

Snippets

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16th December 2021

Our Values

Respect Responsibility Resilience Compassion Gratitude



FROM THE PRINCIPAL - Lena Clark



The end of the 2021 school year is now upon us; another year that has been filled with unpredictable challenges. Proudly, I can say, that as a community, we have continued to stand together in support so that our children's learning was minimally impacted, if at all.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your tireless efforts and resilience in seeing this year through. The skills we have all learnt both this and last year are skills that are strong positives which have allowed us to cope with the changes of how we work and live...changes which now have become a way of life.

Congratulations to all the staff of Donvale PS who are just simply the best! They are truly a wonderful team of educators and I am so grateful that I get to work with them each day. Thank you to all our parents many of whom, I know, really did it tough this year. Your children are so fortunate to have you as role models; they will look back at these last two years and know that there was a lot of people surrounding them, nurturing them, educating them and showing them how we cope when the going gets tough.

'Meet your Teacher': Tomorrow is our 'Meet your Teacher' day where the students have the opportunity to meet with their teacher and classmates in their 2022 classroom. All teachers will be in attendance during this session. The teachers will introduce themselves to their future students and begin the process of getting to know each other. This is a great way to support the student's transition into their new classes and allows for a smooth start in the new year.

Thank you to all the staff for their support in developing the class structures and student placements for next year. As I'm sure you can appreciate, this is a very difficult and time consuming process with many considerations having to be taken into account. I would appreciate the respect from parents that the decisions for student class placements are final.

School Captains: Over the past years, our School Captains have been selected on a gender and best applicant basis... that is, two boys and two girls. This year, however, our school has moved to a merit-based process where we have asked the children to vote for the four best students that they feel will best represent them and our school as Leaders...regardless of gender. As such, I would like to congratulate our newly elected 2022 School Captains, Maya Patterson and Zahlia Glover and Vice Captains, Kingsley Leong and Elise Bowman. A special handover ceremony will be taking place at tomorrow's final assembly for the year.

Thank you to our outgoing School Captains and Vice Captains – Jasmine B, Jack S, Eleanor C and Joseph B. They have been exemplary role models and leaders during this very challenging year. They have missed many of the major School Captain events this year due to Covid, however, in doing so, they have shown a level of resilience that should be acknowledged and celebrated. I am very, very proud of them. I know they will continue to be great students and stand up leaders as they make their way to secondary school.

School House Captains: Our school house Captains will be elected early in the new year and will be announced shortly thereafter. We continue to encourage our students to aspire to the leadership opportunities available at our school.

Year 6 Graduation: We send all our best wishes to our Year 6 students who leave us this year to continue their educational journey into the secondary sector. Tuesday evening's Graduation ceremony was a wonderful event where we had the opportunity to recognise and acknowledge all their achievements. It is always a very proud time for both parents and staff. A very big thank you to Ms Wernert, Mr Reiter, Mr Tapper and Mrs Thomas for their hard work in planning and organising the ceremony. Thank you to parent helpers, Lisa Hunter, Janine Cope, Di Camp, Athena Mamonitis, Allison Cowley, Tanja Kankaanpaa, Katrina Van den Berg and all other members of the Graduation Committee for all their amazing support in helping with the planning, preparations and presentations. They did an absolutely amazing job with the organisation of the dinner for the students and staff, decorations and displays. This included the gorgeous cupcakes made again this year for the students by Caroline Holland and Martin Van den Berg as our official photographer of the night. It was all sensational!

We send a fond farewell to the following families that will be leaving Donvale PS this year...Bhardwaj (Dev), Buckle (Joseph), Camp (Harper), Chan (Len), Condos (Tiana), Ensafi (Arshia), Erwin (Charlotte), Franklin (Grace), Gerald (Akeem), Giannaris (Georgia), Henry (Ava), Hewitt (Jonathan), Irvine (Brody), Johnson (Maddie), Lano (Mariela), Moyes (Oliver), O'Brien (Ethan), Patel (Nandini), Stephenson (Jack), Thatiot (Hima), Tsui (Maxwell), Wilks (Kade) and Wogan (Kade). A wonderful acknowledgment of these families was made during the Graduation ceremony by Mrs Rassias. We wish all these families all the very best and welcome them all to stop by and say hello at any time.

