Normal timetable
- **1.50 – 2.20pm** Whole school assembly
  - (including announcement of Easter raffle winners)
- **2.30pm** Students dismissed from their classrooms.
  - The Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) program commences at 2.30pm on the last day of term.

Dear Parents,

Thursday 24 March is the last day of Term 1. The timetable for the day will be slightly different.

**9.00am – 1.00pm** Normal timetable

**1.50 – 2.20pm** Whole school assembly
  - (including announcement of Easter raffle winners)

**2.30pm**

Students dismissed from their classrooms,

The Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) program commences at 2.30pm on the last day of term.

Regards,

Rod McKinlay
Principal

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**TERM 1 Working Bee**

**Sunday 20 March 2016**

**10.00am – 1.30pm**

*BBQ lunch supplied*

Focus:

Prep/Foundation area

... meet new families - "working" play date!

Many garden tools supplied, bring the kids!

BYO - garden gloves & secateurs, karchers & blowers, plant donations welcomed.
TWILIGHT SPORTS
TUESDAY 15TH MARCH 2016
ANOTHER FUN COMMUNITY EVENT AT PARKHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL
President: Vanessa Cowley  
Vice President: Donna Edwards  
Treasurer: Sumi Sundram  
Secretary: Wendy Douglas  

General Members: Katrina Battle, Joanne Dodds, Lisa Jacobsen, April Minniece and Anny Murray.

### Calendar of events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 18th March</td>
<td>Raffle tickets and money due back to school office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 21st March</td>
<td>Hot Cross Bun orders due back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 24th March</td>
<td>Easter Raffle – to be drawn at Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 13th April</td>
<td>PFA Committee Meeting – any parent is welcome to attend.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 15th April</td>
<td>Parkhill Parent Get Together – see details below!</td>
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### Easter Raffle – Don’t miss your chance to buy tickets!

Raffle tickets for the Easter Raffle are due back to the office with money on **Friday 18th March**. Don’t miss out! We have some great prizes this year including a hamper donated by the Corner Deli!

### Hot Cross Buns – Orders Due back by Monday 21st March!

It’s not too late to order some scrumptious Hot Cross Buns in time for Easter. Order envelopes have been sent out with students. $2.50 from every 6-pack ordered will be donated back to the school. The buns will be distributed from 3pm on Wednesday 22nd March.

### Parent Get Together

We will be having a Parent Get Together on Friday April 15th (first week of Term 2) at The Rosstown Hotel in Carnegie (front bar) from 7:30pm. Please lock it into your diaries now – if you have any questions, feel free to contact April Minniece on 0414 525 905.

### A HUGE Thank you!

The PFA AGM was held last week and several members stepped down after many years of dedicated service. On behalf of the PFA executive I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing members. Anny has served tirelessly as President for the past five years and Parkhill would be a very different place without her invaluable contribution. Lisa and Joanne - you have both worked so hard as Treasurer and Secretary and have donated so much of your time to making sure everything is in order and running smoothly. We are delighted that you have all accepted the nomination to be general members this year and will be sticking around to continue helping out.

Vanessa Cowley  
PFA President
**Thank you**

Thank you to Sophie Kost & Lisa Hore for bringing equipment to clean the Foundation concrete area.

**Administration**

**CSEF monies have started to come through.**

Please check with the office before making any payments on your accounts.

Also, a reminder to send an email advising of your payments when paying via BPay. BPay can only be used for family accounts in regard to school fees & curriculum & NOT fundraising, uniform etc...

A reminder for those who chose the payment plan option with fees, that due to Department of Education and Training regulations we are not to keep credit card numbers on file.

We had asked that you do make your payments on the 15th of February, March, April & May or until **all fees are paid in full.**

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**Reminder that all months of the year with an “R” are the months that students must wear HATS.**

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**Administration:**

Thank you to those who have made the necessary changes to their children’s details for Tiqbiz and Canteen Orders. To keep up to date with classroom & school activities you must have the correct Year levels chosen.

