

Edition 3 7th March 2025

IN THE LOOP



Labour Day was first officially commemorated in 1912 and falls on the second Monday of March every year in Victoria. The day commemorates the achievements of the Australian Labour movement in fighting for equitable working rights and most notably the eight-hour day movement.

Acknowledgement to Country

We are learning on Wurundjeri Country and in the spirit of reconciliation, Lalor North Primary School acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are learning. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Important Dates

2025

Week 7, Term 1

Monday 10th March – Labour Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 11th March – Parent Teacher Interviews 11am – 8pm

Wednesday 12th March – Playgroup

Wednesday 12th March – NAPLAN Begins

Thursday 13th March – Breakfast Club

Thursday 13th March – School Nurse for Preps

Friday 14th March – Interschool Sport

Friday 14th March – Whole School Assembly

Week 8, Term 1

Cultural Diversity Week

Tuesday 18th March – Evacuation Drill

Wednesday 19th March – Playgroup

Wednesday 19th March – Fire Education Visit 2 Preps

Wednesday 19th March – Wear Orange for Harmony Day

Thursday 20th March – Breakfast Club

Friday 21st March – Interschool Sport

Friday 21st March – NAPLAN Ends

Friday 21st March – Newsletter

Week 9, Term 1

Tuesday 25th March – Greek Independence Day

Tuesday 25th March – Lalor District Athletics Carnival

Tuesday 25th March – School Council Meeting 6pm

Wednesday 26th March – Playgroup

Thursday 27th March – Breakfast Club

Thursday 27th March – Choir Bethal Aged Care Visit

Friday 28th March – Interschool Sport

Friday 28th March – Whole School Assembly

Our School Values

Honesty

We communicate openly and work together to solve problems. By demonstrating honesty and acting with integrity we build trust, which enables us to collaborate, to take greater risks with our learning and to be more resilient when things go wrong.

Respect

We respect ourselves, our school and each other, and understand that our attitudes and behaviour have an impact on the people around us.

Unity

We have many languages, come from many backgrounds and are a school of many differences, but we speak with one voice, as one school. We develop a sense of connection and belonging within each part of our school, and across the whole school.

Success

We help each other learn so that everyone experiences success every day. Success means doing new things, learning new skills, finding new ways of thinking and solving interesting, complex and challenging problems.

Resilience

We know trying new things, experiencing challenges and bouncing back from adversity are central to life and to learning. Only by building our resilience can we experience strong levels of growth.



Principal's Message

What an incredible Athletics Day we had this year! Our students had lots of fun and the weather was ideal, making the day a true celebration of our school's athletic spirit. From the thrilling sprints to the relay races and long jump, each event was filled with energy, excitement and pride.

This year's Athletics Day was more than just about competition—it was a reflection of the teamwork, resilience and sportsmanship that define our school community. We saw students supporting one another, cheering from the sidelines, and celebrating each other's achievements.

A special congratulations to every student who participated and gave their all. Your efforts make us proud! We also extend our gratitude to our teachers, staff, and parents who helped make the day run smoothly and ensured everyone had an enjoyable experience.



New Inclusive Playground

We are thrilled to announce that for our brand-new inclusive playground is almost ready! We are now waiting on the synthetic turf and seating to be installed. This will be a great space where all students, regardless of ability, can play, learn, and grow together. Designed with accessibility in mind, the new playground reflects our commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for all students. It will offer social interaction, and physical activity in a safe and welcoming space. We can't wait to see our students explore the new area. Thank you to everyone who has supported this project.

International Womens day

On Saturday 8th March 2025, we will observe International Women's Day, giving us all a chance to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women across the globe. I would personally like to also acknowledge all women in our school community and appreciate how they impact the lives around them. Thank you for all the love, care and strength you bring our families.

Women's achievements, leadership and innovation are woven through the history of our education sector – in schools and in early childhood education and care services. Like so many others, I've also been the beneficiary of extraordinary actions of women, over centuries, to progress meaningful change in education and in the wider community. This year's theme 'March forward' reminds us that the day is about more than just looking back: forward momentum is essential to turning promises into progress.



NAPLAN

Yes, the date for NAPLAN will soon be here. Students in Grade 3 and Grade 5 will participate in the NAPLAN Online testing from Wednesday 12th of March to Monday 24th of March 2024. Students have been practicing their technology skills and are familiarising themselves with the test delivery format. Confidence with skills, like using a 'mouse' to 'click and drag' are essential and examination techniques, such as monitoring time, and leaving difficult questions to come back to later, are all important for success in this type of testing format.

NAPLAN 2025

March 12 - 24

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. Students participate in the annual NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar, and punctuation) and numeracy. More information for Parents is available here:

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/f-10assessment/naplan/Pages/parents/index.aspx>



The Parent/ Teacher/ Student Conferences

Parent/ Teacher/ Student Conferences are a valuable and important part of our assessment and reporting cycle every year. In 2025, we are conducting Parent Teacher Student Conferences in Terms 1 and 3 and written student reports are provided at the end of Term 2 and 4. This allows parents and carers to have regular feedback on their child's progress in learning and provides an important time to share information from home, to help teachers develop an understanding of their child's individual needs.

