

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Week 2

Mon 3rd - 9am Assembly
Wed 5th - Prep Rest Day & Yr1-6
Swimming
Thur 6th - P-6 Swimming
Fri 7th - P-6 Swimming & 1.20pm
Welcome Picnic

Week 3

Mon 10th - 9am Assembly
Wed 12th - Prep Rest Day & Yr1-6
Swimming
Thur 13th - P-6 Swimming
Fri 14th - School Photos (no
Swimming)

Week 4

Mon 17th - 9am Assembly
Wed 19th - Prep Rest Day & Yr1-6
Swimming
Thur 20th - Swimming Sports

Tuesday 11th March - Pupil Free
Day for Staff Development



WELCOME BACK!

What privilege it is to witness the excitement of a child's first day at school! Yesterday was a very exciting day, a touch of nerves and a few tears - but also lots of smiles, squeals and hugs.

I was able to spend time throughout the day in each room and was impressed by the calm and settled presentation of each group of children.

This week's focus is on spending time learning the expectations of school and with the support of our specialist staff in class with our Classroom teachers and Education Support staff, students are already demonstrating excellent behaviour and understanding of learning routines.

Principal's Report

General Office & Communication

The General Office is open from 8.30am each morning and open until 4.30pm Mon-Thurs and till 3.30pm on Friday.

The school contact details are:

-phone 54951028

-email st.arnaud.ps@education.vic.gov.au

-website www.starnaudps.vic.edu.au

The School attempts to provide parents with timely and informative communication about upcoming events for students and families. This includes:

- The LINK newsletter weekly (Thursdays)
- Teacher Emails weekly (sent between Friday & Sunday afternoon)
- School Website and COMPASS emails.
- Social media (Facebook and Instagram)

COMPASS

All families must have an active COMPASS account—the App can be downloaded to your phone or device from the App store. If you do not have an account or need a password reset—please contact the General Office for assistance with this ASAP.

Parent Teacher Interviews—week 4

At St Arnaud Primary School we offer a round of Parent Teacher Interviews early in Term 1 as an opportunity for parents and teachers to meet to discuss individual students—this includes the settling in process and goals setting for the year that reflects the needs of each child. Bookings are made on COMPASS. If you need any assistance becoming acquainted with COMPASS please do not hesitate to contact Shirlee in the General Office (Tues-Fri). Bookings will be open from 9am Friday 31st January.

Prep Rest Days

Prep students will not attend school on Wednesdays in Weeks 2-6. The week of the March long weekend will be the first full week for Preps. If your little learner requires a rest day at any time, please speak with Mrs Ezard to discuss an appropriate time so that essential learning is not missed.

8.45am is the time to arrive

The school day is planned right down to the minute to ensure students make the most of their learning time. Arriving on time each day sets your child up for the best start to the day. Breakfast Club is open from 8.30am for all children to use - students are encouraged to grab a bite before they go and play. The music starts at 8.52am and students are expected to be lined up by 8.55am and ready to start the day. Students arriving late can experience distress at entering a class that is already underway and miss important instructions.

Developing a morning routine is a great way to support your child to start the day in a calm and organised way. Some tips are:

-set the alarm

-lay out school clothes the night before to avoid losing a shoe at the last minute

-pack their bag the night before

-arrive at school by 8.45am to allow time for socialisation, breakfast and play!

Family Contact details

It is essential that the school have the most up to date contact details for all families. If you have changed your email, phone number or home address in the last 6 months please let the General Office know. It is also important that your Emergency Contact details are up to date in the event that you can not be contacted.

Student Travel Arrangements

It is important that the school has the most up to date travel arrangements for your child. If your child is a Bus Traveller you will need to notify the General Office when your child is not travelling home by bus. It can be very time consuming to establish where a child should be—they do not always know—and this should be communicated in a written note or email or phone call to the school.

Principal's Report

Ambulance Cover

The school strongly encourages families to check their Ambulance cover is paid up and current. In the event of a medical emergency, an Ambulance may be called for your child.

School Photos

Friday 14th February—envelopes will be sent home with next week. All envelopes must be returned to the General Office BEFORE Friday 14th, regardless of any orders being placed. All students are photographed.

- Students must be in their full and correct school uniform (navy shorts/pants, navy logo t-shirt or checked dress).
- Any hair ribbons should be navy or red and small in size.
- Socks should be plain white, blue or black.
- Year 6 students must wear their navy and red t-shirt in the group photo but may wear their Yr6 t-shirt for their individual or family photo (parent choice).

