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MELTON 3337  
03 9743 4966  
melton.ss@education.vic.gov.au

**Bacchus Marsh**  
Coaches

**ABSENCE LINE**  
**03 5366 3444**

### DATES TO REMEMBER

NOV 16	2022 PREP TRANSITIONS BEGIN
DEC 16	LAST DAY TERM 4
DEC 17	2022 MEET & GREET
JAN 31	FIRST DAY TERM 1 2022

 **COMPASS**  
School Manager



### Newsletter Edition 14 - Tuesday 16th November

Dear Families,

Firstly, thank you to those who contacted members of our school staff to check in on our well-being during our most recent positive COVID cases on site. We appreciate the words of support and that families acknowledge that closing the school is a last resort and often done with very short notice. We are now in the middle of the final term of the year. Saying this sounds so strange given we are only welcoming some students back on site for the first time in months! We acknowledge the impact this uncertainty has had and continues to have on both you as families and your children. Please don't hesitate to make contact with a trusted member of our school community and we will do our best to find extra supports and develop strategies around this ever changing world.

#### Updates for protocol with recent COVID exposure

Given the recent positive cases at MSS, I am asking that all of you ensure your contact details are up to date in COMPASS. I am also requesting that you are checking and reading teacher messages and emails regularly to make sure you are not missing important information. If you are new to our school and need some support using COMPASS or SEESAW – please call the office and one of our friendly staff will certainly help you.

There have now been changes to the way Department of Health (DH) complete contact tracing and communicate with families and students. In the first instance a member of the Principal Class Team (Alice, Tegan or myself) will call you to alert you that your young person is a potential close contact. You must take your young person for a test ASAP and then wait for results as well as correspondence from DH. You will receive a text message from DH-COVID10, which may take a few days. This message will tell you the date of exposure and will include a survey for you to answer questions about vaccination status. After you have filled in the survey, you will receive another message which will tell you the length of their quarantine and when to get your child's next test. **The school does not provide this information, nor does the testing facility. Please continue to follow DH processes and call or email us only if you need more support or have not heard from DH.**

#### Prep transitions

One of the most exciting times of the year is about to take place AND it will be in person! We are very much looking forward to meeting our new students and it will be great to have them onsite, Tuesday 16th and Nov 23th in the afternoons 3:30-4:30pm.

#### Reports

As COVID has impacted our teaching and learning programs again this year – our curriculum reports will be in a more simple version with a focus on english and maths. These will be available on Compass towards the end of the year. If you would like to discuss these reports with your classroom teacher you will need to make contact with the teacher directly and they can provide you with some feedback over the phone or WebEx.

### End of Year SSGs

Friday the 17th of December is a pupil free day. This day is to enable families and young people to meet their new teaching teams and discuss the 2022 programs and events. We are still waiting for changes in guidance to be able to make a decision about where we will host the events. It is more than likely these events will be hosted on Webex due to the vaccination requirements necessary for entry in to any DET setting.

### Classes for next year

The PCT and the leadership team have been working hard at the 2022 class lists. During this process we look at the needs of every student in the school both academically and socially. We ask each student which three other students they work with and one student they work not as well with. This helps us further to allocate students to suitable classes. As always we cannot respond to parent specific requests for teachers or teaching staff and our expectation is that all of our teams should be providing a high level of individualised support for each student.

### Graduations

We are very excited to be able to celebrate the journey of our 18 year olds and our 12 year olds in some form. A member of the leadership team will be in touch with announcements of what this will look like for your young person, should this affect them.

### PASS Awards

We are so excited to announce that Meena, one of our amazing teacher aides, won the 2021 Most Outstanding Education Support Staff of the Year award. Everyone at MSS who knows Meena cant dispute her love for her job and the commitment she brings every day to her classroom team and students. Congratulations MEENA!

Best wishes everyone,  
Brooke



Meena's family came along to support her



Meena shared a beautiful acceptance speech



Our allied health team were nominated for the Outstanding Team award



# GETTING SPOOKY

## with P11



P11 this term has returned to face to face learning with determination and an excellent work ethic. We began our transition back to school with a spooky celebration! We expressed our Halloween spirit with a little organised window graffiti, along with some classroom decorations.

Our focus this term is around presenting ourselves respectfully within the community, while maintaining a safe and responsible attitude. We are excited to be working towards attending Blackwood school camp. This will be our classes first camp and we will be tackling two nights in the cabins!