- ‘Tick’ the correct Year on Tiqbiz for your child/ren’s 2016 classes.
- Change your child/ren’s Year on Flexi Schools & Classroom Cuisine.
- Account Payments - Please call the office before making any payments on your account.
Chaplain's Corner

Being a parent isn’t always easy, sure it can be delightful at times, challenging and absolutely worth it but it is probably also the hardest thing I’ve ever done.

Recently I have become aware of just how judgemental parents can be. I would see a quirky child, that doesn’t fit the cookie cutter mould that society would like, then I would notice the effect that could have on their parents. It would really start to get them down, the name calling, the judgy looks and comments from other parents, the difficulties that child has in always doing what’s expected of him or her at school. So how do you overcome that?

Articles that tell you everything you might have done wrong since before they were born don’t help because you know what? Whether we got it right or wrong in the past we can’t go back there and change it, we can’t have a “do over”, we’ve only got now. It’s like that old saying; the best time to plant an apple tree was 20 years ago, the second best time to plant it is today. So focus on what you can do something about and let go of worrying about the things in the past you can’t change and stop beating yourself up over it. No parent gets it 100% right, no matter how amazing or well intentioned.

Realise there is no magic wand, parenting is hard work and takes perseverance. Keep on guiding, shaping, correcting. But also be wise enough to know when something is just quirky or when it might need a bit more targeted help. School staff can be a great resource having professional knowledge of and experience working with children, it can be easier for a teacher than a parent to identify that a child is doing something that’s not developmentally appropriate and where they might benefit from some additional help. As a staff, we are also well placed to know where to refer you to. If in doubt ask!

Two final things. The first, surround yourself with positive uplifting people that can see the best in you and your kids, there’s nothing like encouragement and positive perspective to help you realise you are actually doing a good job. It’s always lovely when someone else sees the positives in our children and strive to be an encourager of other people’s children as well as your own!

Secondly accept your children for who they are not who you think they should be. When I really stop and think about it some of my most favourite people on the planet are the ones who are comfortable in their own skin, they are not afraid to be who they are no matter how quirky and unique they may be and they make an incredible contribution to the world around them because of it. What a privilege to raise someone like that!

Suzanne Carmody
Hello Families,

We hope you enjoyed the long weekend with rest and relaxation. The program has had a new Ikea delivery and the children have loved helping to build the furniture together. The children have learnt to follow instructions, double check pieces and when putting in screws ‘lefty loosy, righty tighty’

CURRICULUM DAY
Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th April are school Curriculum days, so we would like to offer OSH-Club services on these days. We will open at 7am and run till 6pm, the cost depending on your CCB/CCR entitlements will range from $13.56 - $52.50 per child. To book please log in to your online account at www.oshclub.com.au and book under the AFTER SCHOOL CARE tabs.

Just a reminder that as it is Term 1 its time to ‘Slip Slop Slap!’ Please make sure your child brings a hat to the OSHClub program. It does not need to be a school hat. We have a “No Hat, No Outside Play” Policy. OSHClub provides sun cream however if your child is allergic to a particular type of sun cream please inform us at the program.

Please remember to book your child online through our website 24 hrs before the session to be attended. Sometimes this is not possible so please call our program phone 0422 008 915 and leave a message. We appreciate online bookings so we can adequately prepare food and activities.

Have a great day,
Bec and Mastoora

Parent Information

OSHC program phone: 0422 008 915
Coordinator: Rebecca French
Assistant: Mastoora Samad
OSHClub Head Office: 03 85649000
BSC: 07:00-08:45
ASC: 15:30-18:00

All families must be enrolled to attend the program, remember this is Free!! Please create an account online at www.oshclub.com.au all bookings and cancellations can also be managed via your online account. For on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program.

