AVONDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER #15 Friday October 17, 2025

VISION STATEMENT: Avondale Primary School; a community that strives for excellence through high quality learning, engagement and wellbeing for all.

VALUES: Learning, Respect, Responsibility

Avondale Primary School is a Child Safe School. We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people and have zero tolerance for child abuse.

Acknowledgement of Country



Hello to our Avondale community,

It has been lovely to have many conversations with our students, staff and families, sharing highlights of my recent trip to Japan, whilst I was on long service leave at the end of Term Three. The culture, the culinary delights and the landscape truly were amazing! The people were so very respectful and helpful, particularly when we got lost and couldn't find our way out of the train station (definitely more like an airport with no signs).

We ended Term Three with the Grade 3/4 Camp at Lady Northcote, with our students engaging in many activities, including Survival, Yabbying, Hut Building, Archery, Bike Riding, Low Ropes, Initiatives, Giant Swing, Night Walk, Campfire, Talent Show and Scavenger Hunt.

Our students always surprise us with their venturing to eat new foods and going back for seconds and even thirds

A huge thank you to all our staff who ensured this experience was a memorable one for our Grade 3/4 students. A big shout out to Maddie, the paramedic who supported our staff and students with all medical concerns.

We're thrilled to share that Ella D and Aiden B will represent our school in the regional athletics for high jump next Tuesday 21 October. We wish you them both all the best in this next round.

We have commenced Term Four with a fabulous two weeks.

IMPORTANT DATES				
	TERM 4 2025			
Monday 20 October	Canteen Closed			
Wednesday 22	Grade 3/4 Cricket Day			
October				
Monday 27 October	Scholastic Book Fair in Library			
- Friday 31 October	2025 - 11: 5 11 15			
Thursday 30 October	2026 Foundation Family Information			
Friday 31 October	Night 6pm World Teacher's Day			
	,			
Monday 3 November	Student Free Day Team Kids Vacation Care available			
Tuesday 4 November	School Closed			
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	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday			
Wednesday 5	Foundation 2026 Transition Session #1			
November	9.15am - 10.15am			
Friday 7 November	Fundraising Committee 2025/2026			
	Meet and Greet Afternoon Tea 2.30pm			
Wednesday 12	Foundation 2026 Transition Session #2			
November	9.15am - 10.15am			
Friday 14 November	Foundation Breakfast			
Monday 17	Term 4 Special Lunch Order Day			
November				
Wednesday 19	Foundation 2026 Transition Session #3			
November	9.15am-10.15am			
Thursday 20	Grade 1 Stay Late Afternoon			
November	0 1 5/61:5 51 1: 1/			
Tuesday 25	Grade 5/6 Life Education Van			
November – Thursday 27				
November				
Thursday 4	Whole School Celebration Event			
December	The solid colesiation Event			
Friday 5 December	Back Up Performance Time 9.15am			
Tuesday 9 December	Grade 6 to Year 7 Government School			
	Statewide Transition Day			
Wednesday 17	Grade 6 Graduation - St Bernards			
December	Auditorium			
Friday 19 December	Last day Term 4			

Our Grade 5/6 Girls Basketball team represented our school at the Summer Sports Basketball finals round robin tournament with pride and determination, playing two very close matches. Congratulations Emily, Natasha, Layla, Aleyna, Chloe, Odessa, Sophia, Keira, Raniya and Taylor for demonstrating our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Learning. A big thank you to Ms Devine for coaching, Ms Lane for scoring and to our families for supporting and cheering on our team at the stadium.

Our annual whole school Sports Day was a huge success, with our students from Foundation to Grade 6, engaging in a range of sporting activities including netball, basketball, soccer, AFL, cricket, dance, gymnastics, volleyball, Gaga Ball, table tennis, down ball, Muay Thai, European Handball, dodgeball and an obstacle course. The weather was very kind to us, with the sun shining and a light breeze. Thank you to Ms Devine and Ms Nicolaou for organising the day and for Mr Lumby for providing the music and

commentary for the afternoon football kicking and marking competitions. The volunteers who lead some of the activities did a great job of engaging our students in new learning experiences. The canteen was certainly a very busy place with Di and her volunteers, putting together over 250 hotdogs, icy poles and drinks for our Sports Day special lunch.

Our Grade 2 students had their first Camp experience with their Lake Dewar Day Camp yesterday. They were very excited before they boarded the buses at 8am and this continued throughout the day as they engaged in team building activities and cooking damper. The hamburgers for lunch were a big hit. Students and staff arrived home safely. We have no doubt everyone slept extremely well last night. A big thank you to our staff for organising this amazing experience for our students.

We are excited to share with our community that work on our new play space at the back of the school commenced this week. Matt and his team from Rocketbox have made great progress in creating play areas to engage our students, with a focus on building a deck around one of our big trees to promote curiosity and imagination.

If your child is interested in attending the Australian School of Performing Arts Open Day, which provides the opportunity to try a fun, free class and for parents to attend an information session to find out more about the AGC, flyer.

Please explore the Community Information at the end of our newsletter to see what events and activities are happening in our community. A highlight this week is the Discover Avondale Heights Community Event on Sunday, November 9 between 10am and 2pm. A flyer and further information are provided in the Community Information and posters are on display around our school promoting this event.

For any families intending on leaving the school, we ask that you contact the office avondale.ps@education.vic.gov.au or 9318 1755) as soon as possible, as we are currently creating our grades for 2026. We understand there are many reasons why families move on and always appreciate your communication in this. Thank you to those families who have already let us know of their intentions for 2026. To build understanding of the

processes we follow at Avondale Primary to place students in classes, please refer to the <u>Grade Placement Policy</u> on our school website.

e office currently es move lies who go for the fer to the Grade Placement Policy on our school with we're highlighting ADHD Awareness Month, et's take this time to learn, support, and promote

October is a month to celebrate and raise awareness for neurodiversity. The month we're highlighting **ADHD Awareness Month**, **Dyslexia Awareness Month**, and **Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) Day**. Let's take this time to learn, support, and promote inclusion for all kinds of minds.



