



# Portland North Primary School

## Newsletter

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February, Term 1 | Week 2

**Principal: Cate Elshaug**

**BSB: 063-536 ACCOUNT#: 1006 1314**

**PHONE: 03 5523 1482 ADDRESS: 42 School Road, Portland, Vic, 3305**

**EMAIL: portland.north.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au WEBSITE: www.portlandnorthprimary.com.au**

## PNPS Calendar

 **School arrival time: 8:40**  
(earlier by arrangement with Cate)

**Friday 16th February**  
**New Families Welcome**  
- 2:30pm  
**Followed by our 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Assembly for 2024 at**  
**3:10pm**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February**  
**Family Engagement Night**  
- 6:15pm to 7:30pm

**Monday 11th March**  
**LABOUR DAY**  
**School Closed**

**13th - 25th March**  
**Naplan Testing**  
- Years 3 and 5

**Thursday 28th March**  
**Athletic Sports Day**  
**LAST DAY OF TERM**

*Reminder:*

**NO Hat  
NO Play**

Hats can be purchased at  
the office for \$7

## Welcome Everyone



We wish you all a very warm welcome back to school in 2024. We hope the children have all come home from school after this first couple of weeks full of positivity and enthusiasm, and that you feel welcome and included as we start another busy year.

The children have all settled into their new classes very well. There is a wonderful sense of calm right across the school, and the children are already learning and playing very well together. Each class is currently working very hard to develop a learning environment that inspires a strong sense of belonging for everyone; that feels safe and secure; that is orderly and well organised; and is productive and positive. We are looking forward to a wonderful year of learning and growing together.

You can also look forward to **receiving a newsletter at the beginning of each term from both the Junior and Senior school teams**, which will outline the learning focus for the term, any key events coming up and any details you need to know about the team's processes and routines. We will also continue to **communicate with families via Compass, Seesaw and email or phone, as necessary. It is important for your own sense of belonging and connection to our school** that you keep up with communications, so you know what's happening and why, and how you can engage with us as partners in your child's education.



**1/2B are VERY excited to  
be back at school!**



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We ended the year with a very positive School Review Report, which is available to anyone who would like to read it. It will be tabled and discussed at the first School Council meeting for the year and will form part of our Annual Report to the community later in the term. **In summary, we had a very successful review and have a great deal to be proud of.** The panel have made several recommendations for our continued improvement, which include:

- High impact teaching strategies within agreed instructional models.
- Formative assessment, with a focus on improving responsiveness of teaching across all classes.
- Organisational resilience through succession planning and capability-building.
- Parents and carers as partners, with a focus on promoting regular attendance.

These recommendations will form part of our 2024 – 2027 School Strategic Plan, which is currently under development. However, a key goal is to **strengthen our approach to family engagement**, which has already led to some innovations for the year. We look forward to welcoming you to school on **February 21<sup>st</sup> for our first in a series of family events**, aimed at strengthening our partnering relationships and the ways we work together to support every child's wellbeing and learning progress. Invitations came home with the children during the week, and we also invited you via a Compass post, which includes more details about how the evening will proceed. **Please contact the office if you missed the invitation or would like more details.**



## (CSEF) Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund

The CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you hold a means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF.

To be eligible, cards need to be current on 19/01/2024. The annual CSEF amount for primary school student is \$125.

### How to Apply (by 28/6/2024)

Contact the school office ASAP to obtain a CSEF application form or download from [www.educaton.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.educaton.vic.gov.au/csef) If you applied for the CSEF at this school in 2023 you do not need to complete an application form in 2024 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

**You only need to complete an application form** if any of the following changes have occurred:

- New student enrolments – if your child has started or changed schools in 2023 or you did not apply in 2023.
- Changed family circumstances – such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2024.