Please note: Tuesday the 11th of March is not a regular school day.

Students do not attend school but come with their parent/s or carer/s for their Conference only. Students are to wear their school uniform for their conference. Including the student in the conference provides an opportunity for students, teachers, and parents to check-in and collaborate on how to support what is going well and what may need improvement. We look forward to seeing all our students participate in their conference.

RAMADAN

We have many families in our school communities who will be celebrating Ramadan in the coming weeks. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar observed by Muslims from all around the world by fasting from Sunrise to Sunset. The month of Ramadan can last between 29-30 days, depending on the sighting of the crescent moon to the next. It's followed by Eid Al-Fitr which means Festival of Breaking the Fast, celebrating the end of the month, Eid usually lasts 3 days and is celebrated with family and friends, where everyone comes together for a big meal and exchanges of present, it's kind of the Muslim version of Christmas.

The first day of Ramadan was on the 1st of March.

Eid Al-Fitr will fall on the 31st of March.

Happy Eid to all our families celebrating. Eid Mubarak!



Cultural Diversity Week - Monday 17 March to Sunday 23 March.

Each year in March, [Cultural Diversity Week](#) brings together Victorians of all ages, cultural backgrounds and experiences to celebrate our state's diverse multicultural communities.

The theme, 'Embrace the journey – shape our future', highlights the unique and shared cultural journeys that define our diverse communities, encouraging us to honour our own cultural stories and those of others, fostering understanding, belonging and connection.

Our state is home to people who speak 290 languages and have 314 different ancestries. Cultural Diversity Week is a time to celebrate the power, influence, and stories of Victoria's rich multicultural communities, and

At Lalor North Primary School, we will be celebrating Cultural Diversity Week this year with a plan to highlight the cultural backgrounds of our students and celebrate languages in our school community.

We believe that each student's unique background and identity are integral to the spirit of our school, and this special week allows us to showcase and embrace our diversity.

From classrooms to the playground, our cultural diversity shines through in the languages spoken, traditions shared, and our values. We will be learning about other cultures as well as celebrating the pride that comes with our own identities.

Through our bilingual programs, students are not only mastering languages but also deepening their understanding and appreciation for different cultures. These programs empower our students to communicate across boundaries and become global citizens, ready to succeed in an interconnected world.

We are really looking forward to Cultural Diversity Week this year to highlight the incredible success stories of our students, staff, and families, who continue to inspire us with their resilience, dedication, and passion.

We are a school that stands proud of our diversity, as it strengthens our community and enriches every learning experience.

Cultural Diversity Week
17-23 March 2025

Embrace the Journey
Shape our Future

Get involved

VICTORIAN multicultural commission
strengthening our community

VICTORIA State Government

City of Whittlesea

Celebrating Cultural Diversity Week and Harmony Day
'Embrace the Journey, *Shape Our Future*'

Join us as we celebrate the City of Whittlesea's vibrant multicultural communities. There are many ways to celebrate.
Find an event near you at whittlesea.vic.gov.au/cdw

Wednesday 19 March	Culture Diversity Week celebration event Bring your family and friends and enjoy multicultural music, art, dance, cultural traditional clothing, and delicious food. 🕒 10am to 1.30pm 📍 PRACCC 35 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang 📞 No bookings required.	Thursday 20 March	Interactive Bollywood Dancing for children Families with young children are invited take part in Bollywood dancing and songs. Come dressed in your most colourful clothes! 🕒 10.30 – 11.30am 📍 Norris Bank Reserve, 135 McLeans Road, Bundoora 📞 No bookings required. For children 6 years old and under.
Thursday 20 March	Storytelling and cultural exploration with Author Olympia Panagiotopoulos Discover captivating stories and cultural heritage. 🕒 10.30am to 11.30am 📍 Lalor Library, 2A May Road, Lalor 📞 Booking required – visit the website.	Friday 21 March	Pop-Up Choir Celebrate Harmony Day with a special pop-up choir performance. 🕒 11am to 12pm 📍 Food court at Westfield Plenty Valley 📞 No bookings required.
Thursday 20 March	Terracotta Plate Painting Decorate a terracotta plate inspired by Iznik Porcelain Plates. 🕒 10.30am to 12.30pm 📍 57-61 Laurel Street, Whittlesea 📞 Booking required – visit the website.	Friday 21 March	Clay beading Workshop Make beads from air-dry clay, inspired by Islamic prayer beads. 🕒 10am to 12pm 📍 Jindi Family and Community Centre, 48 Breadalbane Ave, Mernda 📞 Bookings required – visit the website.

Everyone is welcome!

For all the details and bookings visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/cdw
For more information 📞 9217 2170 or
✉ culturaldiversity@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

City of Whittlesea



CELEBRATING...



CULTURAL DIVERSITY!

EMBRACE THE JOURNEY, SHAPE OUR FUTURE

Monday 17th March

Cultural Diversity activities - in class



Tuesday 18th March

THE AMAZING RACE!