Avondale PS School Improvement Team Jill, Jenna, Sarah, Teriann and Frances

2025 TERM DATES & CURRICULUM DAYS					
Term 4 2025	Monday 6 October - Friday 19 December				
	CURRICULUM DAY: Monday 3 November				
	Early Dismissal: 1.15PM				

2026 TERM DATES & CURRICULUM DAYS			
Term 1 2026	Wednesday 28 January -Thursday 2 April		
	Curriculum Day: Wednesday 28 January		
	Students start Thursday 29 January		
Term 2 2026	Monday 20 April - Friday 26 June		
	Student Free Day: Friday 22 May		
Term 3 2026	Monday 13 July - Friday 18 September		
	Student Free Day: Wednesday 19 August		
Term 4 2026	Monday 5 October - Friday 18 December		
	Student Free Day: Monday 2 November		

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR: WEEK FOUR

We are very excited to share with you that our Book Fair in the library will begin on **Monday 27 - Friday 31 October.**

Opening hours:

Monday 27 October: 3:00pm - 4:00pm

Tuesday 28 October - Friday 31 October: 8:30am - 9:00am and

3.00pm - 4.00pm

There will be a wide range of books available to purchase on the day or pre order online. Payment can be made using **EFTPOS**. **NO CASH** can be accepted.

Students will also visit the library with their class during this week to view the books available and complete a Wish List.

Every book sold at the Book Fair contributes to points for our school to purchase new books.



BUNNINGS FUNDRAISING EVENT

A fantastic community spirit was evident last term at our Bunnings BBQ fundraiser. There was such a buzz throughout the day, with many laughs, from setting up at 7.30am to packing up at 4.30pm. It was a great opportunity for our volunteers to get to know other members of our school community. To our families that donated items for the BBQ or contributions towards covering the additional costs associated with the BBQ we extend our gratitude and appreciation. Also a big THANK YOU to our families for coming along on the day to support our school, buying a sausage or drink and having a chat, supporting our school even further.

A massive THANK YOU to Trevor Harrison and School Council members for coordinating this hugely successful event and to our amazing volunteers who gave up their time to support us. Collectively we raised an outstanding total of **\$2,947.85.** We will work with our students at the beginning of 2026 to determine how these funds will be used.

We also demonstrated to the broader community a real sense of community at Avondale Primary. THANK YOU for supporting this fundraiser.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

We are currently seeking volunteers to assist with counting raffle ticket proceeds and organising prizes for our upcoming End of Year Celebration Raffle. If you are available to help during school hours, please contact the school office on 9318 1755 or email avondale.ps@education.vic.gov.au. Your support is always greatly appreciated.

Interested in joining our 2026 Fundraising Committee? We invite you to an Afternoon Tea on **Friday, 7 November at 2:30pm in the Staff Room**. Come along to learn more about how you can contribute to our fundraising efforts and meet fellow community members.

CANTEEN AND TERM 4 SPECIAL LUNCH ORDER

Are you a parent or carer interested in supporting the running of our school canteen? We're looking for a parent/carer

who would like to be trained as a volunteer support person to the canteen manager. Training would cover safe food handling practices, Flexischools, general canteen operations/timing and essential OHS procedures.

If you're keen to get involved, please contact the school office for more information.

Please note: A current Working With Children Clearance Check is required.

On **Monday 17 November** we will be organising a special canteen lunch order. Students will be able to order:

- Potato wedges with sour cream and sweet chilli sauce
- Water or Juice
- Icy pole

This lunch order is halal and vegetarian friendly.



Please note that this will replace our regular canteen menu for this day and no other canteen food will be available on this day. Please contact Di if you are able to volunteer your time on this day to assist with the preparation of the lunch orders. **All orders need to be placed using the Flexischools App by Monday 10 November.**

DIGITAL ASSESSMENT LIBRARY



Our school has registered to utilise an online assessment platform called the Digital Assessment Library (DAL).

The DAL has been established by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment

Authority (VCAA) and offers high quality, online classroom assessments that are designed to provide teachers with meaningful and timely information about student learning progress.

The DAL is for use in classroom settings and contains assessments that are validated and aligned to the Victorian Curriculum F-10 Version 2.0. Assessments are available for Mathematics, English, Science and Health and Physical Education. The DAL is freely available to our school and the assessments will be used optionally by our teachers to support their teaching and learning in the classroom.

In order to facilitate our students completing DAL assessments, your child's personal information (e.g., name, DOB, year level) will be uploaded onto the DAL platform. Information about your child and DAL assessment results may also be provided to the Department of Education to assist them to improve educational outcomes.

The DAL platform is operated by an organisation called LinkIt! LinkIt! collects and stores information about platform users on behalf of the VCAA. LinkIt! stores the collected information on Amazon Web Services (AWS) infrastructure in a datacentre located in Sydney. For further information on AWS Data Privacy, visit their website: https://aws.amazon.com/compliance/australia-data-privacy/ The LinkIt! privacy policy is available at: https://www.linkit.com/resources/privacy-policy More information about privacy and the DAL is available in *Section 1.2: Digital Assessment Library registration and assessment* in Appendix A, VCAA Privacy Policy at: http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Footer/Pages/Privacy.aspx Please advise your child's teacher if you have any concerns about your child completing assessments on the DAL.



CHANGES TO DIGITAL DEVICE USE

From 2027, the Victorian Government is introducing changes to the use of digital devices for students from Prep/Foundation to Grade 6.

Under the new guidelines, schools:

- will no longer invite families to purchase or bring their own digital devices to use at school for Prep/Foundation to Grade 6
- will follow new recommended digital device times, including minimal device time for Prep/Foundation to Grade 2; and a maximum of 90 minutes per day for grades 3 to 6.

These changes are intended to support families by reducing cost-of-living pressures. They will also support students by reducing screen-time which can reduce the risk of eye strain, sedentary behaviour, and reduced peer interaction. These reforms complement Victoria's nation-leading mobile phone restrictions, ensuring an integrated approach to addressing digital distraction and the inappropriate use of technology.

What this means for our school

As you know, Avondale Primary School already provide school-owned digital devices for student learning, so there is no impact on our school's BYOD programs.

Students with disability who use a digital device as a reasonable adjustment are exempt from these changes.

These changes are intended to support families with cost-of-living pressures and reduce student screen time.

You can read more about the changes on the department's website: Digital Learning: Policy.

NEW PLAYSPACE

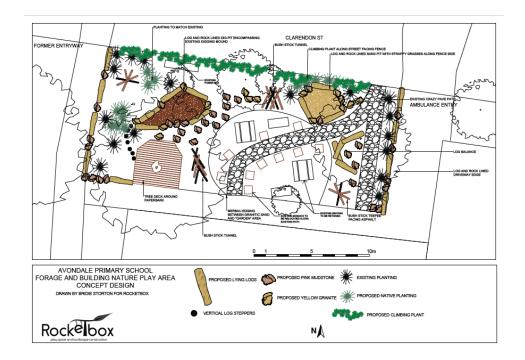
We are excited to share with our community that work on our new play space at the back of the school commenced this week. Matt and his team from Rocketbox have made great progress in creating play areas to engage our students, with a focus on building a deck around one of our big trees to promote curiosity and imagination.

