



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### Welcome Back

Welcome back to a new school year. It was so lovely to have parents back onsite this week and be able to chat to you all face to face again. The students have had an incredibly settled start to the year, they have already begun establishing their routines and getting into the learning zone with our 2021 Start Up Program! Thank-you to everyone for adhering to our 'COVID safe' measures, it has meant we have a safe start to the year.

We are welcoming many new preps into the school this year, I encourage you to greet and support our new parents and their children in joining our wonderful school community. Although the reputation of the school tends to focus on the children and staff, it is you, our community members that often make the difference.

Paul Schwartz

**Important Dates to Remember:**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Public Holiday

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March - Curriculum Day (Pupil Free Day)

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Last Day of Term 1. School Finishes at 2:05pm

**Social Distancing and Masks:**

In line with the current Victorian Government Regulations and for the safety of our entire community, it is now a requirement that everyone over the age of 12, wear a mask when on School Grounds.

**School Captains**

I would like to introduce our 2021 School Captains: Mia, Mansoor, Abbey, Ky, Nathan & Guransh. At the end of last year, they introduced themselves at our assemblies and shared what they like about our school.

It was wonderful to hear each student comment on the relationships they have built at Wedge Park Primary School and their ideas for continuing to make our school a wonderful place. We were all incredibly proud of them and we are looking forward to working with them throughout the year.

**Meet the Teacher (Virtual)**

Due to the current Covid-19 guidelines we are unable to have our usual 'Meet the Teacher' afternoon. On Monday 15th February and Tuesday 16th February (4pm - 5pm), each classroom teacher will conduct 4 x 30 Minute live sessions via Webex, allowing families with multiple children to attend all of the sessions. We will be sending out the Webex codes via compass prior to the event.

During the sessions we will have a presentation about the upcoming year, as well as time for the parents to ask questions and a tour of the classroom. These sessions will not be a time for parents to have personalised conversations about their own child, you will be able to make another time to discuss this with the teacher (via a phone call).

Our Specialist Teachers will create a short video for each Year level, outlining the units of work they will cover this year.

On the day of the Meet the Teacher sessions, parents will be able to call the school to speak to a Specialist Teacher if they have any questions.

## Curriculum Day

Our first term Curriculum Day is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March. Students are not required at school on this day.

## Classroom Routines

A reminder that the 8:50am music is the time when children come into our classrooms so they can organise the things we need for the day. To promote independence and resilience, please encourage your child to carry their own bag in to the classroom and unpack it by themselves. Our learning time begins at 9:00am every day, please ensure that you have said goodbye to your child and they are in their classroom by 9:00am. Classroom teachers are available to discuss any concerns you may have before and after school by making a time with them directly.

## School Improvements

Over the holidays, we have had a number of projects completed to continue to improve our school. We also want to ensure that our students have access to the best possible resources. The playgrounds look incredible!



## Mobile Phone Policy

As you may be aware, the Victorian Government introduced a mobile phone policy that took effect in Term 1 2020. Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours, including recess and lunchtime. At Wedge Park, students are to take their mobile phones to the library. The policy is designed to support teaching and learning in an environment that is free from distractions, disruptions and student inattention caused by the urge to check their phones. Please know this also includes 'smartwatches'. At recess and lunch times, students are encouraged to communicate with each other face to face and/or be involved in activities rather than being focused on a device or on social media.

## Parent Payments

A friendly reminder that our Parent payments are due (\$160 per student). This money ensures that our students have all the essential items they need for the school year. Payments can be made by cash, BPay or EFTPOS. Payment can also be arranged through Centrepay which can help families pay over smaller instalments. Please see Lexie, our business manager, if you would like to discuss this option.

## Sun Smart



Wedge Park Primary School is a Sun Smart school. We aim to educate our community on the importance of being protected from the sun. This means wearing sunscreen and a broad brimmed hat.

All students are expected to wear a hat during recess, lunchtime and any outdoor activities. If they do not have a hat, they will not be able to participate.

**Please make sure your child brings their hat every day. And remember to write their name on it, so it can be returned if it gets lost.**

## Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) Applications

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, such as a Veterans Affairs Gold Card, Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible. There is also a special consideration category for asylum seeker and refugee families.