Whole school - mixed groups activity



ITALIAN DANCING



Lunchtime



Wednesday 19th March

★ Wear Orange to Celebrate Harmony Day! ★

WHOLE SCHOOL CULTURAL DIVERSITY MURAL PROJECT



GREEK DANCING



Lunchtime



Thursday 20th March



MACEDONIAN DANCING



Lunchtime



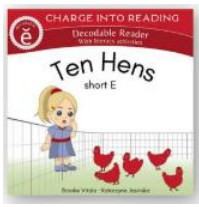
Friday 21st March



STUDENTS vs STAFF SOCCER MATCH

Lunchtime





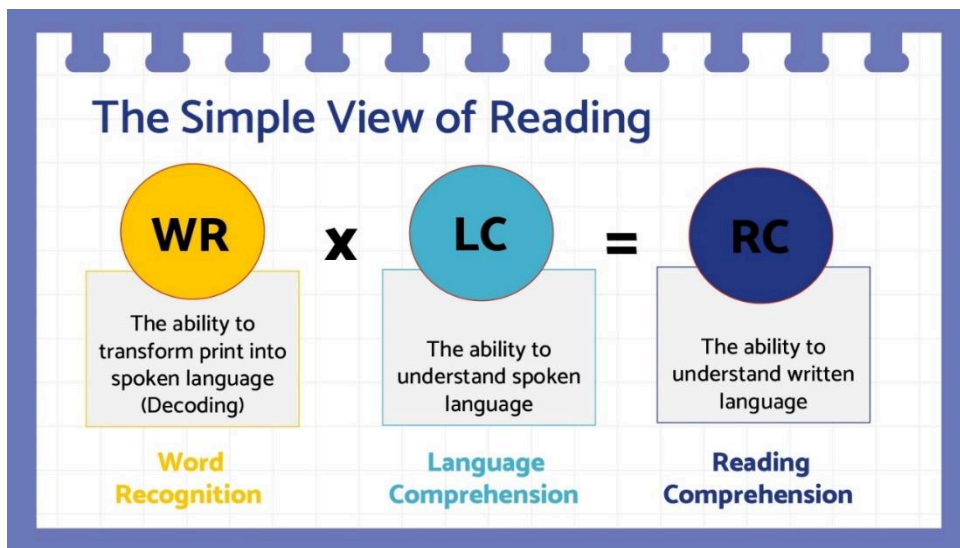
HOME READING IN THE EARLY YEARS



Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Victorian Government has changed their approach to Reading Instruction and as a result, our teachers have reviewed our home reading program to ensure that home reading aligns with our classroom explicit teaching instruction for reading.

Reading is the process of decoding and making meaning from texts as shown in the theoretical framework, The Simple View of Reading shared below:



We know that our students need to have both Word Reading and Language Comprehension to attain Reading Comprehension success.

Parents and guardians are asked to support your child using **decodable readers (online) and a shared reading approach where you are encouraged to read together at home daily**. Daily reading of decodable texts and shared reading provides your child with an opportunity to develop a love of reading. We are excited to introduce a new resource that will be used both in the classroom and at home: decodable readers from Decodable Readers Australia. We use decodable texts to support word reading.

What Are Decodable Readers?

Decodable readers are specially designed books that use a controlled set of phonic sounds and words, allowing children to apply their developing decoding skills. These readers are essential for early readers as they help build confidence and improve reading proficiency by ensuring children can successfully read and understand the text using the phonics knowledge they have acquired in the classrooms.

Accessing Decodable Readers at Home

Parents and guardians will have access to the Decodable Readers Australia (DRA) website from next week, where your child can continue their reading practice outside of school hours. Your child will be allocated a set of texts which reflects their learning in the classroom. This personalised approach will assist and support each child to progress at their own pace and reinforce the skills they are learning in class.

How to Get Started

1. **Visit the Website:** Please go to Decodable Readers Australia to familiarize yourself with the platform.
2. **Login Information:** Your child's login details will be provided to you separately. Please keep this information secure.
3. **Reading Schedule:** We recommend setting aside regular times throughout the week for your child to read their allocated decodable readers.



Benefits of Decodable Readers

- **Improved Phonics Skills:** Decodable books align with our phonics curriculum (Systematic Synthetic Phonics) and help children apply what they learn in a practical, engaging way.
- **Boosted Confidence:** Children experience a sense of achievement as they successfully decode and understand the texts.
- **Individualised Learning:** Tailored levels ensure that each student is challenged appropriately and can progress at their own speed.

How can I support my child's reading when they are reading decodable text?

It is important that a child does not randomly guess or use the pictures to work out unknown words. Focus should be on the letters and sounds, and the process of blending those together to read the word.

What else can I do to support my child's reading?

Your child is working on the very important phase of 'word decoding' which makes up one of two crucial elements of a skilled reader (as illustrated in the Simple View of Reading Framework). The other component is Language Comprehension.

To foster the development of Language Comprehension it is important to read to your child using story books and factual texts that have language rich vocabulary. Engage your child in deep discussions about the texts, the content, the meaning, and foster a love of reading for excitement.

Using Fiction and Non-Fiction Texts in a Shared Reading Approach

Shared reading describes the interaction that occurs between an adult and a child when reading or looking at a book. Although one of the most obvious and engaging features of storybooks and non-fiction texts is their illustrations, they also provide children with access to a world of sights, sounds and words that may be quite different from what they experience in their homes, communities and school.