As communicated last term the play space will include the following features:

- Vertical log steppers and Balancing logs
- Bush stick tunnels and teepees
- Log and rock lined sand pit
- Native plants
- Decking area around existing tree
- Seating areas

This project was approved by School Council at our last meeting as part of a recommendation from the 2024 Working Group.

We look forward to continuing sharing the progress of these works as they develop.



GRADE 3/4 LADY NORCOTE CAMP

My First Camping Trip

The moment I hopped onto the bus for the Year 3/4 Lady Northcote camp, I could barely sit still. My backpack was packed, my friends were chatting excitedly, and I could already imagine all the adventures waiting for us.

We stayed at Lady Northcote from the 17th to the 19th of September. Our first activity at camp was Survival! We caught yabbies in the creek and built huts out of fallen branches. Next, we tried archery, something I had never done before. It felt amazing when my arrow finally hit the target. I was so proud of myself!

At night, we had the Talent Show, and my group performed a K-pop song called Your Idol from K-Pop Demon Hunters. Everyone cheered, and it was so much fun watching the other performances too.

The next morning, I had a delicious breakfast and headed off to low ropes and initiatives where my group worked as a team to balance, climb, and solve challenges together.

My favourite activity of the camp was next, Giant Swing! I was a little nervous about being pulled up so high, but when I finally swung through the air, it was like flying.

After lunch, we went bike riding around the camp. It was so much fun speeding down the little hills and racing with my friends.



After dinner that night, we went on a night walk under the stars and sang songs around the campfire.

I felt a little sad on our last day because camp was ending, but there was still one last activity: the scavenger hunt! We ran all around the campgrounds, following clues and finding hidden treasures. It was the perfect way to finish our first camp.

Isaac Phan 3/4C





My First Camp

Have you ever wondered how to have lots of fun with your friends and your class? Then you should go to Lady Northcote school camp. We went to Lady Northcote camp on the 17th of September and stayed until the afternoon of 19th of September. My favourite thing about camp is having friends in your cabin, because you can get to know more about each other. I had Ishi, Kaydence and Leila in my cabin. We were so excited that we were together.

First, we set up our beds, if our friend needed help then we helped them. We opened our suitcase and put our toiletries in the bathroom. We organised our own stuff and then it was time to be crazy (only for some people). We all had a toy(s) and named it Pooky Bear. Then, it was time to do our activities. The staff were very kind and a little bit funny.

At night, we did a talent show, and we came 2nd. We went back to our cabins and brushed our teeth. When we went to our beds, my friends were talking crazily. I told them that we needed to sleep. The next day, we woke up early and had fun quietly talking. The teachers came to say good morning when it was time to get up. We quickly changed and took photos to save our fun memories.



Camp

In the last week of term 3 we went to Lady Northcote camp. While we were there, I learned how to ride a bike. I was in a group with my friends, Mrs. Roach and Joseph.

We had a bike riding activity, but I didn't know how to ride a bike. The camp staff taught me how to ride a bike. They showed me what to do and I copied them. I was so grateful for their help. When I was riding the bike by myself, it made me happy and excited.

By Arvin 3/4C

My favourite event at Lady Northcote YMCA camp was the giant swing. I did it because you only got one chance and it looked fun. Afterwards I felt like I was flying. I didn't feel scared anymore. The staff were kind, and the food was very nice. I highly recommend this awesome camp!

By Zahra 3/4C

Even though I felt nervous at the start, in the end it was very fun. I was sad that we had to go home, but it was the best 3 days.

By Suzu 3/4C

















SPORTS DAY COMMUNMITY INVOLVEMENT- THANK YOU















CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) helps eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you have a valid means-tested concession card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. Means-tested concession cards must be valid on the first day of Term 1, 2025 (Tuesday 28 January 2025) or Term 2, 2025 (Tuesday 22 April 2025).

Eligible families will receive a payment of \$154 per year for primary school students. The funds will be paid directly to the school to be used towards camps, sports and excursion costs for the benefit of your child.

If you applied for CSEF through our school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year, unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

If you would like to apply for the first time, please contact the school office on 9318 1755 and ask for an application form. Please return completed application forms to the school office as soon as possible.

SAFETY & SUPERVISION AT SCHOOL INFORMATION

Student safety at Avondale Primary School is our highest priority and the safe and appropriate supervision of students is an important element of our duty of care to students. Part of this duty is ensuring parents and students are aware of our student supervision arrangements before and after school.

Before school: School grounds are supervised **from 8:30am** when gates are unlocked for students to enter the school.

After school: School grounds are supervised from 3:15pm until 3:30pm.

Students on school grounds outside these times will **not** be supervised (unless they are attending a before or after school care program or supervised extracurricular activity).

Parents/carers are requested to ensure that students do not attend school outside of these supervised times unless they are attending before or after school care, or a pre-arranged supervised activity (i.e. sports practice).

Families are encouraged to contact TeamKids at https://www.teamkids.com.au/ for more information about the before and after school care facilities available to our school community or if you would like any further information about our student supervision arrangements.

For a copy of our school's Yard Duty and Supervision Policy parents can contact the school office. This policy includes Avondale Primary School's student supervision arrangements across the school day, including before and after school.

Parents will be notified via Compass if their child/ren are unsupervised in the school yard before 8:30am and after 3:30pm.

The safety of our school children is a top priority. School crossings have special rules and are often a workplace for our School Crossing Supervisors. Your actions on and around school crossings keep our community safe.

Safe behaviours at school crossings

As kids travel to and from school it's important for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists to be aware and take extra care during these busy times. Following the road rules at school crossings doesn't just keep our community safe, it is also the law

To help keep our kids safe, it's important for drivers to:

- Slow down around school crossings at a speed slow enough to stop safely, if necessary.
- Stop if a hand held "Stop" sign is displayed and you must give way when school crossings flags are displayed.
- Stop and wait until the school crossing is clear of all pedestrians including supervisors.
- Stop if a child or adult is about to cross or is crossing, even if there is no crossing supervisor.
- Never overtake a vehicle stopping or stopped at the crossing.
- Never let children get in or out of your vehicle when stopped waiting at a school crossing.
- Respect School Crossing Supervisors, they're trained to support children's safety.
- Always watch out for children near schools and if you see a school crossing, use it.