Please ensure all enrolment details are up to date, in particular contact details and any medical/allergy advice. Term 1 and 4: No hat/No outdoor play. Please ensure your children have a hat. It is not required to be a school hat. If they attend regularly, these can be kept on site. We provide sunscreen. If your child has any sunscreen allergies, this will need to be provided from home.
ASHBURTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

GRAND FAIR

Visit the Ashburton Primary School Grand Fair on Sunday 20th March 10am - 4pm
A great Family day out - with over 30 stalls, fun rides and lots of activities.
A huge 2nd hand goods stall with toys, clothing, books and lots more.
Check out our fantastic Silent Auction, great food and drinks, music,
free entertainment and lots of other activities to keep the children entertained!
UNLIMITED ride wristbands can be purchased through TryBooking.
Book online now at www.trybooking.com.au/CPU
Contact 9885 2559 or www.ashburtonps.vic.edu.au/grand-fair
Like us on www.facebook.com/APSGrandFair

Hi, I’m Bruce!
Come and meet me on
Sunday 20th March 2016
between 10am - 4pm

FAKENHAM RD, ASHBURTON - www.ashburtonps.vic.edu.au
Story Time

Come and let your child experience our friendly, safe and stimulating environment.

Time:
2:15 - 3:15pm

Dates:
Thurs 19th May
Thurs 16th June
Thurs 14th July
Thurs 18th Aug
Thurs 15th Sept

Parents are welcome to stay and join in a “School Tour” with our Principal, Rod McKinlay.

Parkhill Drive, Ashwood VIC 3147
Ph: 9807 2239  Web: www.parkhillps.vic.edu.au
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
• $125 for primary school students
• $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY
Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION
For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

School Name      School REF ID

Parent/legal guardian details
Surname________________________________________
First name________________________________________
Address________________________________________
Town/suburb________________________________________ State__________ Postcode__________
Contact number_________________________ Centrelink pensioner

 OR

[ ] Foster parent [ ] Veterans affairs pensioner

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Student details

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<tr>
<th>Child's surname</th>
<th>Child's first name</th>
<th>Student ID</th>
<th>Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)</th>
<th>Year level</th>
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I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

• DHS will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.

• this consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.

• I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DHS and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.

• if I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.

• information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and /or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant________________________________________ Date__________________
Ashwood Junior Football Club

Sign up for junior footy!

The Ashwood under 8’s are looking for boys & girls to join their team.

✓ Modified rules with a focus on safety.
✓ Great supportive and family environment
✓ Opportunity to develop skills & participate in a team sport

Were you born in 2008 or will you be 7 as at the 30th April? Yes – Then you can sign up.

Join a great football club & get that team feeling!

- Training Wednesday @ Essex Heights oval 5 – 6pm.
  - (Come along tonight to see what it is like)
- Games Sunday Morning

For further enquires please contact Dale Wain on 0419 166 300 or visit the website

www.junior.ashwoodfc.com.au

Games commence April 17th

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Ashwood Auskick

Essex Heights Reserve, Outlook Rd, Mt Waverley

Saturday mornings, 9.30 - 11.00 am

Starts - Saturday 16 April 2016

visit the website below to find more information

and the link to our club to register online

AFLAUSKICK.COM.AU

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Parents

NAB AFL Auskick is a great way for kids to have fun, make friends and learn skills of Australian Football.

Through weekly coaching sessions with our passionate coaches and coordinators, your child will be part of a great team, learning new skills and playing non-contact AFL games.

Each participant will receive an awesome benefits pack full of gear when they join.

CREATE MEMORIES THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME.

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To register for NAB AFL Auskick, follow these simple steps online:

1. Visit aflauskick.com.au
2. Enter your postcode in the centre locator
3. Select the centre you would like to attend
4. Complete the registration process
Kinder Open Day
Sat 19th March
10am – 12noon

Positions available:
- 4yo Long Day Kinder
- 4yo Long Day Kinder & Sessional Kinder
- 3yo Long Day Care with Kinder program

Ashwood Children’s Centre Inc.
8 Yooralla St, Ashwood
Not for profit Kinder and Long Day Care Service. Tel: 9807 9417