Date: Wednesday 15th December 2021 Issue 41

Newsletter

Portland Bay School

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Congratulations to our seven 2021 graduating students.

Maddison, Rory, Jamie, Lydia, Toby, Sam and Paige. We wish you well in your new adventures and all the successes in your future.

Next week events

Term 4

Wednesday 15th Dec.
Middle School excursion to Hamilton.

Thursday 16th Dec.
End of year final assembly 11am in the school courtyard. (See further in the newsletter for full details).

Last day of term for students 2.30pm finish

Friday 17th Dec.

Final Assembly and Presentations - Tomorrow

Parents, carers, relatives, friends, staff and students are invited to our final assembly
Thursday December 16th at 11am, in the school courtyard.

COVID regulations - All visitors, above the age of 12, will be required to QR code into the school at our front door. Visitors must show proof of full vaccination, and a staff member will record details in our visitor registration book. Mask must be worn indoors and where we are unable to social distance. Thank you in advance for keeping us all safe.

Last day of term reminder: School finishes at 2.30pm on the last day of every term.
Please adjust your pick-up and bus times. **The last day of Term 4 is Thursday December 16.**.
Term 1 will commence on Monday 31st January 2022.

Last week, S1 spent Monday to Friday at Blackwood camp and surrounding areas. Lots of camp fires, high ropes, archery, rock wall climbs and laughter. Staff also had a go at all the activities, much to the delight of the students, and even the meals were apparently all ok as well. *See next page for more highlights of the week.*

S1 also visited the Adventure Park, in Geelong and had a huge day out on all the rides and slides. Mini golf was also a big hit. Thank you to all involved for making the camp a great success and making memories with good friends.

Last Friday, we celebrated "International Disability Day" by participating in lots of activities for everyone. Face & arm painting, sausage sizzle, art and bubbles, mask making and cookie decorating, followed by dancing, was all the makings of a great few hours of fun. Juniors even managed a delicious Christmas lunch. Awesome day, well done.

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrate their birthdays over the coming weeks.

Dylan Turley - 20th Dec
Logan Clark - 22nd December
& Staff members
Gillian Caithness - 28th December
Barb Franke - 31st December

We hope you all enjoy your days

Upcoming calendar events

2022 Term 1

Friday 28th January
Staff return to school

Monday 31st January
STUDENTS start school

Term 2

Wednesday 4th May
School Photos

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Don't forget to be SunSmart this season.

Community Announcements

2021 Lions Christmas Cakes In the school office.

1KG $13.00

1.5kg $17.00

&

Christmas Puddings

$13.00

(Same prices as last year)

facebook

Find us on our Facebook "Portland Bay School".

Reminders - Current Covid Arrangements

While a lot of community Covid restrictions have been relaxed in recent times, schools with primary age students are still considered high risk sites.

At Portland Bay School there is still **mask** wearing for staff, and visitors, indoors and those students able to wear masks, however the exemption for classrooms is still in place.

All visitors who enter the school building, including parents, must sign in and present a full vaccination certificate at the office. See below.

Staff are opening windows, doors and our skylights to maximise the circulation of fresh air. We now have 8 DET supplied air purifiers placed in the classrooms for extra filtration.

Extra cleaning arrangements are still in place which includes an extra clean during the day and a thorough clean after school and on the school buses.

Department of
Education and Training

14 December 2021

2 Treasury Place
East Melbourne Victoria 3002
Telephone: 03 9637 2000
DX210083

Dear Parents and Carers

Children aged 5 to 11 can get the COVID-19 vaccination from 10 January 2022. This includes 5-year-olds who attend early childhood education and care services.

Please help your child get vaccinated before the end of January (when Term 1 starts for school) or as soon as they turn 5.

Bookings are not open yet but will be open in a few weeks. Children will need two separate appointments for the two doses.

Vaccines stop people getting very sick, and help stop the virus spreading.

Students do not have to get vaccinated to attend school or early childhood education and care, but it is the best way to keep all children safe.

Make a booking

Bookings will be available later in December 2021.

You will be able to book a vaccine appointment at a participating general practice, pharmacy or community health service, or at state vaccination centres through the Vaccine Clinic Finder.

Hotline and translation

The Department of Health's Coronavirus Hotline 1800 675 398 can help you book an appointment. They can answer questions you have about vaccination.

For school information in languages other than English, call TIS National on **131 450**. Please ask them to call the DET COVID-19 hotline on **1800 338 663** and they will help interpret.

The Victorian Government's coronavirus.vic.gov.au website also has information about COVID-19 vaccines in 63 community languages.

Support for students with disability

There is extra support for students with disabilities or who need extra help to get their vaccination. Contact specialist Disability Liaison Officers who can help make it easier.

The Association for Children with a Disability will hold a Facebook live session for families with children with additional needs on Tuesday 11 January at 10.30am. Register online.

Parent and community webinars

The Royal Children's Hospital will hold a Facebook live session – 'COVID-19 vaccinations for five- to 11-year-olds: Your questions answered' on Thursday 16 December at 11am.

Refer to the Facebook page for more information.

More information

Here is some information to help you learn more about vaccination:

- Needle phobia - The Melbourne Vaccine Education Centre (MVEC) (mcri.edu.au)
- Tips to help a child afraid of needles and stop it becoming a phobia - ABC Everyday
- COVID-19 vaccination social scripts - Amaze - Autism resource
- Sesame Street ABC of COVID vaccines

To keep us all safe in 2022, please help your child get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Kind regards,
Stephen Fraser, Deputy Secretary, School Education Programs and Support and
Kim Little Deputy, Secretary Early, Childhood Education.

Your details will be dealt with in accordance with the *Public Records Act 1973* and the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*. Should you have any queries or wish to gain access to your personal information held by this department please contact our Privacy Officer at the above address

VICTORIA
State Government