



Caledonian Primary School Newsletter

Wednesday 2nd February 2022

Calendar

February-

Thursday 3rd – First day of school for Preps

Wednesday 9th – Preps do not attend school

Wednesday 16th – Preps do not attend school

Wednesday 23rd – Preps do not attend school

March-

Thursday 3rd – Curriculum Day- students are not required at school

Friday 4th – House Colours Day

Friday 11th – Athletics Day

Monday 14th – Labour Day Holiday

Tuesday 22nd – School Photos

We would like to acknowledge the Wadawurrung People, the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are gathered and pay our respects to their Elders both past and present and emerging.

Dear Families,

I often discuss my failures as a parent, and it would appear I have a new one. Over our holiday break I have reaped the rewards of many years of pranks. I am a big fan of hiding in a cupboard until my kids open it and terrifying them. I have gained great joy from hiding in darkened rooms waiting for them to pass, then leaping out screaming. Having a fully loaded water pistol in a kitchen drawer ready for if they take too long eating dinner.

All wonderful things to do!

However, this summer the tide has turned. They have reached an age where they no longer fear me. They have begun their revenge and every horrid thing I have done is coming back in creative and innovative ways- and they work as a team...

A word from the wise- prepare yourself, children do grow up and it appears they do not forget.

RAT tests, staff illnesses, students with masks, air filters and a barrier between families and school as we are required to lock you out of buildings. At times it feels like we are living in a dystopian science fiction film. Yet our students continue to be amazing. They respond to every challenge with a resilience that, quite frankly, many adults don't have!

I believe the credit for this goes to you, the parents and carers, and perhaps in a small way the teaching and ES staff here at school. The calm, persistent and flexible manner in which we have approached the pandemic as the Caledonian Community is evident in this resilience and positivity our students are demonstrating.

Or they are just pumped to be out of the house and back with friends!

This term, and at this stage, we have Athletic Sports planned for the 11th March. This week in PE we have started a little practice and as a staff we are looking forward to having a day of celebration on the field. Athletics Days are great fun- I am confident, with the right protective steps, we will be able to have a great day!

Our teachers have started the year without mucking around. Learning has begun, books are in hands and maths problems are being solved. The academic learning for all children at Caledonian is our priority and our teaching teams are planning and delivering lessons from day 1. We are very conscious of the fact there has been significant disruption over the past two years, and as all teachers have already had, or are approaching, the "booster" shot, we are optimistic we will not have major disruption in 2022.

I need to remind families that if you need to come into school buildings, you must come through the office and provide vaccination status (the usual way with the app is fine) and sign in. This is part of the Covid-Safe management plan in all Victorian Government schools.

We are scheduling Parent/Teacher learning conferences at the end of term in week 9, from 28th March. This will allow teachers time to get a strong understanding of your child's learning needs and goals. Additionally, we are hoping to be able to conduct these interviews in person. Our staff unanimously prefer face to face discussions and we hope that by scheduling interviews later in the term we will be able to do so.

If there is a wellbeing or any other concern, please don't hesitate to contact teachers via SeeSaw. Also, you are more than welcome to call the school and when teachers are available, they will call back. Obviously, they won't call when they are teaching!

Student Support Group meetings will be scheduled in coming weeks. As we welcome Natalie Karlake in the "Leading Teacher Inclusion" role at our school we are entering a new way of working with families and support services. Like many things "new" we won't be perfect from Day 1, however, this significant investment in human resources at our school demonstrates our clear intent to support all students at Caledonian PS. Natalie will be working with Geoff Dickson and will be part of all SSG's in Term 1.

We have had a great start to the year with kids riding! Our bike shed has been packed which is a wonderful thing to see.

I hope everyone stays well!

Ben

Chromebook Lease

Reminder to families with students in grade 3-6 that payment for the lease of a Chromebook is \$100 for the year and is now payable at the office.

Athletics Day

School Athletics Day will be on Friday 11th March. In the past parents have been able to attend, we will confirm this information closer to the date once we have more guidelines around sporting events. All students attend athletics sports day at Llanberris Reserve. Parents are required to drop off and collect students from Llanberris on the day. More information will be provided closer to the date. In preparation for Athletics Day, we will be having Sports House Colours Day on Friday 4th March. Students can come to school dressed in their house colours. New Families and Preps will be notified of which colour house their students have been placed in.

Grade 6 Jumpers 2022

Order forms for Grade 6 Jumpers will be sent home this week.

Absences

If your child is not going to be attending school due to sickness, please phone our office on 53326955 so that we can enter the details of the absence or you can enter the absence details on Compass. When using Compass to enter the absence details please leave a brief comment as to why your child is unwell.

Every Day Counts!	
At Caledonian PS we have set ourselves the task of supporting families to achieve and part of this is making sure children attend school every day. The table below clearly shows what is "normal attendance" right through to the worst-case scenario, that of more than 40 days per year. We hope this makes things clearer to our community.	
0 - 10	This is within the normal range. A child with this attendance rate is able to take full advantage of the teaching and learning opportunities to them.
10 - 20	This attendance rate is below average. A child with this attendance rate could miss over one year of learning between prep and year 10.
21- 40	This is a poor attendance rate. A child with this attendance rate could miss out on up to two years of learning between prep and year 10,
40+	This is a very poor attendance rate. A child with this attendance rate could miss over two and a half years of learning between prep and year 10.

School Phone Number

Please be aware that when we are trying to contact you from school our number displays as **Private Number**.

Uniform

Caledonian Primary School requires all students to be dressed in our school uniform. A copy of our school uniform policy can be found on the school website or at the school office. Our school uniform suppliers are Crocker's and Beleza.

Bell Times 2021

First bell- 8.45 am

Second bell- 8.50 am

Recess- 11 am – 11.30 am

Lunch Eat- 12.30 pm – 12.45 pm

Afternoon Recess- 1.45 pm – 2.15 pm

Students dismissed- 3.15 pm

Children arriving after 8.50 am must collect a late pass from the office.

Privacy reminder for 2022

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#).

Please take time to remind yourself of our school's collection notice, found on our website [INSERT LINK to your school's collection notice].

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents](#). This information is also available in nine community languages:

- Amharic
- Arabic
- Dari
- Gujarati
- Mandarin
- Somali
- Sudanese
- Turkish
- Urdu
- Vietnamese.



Brown Hill Playgroup @ Caledonian Primary School

All babies and preschool age children welcome!

Held every Wednesday morning 9am-11am, we are currently meeting at Russell Square Playground, as covid restrictions mean we cannot utilise the space at CPS (Excluding school and public holidays).

Find us on Facebook.

Any questions? Contact Caledonian Primary School on 5332 6955.

Happy Chinese New Year

The Chinese New Year is the most important of the Chinese holidays. Each year the Chinese New Year falls on a different date as the Chinese use the Lunar calendar. In 2022, the Chinese New Year is the 1st February. The Chinese New Year celebration begins on the first day of a new moon and ends 15 days later with the Lantern Festival. This year, tiger will be the animal of the year.

Wish you all a healthy, prosperous Year of the Tiger!

Heather Dent