A very big thank you to Tamblyn Smith who once again has helped us out with the choreography of the student performances on the night. We are extremely fortunate to have someone as skilled and talented as Tam joining us each year to support us with this very important event. He always does amazing things with the children's performances and this year's Graduation was no exception. Thank you also to Kerry Gerraty who continues to be a strong supporter of our school even after it has been many years since her own children attended Donvale PS. Kerry is skilled as a choir director and voice coach and was on hand to help our students out with their singing in readiness for their performances.

Thank you also to all the staff who were officially involved in the ceremony; Mrs Rassias, Miss Wernert, Mr Reiter, Mr Tapper, Mrs Thomas, Mrs Keep, Mrs De Stefanis and Mr Hogg. A big thank you also to all the staff of Donvale PS, past and present, who were in attendance during the evening in support of the students. And of course, a very big congratulations to all our Year 6 students who just shone on the stage. To all our graduates, please make sure you don't forget us. Come and visit us when you get the chance. We would love to see you again and hear how you are going.

Santa visit: Santa's arrival by helicopter this morning was a wonderful event that caused much excitement for our students and families that were able to join us. Following his arrival, Santa spent some one-on-one time with the students from Foundation to Year 4. They shared many stories with Santa particularly ones that were about how naughty their elves have been this year. They also asked lots of very interesting questions with the most asked question being, 'How old are you, Santa?' His response was 3,745 years old!



Carols Concerts: This afternoon, the students had the opportunity to gather together in the Senior building to perform their Christmas carols. The students and staff all thoroughly enjoyed their performances and the concert overall. It was truly joyful to see the children dancing and singing on the stage once again. Thank you to Mrs Keep, our Performing Arts teacher, who managed to find a way to enable this concert to go ahead. Ongoing restrictions and challenges have proven to be somewhat challenging however, through determination and positivity, Mrs Keep managed to make it happen! Hopefully next year, we will be able to invite our community once again, to join us for the concert. Then it will be even more special.

Donvale PS 2022: As another year draws to a close, I look forward to the 2022 school year.

From a curriculum perspective, I am pleased to announce that we will be continuing with our Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Physical Education and Mandarin Language Specialist Programs next year- all with dedicated specialist teachers and all outstanding programs. Mr Hogg's PE program will now be extended to full time and incorporate a strong health education component. Our Science and Sustainability program will continue with the hope that next year we will be able to invite parents in during Science week celebrations for a 'Hands on Science' family event. We have again employed a Tutor through DET's Tutor Learning Initiative to provide an intensive literacy support program to students in the junior year. This program will provide another level of support for our junior students who require some more intensive learning to allow them to achieve outcomes expected of them for their year level. I know you will welcome Karen O'Neil, an experienced teacher and past tutor at Donvale, back to our school next year.

Mrs Rassias will continue in her role as Acting Assistant Principal. She has made a brilliant start to her time in the Principal class. I look forward to working with her again next year in this role. Mr Reiter and Mrs Rassias will continue in their roles as Numeracy and Literacy co-ordinators, respectively.

We will decrease by one class and have 14 classes next year. We will have a mix of straight and composite classes across the school with a focus on straight classes in the junior area. We will remain with the teaching structure of six 50-minute classes each day. This ensures that each class will have a weekly specialist lesson for the full year.

A full staff structure is displayed in the table below.

Farewell Ms Price: With a reduction in the number of classes across the school next year, we will sadly be losing one staff member. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Ms Rhoe Price who joined us at the beginning of term 3. Ms Price has done a fabulous job with her year 3 /4 class under very difficult circumstances. Having to virtually jump straight into remote learning and then onsite for a short period of time has certainly had its challenges. Nevertheless, Ms Price has been wonderful in working hard to get to know the children and connect with our school community. Ms Price has accepted a position at a school in Brunswick next year. I know you will join me in wishing Ms Price all the very best as she embarks on this new journey in her teaching career. Thank you, Ms Price.

Please see below for our daily 2021 schedule....

Session 1: 9.00 – 9.50am

Session 2: 9.50 – 10.40am

Recess: 10.40 – 11.10am

Session 3: 11.10 – 12.00pm

Session 4: 12.00 – 12.50pm

Lunch: 12.50 – 1.50pm

Session 5: 1.50 – 2.40pm

Session 6: 2.40 -3.30pm

I would like to finish off my final Snippets Principal's Report for 2021 by sending out a huge thank you to all the staff of Donvale PS. They are an outstanding team of people who work tirelessly to provide the best they can for the students. Their commitment and dedication to the students is just tremendous. This was proven time and time again throughout this incredible year. I thank them for their ongoing support and for their ability to unite as one strong team. You are awesome!