Payment amounts this year are \$125 for eligible primary school students. Payments are made direct to the school to use towards expenses relating to Camps, Excursions and Sporting Activities for the benefit of your child.

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

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

If you would like to apply for the first time, please contact the school office or come in and ask for an application form. Check with the school office if you are unsure, and please return completed forms to the school office as soon as possible.

## Breakfast Club

Wedge Park Primary School proudly encourages serving a healthy start to the day for our students. Commencing next week, our Breakfast Club will provide a free healthy breakfast every Wednesday and Friday morning before class commences from 8:40am, in the Sensory Room which is near the bike shed. Staff will run Breakfast Club so students can enjoy a healthy start to the school day.

All students are welcome to attend.

**Thank you to the Food Bank for donating a wonderful supply of milk, cereals, fruit and spreads to our school.**



## School Map

Attached to the last page of this newsletter is an updated map for 2021.

## Compass Consent

On Tuesday this week, you would have received a number of events on Compass for you to consent to:

- Local Excursions Permission
- PG Movie Permission
- Technology User Agreement
- Headlice
- Technology User Agreement
- Photographing, filming and recording students to be shared within the school community
- Photographing, filming and recording students to be shared to be shared in locations that are publicly accessible

These events/consents will occur every 12 months, allowing you to continue to update your information and easy access for the school.

When completing the consent, click on the event (arrow) then we ask that you read all the resources attached, with the final step being clicking on the green accept button to confirm your consent.

## Upcoming School Council Elections

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.

Parents on School Council 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 in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging/engagement.

Each year, approximately half of the School Council retires to allow new members to become involved. To this end, we are now formally calling for nominations for the 2021/2022 Wedge Park PS School Council. Membership on the Council is for a period of two years and meetings are held monthly. If you would like to know more about being a councillor, don't hesitate to call the school to find out more information.

In 2021, we have 5 parent vacancies and 2 teacher vacancies on School Council for a full period of two years. Nominations for School Council will open on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February and close at 4:00pm on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February.

Please contact the office for a nomination form if you are interested. If we receive more nominations that positions available, an election process will follow in the coming weeks.

## Privacy Collection Statement – Primary Schools Information for Parents and Carers

During the ordinary course of your child's attendance at our school, school staff will collect your child's personal and health information when necessary to educate your child, or to support your child's social and emotional wellbeing or health in the school context. Such information will also be collected when required to fulfil a legal obligation, including duty of care, anti-discrimination law and occupational health and safety law. If that information is not collected, the school may be unable to provide optimal education or support to your child, or fulfil those legal obligations.

For example, health information may be collected through the school nurse, primary welfare officer or wellbeing staff member. If your child is referred to a specific health service at school, such as a Student Support Services officer, the required consent will be obtained. Our school also collects information provided by parents and carers through the School Entrance Health Questionnaire (SEHQ) and the Early Childhood Intervention Service (ECIS) Transition Form.

Our school may use online tools, such as apps and other software, to effectively collect and manage information about your child for teaching and learning purposes, parent communication and engagement, student administration, and school management purposes. When our school uses these online tools, we take steps to ensure that your child's information is secure. If you have any concerns about the use of these online tools, please contact us.

School staff will only share your child's personal or health information with other staff who need to know to enable the school to educate or support your child, or fulfil a legal obligation.

When our students transfer to another Victorian Government School, personal and health information about that student will be transferred to that next school. Transferring this information is in the best interests of our students and assists that next school to provide optimal education and support to students.

In some limited circumstances, information may be disclosed outside of the school (and outside of the Department of Education and Training). The school will seek your consent for such disclosures unless the disclosure is allowed or mandated by law.

Our school values the privacy of every person. When collecting and managing personal and health information, all school staff must comply with Victorian privacy law. For more information about privacy including about how to access personal and health information held by the school about you or your child, see our school's privacy policy attached. Further information can be found at <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/schoolsprivacypolicy.aspx>

Throughout this notice, 'staff' includes Principals, Teachers, Student Support Service Officers, Youth Workers, Social Workers, Nurses and any other allied health practitioners and all other staff at our school. This includes employees, agents and service providers (contractors) of the Department, whether paid or unpaid.