Reading aloud with your child builds language development so that by the time children have mastered letter-sound correspondences and can read increasingly complex texts themselves, they will have the language skills to understand what they read. Having strong oral language skills sets the foundations for children to build strong literacy skills. Reading authentic texts aloud to your child allows them to continue to hear stories, information and written language they may not yet be able to read themselves.



From the Office

Some Useful Reminders.....

Easter Egg Raffle

Our Easter Raffle hampers will be drawn on Friday 4th April.

Any family wishing to donate items such as chocolate, biscuits, Easter crafts, stuffed toys etc for the classroom hampers are encouraged to send them to school asap, along with any payments and raffle tickets you are purchasing. One lucky raffle ticket from each classroom will be drawn out as the winner of the class hamper. This means that there will be a winner from each classroom! Good luck everyone!



Swimming Program

The Lalor North Primary School swimming program begins in term 2 at the Thomastown Recreation and Aquatic Centre (TRAC), every Tuesday from the 29th April until Tuesday 17th June. Notices for this event have been sent home for each student, payment and consent are to be returned to the office by Tuesday 1st April. Please contact the office if you have any queries.



Late Arrivals

Regular school attendance is essential to support every child's learning and wellbeing. Arriving on time is beneficial to ensure that students do not feel rushed and can enter their classrooms on time to get themselves organized to begin learning. If your child arrives to school after 9.00am, please ensure they present to the office so they can take a late pass to their teacher. This ensures that the office staff mark your child as being present.



Lost Property

Please make sure that all clothing is labelled as we have lots of lost property in the office and we want to give it back to the students. Parents are welcome to check lost property if they have had their child lose any items.

Diana, Liz and Barbara

A colorful banner for an Easter Egg Raffle. At the top, a string of yellow and pink triangular flags hangs against a light blue sky with a sun and clouds. Below the flags, the words "Easter Egg Raffle" are written in a large, orange, cursive font. Underneath that, "2025" is written in a smaller, pink, cursive font. At the bottom of the banner, the word "EASTER" is written in large, pink, block letters, decorated with small illustrations of chicks and flowers. To the left of the word are three decorated Easter eggs (purple, blue, and yellow) and to the right are two large orange carrots with green tops.

Easter Egg Raffle

2025

EASTER

We are having an Easter Raffle!

Lalor North Primary School, SRC and the School Council is excited to announce that we are having an Easter Egg Raffle.

The Easter Raffle prizes are created by the student's bringing donations to contribute towards making one hamper per class. This can include items to celebrate easter such as chocolate, biscuits, easter crafts, stuffed toys, etc.

Please send donations to your classroom teacher no later than Friday 28th March.

One lucky raffle ticket from each classroom will be drawn out as the winner of the class hamper. This means that there will be a winner from each classroom!

Please complete the ticket details that were sent out earlier this week and send the tickets along with cash to your classroom teacher no later than **Wednesday 2nd April**. If you would like to purchase more tickets, please contact the office.

Easter Raffle hampers will be drawn on **Friday 4th April**

All proceeds raised will go towards improving outdoor playground areas.

Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts, and good luck to all our families!





SCHOOL FUN RUN

Hi Lalor North Primary School students and families!

We are holding a school fun run this year!

We are super excited to announce that we will be holding our event on the **3rd of April at 2pm.**

What is the School Fun Run?

It is an online fundraising program, where all families go home and create their own online profile. You then choose your target prizes and work towards hitting your target! In your profile you will have a unique cyber safe link to share with your family and friends to donate to get you close to your target.

What do you need you to do?

All we need you to do this week is create an online profile at funrun.com.au.

This is an inclusive fundraiser we would love you to be apart of! If you would like to come down and watch your kids run, we would love to see you there!

Thank you for your collaboration and support,
Lalor North Primary School



Clean Monday

On Monday 3rd of March, the students in the Greek Bilingual Program made and flew kites, which is a tradition for Clean Monday, the first day of Lent. Our parent community joined us. The children had a wonderful time flying their kites and enjoying a picnic with their families.

Here is what some students in B1 had to say...

Τη Δευτέρα το πρωί στο σχολείο εμείς φτιάξαμε χαρταετούς για την Καθαρά Δευτέρα. Η δασκάλα μας είπε ότι θα τους πετάξουμε στο τέλος της ημέρας. **Ελορά**

Ο χαρταετός μου ήταν κίτρινος και είχε 2 φίδια. **Λουκάς**

Τη Δευτέρα πετάξαμε το χαρταετό στο σχολείο και η οικογένειά μου μου έκανε έκπληξη. Ο μπαμπάς μου μου έμαθε πώς να πετάω τον χαρταετό. Η μαμά μου έφερε νόστιμο φαγητό. Ο Ηλίας με βοήθησε να πετάξω τον χαρταετό. **Αντωνία**

Τη Δευτέρα εμείς πήγαμε στο γήπεδο για να πετάξουμε χαρταετούς γιατί είναι το έθιμο της Καθαράς Δευτέρας. Ήρθαν πολλές οικογένειες. Ο χαρταετός μου πέταξε λίγο ψηλά γιατί είχε λίγο άνεμο. Ήταν πολύ ωραία και ήμουν πολύ χαρούμενη. **Αγγελική**