At school crossings, all road users need to be alert, including pedestrians. Always look and listen for approaching traffic from each direction before crossing. Pedestrians need to be sure that drivers or riders have seen them and are stopping.

Identifying a school crossing

- School crossings are operational when flags are displayed or signs with flashing lights are operating. Drivers, riders and pedestrians can look out for the following to help identify a school crossing: School crossings are active on weekdays during Victorian school terms. Usually between 8am to 9.30am and from 2.30pm to 4pm.
- Red and white posts on each side of the road with orange children's crossing flags.
- Two parallel continuous or broken lines across the road surface. Children's crossing yellow signs and twin yellow lights flashing.
- School crossing supervisor may be present, easily identified by a high visibility yellow safety vest or jacket and a hat with the word 'Supervisor' embroidered.
- If you're driving in a school zone, it usually means a school crossing will be nearby. In most cases, the speed limit displayed will be 40km/h or 60km/h (when the original speed limit is 80km/h or higher).



EVERY DAY COUNTS: THE IMPORTANCE OF REGULAR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE



At Avondale Primary School, we prioritise regular school attendance. We work with families to ensure students are in class with their peers and teachers and enjoying all the benefits that brings. Attending school every day means experiencing what counts – the learning, friendship, fun and opportunities that can shape your child's future.

We understand that there are times when your child will need to miss school, however, to ensure minimal disruption to their education, please consider scheduling family holidays or medical/dental appointments outside of school time. If your child is well enough to attend but is worried about friendships, schoolwork or assessment, please encourage them to come to school. Avoiding school can make these feelings worse and can create a negative pattern of behaviour.

If your child is having difficulty attending school, talk to their teacher or a member of the School Improvement Team so we can work together to support them. We know that parents and carers can be juggling challenges daily to get your children to school. If your child must miss school, notify us as soon as possible via Compass.

For more information about the importance of everyday attendance, see <u>Attendance and Missing School</u>. Remember, **Every Day Counts.**



CYBER SAFETY



The Tech Safe Parents 2025 Webinar Series schedule is here!

October 23rd - Safe Gaming for Kids: Building Boundaries for Positive Play

Registration: All webinars will be recorded and commence live at 7.30pm AEDT/AEST. Register at cybersafetyproject.com/parents2025

Celebration of Literacy Learning and Specialist Classes

Our **Foundation** students have continued to grow their love of reading this term as they explore both fiction and non-fiction texts. They have been discovering the wonderful variety that books offer—diving into imaginative stories that take them on adventures, as well as informative texts that help them learn about the world around them. Through guided reading rotations, students have been engaging with a range of reading activities designed to build their comprehension, vocabulary and fluency. They have also been learning to identify key features of different types of books, such as titles, illustrations and contents pages.



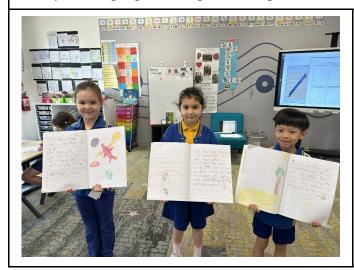






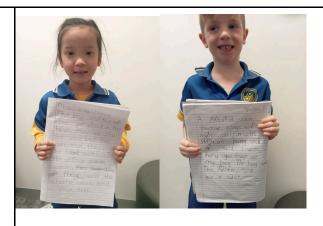


Grade 1 students read the story *The Way Back Home* and used it as inspiration for their own creative writing. They planned and wrote new versions of the story by introducing a new setting and an additional character who came to help the boy and the alien stranded on the moon. Students focused on using descriptive language to bring their imaginative ideas to life.

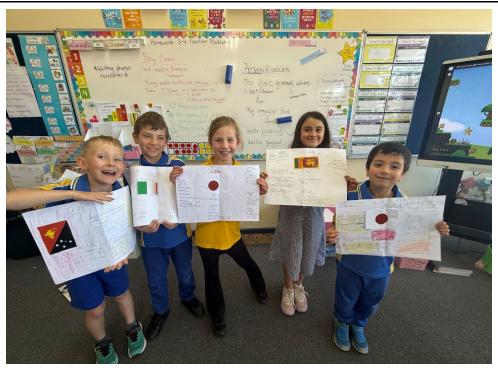








Grade 2 students have been developing their reading fluency and expression through reader's theatre and performing their plays for an audience. In Writing, they have been planning, researching and creating information reports about a country of their choice as well as a community helper.







This term, **Grade 3/4** students have been introduced to Literacy Circles. Each person in their group is allocated a fun and engaging role to have whilst they read a shared novel. These jobs include Word Wizard, Question Master and Undercover Spy. These are great ways for the students to read collaboratively as well as practise their reading comprehension strategies. Students have also created a learning goal for the remainder of the term.

In Writing, students have been busy writing recounts about Camp and a reflection about Sports Day. This included their successes, challenges and favourite activity.









Sports Day

I had a fabulous day on Sports Day. There were a few really fun activities for every grade. My favourite activity was soccer. I succeeded at being goalie and booting the ball. I felt super happy because I blocked lots of goals. The activity that was the hardest was volleyball. It was great to see everyone listening to instructions.

By Zachary 3/4C





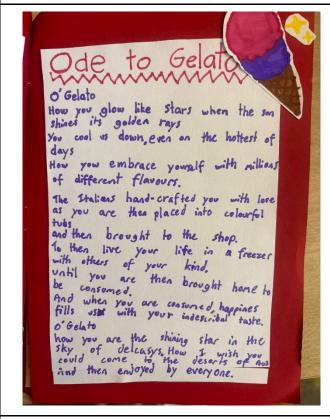


I had the best day on Sports Day. There were so many fun activities. I think I did well at the AFL activity, I got a lot of goals. I found table tennis challenging, mainly because the wind was making the ball go crazy. I got 3 tokens for my house; I am proud of myself.