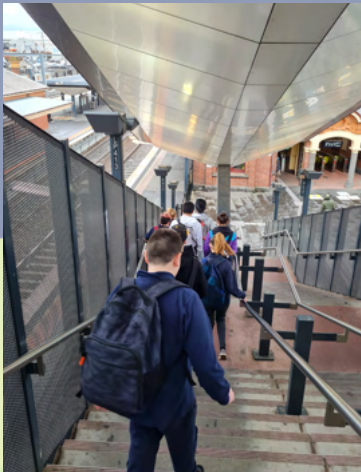


# Hands on activities

## WITH S6

Whilst onsite, the students of S6 have been busy ordering, collecting, preparing and packing breakfast club orders for the whole school. Students have been able to develop invaluable job skills whilst participating in this program. They have done a wonderful job of providing all the students of MSS with breakfast three days a week. Well done S6!

S6 have been developing their travel training skills throughout the year. This includes learning to plan routes, read timetables and utilise their time management skills. We look forward to putting these skills to the test with upcoming excursions to various destinations in Melbourne using public transport or an MSS bus.



# HOT OFF the PRESS



The school is very happy to announce that the following two paintings are gracing the cover of the 2022 Staff and Student School diaries. They were commissioned from local Wurundjeri/Yorta Yorta artist Simone Thomson - <https://simonethomsonart.com/>.

Each painting has a story that relates to the school values of Safe, Responsible and Respectful. The stories will be placed into the diaries for you all to read and admire during 2022.



# SIMONE THOMSON

• A R T •



## From the First Dawn

From the First Dawn and the time of creation, Aboriginal people have existed on Country in a respectful custodianship of the land and waterways. This is the way it has always been and the way it will always be, it is our responsibility to be the caretakers of Country just as our ancestors have done.

The large U-shapes that gather around the central circle represent the staff and teachers of the school. Their life journeys are represented through the sky country in a map of their connecting experiences, they bring these experiences and life knowledge to the Gathering Circle which represents the school. The U-shapes are the knowledge holders, they are the Elders, the teachers – they meet around the Gathering Circle keeping their students safe; the students are signified by the inner circle.

The four corners that lead towards the inner circle signify the students journeys across Country to their place of learning, their place of knowledge – the school. The outer layers of the circle represent the layers of Country, the waterways, the mountains, the valleys and the bushland. The connecting circles in the outer ring of the circle represents the school community and their ongoing connection to Wurundjeri Country.

Simone Thomson  
Wurundjeri / Yorta-Yorta

# SIMONE THOMSON

• A R T •



## Keepers of Culture

Bunjil the Wedgetail Eagle is the Creator Spirit of the Kulin, Waa the Crow is the Keeper of Wind and Water. These powerful birds are moieties for the Kulin Nations and are the Keepers of Culture. They represent the earth country and the sky country and are the truth of our being.

The blue background represents the sky that the powerful birds circle above watching over Country keeping us safe, this is the journey tracks we follow being responsible and respectful for our land and waterways, for our sacred trees and country.

The large U-shaped figures represent the students sitting around the Gathering Circle listening respectfully to their Elders, the knowledge holders – their teachers. The meeting circle represents the school in which they come to learn and gather as community. The white pathways that connect the U's signify the journey tracks of the students from their homelands and their ongoing connection to Wurundjeri Country.

Simone Thomson  
Wurundjeri / Yorta-Yorta



# THE FIZZ

## Let's Talk Body Confident Children and Teens



**The Butterfly Foundation is offering a FREE live webinar for parents providing important tips on supporting body image in children and teens.**

**FOR:** PARENTS/CARERS OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY AGE CHILDREN  
**COVERS:** BODY IMAGE INFLUENCES | IMPORTANCE OF POSITIVE BODY IMAGE | POSITIVE ROLE MODELLING | REDUCING TOXIC BODY TALK | RESPONDING TO APPEARANCE BULLYING | WHAT TO DO IF CONCERNED

**DATE:** MONDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER 2021

**TIME:** 7PM - 8.15PM (AEDT)

**FORMAT:** LIVE, VIA ZOOM (NO RECORDING)

**WEBINAR REGISTRATION:**

[HTTPS://EVENTS.BUTTERFLY.ORG.AU/PORTAL//EVENT/?](https://events.butterfly.org.au/portal/event/?ID=EP_BCCT_PARENT_WEBINAR3040012394&NAME=22/11/21%20BCCT%20FOR%20BKF)