**Please see or call Kerry or Di in the office for all enquiries**



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### Finally, to get our year started smoothly, we have a few 'housekeeping' reminders:

- **School uniform** – we really appreciate your support in keeping all children compliant with our uniform policy. We know children like to stray outside the expectations if they're allowed to, which then makes it challenging for us to manage. A copy of our Uniform guidelines are included in our Information Booklet and are available at the office if you're not certain about our uniform expectations. Some of the items that seem to have crept in but are not in our guidelines, include bike shorts (which are fine under dresses but not on their own), black leggings, hoodie tops, black sports shorts and some very random hats. Again, we really appreciate your support in keeping our uniforms looking nice. If you have any concerns about uniform or have some feedback to offer, we encourage you to be in touch.
- **Mobile devices** – in compliance with Department of Education policy, all mobile phones and cellular smart watches are required to be kept in the office during the school day. *While I recognise that smart watches can be made 'dormant' during the day, I would appreciate a quick conversation with families whose children have smart watches, so we're all on the same page about their use during the school day.*
- **Assembly** – thank you so much for your contribution to our school assembly survey, we were very keen to get your feedback about the most suitable time for the majority of you. Friday afternoon at 3:10 was overwhelmingly the most popular vote, so our first assembly for 2024 will be next **Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:10**. It will include a formal welcome to our 2024 prep children and their families, so we invite you all to join us.
- **Welcome to new families** – we invite our 2024 prep families, and all other families who have recently joined us, to **afternoon tea hosted by our Parents Club at 2:30 on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February**, and to then join us for our first assembly for the year.
- **School Fees** – the 2024 fees schedule was sent home with reports at the end of 2023, and they are now payable. We have always had a very high level of financial contribution from our families at Portland North, which has been vital in allowing us to provide high quality resources, programs and opportunities for our children. **We would really appreciate your support in continuing to provide us with the additional funds we need to maintain an outstanding educational experience for all children.**
- **School Council** - We currently have 4 vacancies on School Council and invite anyone interested in joining School Council to collect a nomination form from the office. As per the election guidelines, if we have more than 4 nominations, we will conduct an election. Nominations close on Friday February 23rd, 2024.

Thank you,  
Cate



# Our First Week of School

Our little musicians in 1/2W



LOVING IT!



Prep S are all smiles!!



1/2B ready to start their PE lesson!



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### Our First Week of School

3/4A cooking up a storm in SAKGP.



AMAZING!



4/5K enjoying their quiet independent reading time.



Leading the way in 5/6R, working on writing skills.





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### PREP REST DAYS

Our newest PNPS students are settling into school beautifully, while they adjust to their new school routines, they will have rest days on Wednesday to recharge and finish out their week.

- Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Feb
- Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Wed 6<sup>th</sup> March

CONGRATULATIONS

On a **FANTASTIC** start to school here at PNPS Preps!

We are SO proud of you!



### PNPS Student Appreciation Awards

Trust    Forgiveness    Integrity    Honesty

PREP

3/4

Cate

1/2 W

5/6 R

5/6 R

STARTING WEEKS 2 & 3

This week I offer my appreciation to:



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# NOTICEBOARD

**DON'T FORGET**

**SCHOLASTIC**

**Book Club**

orders are due:  
**15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**JUNIOR BASKETBALL**

**REGO NOW OPEN**

Portland Junior Basketball  
Autumn 2024 Season  
Season commences week of 19th Feb

More info and registration link:  
[www.portlandbasketball.com.au/domestic](http://www.portlandbasketball.com.au/domestic)

**WeSupportYou**  
Disability Services

- Weekly social group - Sporting comps
- Community access - Monthly camps
- Capacity building - Respite care

**Exciting upcoming programs:**

**Sat Feb 3rd - Portland Community Gardens**  
Come and celebrate the Portland Community Garden's 10th birthday. WeSupportYou are proud members of the gardens.

**Sat Feb 10th - All Abilities Surf Day**  
Learn to surf with specialised equipment inc beach wheelchairs, custom boards and surf bean bags.

**Fri 23rd-Sun 25th - Halls Gap Camp**  
Camping or Holiday home accommodation, campfire cooking, hiking, mini golf and waterholes.

For more info head to  
[www.wesupportyou.com.au](http://www.wesupportyou.com.au)

**Contact Us :**  
0431 768 511  
admin@wesupportyouservices.com



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Please ring the office if you would like to advertise a business, we have two spots available...



# THANK YOU!

A sincere thank you to our local sponsors for their ongoing support. Their contributions enhance our school community.

We encourage families to explore the high-quality services offered by these businesses.

## FINWASTE SOUTH WEST

*Phillip and Lisa Newton*

Commercial & domestic rubbish removal, green waste and party bin hire

☎ 0419 324 664

☎ 03 5526 5455

✉ [finwaste@optusnet.com.au](mailto:finwaste@optusnet.com.au)




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