Ο χαρταετός μου πέταξε ψηλά. **Παρασκευή**

Χθες ήταν Καθαρά Δευτέρα και πετάξαμε χαρταετούς στο σχολείο. Εγώ έφαγα λουκουμάδες με τη μαμά μου. **Ηλίας**

Χθες, στο σχολείο γιορτάσαμε την Καθαρά Δευτέρα. Στην αρχή, μάθαμε να φτιάχνουμε χαρταετούς. Μετά, κάναμε λίγο μάθημα. Το αγαπημένο μου ήταν στο τέλος. Στο τέλος πετάξαμε τον χαρταετό μας. **Άγγελος**

Την Καθαρά Δευτέρα, στο σχολείο, όλες οι οικογένειες ήρθαν και έφεραν φαγητό. Τα παιδιά πήγαν να πετάξουν τον χαρταετό τους. **Αλεξία**

Χθες, τη Δευτέρα, εμείς πετάξαμε χαρταετούς στο γήπεδο και εγώ έφαγα πίτα. Ο χαρταετός μου πέταξε χαμηλά. **Αναστασία**

Καθαρά Δευτέρα

Τη Δευτέρα 3 Μαρτίου, οι μαθητές στο Ελληνικό Δίγλωσσο Πρόγραμμα έφτιαξαν και πέταξαν χαρταετούς για το έθιμο της Καθαράς Δευτέρας. Μαζί τους ήταν και οι οικογένειές τους. Τα παιδιά πέρασαν υπέροχα πετώντας τους χαρταετούς τους και απολαμβάνοντας ένα πικνίκ όλοι μαζί.

Banksia 1 Kite Flying





ΚΑΘΑΡΗ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ **B2!**

A Joyous Tradition at the Greek Bilingual Program



What a wonderful day it was as we celebrated Καθαρή Δευτέρα together!



The spirit of the tradition was alive and well among the students of the Greek Bilingual Program



...as we marked the beginning of Σαρακοστή (Lent) with a fun-filled celebration.



The sky was full of dancing kites!



From the kites to the smiles, it was a fantastic way to usher in Σαρακοστή.



We look forward to more moments like this that bring our community closer together while keeping our traditions alive.

FIRE EDUCATION

W2, B2, B3

Fire Rescue Victoria work with communities to promote fire safety and we were excited to have them back at Lalor North Primary School this year. This week our Prep students had their first of two visits from Epping Fire Station representatives. Students discovered the difference between good fires and bad fires, the importance of having a safe meeting place in case of a fire, as well as to 'crawl down low and go, go, go'. They also learnt when and how to call 000 in case of an emergency.

We are looking forward to seeing the fire truck next week!





Lalor North Primary School

Respect Honesty Unity Success Resilience

Student Free Days for 2025



Term 1

Tuesday 28th January – Curriculum Day 1

Wednesday 29th January – Curriculum Day 2

Tuesday 11th March – Parent Teacher Meetings 11-8pm (Pupil Free)

Term 2

Thursday 24th April – Curriculum Day 3

Friday 6th June – Report Writing Day

Term 3

Wednesday 20th August – Curriculum Day 4

Wednesday 17th September – Parent Teacher Meetings 11-8pm (Pupil Free)

Term 4

Monday 3rd November – Professional Practice Day

Please Note:

The Days were selected that would pose the least amount of disruption to the student teaching and learning focus. Consideration of spreading things out evenly across the school. Also maintaining our ability to report to parents each term of the year as follows:

- Term 1: Parent Teacher Student Meetings
- Term 2: Mid-Year Reports released
- Term 3: Parent Teacher Student meetings
- Term 4: End of Year Reports released

2025 Whole School Assembly Dates

Term 1

Week 6: Friday 14th March

Week 9: Friday 28th March

Term 2

Week 2: Friday 2nd May

Week 8: Friday 13th June

Term 3

Week 2: Friday 1st August

Week 8: Friday 5th September

Term 4

Week 1: Friday 10th October

Week 5: Friday 7th November

Week 9: Friday 5th December



2025 LEARNING SHOWCASE TIMETABLE (AT FRIDAY WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES)

Our Learning Showcases are opportunities for all classes and Specialists to share the amazing learning and achievements that is happening in our classrooms with our school community. Showcases (presentations) can involve your whole class, a small group of students, or individual students –it's entirely up to you! Two showcases per assembly.

