

# Newsletter



'ONE IN, ALL IN'

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Issue 2 - 2024

Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February

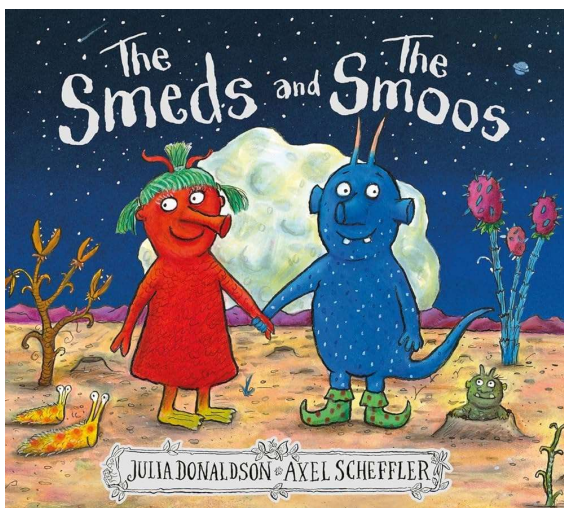
## Calendar – Term 1

30<sup>th</sup> January – 29<sup>th</sup> March

March	
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>	MARC Van
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>LABOUR DAY NO SCHOOL</b>
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Junior Forge Theatre Excursion – The Smeds and The Smooos
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	MARC Van
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Last day of school for Term 1</b>
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY NO SCHOOL</b>

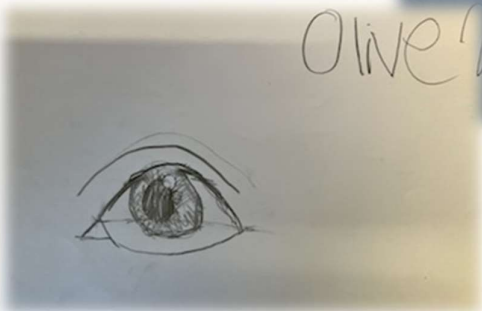
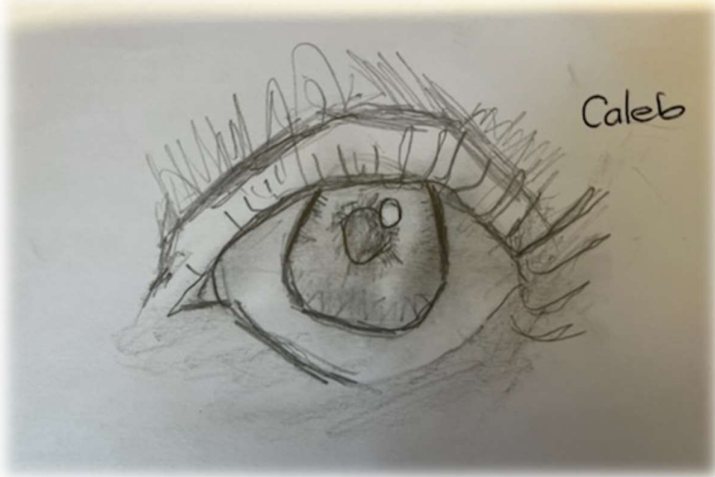
### Sue's Message

Here we are almost a month into the school year – the time has flown past so fast. It has been wonderful seeing students settling down so quickly into school routines and being so engaged in their learning. A very big thank you to all our amazing staff for creating such a positive start for our students.



## Art

Students are continuing with self-portrait work and learning about drawing parts of the face. I am amazed at the improvements students have already made in drawing what they see rather than just what they think something looks like.



## Prep Class

It has been another busy two weeks of learning and fun in the Prep classroom!

For Reading Groups, we read the book 'Pet Needs' and 'Where do you work?'. The students completed reading activities and practiced creating sentences by ordering words correctly.

In Soundwaves we focused on the letter's 'f', 'g' and 'j' and reviewing the letters 'b', 'k' and 'd' from last week. The Preps had a fun time making Jelly for the letter 'J'.

For Maths, we explored the numbers '4' and '5' and '6', as well as learning new maths games. The children really did a fantastic job at learning how to play fairly. The students enjoyed playing maths bingo where the students had to write down numbers from 1-6 on a board and yell out 'BINGO!' when they had crossed all 9 numbers off their board.

For Handwriting we practiced writing our names and correctly forming letters in the alphabet. We also made playdough and practiced forming alphabet letters.

The Preps are doing a wonderful job, and it has been so great to see them playing with other students in different year levels out in the yard. Please remember to keep reading with your child every night to help them practice and to have these readers returned daily for us to read with them in class.

Thank you!





## **STEM**

Our first STEM class went very well! The Prep/Junior Class are learning about push and pull forces. They were divided into small groups and created balloon rockets! They all LOVED the activity and had lots of fun making the rockets fly again and again, or watching other groups have a try once they had made a successful rocket launch. The Senior Class are also learning about forces and engineering by creating their own basic catapult.

