



# Achievement, Confidence & Pride

NEWSLETTER #03 – Friday, February 12, 2021

A big thank you to all of our families who are making the most of the opportunity to walk to school. Riding bikes, walking from home and parking further away from school alleviates the congestion around Avondale Primary.

## SAFETY @ AVONDALE PRIMARY

**Current COVID restrictions require any teenager or adult visiting our school to wear a mask indoors. This applies to any person coming into the front office.**

Attendance at school every day is essential for each student to access all learning experiences, however, IF YOUR CHILD IS UNWELL, PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME. This ensures the health and wellbeing of our entire school community.

It has been fabulous to see so many families dropping off and picking up their children at the gates and line up areas this week. Many of our students are saying goodbye at the gate and heading confidently off to play with their classmates before the bell to go inside. A HUGE thank you to all of you for making this process a smooth one and ensuring you are leaving through the gates by 9am so they can be locked for the school day.

We appreciate families making every effort to:

- be at school prior to 8.50am. **If you arrive after 8.50am parents or carers are required to sign children in through the Compass Kiosk at the front office. Children then collect a**

**late pass to take to their classroom teacher,**

- pick up their children promptly at the end of the day,
- stand back from the line up areas to make it easier for teachers and children to see you. If you cannot maintain physical distancing, **PLEASE WEAR A MASK.**

## ANAPHYLAXIS UPDATE

Food allergies are becoming increasingly common among children, and this year there are students in your child's classroom who have severe allergies to nuts and other allergens - any exposure to these items, even a tiny amount, could be potentially very serious and life threatening for these children.

Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that occurs after exposure to an allergen. The most common allergens for school aged children are nuts, eggs, cow's milk, fish, shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings and medications. Signs and symptoms of an anaphylaxis reaction can include:

- difficult/noisy breathing
- swelling of tongue
- difficulty talking and/or hoarse voice
- wheeze or persistent cough
- persistent dizziness or collapse, pale or floppy
- abdominal pain and/or vomiting

Symptoms usually develop within ten minutes and up to two hours after

exposure to an allergen, but can appear within a few minutes.

For the safety of children with food allergies we have an Anaphylaxis Policy that can be accessed on the school website. Following the RCH recommendations, our policy states that we have a **“no food sharing” approach at Avondale Primary and we discourage students from bringing ‘nut products’ to school, on excursions and camps. We seek your support seeking in limiting certain foods being sent to school**, for example, nuts, peanut butter sandwiches, Nutella or any food containing nuts.

We do ask our students and families to help make the school environment safe for all students, by following these simple suggestions that we also reinforce in the classroom:

- Be mindful when sending any foods that contain eggs, cow’s milk or nuts, including peanut butter or Nutella sandwiches, to school with your child. Your child will be seated separately in the event that they bring such items in so all surfaces can be thoroughly cleaned.
- Remind your child to **never** share their food and drinks with other students. This includes not sending in food for celebrations such as birthdays, Christmas or Easter. As an alternative to celebrate special occasions, we suggest small non-food items including pencils, stickers, bouncy balls or any other creative ideas you have.
- Carefully wash your child’s face and hands thoroughly before they leave home, especially if your child has eaten nuts/allergens prior to coming to school.
- Please remind your child to wash their hands before and after eating

We appreciate your support in ensuring our Avondale Primary Community is safe. Together we can make a difference! Thank you for helping to support our school community.

## CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS

Di has received a number of expression of interests for Canteen volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, information can be found on Compass. Volunteers will require a Working with Children (WWC) check.


## SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

A reminder that nominations for School Council close at 4pm on Monday 15 Feb. Nomination forms can be collected from the office. Additional information can be found later in this newsletter.

## TERM 1 SUN SMART REMINDER

Continue to bring your hat to school every day this term. Term 1 is **No hat, No play**, so please name your school hat and put it in your school bag ready to wear each day.

SUN PROTECTION and the UV INDEX										
Low		Moderate			High		Very High		Extreme	
UV INDEX 1	UV INDEX 2	UV INDEX 3	UV INDEX 4	UV INDEX 5	UV INDEX 6	UV INDEX 7	UV INDEX 8	UV INDEX 9	UV INDEX 10	UV INDEX 11+
SUN PROTECTION NOT REQUIRED		SUN PROTECTION REQUIRED								
Unless outdoors for extended periods, or near reflective surfaces such as snow or water.		Wear sun-protective clothing, a broad-brimmed hat and sunglasses. Apply SPF30+ sunscreen to any unprotected skin. Seek shade.								



## STUDENT SCHOOL BANKING

From Term 1 2021, the Victorian Government has ceased School Banking Programs in all Victorian Government schools. As a result, the CommBank School Banking program is no longer in operation. If you are unsure of other methods of depositing to your child’s account, please feel free to contact the Bank’s general enquiries hotline on 13221, or alternatively visit your local CommBank branch.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