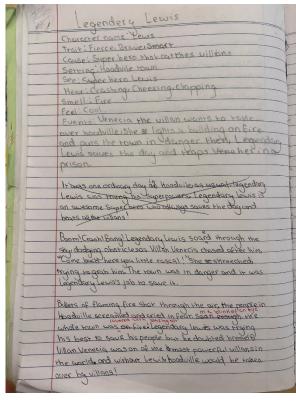
By Josie 3/4C

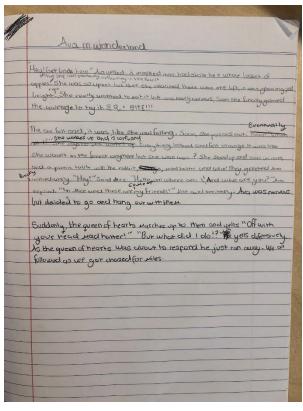
This term in literacy, **Grade 5/6** students have been diving into narrative techniques, including character arcs, symbolism, imagery and building tension, through David Almond's novel, *Skellig*. Inspired by the text, they are now applying their learning to craft their own narratives, with a special focus on writing and publishing picture storybooks for their buddy grades.

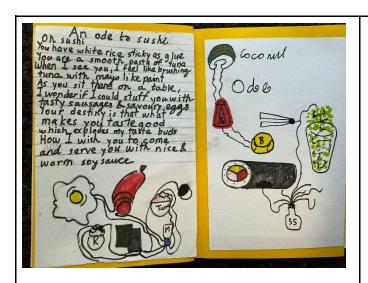
Last term's poetry unit was also a big hit! Students proudly published a collection of haikus, kennings, cinquains, limericks and blackout poems, showcasing their creativity and love for language.















AUSLAN

This week in Auslan, Grade 1 to 6 students have been having fun learning about one of their favourite topics so far this year....Take-away food! There has been much discussion about when we eat 'junk food' and what types we like to eat with both friends and family. Students have been learning to place an order with a partner using their Auslan signs and thought about how to communicate this clearly so that their order was accurate (e.g. Would you like fries with your burger?)!

Our Foundation students have been focusing on the topic of People. They have been introduced to new Auslan signs such as boy, girl, man, woman, mine and yours, and used these to identify the people in their school, at home and in the community. Students also played a fun 'people' game and learnt a new poem to help practise each of their new Auslan signs.

Science

In Science this term, students across all year levels have begun exploring their Biological Science units.

Foundation students are learning about The Features of Plants and Animals. They've explored the different parts of plants we eat, shared their favourites, and practised labelling their drawings.

Grade 1/2 students are focusing on The Needs of Plants and Animals, immersing themselves in new vocabulary and sharing their knowledge about caring for pets.

Grade 3/4 students are learning about Life Cycles of Plants and Animals, building their vocabulary around life cycles, ecosystems, and food chains.

Grade 5/6 students are investigating Structural and Behavioural Adaptations. They have been working in groups to research animal adaptations in different environments, building towards an exciting project where they will design their own animal.

It's been a fantastic start to the term as students explore the living world around them!







Physical Education

Our Grade 5/6 Girls Basketball Team did an outstanding job representing our school at the Division Basketball Tournament! The team showed incredible persistence and teamwork throughout all their games, demonstrating our school values both on and off the court.

Qualifying for this level is a fantastic achievement and we are all extremely proud of their effort, sportsmanship, and positive spirit. Congratulations everyone!



This week our Grade 5/6 students had the opportunity to meet representatives from the AFLW Essendon Team. Students had the opportunity to gain an insight into an athlete's life and to asked a range of questions in the Q&A session.











Performing Arts

We have had a great start to the term in Performing Arts with everyone putting their best foot forward. Our focus on drama and singing has been a perfect combination to put together short performances. We have selected creative choruses from known songs and added them as a finale to our storytelling through mime and mirroring in a short play. The students have been working in small groups to create stories based on the lyrics of popular songs. Keep up the great work everyone.







HOUSE POINTS

Congratulations to all students who were awarded house points over the last fortnight for showing our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Learning. Below is the total house points awarded for each house during Sports Day, Week 1 and Week 2, Term 4.

	Sports Day	Week 1 and 2
Green House	550 points	5250 points
Blue House	580 points	4660 points
Red House	330 points	4260 points
Yellow House	510 points	4340 points
House with the highest	Blue House	Green House
number of points.		

RESPECTFUL SCHOOL COMMUNITIES



Parents, carers, advocates and adult members of the school community must engage respectfully with school staff.

Unacceptable behaviour will be addressed promptly. This may include calling the police if required or issuing you a School Community Safety Order.

These behaviours are not permitted in-person, over the phone, by email, text message or on social media:

X. Rudeness

X. Intimidation

X. Insults or offensive communication with school staff in the department of deragatory communication within the School Community Policy.

X. Malicious or defarmatory or deragatory communication within the School Community Policy.

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EDUCATION VICTORIA OF Education

When parents, carers and school staff work together as one team, our students do better. Everyone at school, particularly staff and parents/carers, play a role in making school a better place for learning and work.

Parents, carers and school staff have a relationship that can last many years. This is an opportunity to work together to create a positive relationship in the best interests of your child. When this relationship is built on respect and trust, students learn better and feel like they belong in the school.

Every member of our school community has a right to feel safe and be protected. The department's Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy describes the positive behaviour expected from parents, carers, and other adults in Victorian school communities. The policy sets clear standards of behaviour to create a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment for students, staff and adults.

There are also resources to support safe and respectful relationships in our school community, including information about getting involved in the school, advice on how to raise a concern or complaint, and parenting

support resources. You can find the policy and these resources here. You may also see a new poster up around our school, promoting positive behaviour.

For more information on how to engage positively with our school, please contact Jill Benham, Principal.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK - Term Three: Week Nine

STUDENT NAME	GRADE	VALUE Respect Responsibility Learning	DEMONSTRATED WHEN
Rupert	Foundation A	Learning	For his fantastic work hefting in maths. Keep up the great work!
Sienna C	Foundation B	Learning	For doing an amazing job in maths this week, especially with your work on mass. Keep it up Sienna!
Zayn J	Foundation C	Learning	For having a go and giving all tasks his best effort.
Antonella V	1A	Respect Responsibility Learning	For writing an amazing adaption of the Little Red Riding Hood story! Brilliant writing Antonella!
Charbel	1B	Respect Responsibility Learning	For consistently following and listening to class instructions!
Harrison	1C	Respect Responsibility Learning	For showing maturity, responsibility and leadership when playing footy with his friends this week. You made sure the game was fair for everyone. Keep it up Harrison!
Tommy K	2B	Responsibility Learning	For taking greater time and care to present his work in a much neater manner. Keep it up Tommy!
Lily T	2C	Respect Responsibility Learning	Congratulations for your wonderful creative writing and for improving your story to make it your best work! Well done Lily :)

Sara Q	3/4E	Respect Responsibility Learning	For always being there for her friends, having a go in class and never giving up on a challenge. She is always showing how brave she is and I know she is ready for her big adventure in Spain. We'll miss you Sara!
Steven V	5/6A	Learning	For your tremendous results in our weekly maths challenges. You are really setting the standard for the rest of the class. Well done and keep it up!
Fia	5/6B	Responsibility Learning	For showing great resilience by restarting her poems to ensure correct spelling, grammar, and that she is meeting expectations. Amazing work Fia!
Sebastien P	5/6C	Respect Responsibility Learning	For your amazing creativity and determination when writing and designing your poetry book.
Lara F	5/6D	Responsibility Learning	For your amazing creativity and dedication when writing and designing your poetry book.
Johnny	5/6E	Respect Responsibility Learning	For demonstrating great confidence when expressing yourself and sharing your thoughts with your peers.