Thank you also to our School Council, Parents Association and community for another terrific year. We have continued to work together to ensure that our children are provided with wonderful learning experiences that will set them up for life!

I wish all our families a very safe, healthy and happy holiday break. I look forward to seeing you all again in 2022.

Best Wishes

Lena Clark

REMINDER:

EARLY FINISH FRIDAY 17th DEC

1.30PM DISMISSAL

ASSEMBLY COMMENCES AT 12.30pm



The following policy was ratified last week at our final School Council meeting for 2021.

Donvale PS Digital Learning Policy.

It is now available on our website and can also be accessed via the link below.

[DPS-Digital-Learning-Policy-2021-002.pdf \(donvaleps.vic.edu.au\)](https://www.donvaleps.vic.edu.au/files/DPS-Digital-Learning-Policy-2021-002.pdf)

DONVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL STAFFING 2021

LEADERSHIP

Principal	Lena Clark	Principal Office
Acting Assistant Principal	Michelle Rassias	Asst. Principal Office

ADMINISTRATION

Business Manager	Sandy Bryant	Admin Office
Office Manager	Wendy Cheesman	Admin Office

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Grade	Teacher	Time Fraction
Foundation (FF)	Emma Farrington	FT
Foundation (FV)	Jayde Valentine	FT
1W	Lisa Webster	FT
1N	Rochelle Nicks	FT
1/2G	Nikki Geary	FT
2W	Chelsea Wernert	FT
2M	Georgia Milne	

MIDDLE SCHOOL

3/4F	Anita Flack	FT
3/4T	Susan Thomas	FT
3/4C	Sammie Carlile	FT
3/4M	Jonathon Males	FT

SENIOR SCHOOL

5/6R	Peter Reiter	FT
5/6T	Jonathan Tapper	FT
5/6S	Sarah Hodgson	FT

SPECIALIST STAFF

Visual Arts	Deb De Stefanis	Wed/Thur/Fri
LOTE (Mandarin)	Rock Kho	Wed/Thur/Fri
Performing Arts	Anthea Keep	Wed/Thur/Fri
Physical Education	Michael Hogg	FT
Integration Aide	Toni Grimes	FT
Integration Aide	Rita Lucisano	FT
Integration Aide	Anne Ognenis	FT
Integration Aide	Tina Cheung	FT
Integration Aide	Ursula Cuspilli	FT
Library Technician	Mei Lun	Tuesday
ICT Technician	Andrew Simpson	Wednesday



FROM THE ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - Michelle Rassias

Wow! What a year it has been. In some ways 2021 went really quickly, in other ways it went very slowly. Once again we experienced online learning and the benefits and challenges that it presented. A huge thank you to all the parents, carers and teachers who worked again so closely with each other to support the children in their learning, but also their mental health.

This year we wished Mr McKinlay all the best as he retired from Donvale Primary School after 45 years of teaching, of which thirteen and a half were here at Donvale Primary School. It has been an honour to step into his shoes..... as big as they are!

Unfortunately we also need to say goodbye to a number of families, who are leaving Donvale Primary School to move into secondary schooling. Many of these families have had their youngest child graduate from DPS this year. It has been an honour to teach their child/children and we hope that they will always remember their time at DPS fondly.

I would like to acknowledge the following families:

- the Bhardwaj, Buckle, Camp, Chan and Condos families.
- the Ensafi, Erwin, Franklin, Gerald and Giannaris families.
- the Henry, Hewitt, Irvine, Johnson, Moyes and O'Brien families.
- the Patel, Stephenson, Thatiot, Tsui, Wilks and Wogan families.

I would like to thank you all for choosing our school to be part of the learning journey for your family.

Other students also leaving Donvale Primary School are Madie Lano, Jack Murray, Kaashvi and Adhiraaj Nagar, Ardalan and Aslan Shekari, and the van der Meulen girls Jonti and Riley. We will miss you and wish you all the best at your new schools.