Term 1	Week 7 Fri 14 th Mar	PE (KEITH)	B1, B2, B6 (MARIA K)
	Week 9 Fri 28 th Mar	B1, B6 (CONNIE/MARIA K)	ART (LORENA)
Term 2	Week 2 Fri 2 nd May	WATTLE 4 (BRE)	BANKSIA 6 (LIZ G)
	Week 8 Fri 13 th June	WATTLE 8 (LINDA)	ITALIAN (TERESA)
Term 3	Week 2 Fri 1 st Aug	WATTLE 3 (JESS)	BANKSIA 8 (HELEN)
	Week 7 Fri 5 th Sept	WATTLE 2 (DAPHNE)	BANKSIA 3 (JOVANKA)
Term 4	Week 1 Fri 10 th Oct	BANKSIA 7 (SONJA/VESNA)	WATTLE 5 (ELAINE)
	Week 5 Fri 7 th Nov	WATTLE 7 (OLIVIA)	BANKSIA 4 & 5 (LIZ K & MARIA V)
	Week 9 Fri 5 th Dec	BANKSIA 9 (HELEN/MIRJANA)	STEAM (JAE)

How to order on Book Club



1. Your child will bring home a Book Club catalogue from school
2. Discuss with, and help your child pick the books they would like to read



3. Order online via the Scholastic Australia **LOOP** website or app and the school will take care of the rest! (**LOOP** orders are electronically linked to your school in an easy, secure online process)
4. The books are delivered to your child's classroom.

LOOP is the easy way for families to order and pay for Book Club.

Log in, or create a new account at [scholastic.com.au/loop](https://www.scholastic.com.au/loop)

1. If you are new to Book Club, follow the Wizard to set up your profile
2. Click the ORDER tab, and select your school and child's class
3. Add your child's first name and last initial (so the school knows who the book is for)
4. Enter the product item number shown on the Book Club catalogue
5. Make payment via credit card.

RESPECT

our school staff

❌
"I need to speak to you
right now."



Be the role model
your child deserves.



Department
of Education

Student of the Week – 28th February

Room	Student	School Value	Reason for award
Wattle 2	Jimmy D	Success	For showing great enthusiasm during our 'number hunt' around the school and identifying lots of different examples of numbers in our environment. Well done!
Wattle 3	Rozhin S	Success	For trying her best during numeracy sessions and doing a great job plotting fractions on a number line. Fantastic effort, Rozhin!
Wattle 4	Ahmed M	Success	For demonstrating outstanding ability to apply mathematical concepts and strategies to complete an assessment task with dedication and excellence. Well done, Ahmed!
Wattle 5			
Wattle 7	Inala G	Success	For always being a positive and enthusiastic student who follows the class routine with great responsibility. Your cheerful attitude makes our class a better place!
Wattle 8	Zeinab H	Unity	For always showing kindness and being a great friend to others and doing it with a smile :-). Well done, Zeinab!
Banksia 1	Ilias K	Unity	For being a kind and caring friend who is always including others and making sure that his friends are happy. Well done, superstar!
Banksia 2	Katherine M	Resilience	For seeking support and demonstrating a positive mindset when faced with new challenges.
Banksia 3	Oliver H	Resilience	For building his confidence and fostering a positive attitude towards coming to school.
Banksia 4	Petar T	Success	For his outstanding achievement in the PAT spelling test. Congratulations, Petar!
Banksia 5	Mila D	Success	For actively participating in class discussions and trying her best. Well done, Mila!
Banksia 6	Kassia I	Honesty	For reflecting on her understanding of maths concepts and asking questions to improve her learning.
Banksia 7			
Banksia 8	Anthony N	Success	For applying an effective strategy and his understanding of place value to solve a mathematical challenge. Well done, Anthony!
Banksia 9	Maya Z	Honesty	For demonstrating the school value of Honesty by handing in the money she found.
PE	Jimmy D (Wattle 2)	Success	For his excellent catching skills during PE lessons. Well done, Jimmy
ART			
ITALIAN			
STEAM	Natalia S (Wattle 4)	Resilience	For working out how to power a Rainbow Glow Bit to flash different colours using her researching skills

Student of the Week – 7th March

Room	Student	School Value	Reason for award
Wattle 2	Karam A	Respect	For always helping to care for our classroom and listening carefully during learning time. Well done, Karam!
Wattle 3	Hamza R	Respect	For always showing respect in the classroom by listening carefully to instructions, raising his hand, helping around the classroom and being ready to learn. You're a superstar, Hamza!
Wattle 4	Annabelle S	Success	For working hard during math sessions and using strategies taught in class to solve the problem. Well done, super star!
Wattle 5	Jaelon S	Success	For listening to and following all instructions and trying his best, especially in his maths tasks this week. Well done, Jaelon!
Wattle 7	Arlene D	Respect	Arlene shows respect by listening carefully, speaking kindly, and treating everyone with fairness. She sets a great example everyday! Well done, Arlene.
Wattle 8	Bani S	Respect	For always showing kindness and respect to others both inside and outside of our classroom. Well done, Bani!
Banksia 1	Loukas E	Respect	For always demonstrating polite behaviour, waiting his turn and being kind to his peers and teachers. Well done, Loukas!
Banksia 2	Noel R	Honesty	For finding money that didn't belong to him and returning it to the teacher. For your strong sense of right, well done Noel!!
Banksia 3	Gabriela B	Respect	For always being a respectful and kind student to her peers and teachers. Keep up the amazing work!
Banksia 4	Alexandra S	Respect	For being a five star student and friend, displaying the school values at all times. Congratulations, Alexandra!
Banksia 5	Auriel K	Success	For being the deep thinker that always contributes most valuable ideas and knowledge to our class discussions. Congratulations, Auriel!
Banksia 6	Maggie K	Success	For successfully completing her Maths tasks in a timely manner. Congratulations on your excellent work ethic.
Banksia 7	Emily D	Resilience	For always being focused on her work and polite to her teachers and peers. Keep up the amazing work!
Banksia 8	Christopher P	Success	For demonstrating outstanding effort in his work and being an enthusiastic and curious learner. Well done, Christopher!
Banksia 9	Samuel P	Success	For always showing focus and diligence towards his learning, contributing to discussions and completing his tasks to the best of his ability. Well done, Samuel!
PE	Jeremiah W (Banksia 1)	Success	For his excellent Tennis skills and footwork during PE lessons. Well done, Jeremiah!
ART	Jordan D	Success	For his calm concentration when sketching, resulting in an outstanding self portrait. Excellent effort Jordan!
ITALIAN	Aaruk T (Wattle 5)	Success	For his outstanding participation in class when learning new vocabulary in Italian about the objects he uses in the classroom. Bravo, Aaruk!
STEAM	Andrej D (Banksia 5)	Success	For designing and building a giraffe out of Lego and creating a program that would make his giraffe wag its tail when it saw green leaves.