SPECIALIST AWARDS – Term Three: Week Nine

STUDENT NAME	GRADE	VALUE Respect Responsibility Learning	DEMONSTRATED WHEN
Anna H 3/4E	Performing Arts	Respect Responsibility Learning	Thank you for playing such a beautiful song on the keyboard and showcasing your incredible talent.
Amelia N 1C	Science F-2	Learning	For your enthusiasm and effort when designing an instrument where you used plucking actions to make sounds. Keep it up Amelia!
Lara F 5/6 D	Science 3-6	Learning	For the wonderful effort you put into your cover page on 'Structural and Behaviour Adaptations' for our Biological Science unit. Amazing work Lara!
Millie R	PE F-2	Respect Responsibility Learning	For having a great term in PE. Well done on showing initiative in your learning each week whilst also trying to help those around you.
Violet P & Alex T	PE 3-6	Respect Responsibility Learning	For being awesome class helpers. Well done on doing a great job with setting up and packing up the activities. You displayed great leadership and responsibility skills.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK – Term Four: Week One

STUDENT NAME	GRADE	VALUE Respect Responsibility Learning	DEMONSTRATED WHEN
Anellise	Foundation A	Respect Responsibility Learning	For confidently engaging in all learning tasks and showing wonderful growth in participation
Hunter	Foundation B	Respect Responsibility Learning	For showing great focus during Heggerty this week. Keep it up Hunter!
Nandor	Foundation C	Respect Responsibility Learning	For coming back to school ready to learn and being a great listener!
Oscar	1A	Learning	For showing great development in his high frequency word knowledge.
Amelia H	1B	Responsibility Learning	For always remaining focused during class activities and always trying your personal best!
Ayda	1C	Respect Responsibility Learning	For taking on feedback on her writing and putting so much effort into her handwriting this week! Keep it up Ayda!
Ayrton K	2A	Respect Responsibility Learning	For his fantastic effort in participating in class activities. Keep up the Great Work!
Ada S	2В	Learning	For always taking pride in her work, presenting it neatly, and putting in great effort to show her best work. Keep it up Ada!
Ethan W	2C	Respect Responsibility Learning	For writing an excellent holiday recount with clear ideas, details and wonderful effort! Keep it up Ethan :)
3/4A	3/4A	Respect Responsibility Learning	As a whole team! Demonstrating all our school values this week! You should all be super proud of your development. Lets kick on together!
Georgia V	3/4B	Respect Responsibility Learning	For embracing the roles of 'Word Wizard' and 'Connector' with enthusiasm and thoughtfulness during Literature Circles. Well done!
Maison	3/4C	Respect Responsibility Learning	For making a great start to term 4. Making efforts to be ready to learn.
Amna B	3/4D	Respect Responsibility Learning	For having a positive approach to her learning each day. Amna, you always try your best and I love how your confidence has grown! Keep it up!
Leon P	3/4E	Respect Responsibility Learning	For taking his responsibilities in Literature Circles so seriously and really thinking outside the box to help his group learn. Keep it up!

Allanah S	5/6A	Responsibility Learning	For demonstrating the willingness to work on improving her maths skills and achieving an impressive personal best in our mixed challenge, Really well done!
Cara S	5/6B	Respect Responsibility Learning	For always giving your absolute best in everything you do, sharing your understanding and strategies with the class, and being a kind and supportive friend to everyone you meet. Keep it up Cara!
Zack H	5/6C	Respect Responsibility Learning	For your outstanding work and confident presentation on your home learning project about Koholint!
Anouk	5/6D	Respect Responsibility Learning	For always asking for help when needed and persisting when tasks feel challenging.
Hendrix	5/6E	Respect Responsibility Learning	For demonstrating excellent reading ability and understanding whilst reading our class novel Skellig.

SPECIALIST AWARDS – Term Four: Week One

STUDENT NAME	GRADE	VALUE Respect Responsibility Learning	DEMONSTRATED WHEN
Slaine F 2C	Visual Arts	Responsibility Learning	For his creative interpretation and well thought out galaxy art piece. Keep up the great work.
Tahlia FC	Science F-2	Learning	For your engagement in our first science lesson back in Term 4 and for sharing what you know about the special features of a giraffe with the class. Keep it up Tahlia!
Gerard H 3A	Science 3-6	Learning	For your hard work during our first science lesson back in Term 4 where we learned new vocabulary for our unit "Life cycles of Plants and Animals". Keep it up Gerard!
Michael T 2C	AUSLAN F-2	Learning	For demonstrating great listening skills and for working very well with his peers during our group work this week. Michael's demonstration of 'Modern Technology' signs was fantastic! Keep up the great work Michael!
Kira Q 3/4E	AUSLAN 3-6	Respect Responsibility Learning	For being an excellent learner this week by demonstrating her knowledge of previous signs and being a great receptive learner. Kira is always respectful towards her peers and practises her signing with others. Well done!
Luke V	PE F-2	Respect Responsibility Learning	For actively being involved in class discussions and for always trying his best.
Sophia F	PE 3-6	Respect Responsibility Learning	For always being a respectful and responsible learner. Well done on being a great sport at the basketball gala day and representing the school highly.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK – Term Four: Week Two