I would love to tell you all what we are making this week, however I don't want to spoil the surprise! I can tell you that it is still based on learning about forces.

## **Kitchen Garden**

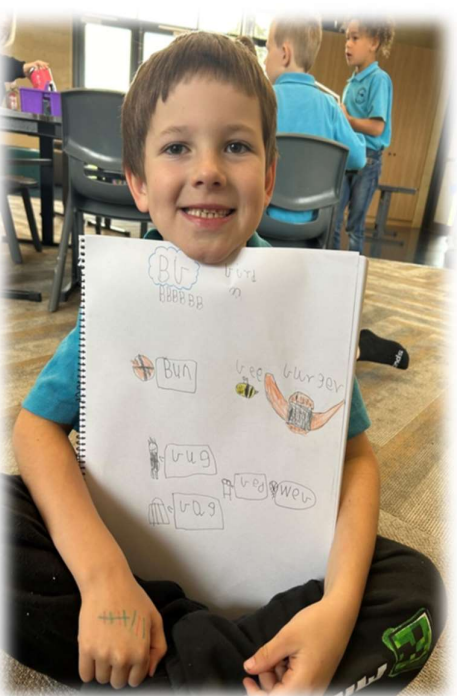
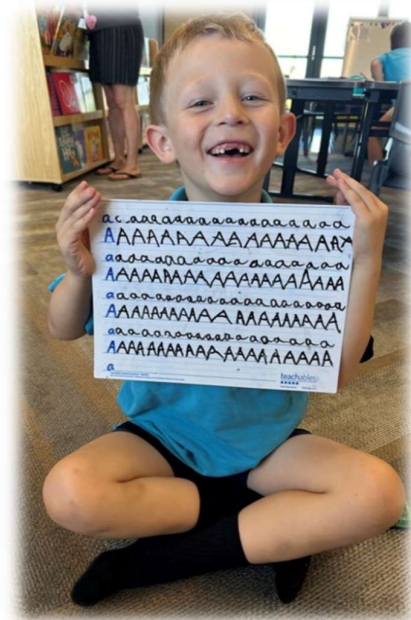
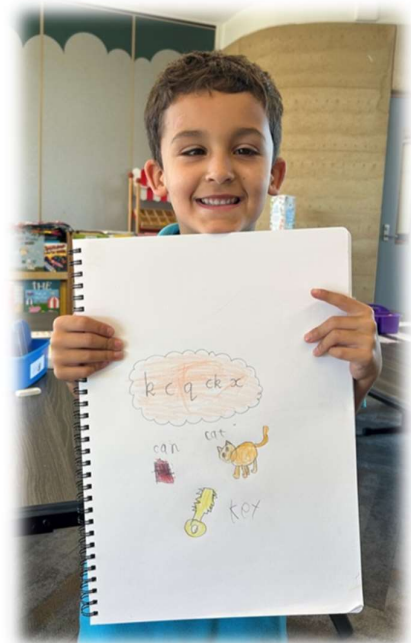
There has been so much harvesting happening around the school garden the last couple of weeks. Students have collected many different varieties of tomatoes, a few pumpkins, some very large zucchinis and we've harvested so many beans! As part of the Kitchen Garden program this year, we are counting and weighing the produce to graph the information so it can be used in future years to compare growth patterns throughout the year. While the students still love getting their hands dirty in the garden or in the kitchen, we have had lots of fun recording numbers and weighing all the different vegetables that leave our garden and enter the kitchen. John has also continued to outdo himself by having the students make so many delicious dishes for the senior students to sample.

## Junior Class

The past few weeks in the junior room have been a joy to see our students dive back into learning with enthusiasm and eagerness. Congratulations to Jett and Duesk for their outstanding efforts, earning them the title of Students of the Week over the last two weeks! In our Soundwaves sessions, we've been delving into the world of phonics. Soundwaves 1 and 2 have been focusing on the sounds 'a' for apple and 'k, c, q, ck, x' for kite, car, queen, etc. Students have been actively engaged in activities centred around rhyming, word building, and blending. We're thrilled to witness the progress in our students' reading skills, particularly those who have been dedicated to their nightly reading sessions. A gentle reminder to please utilise the recording book in your child's reading folder to keep track of their reading progress. Your support in this area is greatly appreciated. I'm looking forward to handing out some reading certificates very soon!

In our handwriting sessions, we've been concentrating on the formation of the letters 'a' and 'c'. Practice makes perfect, and we encourage students to continue practicing these letters both at school and at home.

Over in our Level 2 Maths group, students have been exploring number patterns, delving into place value, and extending their understanding of numbers beyond 100. Our teaching approach has been multifaceted, incorporating online instruction with platforms like Maths Trek, Essential Assessment, hands-on activities using MABs, Unifix blocks, 10's frames, and delving into calendars to deepen their understanding of months, weeks, and days of the year.