### School Leadership Team

I am fortunate to be working alongside my dynamic Leadership Team this year. Each area of the school is led by an Assistant Principal, Leading Teacher and Learning Specialist that will work closely with the teachers, students and families in their team to foster a safe, fun and rigorous learning environment for all of our students', whilst ensuring that we all stay connected as one big learning community.

#### Principal- Paul Schwartz



Paul leads and manages the planning, delivery, evaluation and improvement of the education of all students through the strategic deployment of resources provided by the department and school community.

#### Deputy Principal: Director of Learning and Teaching- Sara McKee

Sara leads and manages the teaching and learning programs at Wedge Park. She works closely with the sub- school assistant principals, school teaching and learning coaches and classroom teachers to support student learning.



#### Assistant Principal Prep-3- Melissa Lake



Melissa oversees teaching, learning, student engagement and wellbeing for students in years Prep to 3. She works closely with the sub-school teaching and learning coaches and professional learning team leaders.

#### Assistant Principal 4-6 and Specialist- Jennifer Stevenson

Jennifer oversees teaching, learning, student engagement and wellbeing for students in years 4-6. She works closely with the sub-school teaching and learning coaches and professional learning team leaders.



### Teaching and Learning Coaches

At Wedge Park, we have 5 Teaching and Learning Coaches who oversee year levels to support students and teachers in teaching, learning, engagement and wellbeing.

<p><b>Prep/Intervention</b> Michelle Trimboli</p> 	<p><b>Year 1/2</b> Kathy Jungfer</p> 	<p><b>Year 3/4</b> Belinda Vaughan</p> 
<p><b>Year 5/STEM Specialists and Digital Technology</b> Jodie Leetham</p> 	<p><b>Year 6 and the Arts Specialists</b> Carolyn Murray</p> 	

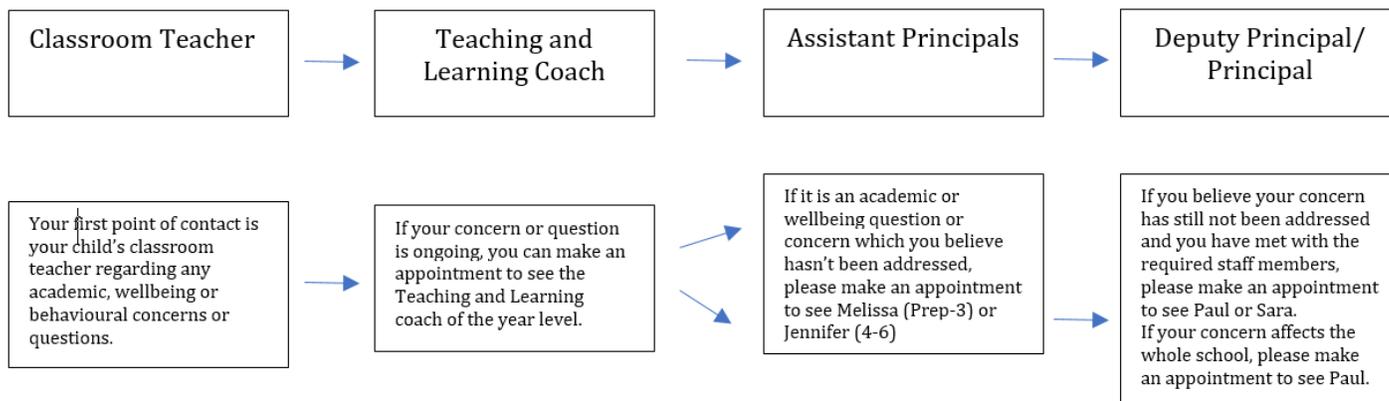
### PLT Leaders

Each year level in the school has a Professional Learning Team Leader, who ensures the smooth running of the year level team. They also support teachers in teaching, learning, engagement and wellbeing.

