



# Caledonian Primary School Newsletter

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022

## Calendar

February-

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Preps do not attend school

March-

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Curriculum Day- students are not required at school

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> – House Colours Day

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> – Athletics Day

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Labour Day Holiday

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> – 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,

After nearly a week stuck in utter isolation with my family, I am very glad to get the all clear and get back to work, I almost felt sorry for the telemarketer I spent half an hour on the phone to just for some different company!

I will also have to be extra nice to Brooke in the office who I called regularly, Mr Dickson and Ms Karslake who I kept calling with jobs to do and Dr Brett Sutton the chief medical officer who I may have said some nasty things about over the past week.

Needless to say, being locked in the house is not great. However, it is essential to keep everyone safe.

One of the things I have found most difficult is the symptoms in children are not quite what I expected. My daughter has had days of severe headaches but would then bounce out of bed full of energy only to then return to bed for a sleep. Yet she didn't get much of a cough.

In some ways I could have ignored her symptoms, given her some Panadol and sent her to school. If we hadn't done our regular RATs, we may not have known and could have shared it with lots of people. I encourage you all to keep up with the tests twice a week, they aren't that bad. By screening our children, we can keep everyone safe.

I am reliably informed everything at school has progressed without me and that staff have engaged in NAPLAN data analysis. We regularly examine our school and student achievement data to identify trends and gaps in student understandings. By using these data sets we are better able to pinpoint areas for further teaching and teacher development.

While here in lockdown I have also spent significant time evaluating school level data sets and have some key observations to share:

- In 2021 we had a significant improvement in attendance with the average days of absence falling by nearly 5 days
- Our NAPLAN data indicated in reading and mathematics measures we have outperformed similar schools and state averages in high achievement and growth factors
- 5 years ago, we had nearly 2 boys to every 1 girl, we are now exactly 50% of each (it's an odd bit of data but kind of interesting)
- Our largest cohorts of students are in grade prep and grade 1
- In 2019 the parent opinion survey indicated 66% positive endorsement of our school grounds and facilities, in 2021 that figure was 100%.
- In the 2021 parent opinion survey 100% of respondents were happy with the education their children receive at Caledonian, 100% felt we were preparing our students for the next stage in their lives and 100% reported that their child feels motivated to learn. (A little disclaimer this does not in any way suggest we are perfect, we get things wrong, and we make mistakes- but we always strive to improve)
- We outperformed the region and state averages on student safety measures like (eg not experiencing bullying)

Caledonian PS really is a fabulous place. The best anecdote I have is when new teachers or relief teachers visit our school they always say, without fail, that yard duty is actually ok! If we are honest yard duty isn't our favourite in the depths of winter, but with our kids, your kids, we can enjoy our time in the howling, freezing Ballarat wind! It will come back and probably before we would like!

The last little bit from the parent survey was my favourite with 100% of parents felt the teachers of Caledonian PS treat their children with respect.

Can't wait to get out of my house!!!!

Ben

### **House Colours Day- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March**

In the lead up to our Athletics Carnival we would like to see students get into their team spirit. On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March, students and teachers are asked to come to school dressed in their School House Colours. Every student wearing their house colours with pride on the day, will earn their house a point to help kick 2022 off on the right foot.

For new families, this means that on this day, your child will wear a coloured T-shirt of the house they have been allocated to, shorts/track suit pants, coloured hair, ribbons, etc.

Red House- Eureka

Gold/Yellow House-Brownbill

Green House-Sturt

Blue House-Victoria

### **No Hat No Play**

As we are a Sun Smart School students must wear a hat whenever they are outside at school during term 4 and Term 1. Students must have a **school wide brimmed hat**; please do not send along peak caps. Hats are available from Lowes or Beleza.

### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club will be commencing on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022. It will operate on Thursday mornings from 8.20 until 8.45, when the first bell goes.

We are asking for parent volunteers to assist with the running of breakfast club. If we can get enough parent helpers, you may be rostered on for only 2 mornings per term.

Breakfast Club serves cereals, toast and fruit.

For families new to our school, Breakfast Club provides breakfast to students, at no cost.

If you can assist with this program, please let myself or the office staff know by Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February by emailing your name, your child/ren name at school or by phoning the office.

[caledonian.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:caledonian.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

Please note all volunteers must be double vaccinated.

Thank you,  
Geoff Dickson

### **CSEF-Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund**

Parents/Careers with a means tested government healthcare/pension card are eligible to receive the CSEF payments. Application forms are available from the office. We must have a CSEF application to put apply for the funding on your behalf.

### **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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Grade 6 Jumpers 2022**

Order forms for Grade 6 Jumpers have been sent home and are due back by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

### 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.

### Before and After School Care

Camp Australia run the before and after school care program at CPS. Parents interested in before and after school care should visit Camp Australia's website and follow the prompts to register and book.

### 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.

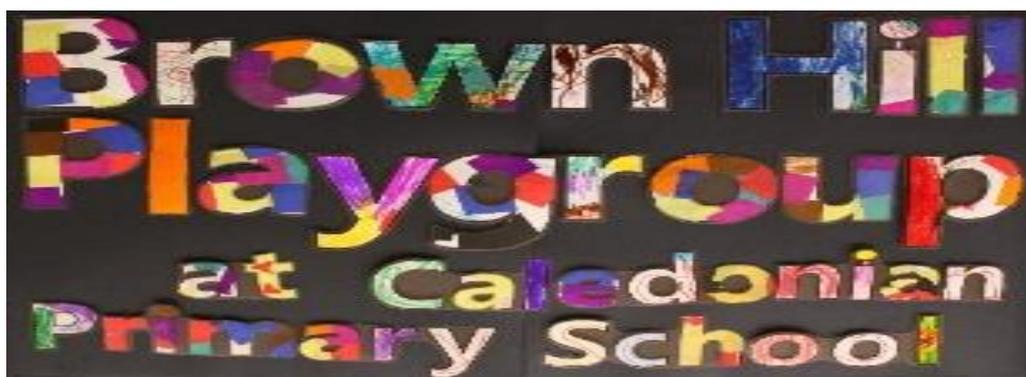
#### Every Day Counts!

**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.

### Prep Enrolments 2023

We are now accepting enrolments for preps in 2023. Enrolment packs can be collected from the office. Prep Interviews can be organised through the office.



## **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.