**VIC KIDS  
EAT WELL**

**CLIFTON CREEK  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
HAS JOINED  
THE MOVEMENT!**

Cancer Council Victoria Nutrition Australia VICTORIA

## Senior Class

As always, it has been a busy couple of weeks for the senior class! Reading groups are in full swing with our focus this week and next week being 'comparing and contrasting' information within texts. The students are picking this up very quickly! In Soundwaves we focused on the 'a for apple' sound and this week we are working on the 'k for kite' sound. As part of our Soundwaves lessons, students have also been learning more about prefixes and suffixes, as well as homophones, and Greek and Latin roots.

In maths the students have been focusing on a range of different topics. Last week the focus was on addition and subtraction, odd and even numbers, rounding numbers, fractions as division, square numbers and prime and composite numbers. This week included expanded notation of place value, multiplication facts and factor trees, 24-hour time, reading timetables, and division with decimals. These have been quite challenging topics for the students this week, however they have all risen to the challenge and worked extremely hard. I am very proud of every single one of them!

## Bean Babies

The Junior Class and Preps have been doing lots of work on Jack and the Beanstalk, the life cycle of beans and what a plant needs to grow. Last week they planted their beans and have waited for their Bean Babies to sprout. Today they were excited to see little green sprouts emerge.



## Japanese

Students have been working on greetings this week:

**Konichiwa** – hello

**Sayounara** – bye

**Ohayou** – good morning

**Konbanwa** – good evening

**Genki desu ka** – how are you?

A very big welcome to Mako who arrived in Paynesville on Saturday from Kyoto. Mako will be working with our students for 3 weeks – helping out in classrooms and helping with Japanese. Mako is staying with Ellyn and Maddie and their family for 10 days and then will be hosted by Jaclyn, Yasmin and Sofia and family for the remainder of her time at our school. It has been lovely seeing how excited our students are having Mako visit with us. Today she did some origami with the Junior class and Preps.



## Valentines Day

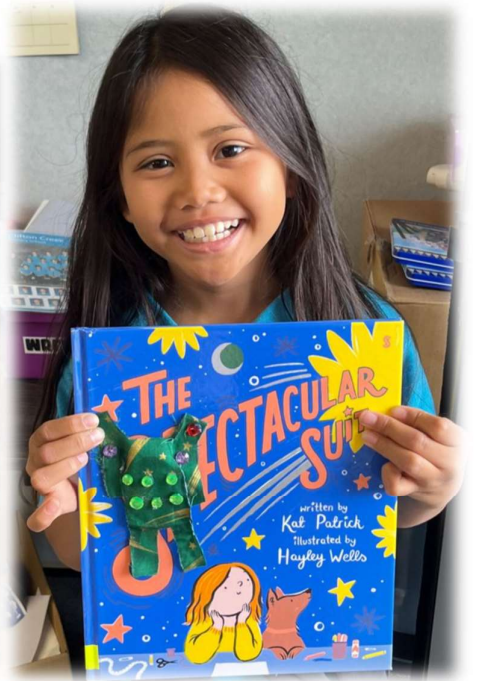
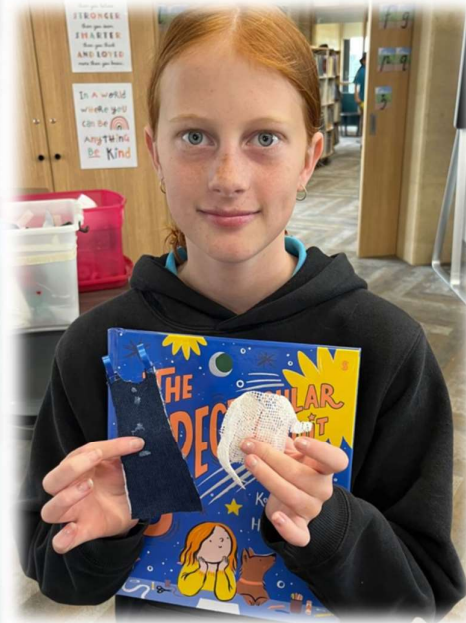
Students made hearts and wrote about the things that they love about themselves. We talked about how important it is to love yourself and to acknowledge the things that make you amazing.

## Darren Chester Visit

On Tuesday Darren Chester and Katie visited our school to present our Year 6 Leaders with their certificates and badges. It was a very exciting time for the Year 6 students. Darren Chester talked to all the students and staff about his role in the community and asked about our bus. For those who don't know, Darren Chester was instrumental in us receiving the donation from News Corp that enabled us to buy the bus. A very big thank you once again to Darren for his part in getting the bus, and to Katie and Darren for coming to the school for the certificate presentation.







MARC  
Van