Understanding phonics: a helpful guide for families, parents and carers

Reading is a foundational life skill and a source of pleasure and wonder.

It is one of the most important skills children learn and the teaching of **phonics** plays an important role in helping them become confident, fluent readers.

This guide will help you understand what phonics is, why it is important in learning to read, and how children can be supported at home to develop their awareness of sounds, and of the relationships between sounds and letters.

What is phonics?

Phonics includes linking sounds (called 'phonemes') to their corresponding letters (called 'graphemes'). Students read words by recognising the relationships between written symbols and their corresponding sounds.

Phonics is one of 6 components that make up a comprehensive reading program.

The other components are:

Oral language	Knowing and using spoken words to express knowledge, ideas and emotions
Phonemic awareness	The knowledge of sounds (phonemes)
Vocabulary	Understanding words in isolation and in context
Fluency	Reading accurately and at an appropriate rate with expression
Comprehension	Making meaning from text which includes developing knowledge of grammar

These are the foundational skills that have a reciprocal relationship and are all necessary to enable students to independently read and respond to increasingly complex fiction and non-fiction texts.

Why is phonics instruction important?

Research and evidence show that phonics instruction is a highly effective way to teach children to read. It helps them develop **decoding skills** (translating printed words into speech), which assist in reading unfamiliar words. Phonics gives many children the tools to figure out new words and understand spelling patterns, building their reading fluency and comprehension.

How is phonics taught in schools?

The key elements of phonics are:

- 1. Phonemes:** the smallest units of sound in speech (e.g., the sound /k/ in 'cat').
- 2. Graphemes:** the letters, or groups of letters, that represent these sounds (e.g., the letter 'c' in 'cat').
- 3. Blending:** combining individual sounds together to read a word (e.g., /c/ /a/ /t/ = 'cat').
- 4. Segmenting:** breaking down words into their individual sounds to spell them (eg., chat = /ch/a/t).



Phonics is taught through a structured, sequential approach where children learn the simplest sounds (such as /s/, /a/, and /t/ and gradually move to more complex sound-letter patterns (such as /ee/, as in the sound in the word 'bee' and /oa/ as in the sound in the word 'cloak'). This is known as teaching **using a systematic, synthetic phonics** approach. In simple terms, children learn different sounds, then practice blending sounds together to read words.

The Academy is grateful to Parents Victoria for their expert advice in producing this guide



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Item	Sizes Available	Price
 Summer Dress <i>Bottle green & white</i>	4 6 8 10 12 14 16	\$29.00
 Cotton Back Short Sleeve Polo <i>Emerald with black panels, white piping and black collar with emerald and white stripes (embroidered logo)</i>	4 6 8 10 12 14 16 Adult sizes 14, 16, 18, 20	\$35.00 \$38.00
 Rugby Knit Shorts - Unisex <i>Black</i>	4 6 8 10 12 14 16	\$21.00
 Microfibre Shorts - Unisex <i>Black</i>	4 6 8 10 12 14 16 Sml - Med - Lge - XL	\$30.00 \$33.00
 Cotton Back Long Sleeve Polo <i>Emerald with black panels, white piping and black collar and cuffs with emerald and white stripes (embroidered logo)</i>	4 6 8 10 12 14 16 Adult sizes 14, 16, 18, 20	\$37.00 \$40.00
 Hooded Top <i>Black with green sleeves and green insert in hood with black bands with green and white stripes on bands (embroidered logo)</i>	4 6 8 10 12 14 16 Adult sizes 14, 16, 18, 20	\$48.00 \$51.00
 Bomber Jacket <i>Black with green sleeves and black bands with green and white stripes on bands (embroidered logo)</i>	4 6 8 10 12 14 16 Adult sizes 14, 16, 18, 20	\$52.00 \$55.00
 Straight leg Track Pants <i>Cotton/Polyester Black</i>	4 6 8 10 12 14 16	\$28.00
 Fleecy Double knee trackpants with cuff <i>Black</i>	4 6 8 10 12 14 16	\$25.00
 Fleecy straight leg trackpants <i>Black</i>	4 6 8 10 12 14 16	\$24.00
 Waterproof Jacket Fleecy Lined <i>Black</i>	4 6 8 10 12 14 16	\$52.00
 Bucket Hat <i>Black</i>	XSm 53cm Sm 55cm Med 57cm Lge 59cm XLg 61cm	\$12.00
 School Bag <i>Black</i>	One size	\$45.00
 Warm Beanie <i>Black</i>	One size fits all	\$12.00
 Grade 6 Cotton Back S/Sleeve Polo Top - Green/White/Black Special Order Available only Oct/Nov	4 6 8 10 12 14 16 Adult sizes 14, 16, 18, 20	\$52.00 \$56.00