<b>Prep</b> Amber Kirk 	<b>Year 1</b> Briegh Willcox 	<b>Year 2</b> Sarah Lochhead 
<b>Year 3</b> Tim Hughes 	<b>Year 4</b> Sarah Bogle 	<b>Year 5</b> Rachael Best 
<b>Year 6</b> Rob Bess 		

### Who To Go To

We take all questions and concerns seriously and follow these up promptly. Below is a table of who to go to for any questions or concerns:



Please remember if you need to contact a member of our Leadership team please do so via the school email address [wedge.park.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:wedge.park.ps@education.vic.gov.au) or phone 97437595.

**Meet Our New Staff**

<p><b>Prep</b> Sree Sivadas</p>		<p><b>Year 1</b> Colleen Hardwick</p>		<p><b>Year 2</b> Marnie McColl</p>	
<p><b>Year 6</b> Ashley Aghan</p>		<p><b>Tutor</b> Anthea Makings</p>		<p><b>Tutor</b> Skye Thompson</p>	
<p><b>Library Technician</b> Nicole Donahue</p>		<p><b>Education Support</b> Karla Williams</p>		<p><b>Multicultural Education Aide</b> Abraham Jongroor</p>	

**Swimming**

Today Wedge Park students participated in swimming trials to represent the school swimming team. All students gave it their best and did a fantastic job, with some students even giving different strokes/events a try. Thank you to all that came down to support our students. Well done everyone!

**Classroom Table**

Free to good home - if you would like a classroom table for home etc., please come past the office and let the office staff know.



## Office Reminders

### Payments Due

School Fees - \$160 per student

## School Office

Office Hours: 8:15am – 4:00pm

Phone Number: 9743 7595, please press 1 to report an absence or 2 to speak to Reception

Email: [wedge.park.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:wedge.park.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

If you have changed your phone number/address, please notify the office or update your details through the Compass Portal.

It is very important that we have correct details in case we need to contact you in an emergency.

## Sickbay Reminders

If your child has a medical condition or requires Medication at school, please notify the office and fill out the appropriate forms.



### Instrumental Music Lessons On School Campus!



#### Small Group & Private Lessons

- Primary Music Institute offer instrumental music lessons right here on school campus!
- To find out all about the music lessons please visit PMI's website. You can check which instruments are available, get up to date program details and apply for lessons online
- Please **ENROL TODAY** via PMI's website
- Lessons are held once per week on school campus – with lessons typically during school hours
- Only \$18.00 per child per small group lesson (2-5 students for 30 minutes)
- Our small group lessons provide a fun and affordable opportunity to learn instrumental music
- Private lessons (1-on-1) and pair lessons (max 2 students) are also available
- Instrumental music can improve your child's school results – including for reading, maths, coordination, IQ, abstract reasoning, performance confidence... and is great fun!

P: 1300 362 824 E: [admin@primarymusicinstitute.com.au](mailto:admin@primarymusicinstitute.com.au) [www.primarymusicinstitute.com.au](http://www.primarymusicinstitute.com.au)

## Term 1 Calendar

Term 1 Calendar				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Feb	2 Feb	3 Feb	4 Feb	5 Feb
			Newsletter	
8 Feb	9 Feb	10 Feb	11 Feb	12 Feb
		Virtual Assembly		
15 Feb	16 Feb	17 Feb	18 Feb	19 Feb
Meet the Teacher (Virtual) 4 - 5pm	Meet the Teacher (Virtual) 4 - 5pm	School Council MPSSA Swimming		Year 5/6 Summer Sports
22 Feb	24 Feb	24 Feb	25 Feb	26 Feb
				Year 5/6 Summer Sports
1 Mar	2 Mar	3 Mar	4 Mar	5 Mar
			Newsletter	Year 5/6 Summer Sports
8 Mar	9 Mar	10 Mar	11 Mar	12 Mar
PUBLIC HOLIDAY NO SCHOOL		Virtual Assembly		Year 5/6 Lightning Prem
15 Mar	16 Mar	17 Mar	18 Mar	19 Mar
		School Council		CURRICULUM DAY NO SCHOOL
22 Mar	23 Mar	24 Mar	25 Mar	26 Mar
			Newsletter	
29 Mar	30 Mar`	31 Mar	1 Apr	2 Apr
		Newsletter	LAST DAY TERM 1 SCHOOL FINISHES AT 2:05PM	