[ID=EP\\_BCCT\\_PARENT\\_WEBINAR3040012394&NAME=22/11/21 BCCT FOR BKF](https://events.butterfly.org.au/portal/event/?ID=EP_BCCT_PARENT_WEBINAR3040012394&NAME=22/11/21 BCCT FOR BKF)

If you have any  
questions,  
please contact  
the  
Student  
Engagement  
Team  
[set@meltonss.vic.edu.au](mailto:set@meltonss.vic.edu.au)





# MSS ALLIED HEALTH HERE'S THE SCOOP!

## Key Word Signs of the Fortnight



 <p><b>Wash</b> Mime washing the part of the body or object. (Natural gesture – mime the action).</p>	 <p><b>Brush hair</b> Use dominant hand and mime brushing hair. Imagine holding a hair brush. (Natural gesture – mime the action).</p>	 <p><b>Brush teeth</b> Use dominant hand and mime brushing teeth in an up and down manner. Imagine holding a toothbrush. (Natural gesture – mime the action).</p>	 <p><b>Toilet</b> Fingerspell "T" quickly, twice, dominant index finger on edge or middle of non-dominant hand.</p>
 <p><b>Bed</b> Place open dominant hand against side of face.</p>	 <p><b>Yes</b> Move dominant fist, palm down, up and down from the wrist, twice.</p>	 <p><b>No</b> Shake dominant fist, palm down, sideways in front of body.</p>	 <p><b>Happy</b> Clap heels of open cupped hands together twice, hands moving in small outward circles.</p>
 <p><b>Sad</b> Place edge of index finger of open dominant hand, on chin and move up and forward slightly. *May move this hand formation down in front of face with sad facial expression.</p>	 <p><b>Sick</b> Extend dominant little finger. Slide little finger edge down same side of upper chest. * May use two hands.</p>	 <p><b>Car</b> Clench both fists in front of body – move formation as if holding an imaginary steering wheel. (Natural gesture – mime the action).</p>	 <p><b>Bus</b> Form fists with both hands, palms up – move as if driving a bus. (Natural gesture – mime the action).</p>
 <p><b>More</b> Cup dominant hand, fingers spread and place fingertips on centre chest. Move hand forward.</p>	 <p><b>Please</b> Move open dominant hand straight forward from chin, while closing into a fist. May use "thanks"</p>	 <p><b>Thanks</b> Move fingertips of open dominant hand, palm towards body, forward from chin, once. * May use two hands.</p>	 <p><b>Finished</b> Extend dominant thumb, fingers closed. Rock hand formation from side to side several times.</p>
 <p><b>Go</b> Swing slightly cupped dominant hand forward in relevant direction. Finish with straight fingers. *With directionality.</p>	 <p><b>Eat</b> Close dominant fingertips onto ball of thumb. Tap formation on chin, twice.</p>	 <p><b>Drink</b> Shape dominant hand as for holding a glass – tilt to mouth as for drinking. (Natural gesture – mime the action).</p>	 <p><b>Stop</b> Move open dominant hand forward, palm away from body, from shoulder height. (Natural gesture).</p>
 <p><b>Wait</b> Bounce open dominant hand, palm down, in front of dominant side, twice. *May use both hands. (Natural gesture).</p>	 <p><b>Book</b> Place blades of open hands together – close and open formation, once.</p>	 <p><b>Play</b> Simultaneously move both open hands, palms up, in outward circles.</p>	 <p><b>Like</b> Move open dominant hand in small circles on chest.</p>

If you have any questions for any member of the Allied Health Team, contact MSS on 9743 4966.





## Early Intervention Therapy Playgroups - Happy Feet (Western Melbourne)

Registered  
NDIS  
Provider

Gateways' Early Intervention therapy playgroups are designed for pre-kindergarten children who have a developmental delay or a specific diagnosis.

Over the term, an occupational therapist and speech pathologist will work with you and your child to address developmental skills including:

- Indoor and outdoor play,
- Group music and reading books and
- Snack time.

The group gives parents a chance to share ideas and talk with other families attending the playgroup, as well as supporting families and caregivers to gain a greater knowledge of Autism Spectrum Disorder and Developmental Delay and to understand your child's behaviours.

The small group sessions of up to eight children and two therapists run during school terms. For greatest benefits, we recommend enrolling your child in all four terms as they work towards preparing for kindergarten.

