



**NEWSLETTER August 12<sup>th</sup> 2021 Volume 1 Issue 23**  
**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

*"I'd like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land upon which we meet today, the Gunai Kurnai land and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging as well as any Aboriginal people here with us today"*

Important Calendar dates				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<b>9</b> Musical Rehearsal <b>Everyone until 4.15pm</b>	<b>10</b> 3/4 SM swimming	<b>11</b> Musical Rehearsal <b>ALL Principals NEW TIME 2.15-4.15pm</b>	<b>12</b> 3/4 SM swimming	<b>13</b> 3/4 SM swimming <b>Western Valley Basketball</b>
<b>16</b> Musical Rehearsal <b>Everyone until 4.15pm</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Western Valley Athletics</b>	<b>18</b> Musical Rehearsal <b>ALL Principals NEW TIME 2.15-4.15pm</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>23</b> Musical Rehearsal <b>Everyone until 4.15pm</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Musical Rehearsal <b>ALL Principals NEW TIME 2.15-4.15pm</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Book Week</b>	<b>27</b>

**Breakfast Club Monday-Thursdays 8.00am-8.30am in the BER building.**

**WE WANT OUR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS/GUARDIANS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!**

Our school is conducting a survey to find out what parents/caregivers/guardians think of our school. The Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Opinion Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education and Training that is conducted amongst a sample of randomly selected parents/caregivers/guardians (previously known as the Parent Opinion Survey). It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour, student engagement and experiences of remote and flexible learning. Our school will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies.

All parents will be invited to participate in this year's survey. All responses to the survey are anonymous. This year, the Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Opinion Survey will be conducted from **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.**

Please login to Compass to access the survey link and school PIN to complete your survey. The more families who participate, the better!

The survey will be conducted **online**, only takes **20 minutes** to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time within the fieldwork period on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones. The online survey will be available in a range of languages other than English. These include: Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Chin (Hakha), Hindi, Japanese, Somali, Turkish, Punjabi and Greek.

**A word from Mrs Skee...**

**WELCOME BACK** everyone! This seems to be a greeting that I have used quite a bit recently with our call to remote and flexible learning and then subsequent returns to onsite learning, but it is one that I am always pleased to use! The staff and I are always excited when we hear the announcements about these returns and being able to get back to what we do best – teach our **AWESOME** students and provide them with an engaging and inclusive place to learn. I want to also thank all of our phenomenal parents and carers who have supported their children in the best way possible, and have made the returns back to onsite learning as seamless as they possibly can. We know that each student will greet this return with different levels of enthusiasm, but I encourage you all to continue to focus on the positives in front of your child and praise them for the efforts that they are making each morning as they prepare for their day.

This week we have had some exciting developments in our inclusive playground work.

As you are aware Nick Walsh and I were successful in our application to secure \$30,000 for new inclusive playground equipment. This application really was a team effort, with Students, staff, families and support agencies writing letters to further enhance our application. On Tuesday Nick and I met with leading advisors commissioned by the Department of Education Building Authority to get some advice to how best develop this playground. We hope to share these preliminary plans with our school community in the coming weeks.

### **Paying it forward locally...**

On Tuesday, Bill Pace and Colin Morris took a trip to TM&H Mitre 10 Moe to purchase a new



raised garden bed and soil for our kitchen garden. This will make a welcome addition to this AMAZING program that is run by Mr Steve Gray. Steve volunteers countless hours to not only run the Steve Gray Kitchen Garden Program, but also supporting

our grounds and maintenance team to ensure that our school grounds and gardens are looking great.



TM&H Mitre 10 in Moe are strong supporters of NEPS and have helped out with supplying equipment and materials for our school over the years.

This Friday I am very excited to be accompanying some members of our staff to a few of our local businesses as we purchase

items for around the school. Please keep an eye out in our school social media and in next week's newsletter for more information regarding this. I also hope to run some more competitions featuring our local businesses so please keep an eye out for this also.

I hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable weekend and enjoys being out and about a little bit more. Don't forget to support our wonderful local businesses where you can as well this weekend.

With warm regards

Julie Skee

### **Book week – (August 21<sup>st</sup> -27<sup>th</sup>).**

**Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> of August:** The book week dress up day and parade is another of the many highlights at NEPS.

The theme for Book Week is

**“Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds”**

ALL students and staff are encouraged to dress up on the day (either in something associated with the theme or as their favourite book character) we will have a parade in the gym at 9am on the morning of 26<sup>th</sup> August.

There will be prizes, giveaways and heaps of fun activities running throughout the week for students to share in.

Student School Leaders will be involved in judging the best costume there will also be a lucky dip for the students that came dressed up.

We will also have prizes from local businesses and book club.

### **GRADE 5/6 SPORT**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August.** Western Valley Sport Grade 5/6 students will participate in a Basketball tournament at the Rec Centre.

### **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August.**

Western Valley Athletics- At the Rec Centre selected students.

## SCIENCE FUN AT HOME

<p><b>Science Fun for 1/2s</b> These activities can be used on rainy weekends, if you at home sick or if we have a lockdown.</p>	<p><i>Draw 5 things that make light at your house.</i></p>	<p><b>Draw 5 things that make sound at your house.</b></p>	<p>Blow up a balloon and put your mouth as close to it as you can without touching it. When you speak you will feel the vibrations made by sound with your fingers.</p>
<p><b>Make a string phone with tin cans and string.</b></p>	<p>Get a cardboard tube and put some rice in it. Block the ends and slowly turn it up and down we will have a rainmaker.</p>	<p><b>Get some small plastic containers or bottles put pasta, buttons, rice, small stones or dried beans in them. Put on the lids and have shakers. Which one is loudest?</b></p>	<p><b>Youtube :</b> <i>Sci Show Kids</i> <i>What is a sound?</i> <i>How to make a string phone</i></p> <p>Guess the sound game – Mr Teach.</p> <p><i>How does light travel – Turtle Diary.</i></p>
<p><b>Science Fun for Preps</b> These activities can be used on rainy weekends, if you at home sick or if we have a lockdown.</p>	<p><i>Draw 5 things that move at your house.</i></p>	<p>Draw 5 things that bounce at your house.</p>	<p>Have some races with things that roll or see how far they can go on 1 push.</p>
<p><i>Make a list of 6 things that do not roll.</i></p>	<p>Find some toys that move when you push them and count them. Draw some toys that move when you pull them.</p>	<p><b>Find someone to mirror dance with.</b></p> <p><b>Play Simon Says.</b></p>	<p><i>Do the Hokey Pokey</i></p>

## **COVID RESTRICTION UPDATE**

As part of planned changes to keep our schools safe and reduce the impact of any future outbreaks, schools will be required to implement COVID-safe behaviours. These include the following strategies to promote physical distancing, minimise mixing between groups and limit access to school grounds to only those providing essential services:

### **The School Breakfast Clubs program**

**(SBCP)** is an essential service that can be delivered on-site.

### **Student attendance:**

Students should attend on-site on per normal.

Where a student becomes unwell:

Students who are required to isolate or undertake home-based quarantine will be provided materials to continue their learning remotely, until such time that they are permitted to return to school

### **Parents, please note**

- Non-essential visitors should not be allowed into school grounds.
- **Drop offs and pick-ups will need to occur at external gates.**
- We will keep parents and carers notified as to when this restriction changes.
- All school gatherings such as assemblies and school events should be deferred or held remotely
- Interschool activities are not permitted at this time.

### **School tours:**

These should not be conducted on-site for prospective students and their families at this time.

### **School Camps:**

Outdoor education programs and overnight stays can take place across Victoria with no travel restrictions. Bookings must be limited to single schools. Multiple schools can attend camps providing school groups remain separated and do not share common facilities at the same time. Mixing of staff and students between different schools is not permitted.

**Kinder to prep and Year 6 to Year 7 transition programs** are not permitted at this time.