Family Photos are an option available to parents—an additional Family Photo Envelope is required to place this order, these can be collected from the Office.

Parent Payments

These were sent out by COMPASS email at the end of last year and again in mid-January, if you require a hardcopy please contact the General Office. These are due for payment by the end of Term 1. Thank you to the families who have already been in to make a full or part payment, your support is appreciated.

Book Packs

This year we trialled a new method of purchasing stationery for our students. It appears to have been a success and we have been so pleased with the collection and payment for packs at the General Office prior to students starting. This level of organisation, students having the correct materials and knowing that we have been able to secure value for money and reduce the costs to parents—has all been positive. If you have any feedback about the book packs and the start of year routines—please pop in and let me know.

Uniforms

It is expected that all students wear their correct school uniform to school each day. We were very fortunate to have State School Relief support with an \$85 uniform voucher for every child. These were sent directly to RAMJAC (in the main street) and can be used to purchase t-shirts, shorts, jackets etc as required. The school also has a good supply of second hand uniforms for \$5 which parents are welcome to look over. In light of the availability of the State School Relief vouchers we encourage parents to reserve their School Saving Bonus for future camps and excursions.

Bike & Scooter Rules

It is a long standing school rule that there is **strictly no riding/scooting** on the foot path from the Bus Gate to the Staff Car Park for the SAFETY of pedestrians, including small students, parents and grandparents, who may be coming out of the school grounds or already on the footpath. Please remind your child of this rule.

2025 Halogen Leadership Conference

A consent form will be sent home next week with our student leaders inviting them to attend the Halogen Leadership Conference at the Melbourne Convention Centre on Monday 3rd March. The event has been heavily subsidised and will cost \$20 per student—CSEF and SSB can be applied. We hope all students will attend as this is a terrific opportunity to hear from a range of high profile and successful people about their journey with leadership.

School Magazine

Copies are available from the Office for those wish to purchase one. If you believed you had paid for yours in your school fees and have not collected it, please contact the General Office.

Welcome Picnic

Next Friday we will be holding our annual Welcome Picnic on the green and shady front lawns of our school. All parents, grandparents and special friends are warmly invited to bring along a picnic blan-

Principal's Report

ket, chair and a packed lunch and join the students and staff for lunch together. This is a really lovely way to welcome new and returning students and their families to our school.

2025 Yr3/4/5/6 Camps—please read carefully...

Year 5/6 will be travelling to Fifteen Mile Creek for a 5 day outdoor ed style camp in late November and the Yr3/4 students will be off to Urban for 3 days in September. The approximate cost for each camp is \$500—with both of these prices to be confirmed later this term.

We are asking families to consider commencing their payments for these camps early in the school year as both will be due for full payment 4-6 weeks prior to the camp date, and we understand that these are significant expenses for families. Any money paid towards the cost of a camp is refundable up the cut off date. Firm numbers are very important in order to calculate the final costs to families. Your cooperation with communicating student attendance and payment is appreciated and makes the task much less complicated. CSEF and School Saving Bonus funds can be utilised for school camps.

Swimming—week 1-4

Our swimming program commences next Wednesday for Yr1-6 students. Swimming next week is:

Wednesday 1/2/3/4/5/6

Thursday P/1/2/3/4/5/6

Friday P/1/2/3/4/5/6

School Assembly

Our first School Assembly will be held on Monday 3rd February and all parents, carers, grandparents are welcome to attend. Assemblies will be held at 9am on Mondays going forward, and we look forward to celebrating student achievements each week. We hope you can join us.

School Council

School Council is a wonderful way to be involved in your child's school. School Council is responsible for Policy and Finance aspects of the school. The Council meets 8 times per year, meetings run for 90 minutes or less and are a great way to be involved.

We currently have a number of Vacancies on School Council. Parents are able to self nominate or nominate another parent who is interested in the role. There are 1 and 2 year terms to be filled. Nomination forms can be requested from the General Office from next week. Newly elected members will attend the AGM in March. Our next meeting for current members will be Tuesday February 20th, 6.30pm in the Staff Room.

Student Absences

If your child will be absent from school, it is essential that you let the school know—either by making a note on COMPASS, emailing the school and teacher or ringing the General Office. While there is no safe number of days to miss, we aim for no more than 10 days per year, and ask parents to avoid unnecessary absences where possible. If you are experiencing any difficulty getting your child to school, we may be able to help. Speak to your classroom teacher, myself or Mrs Weir at any time.