Lalor North Primary School Uniform

The purposes of the school uniform are to distinguish the school in public, build a school identity, help build an inclusive environment and to provide parents with cost effective and convenient clothing for school.

Lalor North Primary School has a compulsory school uniform. It must be worn at school, on excursions, at sporting activities and any other special occasions where students represent the school. It's important that every student feels comfortable and has a sense of belonging to our learning community while feeling pride about being a member of our school community each school day.

A PLUS SCHOOLWEAR

Northern Regional Uniforms Shop

Address: Unit 3 /30 Heaths Court Mill Park

Contact: [03 9436 4005](tel:0394364005)

Email: info@northernregionaluniforms.com.au

Trading Hours:

Monday: 9.00am - 5.00pm

Tuesday: 9.00am - 5.00pm

Wednesday: 9.00am - 5.00pm

Thursday: 9.00am - 5.00pm

Friday: 9.00am - 3.00pm

Saturday: 9.00am - 12.00pm

Closed Sundays and Public Holidays.

For Online Orders

Website Details: www.aplusschoolwear.com.au

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

6 days or less
absence per year
97% or above
**VERY GOOD
THIS IS YOUR
TARGET**

Between
7 and 19 days
absence per year
90% - 96%
**BELOW
EXPECTATIONS**

More
than 19 days
absence per year
Under 90%
**POOR
ATTENDANCE**



FREE



Decorate **& PLANT** **A POT**

MyTime Epping
Wednesday 19th March
9.30am - midday

**Do Something for
Yourself**

**For parents/carers of
children with
disability**

**suzanneb@
mytimevic.com.au**

Community Festival

Family fun

Live music

Pet expo

Theatre shows

Food trucks

Market stalls

Free event

**Sunday
16 March
2025**

**11AM
UNTIL
5PM**

Civic Centre lawns, 25 Ferres Blvd, South Morang

whittlesea.vic.gov.au/CommunityFestival



Printed on 100% recycled paper





FREE
programs

Raising children and young people

MARCH PROGRAMS 2025



Communication development for children 0-3 years of age

Tuesday 4 March, 10am – 11.30am

Jindi Family and Community Centre,
48 Breadalbane Avenue, Mernda

trybooking.com/CWYXY



Parental Self-Care

Wednesday 5 March,
10am – 11.30am

Jindi Family and Community
Centre, 48 Breadalbane
Avenue, Mernda

trybooking.com/CWYYD



Pop-Up Playgroup

Wednesday 5 March,
10am – 12pm

Kids Zone, Westfield Plenty
Valley, 415 McDonalds Road,
Mill Park

trybooking.com/CWYYA



Scan the QR code for more
information or to register for
one of these programs
[whittlesea.vic.gov.au/
familytraining](https://whittlesea.vic.gov.au/familytraining)



Free telephone
interpreter service

131 450



City of
Whittlesea

Raising children and young people

MARCH PROGRAMS 2025



Mother Goose

Wednesday 12 March – 2 April,
10am – 12pm

Olivine Community Pavilion,
2A Eucalyptus Parade
(Entrance via Cycad Avenue),
Donnybrook



Nourishing Little People and Oral Health Care

Tuesday 18 March,
1pm – 2pm

Jindi Family and Community
Centre, 48 Breadalbane Avenue,
Mernda

trybooking.com/CXDDJ



Read, Play and Connect

Thursday 20 March,
10am – 11.30am

Mill Park Library,
394 Plenty Road, Mill Park

trybooking.com/CWYYF



Pop-Up Bush Playgroup

Tuesday 18 March,
10am – 12pm

Whittlesea Park, Whittlesea
(End of Laurel Street)

trybooking.com/CXCPH



Aurora Stay and Play Pop-Up

Wednesday 19 March,
10am – 12pm

Aurora Village, in front of Coles,
315A Harvest Home Road,
Epping



Parenting Toddlers Information Session

Thursday 27 March,
10am – 12pm

Thomastown Neighbourhood
House, 52 Main Street,
Thomastown

Monday 31 March,
10am – 11.30am

Jindi Family and Community
Centre, 48 Breadalbane
Avenue, Mernda

trybooking.com/CWYYI

trybooking.com/CWYYL

FREE
programs

All ages Birth - Preschool Early Primary Tweens Teens



Scan the QR code for more
information or to register for
one of these programs
[whittlesea.vic.gov.au/
familytraining](https://whittlesea.vic.gov.au/familytraining)



Free telephone
interpreter service
131 450



**City of
Whittlesea**