### How to register?

Please visit our website to complete and submit a registration form. Follow this link to complete our registration form:

<https://bit.ly/GroupTherapyPrograms>

Please email completed forms to:

[therapygroupregistrations@gateways.com.au](mailto:therapygroupregistrations@gateways.com.au)

For further inquiries, contact our Western Melbourne team:

Email: [westernmelbourne@gateways.com.au](mailto:westernmelbourne@gateways.com.au)

Ph (Footscray): 9396 1111

Ph (Werribee): 9749 7388

Gateways is an NDIS and DHHS registered disability service provider, with quality accreditation.

### When and Where

Happy Feet Playgroup runs during the school term.

**When** Weekly starting Friday 12 November

**Time** 9.30am-12.30pm

**Where** Saltwater Community Centre, Point Cook

### Funding

NDIS funding is required to attend this playgroup.

### COVID-19

Our programs will be adapted in line with any restrictions in place at time of running. Safety is our first priority.



Registered  
NDIS  
Provider

## LEGO® Mates Group Therapy – Werribee

LEGO® Mates is a fun and engaging group program aimed at developing participants social communication skills.

**Participants are motivated by their love of LEGO to work together with peers to negotiate, plan and problem solve in order to construct LEGO creations.**

LEGO® Mates uses the evidence-based 'LEGO®-based Therapy' model, which has been shown to develop social communication skills in children. In this model, group participants are supported by facilitating therapists to develop their social and communication skills in order to successfully work together to build LEGO® creations.

### The group aims to develop participant's

- Peer interaction skills
- Communication skills
- Negotiation skills
- Problem Solving skills
- Conversational skills

Each LEGO® Mates session follows the same structure to support learning and skills development. This includes structured building time where participants are assigned specific roles to assist them to work with peers to make LEGO® constructions. Participants are also provided with less structured building time to support their creativity and facilitate generalisation of skills.

Gateways is an NDIS and DHHS registered disability service provider, with quality accreditation.

### Who is this program for?

Children in Grade 4 - 6 mainstream school, who have difficulty with social communication skills (including those with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder). Participants will require a current NDIS plan.

### Where?

Gateways Werribee Office,  
3 Princes Hwy, Werribee

### When?

Please get in contact to find out session times for the following terms/ holidays.

### Cost?

Funded under Capacity-Building Supports from NDIS Plan.

### How to register:

Follow this link to complete our registration form:

<https://bit.ly/GroupTherapyPrograms>

For queries, contact the Therapy Delivery Lead Sejal on [sejal.mithbawkar@gateways.com.au](mailto:sejal.mithbawkar@gateways.com.au) or 03 9749 7388.

Participants must have a current NDIS plan and will require a Service Agreement with Gateways Support Services.

Werribee Office  
3 Princes Highway  
Werribee VIC 3030

[westernmelbourne@gateways.com.au](mailto:westernmelbourne@gateways.com.au)

(03) 9749 7388

[www.gateways.com.au](http://www.gateways.com.au)

[www.gateways.com.au](http://www.gateways.com.au)

[westernmelbourne@gateways.com.au](mailto:westernmelbourne@gateways.com.au)

(03) 9396 1111



Have you ever  
wanted to join  
the circus?

# DREAM BIG CIRCUS CLUB

FREE!

Fridays 4-5:30PM

At the 2nd Melton Scouts, Blackwood Dr  
(ages 7-18)

Learn how to... Stilt Walk Spin Poi  
Hula Hoop Juggle Staff Twirl  
Human Pyramids

AND MORE!

DREAM  
BIG

More Info and sign up: [www.dreambig.org.au/circus-club](http://www.dreambig.org.au/circus-club)

Vaccination required for participants 16+

Proudly supported by the Melton City Council

## Support for your kids to get active

Does your child love sport and being active? Does your family have a Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card? You may be eligible for up to \$200 to put towards the cost of your child's participation in physical activities.

As children return to sport over the coming months, the Get Active Kids Voucher Program helps eligible families get their kids involved in organised sport and active recreation activities.

Under the program, children may be eligible to receive up to \$200 to help with the cost of membership and registration fees, uniforms, and equipment.

The program also provides a special consideration stream to support children residing in care services as well as temporary or provisional visa holders, undocumented migrants or international students.

Applications for vouchers in round three of the program close at 5pm Tuesday 30 November.

For eligibility requirements and to apply, visit the [Get Active Victoria website](http://GetActiveVictoria.org.au).