Student Achievement

Over the holidays one of our students received a nomination for Young Australian at the St Arnaud Australia Day Awards. Maria Taylor is in Year 5 this year and is a passionate advocate in a number of circles. Last year she was active in raising funds for the St Arnaud Netball Club Score Board Fundraiser—receiving a Junior Club Person Award at the Club Presentation Evening and more recently has committed to the Greatest Shave raising funds for cancer research, and will shave her head in March. There will be some school activities around this—please see information in this newsletter.

No Smoking near School Entrances

The Tobacco Act 1987 bans smoking or vaping on school premises or within 4 metres of any pedestrian access point to school premises. This applies during and outside of school hours.

Homework & Reading

Formal Homework will commence in week 4—please keep an eye on your teacher emails for more information about this in coming weeks.

Principal's Report

Students from each year level are expected to read at home each night and should be filling in their Reading Diary to reflect this. We encourage Reading Diaries to "live" in school bags and only coming out to be filled in, so they are at school each day to be checked and sent home. Mrs Ezard will communicate more specifically with Prep families around these expectations.

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program

Please check your teacher emails for specific start times for your child's class to commence their cooking experience. Please note that P/1 will not commence until T2.

Lunch Orders

Lunch Orders will be available on Thursdays and Fridays from week 5—after the swimming program has concluded. There is a price list on the School website for your reference.

Student Lunches

Please note that our classrooms do not have access to a microwave to heat student lunches.

Melissa Mitchell,
Principal



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Every Day Counts ... A day here or there doesn't seem like much but ...



When your child misses just ...	that equals	which is	and therefore, from Prep to Yr12 that is ...	This means the best your child can achieve is ...
1 day per fortnight	20 days a year	4 weeks of school	nearly 1 1/2 years of school	Equal to finishing Yr11
1 day per week	40 days a year	8 weeks of school	Over 2 1/2 years of school	Equal to finishing Yr10
2 days per week	80 days a year	16 weeks of school	Over 5 years of learning	Equal to finishing Yr7
3 days a week	120 days a year	24 weeks of school	Over 8 years of learning	Equal to finishing Yr4





MENU FOR LUNCH ORDERS 2024

FROM PARKVIEW BAKERY

Available Thursday and Friday each week

*****Lunch orders are only available on **Thursday and Friday**

Steak Pie	\$ 5.00
Meat & Vegetable Pastie	\$ 5.00
Sausage Roll	\$ 3.50
Party Pie	\$ 1.60
Sauce Portions	.20
Pizza Small	\$ 4.30
Chilli Chicken Wrap	\$ 6.40
(Chicken schnitzel, lettuce, cheese, sweet chilli sauce)	
Ham or Chicken Salad Roll	\$ 5.90
(Meat, lettuce, cheese, tomato, beetroot, mayo)	
Ham & Cheese Sandwich	\$ 4.40
Ham & Cheese Roll	\$ 4.90
Chicken, Lettuce, Mayo Sandwich	\$ 4.40
Chicken, Lettuce, Mayo Roll	\$ 4.90
Water -Cool Ridge 600 ml	\$ 3.40
Pop Top Juice	\$ 2.40
Big M Long Life 250 ml	\$ 2.70
Big M 600ml	\$ 4.50
Hedgehog Slice	\$ 4.00
Lemon Slice	\$ 4.00
Muffin (Assorted Flavours)	\$ 4.50
Gingerbread Man	\$ 2.60
Jelly Slice	\$ 4.50
Apple Slice	\$ 4.00



The School Magazine for 2024 is available from the General Office.

If you are unsure if you have prepaid your magazine in your School Fees, please contact the General Office.

WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE

ON MARCH 7TH, YEAR 5 STUDENTS, MARIA TAYLOR AND ZARLEYA HUTCHINSON, WILL BE SHAVING ALL OF THEIR HAIR OFF TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE.



WELLBEING LEADERS WILL BE SELLING QUELCHICYPOLES EACH FRIDAY FOR \$1.00 TO SUPPORT THEIR CAUSE - THE LEUKAEMIA FOUNDATION. ON MARCH 7TH ALL STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO COME TO SCHOOL WITH THEIR CRAZIEST HAIR STYLE AND BRING ALONG A GOLD COIN DONATION.



Welcome Picnic '25

Each year we look forward to welcoming our new and returning students and their families at our Welcome Picnic. Join us on the shady green lawns at the front of the school....



FRIDAY
7TH FEBRUARY



TIME:
1.20-2PM

