



School No. 5215

Phone: 9360 9322

### Term 1 Dates

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February**  
**MY & LY Complex**  
**needs students -**  
**Swimming.**



## Principals Update

Welcome back to the 2023 school year, As anticipated, the vast majority of our students have returned to school eager to engage in learning and socialise with their peers. This is an unofficial newsletter outlining some important operational information. The first official newsletter will be sent out next

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb** and fortnightly after this. I take this opportunity to welcome 11 new families into our community for 2023.



The swimming program will commence for **Middle Years Students** and **Later Years Complex Needs** students next **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February**. Swimming permission forms and times will be sent home early next week. A reminder to families, if your child has epilepsy, we will require an updated medical clearance from your medical practitioner in order for them to participate.



## TRANSPORT

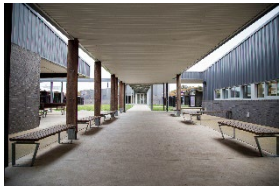
I'd like to acknowledge the difficulty experienced by families this week due to the contract operator's management of the transport. We have escalated parent complaints to DoE Transport Unit, along with our own long list of concerns. I take this opportunity to apologise for this fiasco and thank parents and carers for your patience whilst we work to improve this with the key stakeholders.



## CANTEEN / CAFÉ

Week 3 is the expected time for the canteen and café to be operational. There will be a canteen order sent home in the newsletter next Thursday. Just a reminder that it is unlikely that we will be serving hot chips for quite some time due to their shortage currently.

**Reminder to prep families:** There will be no school on Wednesdays for the remainder of February. These children will commence full time on the week of Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March.





## Welcoming your child back to school

Dear parents and carers,

We are looking forward to welcoming our students back to school and into the classroom from the start of Term 1. We want to support your child to have a positive start to the year. We will do this by:

- helping your child to re-establish face-to-face friendships and routines.
- talking to you about your child's wellbeing and using the school's wellbeing staff and programs to meet your child's needs.
- ensuring we understand where your child is up to with their learning and providing targeted support to help your child progress.

Schools will make sure your child is as safe as possible and will focus on:

- washing hands and hygiene,
- mask wearing,
- physical distancing and other COVID Safe practices
- rapid antigen testing.

### Support for students

Our school has access to a range of specialist staff and programs that can provide additional support for your child, depending on their needs. This includes tutors who will work with small groups of students to help them catch up on their learning and staff with expertise in mental health and wellbeing who can provide direct support to students who need it.

Any school can access Student Support Services staff who respond to a range of student health and wellbeing needs. Secondary school students can access support from the Mental Health Practitioner at their school as well as dedicated access to headspace counselling.

Support and resources are available:

For students: [www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/students](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/students)

For parents and carers: [www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/parents-carers-and-guardians](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/parents-carers-and-guardians)

### **Free rapid antigen tests *\*This advice has come directly from the Department***

Free rapid antigen tests will be available for the first four weeks of Term 1 2022. These will be distributed next week. I appreciate that some parents will find undertaking these tests, difficult with their child. **A recommendation may be to take a quick nasal swap whilst sleeping.**

Testing is strongly recommended twice a week for students and staff.

Specialist school students will distribute 5 daily tests for the school week.

You do not need to buy your own RAT kits.

If your child uses a RAT and the result is positive, you will need to:

- **let the school know.**
- **keep your child at home for 7 days. *\*We are currently querying the 7 days and will update you ASAP***
- **contact the Department of Health via the COVID-19 Positive Rapid Antigen Test Self-Reporting Form or call centre on 1800 675 398.**

A video about RAT testing in many different languages, is available online.

If you have concerns about your child's progress, please contact: Rosie, Monique or Melissa at the school.

They will be happy to meet and discuss how our school can work in partnership with you to support your child to ensure they can progress to the next year level with confidence and have a positive learning experience.

Yours sincerely,

Rosie Hayes  
Principal  
Jennings Street School