STUDENT NAME	GRADE	VALUE Respect Responsibility	DEMONSTRATED WHEN
Tristan	Foundation A	Respect Responsibility Learning	For working hard to improve your handwriting and use correct sentence structure
Georgia	Foundation B	Respect Responsibility Learning	For working so well with your partners. You listened, shared ideas, and cooperated beautifully during group activities!
Charlie K	Foundation C	Learning	For including extra detail in his narrative
Arthur	1A	Respect Responsibility Learning	For his wonderfully descriptive language during creative writing.
Paige B	1B	Responsibility Learning	For being persistent with our maths activities this week, consistently trying your best! Well Done!
Megan	1C	Respect Responsibility Learning	For putting so much effort into her writing and maths this week. Your handwriting and your sharing are getting much better, keep it up Megan!
Hannah A	2A	Respect Responsibility Learning	For demonstrating our school values at our Day Camp to Lake Dewar! Amazing work!
Darcy M	2B	Learning	For doing an amazing job at dividing collections into halves, quarters, and eighths. You're a star!
Mack H	2C	Respect Responsibility Learning	For working wonderfully with a partner during our fraction lessons! You showed great teamwork while dividing collections into halves, quarters, and eighths. Fantastic effort!
Ehan K	3/4B	Responsibility	For consistently reading each night and keeping your reading journal up to date. Your dedication is impressive - keep it up!
Max P	3/4C	Respect Responsibility Learning	For always trying his best to self regulate so that he can work hard. Fantastic writing and mathematics this week Max!
Jacob F	3/4D	Learning	For amazing effort in writing this week. Jacob, you have really taken your time with your handwriting and recording your ideas. Keep it up!
Ann N	3/4E	Respect Responsibility Learning	For always listening in our writing lessons and having a go at using the tools we learn about in class. Her writing is always a pleasure to read, keep it up!
Vinci	5/6A	Learning	For your excellent effort in our weekly maths challenge and for working so well to complete his word study to a high standard. Well done and keep it up.
Ash V	5/6B	Respect Responsibility Learning	For your genuine curiosity to learn more and your commitment to completing all your work to an exceptionally high standard! Incredible as always Ash!

Zach L	5/6C	Respect Responsibility Learning	For clearly and confidently explaining your reasoning when making a values-based decision in response to an ethical dilemma. Well done Zach!
Ava V	5/6D	Responsibility Learning	For taking on feedback and making changes to your narrative draft to ensure it will be interesting for the reader.
Hanyang	5/6E	Respect Responsibility Learning	For continuously demonstrating the school values and always trying your personal best!

SPECIALIST AWARDS – Term Four: Week Two

STUDENT NAME	GRADE	VALUE Respect Responsibility Learning	DEMONSTRATED WHEN
Noah L 3/4E	Performing Arts	Respect Responsibility Learning	Thank you Noah for a sterling effort in bringing a great mime and song performance together for your peers to enjoy. Your passion for what you do is contagious. Well done!
Elisa N 1A	Science F-2	Respect Learning	For always showing respect when listening to instructions and for your consistent effort during our Science lessons. Amazing job Elisa!
Kayla D 5/6E	Science 3-	Responsibility Learning	For working consistently and responsibly with your table group when researching the structural adaptations and environments of different animals! Great work Kayla!
Erin C 2A	AUSLAN F- 2	Respect Responsibility Learning	For her excellent receptive and expressive abilities in Auslan this week. Erin demonstrated her knowledge of 'take-away food' signs with great accuracy. She always listens well and fully participates during our class discussions. Well done Erin!
Mikey R 5/6A	AUSLAN 3- 6	Respect Responsibility Learning	For being an outstanding learner, demonstrating his Auslan knowledge by consistently recalling many signs and regularly participating in our class discussions. Mikey is always respectful towards his peers and works very well in all group activities.
Amelia A 1C	PE F-2	Respect Responsibility Learning	For always coming to the lesson ready to learn and try her best whilst also being an awesome class helper. Well Done
Hayley A 5/6A	PE 3-6	Respect Responsibility Learning	For coming to the lesson ready to learn and try her best. You displayed great skill and sportsmanship in our Netball practice. Well Done

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Discover Avondale Heights Community Event

Come along to a fun day of celebration at the Discover Avondale Heights Community Event on **Sunday**, **9 November**, **from 10am to 2pm**. Enjoy a fantastic lineup of activities including:

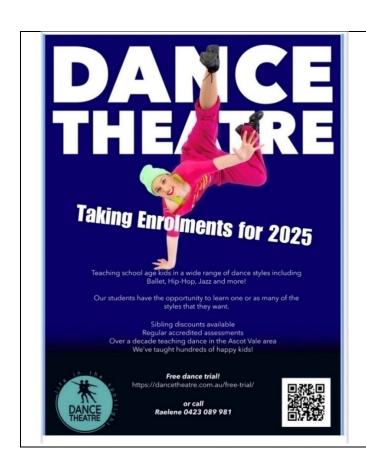
- Delicious food and refreshments
- Live entertainment
- Fun activities suitable for all ages

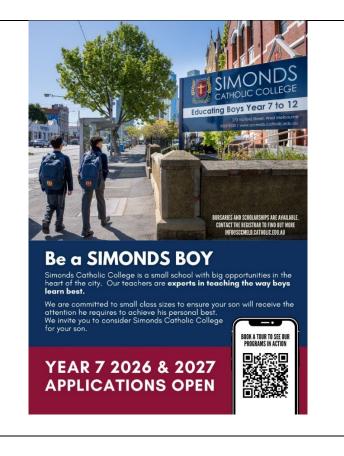
Whether you're a long-time resident or new Avondale Heights, it's the perfect opportunity to connect with your local community, enjoy great food, and make lasting memories.

Free to attend, everyone is welcome.

Find out more here: <u>Discover Avondale Heights Community</u> Event - Moonee Valley City Council



















The Playground Project Melbourne

Saturday, 28 June–Sunday, 12 October Incinerator Gallery, 180 Holmes Road Aberfeldie

Get ready to jump, fall, and imagine this winter when the international blockbuster.

The Playground Project takes over the Incinerator Gallery from June– October, FREE for kids under 12!

Making its Australian debut, the Playground Project will delight and inspire all ages. Experience a unique immersive exploration of creativity, play, and discovery in an urban landscape with three fully playable installations in and around the Incinerator Gallery building.

Playground design isn't just child's play – it is an artform.

Get ready to experience the best of modern and contemporary art and design with The Playground Project Melbourne.

Children 12 and under FREE with accompanying adult (up to three children per adult).

Book now at www.playgroundproject.com.au
Find out more here: www.playgroundproject.com.au

The Playground Project is curated by Gabriela Burkhalter Exhibition design by BoardGrove Architects Produced by Incinerator Gallery Project Partner – Kunsthalle Zürich Major Partner – Jellis Craig | Jellis Craig Foundation Education Partner – Monash University | MADA



Dads play a huge role in their children's lives, shaping their social, emotional and physical wellbeing.

But it can be a struggle to find and connect with other dads who understand the journey.