Week 3 - 12/02/2021

Prep A	Sebastian B
Prep B	Yatika N
Prep C	Kevin Z
Prep1A	Oliver C

1A	Declan C
1B	Dominic C
1C	Emily A

2A	Anastasia P
2B	Ella D
2C	Noah T

34A	April B
34B	Lucas N
34C	Adam M
34D	Sidney C
34E	Yonathon B
34F	Mia B

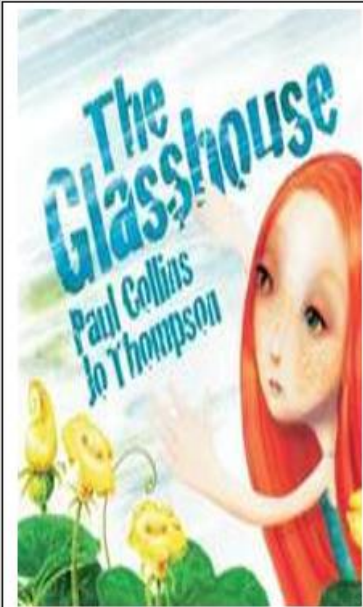
56A	Alex W
56B	Hayden L
56C	Xavier D
56D	Locy L

ART JNR	Aiden B (PrepB)
ART SNR	Portia M (56C)
CLOTE	Chalee L (56B)
PE	Alex W (56A)

## Book Reviews –Treasured and Tried

### The Glasshouse by Paul Collins & Jo Thompson

Clara lives inside a glasshouse and grows perfect pumpkins, ensuring that the soil is perfect and there are no bugs. One day she is visited by a boy with a bumpy looking pumpkin, she starts to worry about the effect of his visit and the contamination of her pumpkins. She becomes paranoid about letting the outside world in to her glasshouse as she is obsessed with the perfection of her pumpkins and does everything she can to keep everyone and everything out of her glasshouse. Eventually people stop coming to buy her pumpkins and she can no longer afford the best fertilisers and her pumpkins get spots and bumps. Eventually she realises that there is more to life and with the help of the boy visitor who becomes her friend she learns to share fun times. This story has a strong message about the concept of values, perfection and perception, living and enjoying life. A beautiful book with an important message to share for children 5 years plus and adults alike. Review by Liz Oruba



## Book Club **LOOP**

The EASIEST way for parents to order and pay for Book Club!



### **Parents: Are you registered for LOOP?**

**LOOP** is the easiest way for you to order and pay online for your child's Book Club order, if you wish to pay by credit card.

Parents who are registered for **LOOP** receive exclusive sneak peeks, downloads and offers throughout the school year—don't miss out!



Head to [scholastic.com.au/LOOP](https://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP) and register today!

 **SCHOLASTIC**

# SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

## WHAT IS A SCHOOL COUNCIL AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within state-wide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

## Who is on the school council?

For most primary school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
- A mandated elected school employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. Department employees are not eligible to be community members.

## WHY IS PARENT MEMBERSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

## DO I NEED SPECIAL EXPERIENCE TO BE ON SCHOOL COUNCIL?

Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role. Councillors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

## HOW CAN YOU BECOME INVOLVED?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term one each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

## WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO TO STAND FOR ELECTION?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term one each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category. Department employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination. Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

## REMEMBER

- Contact the school if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year

- Be sure to vote in the elections.

## FORM 2: NOTICE OF ELECTION AND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

(Formerly **Schedule 4: Notice of Election and Call for Nomination**)

An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of Avondale Primary School

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on: 15/02/2021  
The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on: 1/03/2021

Following the closing of nominations, a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	TERM OF OFFICE	NUMBER OF POSITIONS
Parent member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2021 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of poll in 2023	4
School employee member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2021 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of poll in 2023	1

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.



Jill Benham  
Principal

## CONNECTING WITH OUR LOCAL SECONDARY COLLEGES

What a fantastic opportunity for our Grade 4, 5 and 6 students to attend a range of Art and Technology workshops provided at Essendon Keilor College, East Keilor, a local secondary college, at no cost. Please read the information and decide whether this is an opportunity you would like to explore further with your child. Contact details are provided.

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## 2021 Essendon Keilor College East Keilor Workshops

A range of Art and Technology workshops workshop designed for Grade 4, 5 and 6 students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths, delivered by senior STEM teachers and EKC students.

Where: Essendon Keilor College: East Keilor Campus, STEM

When: Monday February 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Monday March 1<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>

Time: 3:45pm – 5pm afternoon tea and workshops

Who: Grade 4, 5 and 6 students

This program is **free of charge** and subsidised by Essendon Keilor College.

Monday February 15 <sup>th</sup>	STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics)
Monday February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Wood technology
Monday March 1 <sup>st</sup>	Wood technology
Monday March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Food technology
Monday March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Art

Book a spot by emailing: [essendon.keilor.co@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:essendon.keilor.co@edumail.vic.gov.au) or call 8331 0109.



## MOONEE VALLEY news

As the school year returns, Moonee Valley is celebrating the launch of new Online maps.

<https://mooneevalley.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=38c0ce34c31a47899a9608fe752bf945>

Many families have been walking and cycling around their local neighbourhood during the COVID restrictions, Moonee Valley is encouraging students to continue this habit and walk or cycle to and from school as often as possible to reduce the congestion around the school.

They have also developed online maps to help make the school run simple. The maps can also be used to get active around your neighbourhood and identify Active paths to school and easy drop off areas, where the students can walk from.

# This is a COVIDSafe school

This school has a COVIDSafe Plan to maintain the safety of all staff and students during Term 4.

The four pillars of the COVIDSafe Plan are:



The available evidence suggests that the risk to staff and students remains low when recommended health and safety strategies are followed and that schools do not pose a greater risk of infection than other locations.

For detailed information visit:  
[www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au)