Finally I would like to acknowledge our principal, Mrs Clark. This school does not function as well as it does without a great leader at the helm. Mrs Clark consistently supports her staff (and students and their families), promotes collaboration, builds relationships, gets involved and has a vision for our school. She has led this school tirelessly, always with a smile and positive attitude.....even through Covid.

I wish everyone in the Donvale community a safe, restful and happy break. Enjoy the sunshine, special time with family and friends, and I look forward to hearing all about your adventures once we commence school on Monday 31st January.

Merry Christmas and have a happy, safe and prosperous New Year!

Michelle Rassias



Parenting Ideas holiday survival guide

by Michael Grose

Holidays are about kicking your feet up, relaxing and getting away from the usual routines. That's how kids see holidays.

Holiday time can be stressful for many parents. Keeping kids busy, avoiding arguments and getting time for yourself can be hard parenting work during holidays. But school holidays don't have to be stressful. It's a great opportunity to get your family back on track, build strong relationships and set the tone for a positive future. These ideas will help:

Establish a holiday routine

Some kids feel comfortable with the routines of school-life and can feel lost until the new holiday routine kicks in. Be patient with these routine-junkies! Also make sure you begin adjusting the routine as a return to school comes closer, so that the kids are prepared for going to bed and getting up at earlier times.

Holidays and slow times provide a great chance for learning and making a fresh start in any part of your life, including parenting.

Resist being an entertainment officer

While we want our kids to be occupied, it's worthwhile remembering that kids also need some downtime. The opportunity to relax and unwind is a prerequisite for good mental health, so make sure the kids have an opportunity to take a break from the usual grind, and become bored. "I'm bored" is an invitation for kids to keep themselves occupied rather than for you to keep them amused.

Arrange plenty of green-time, less screen-time

It's well documented that today's children spend more time in front of screens, and less time outdoors. It's no coincidence that this increase in the use of digital devices by kids has been accompanied by a spike in anxiety. [Recent research](#) shows how time spent in natural environments is refreshing, relaxing and rejuvenating. Science now supports what we've intuitively known. These holidays ensure both you and your family have less [screen-time](#) and more green-time.

Create one-on-one time

At Parenting Ideas we believe that individual relationships are built through one-on-one interactions. If you've a child who is struggling or even annoying you a little, consider increasing the number of times you spend in each other's company these holidays – doing something pleasant together. Just the two of you. It's like money in the relationship bank account.

Embrace festivities

Regardless of your individual circumstances and your religious beliefs the holiday period is a great time to bring family and friends together. Creating rituals around key events is a great way to build strong family bonds and create a strong sense of family belonging for kids. Keep festivities simple. Be flexible enough in timing to include as many people as possible. Keep calm and include kids in some aspects of the organisation of festivities if possible.

Team up with other families

Team up with other families and share the holiday load. You don't have to holiday together to gain these benefits. Share the child minding with a friend or swap sleepovers where "you look after my kids and I'll



The DPS

Parents Committee

Would like to say a very

Big Thank You!

To everyone who has supported
and volunteered their time to help
make the

Events of 2021 a Success.

Raising a total of around \$10,000.

We Couldn't Have Done it

Without You!

look after yours” for a night or two. This will give you a break while giving children a different family experience.

Prioritise parent education

Holidays and slow times provide a great chance for learning and making a fresh start in any part of your life, including parenting. If most of your recent parenting education has consisted of the learn-on-the-run kind, consider using the coming down time to gain some new skills and knowledge that will positively impact your future parenting. Watch a [webinar](#) recording, read a [book](#), take a [course](#). There are plenty of learning opportunities available for you. Just as big hinges swing big doors, sometimes small parenting changes and adjustments can have a massive impact on your parenting.



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your event,



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**DONVALE
NETBALL CLUB**



Come and try or register for the Autumn Season (Feb to Jun 2022)

- Join new netball junior teams for the Autumn season
 - 9/u, 11/u, 13/u, 15/u, 17/u and Open Age Teams
- Or if you are new to netball, join us for NetSetGO
 - Australia's official starter program
 - Girls/boys, aged 5-10
 - Passing drills & shooting
 - Ball games & practice matches
 - Friendly coaches... make new friends
- NetSetGO and club training - Tuesdays
- Team competitions - Saturdays
- Venue: Manningham Templestowe Leisure Centre Netball Courts

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