Working Out Dads is a six-week online support program designed for fathers of children with developmental delay or disability.

'It's helped me appreciate the value of what I'm doing and the hug importance of my role as a dad.

Scan for more information and to register

Call 03 9880 7000 or 1800 654 013 regional

Advocating for children with disability











What to expect

- Weekly 90-minute online sessions, designed just for dads - no cost to join
- Led by two male facilitators, one of whom is a father of a child with disability
- A supportive space to connect with others and build practical strategies
- A 60-minute group discussion where dads can share, listen, and learn
- A 30-minute online session with a certified personal trainer focused on building activity and movement into

When

Session 1: Tuesday 29 July, 7:30pm Session 2: Tuesday 5 August, 7:30pm

Session 3: Tuesday 12 August, 7:30pm

Session 4: Tuesday 19 August, 7:30pm

Session 5: Tuesday 26 August, 7:30pm Session 6: Tuesday 2 September, 7:30pm

Register now bit.ly/WODt325cc





Season 25/26 Welcoming new boys and girls to join our growing junior teams





Join the AHCC Blast Program 4.5 - 9 years old 60 min of fun | 10 week program Friday nights Learn new skills | All gear supplied

Choose your favourite Big Bash team at registration and receive your own Cricket Blast welcome pack!

JUNIORS COMP

Under 10s (6-10 years old) - \$150 includes a FREE Club Match Day Polo! Under 12s, 14s & 16s - \$260 - includes a FREE Club Match Day Polo! U10's, 12's & 14's play Friday night games



Training for U10's Starts Wednesday 10th September **Blast Program Starts Early November** See All Team Training Start Dates On Our Website

REGISTER NOW!

via our website avondaleheightscricketclub.com.au or directly at PLAY HQ - https://www.playhq.com/cricketaustralia/org/avondale-heights-cricket-club/0a673e37/register

Any questions? Please contact President Dean Campbell - 0431 924 968

avondale_heights_cricket_club



Avondale Heights Cricket Club

COME AND TRY T-BALL & BASEBALL

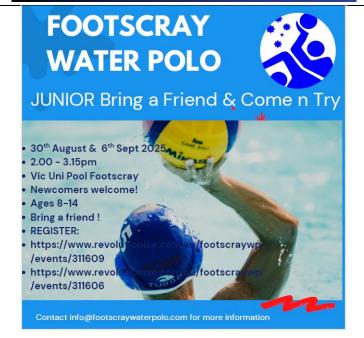
9:30-11:30am Sunday 31 Aug & 14 Sept 120 Park Cres, Williamstown Nth



- GIRLS & BOYS
- ALL AGES & SKILL LEVELS
- NO EQUIPMENT REQ
- BRING A FRIEND











Moonee Valley Knights Announcement 🚱

With the season winding down, we're already planning ahead to develop our squads and build on the strong foundation we've created.

For 2026, we're aiming to field teams from U7 through U16 at the Wallabies and Kangaroos level \mathbf{Y} .



Tryouts will be held in October (date TBA)

Stay tuned for details — this is your chance to join an amazing club and be part of the Knights family! 🖤 💝



Register your Expression of Interest (EOI) now through the link.

https://www.jotform.com/assign/251867897256073/251870348880061









JOIN THE FIGHT FOR SIGHT AGAINST USHER SYNDROME

What is Usher Sundrome?

Usher Syndrome is a devastating genetic sensory condition and is the leading cause of genetic deaf-blindness worldwide. People with Usher Syndrome experience:

- Complete deafness from birth
- No sense of balance from birth
- Vision loss starting before age ten, ultimately leading to complete blindness

About the Silent Sight Foundation

We are a family-led charity that exists to deliver breakthroughs that lead to effective treatments and ultimately a cure for the blindness caused by Usher Syndrome.

Where Our Funding Goes

We invest in cutting-edge research to uncover new treatments and potential cures for the blindness caused by Usher Syndrome.

Our funding supports scientists and institutions leading the way in: Gene Therapies – Stem Cell Therapies – Innovative Medical Technologies



Discover our journeu Watch our story and together with your help, we can make a difference.

Scan the QR code >



SILENTSIGHT.ORG SILENTSIGHT.ORG SILENTSIGHT.ORG





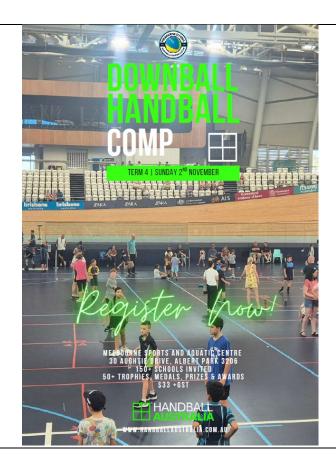














FREE OPEN DAY

13th of December 2025 DM @kikaacademy to Book!

Join us for a fun filled day of dance, games, giveaways, and most importantly - a safe, welcoming, and joyful environment to explore the love of dance.

Meet our amazing team of teachers and the heart of our studio, Queen Mama Kika herself!

The Schedule

(ika Bubbas (2-3 years 10:00am - 10:45am

11:00am - 11:45am

12:00pm - 12:45pm

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Face painting will be available for our Bubbas and Minis, and of course, tea, coffee, and refreshments will be ready for all our lovely parents!

If you would like to attend our open day, please secure your spot by sending us a DM on the Kika Academy Instagram page! @kikaacademy if you don't have instagram, please text 0401692974

A fun introduction to foundational dance skills through creative activities and simple technique.
Focus: rhythm, balance, and basic steps.

Building on technique while encouraging self expression and confidence through a variety of styles.

Focus: strong foundations and teamwork.

Class Information

we offer age appropriate programs to support each dancer's stage of developm Play based classes introducing movement, rhythm, and coordination in a fun and supportive environment.
Focus: exploration and joyful movement.

Developing skills further with more structure and performance opportunities. Focus: refining technique and building stage presence.

Advanced classes for dedicated dancers ready to take their training to the next level.

Focus: performance, artistry, and excellence.

Dance Styles

A dynamic, upbeat style that builds strength, flexibility, and performance skills. Perfect for kids who love energy and fun!

Street inspired movement that's fun, expressive, and confidence building.

Unique to Kika Studios, this empowering style blends jazz and hip hop with sass and confidence.

A timeless style that builds beautiful technique, grace, and discipline the foundation for all other dance forms.

A blend of dance and tumbling skills, focusing on flexibility, strength, and exciting tricks.

come and join the kika fam!