

NEWSLETTER

Friday 9th October 2020



Important dates to remember

Monday 12th October
All students return to school

Friday 23rd October
Public Holiday – School Closed

Monday 2nd November
Curriculum Day- Student free day

Tuesday 3rd November
Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
School closed

Friday 18th December
Last day of school – finish time
TBC

Bank Details

Commonwealth Bank
Footscray Primary School
BSB: 063 132
Account: 10090179
Please include a reference with
the student(s)' name.
EFTPOS available at the office



A message to the Footscray Primary School Community

The Rainbow Pole and the Memory Tree (the lemon-scented gum) honour the richness of children's experiences, and their ability to face adversity with courage, compassion and wisdom. It celebrates the joy of sharing life with them.

They are a tribute to our son, Patrick Gordon-Martínez, who sadly died last year, and to all the children of Footscray Primary School. These new school landmarks offer a place to remember and to reconnect with what we care about and those we love. We hope you will enjoy them and make them yours.

The Rainbow Pole was created and generously donated to Patrick's family and Footscray Primary School by BiGfiSh, a design and fabrication practice in Footscray.

With kind wishes to all,
From Patrick's family



On behalf of the Footscray Primary School community I would like to say thank you to Patrick's family and BiGfiSh for these beautiful additions to our school grounds. I have no doubt that the Rainbow Pole and Memory Tree will be cherished by all members of our school community for many years to come. Thank you

Tag! We're It!

Welcome back to the last term of 2020! How is that even possible? I want to express my sincere gratitude to each of you for partnering with us throughout the extended period of remote learning. Our children have done an incredible job demonstrating our school values to overcome significant challenges across the year. I thank our teachers for their flexibility and continual improvement in an ever-changing work environment in 2020. Please ensure you are keeping up to date with compass posts regarding staggered starts and finishes and entry/exit gates.

Funding Announcement

Yesterday I attended a virtual meeting with our School Council President, Raylene Varone, and our school leaders Owen, Maeve, Alex and Nina. We were meeting with the Deputy Premier and Education Minister, James Merlino, and our local Member of Parliament, Katie Hall. We were absolutely thrilled to hear their announcement that our school is receiving \$2.249 million dollars for the planning and design of a master plan. This is an enormous step forward for Footscray Primary School and I would like to thank the many, many people who have worked hard to secure this funding in the years prior to my arrival and throughout this year. It is another reflection of the commitment and dedication of the incredible FPS community.



Canteen

We are excited to inform you that from Monday 12th October students will be able to order from the canteen. We would prefer if you could place your orders through the online portal or your child can bring their order to school in an envelope and hand to the classroom teacher first thing in the morning. Please include the following details on the envelope; Child's name, Class, Teacher name, Order and correct payment. Students can purchase from the canteen during lunch and recess. Parents please note that the canteen will be closed to adults in the morning and afternoon.

Catch-up plan

Term 4 this year needs to look a little different to ensure we are meeting the wellbeing needs of our children after a long period away from school and also meeting each child at the current place of learning to ensure all children experience success. We have redirected our physical, financial and human resources to create an intensive and targeted catch-up plan to provide additional support at each year level focussed on the three department priorities below.

Term 4 Ongoing Priorities	
Wellbeing & Equity, Learning and Excellence, Transitions	
Wellbeing & Equity	Resources will be redirected to support wellbeing and mental health of all students and staff. We will encourage and sustain motivation for learning, re-engage students and families, and support social, emotional, and academic learning.
Learning & Excellence	Students will have progressed at varying levels. We will meet all students at their point of need. We will focus on the priority areas of literacy and numeracy to support all learners to catch-up and progress.
Transitions	We will ensure positive transitions between school settings and between year levels for all current and incoming students. Appropriate and safe orientations and end-of-year celebrations will take place and transition processes will be inclusive, student-centred and meaningful.

We will draw on the support of our expert teachers and intervention staff, educational coaches, current and additional support staff, and pre-service teachers to provide extra small group instruction across the school. Every year level will have some form additional support of this kind. The plan also helps to create more time and space for our classroom teachers to focus on every student at their point of need in literacy, numeracy, and their social and emotional wellbeing.

As we return to school, teachers will gather data on reading, writing, maths and wellbeing. We have created a plan that allows data to be collected through small group and 1:1 conferences and conversations with the teacher rather than bombarding children with formal assessments as soon as they enter the classroom. Year 3-6 students will be asked to complete a 40 minutes maths assessment online which is part of our regular assessment schedule in Term 4. It is used to determine teaching and learning needs at an individual and cohort level.

We will focus on priority areas of literacy, numeracy, wellbeing and physical activity in our daily programs with our PYP and inquiry learning coming through those areas to enrich the learning program as always. Wherever possible we will incorporate play, collaboration, and outdoor opportunities into the learning programs each day. We will evaluate the impact of our plan across the term and will also work to develop a continued plan to carry over into 2021.

Accessibility Works

Our accessibility works are on schedule to be completed by the end of this week ready for a return to school next week. The side door to the Bluestone near the canteen may remain inaccessible for a short time. We will use the meeting room door and main office entry to access classrooms in the Bluestone if this is the case.





Public Holiday and Curriculum Day

A reminder that October 23rd is the Grand Final Day Public Holiday and therefore school will be closed. Our Curriculum Day to work on our guaranteed and viable Mathematics curriculum and begin our work on class placements is scheduled for Cup Eve, Monday, November 2nd. This will be a student-free day.

Staffing Update

As we shared on compass, we welcome back Chris Wilson next year as he returns to take on an acting leadership role focussed on Student Wellbeing and Engagement. Janine is super excited to take on a new role and sink her teeth into assessment and reporting and leading the PYP. We have appointed Jackie Robertson as our first Italian bilingual teacher and learning specialist. She joins us from Coburg North PS where she has built an Italian language program that is showcased online as an exemplar of best practice in language learning. Recruitment in schools is a complex process that continues across Term 3 and 4 as natural movement across the system occurs for contract staff and those pursuing a change or taking leave. I will keep you informed and look forward to sharing news of 2021 staffing and year level teams as we move towards final models. Jessie V, our fabulous new social worker, is relocating and will be unable to continue on site with us but we have negotiated to have her continued support in a remote capacity.

Language Learning

We continue to search for a teacher to deliver Vietnamese language learning through a classroom music program for our Year 2-6 students next year. If you know any Vietnamese speaking music teachers with an Education qualification who may be interested please ask them to contact me. As shared above in staffing news, we have appointed our learning specialist to lead our Italian bilingual program. Jackie looks forward to meeting our 2021 Foundation and Year 1 families at our Italian Bilingual Program Information Session which will be held via WebEx at 6pm on October 28th. We will send an invitation to families enrolled for Foundation and Year 1 next year in the coming week – please save the date!

Enrolments

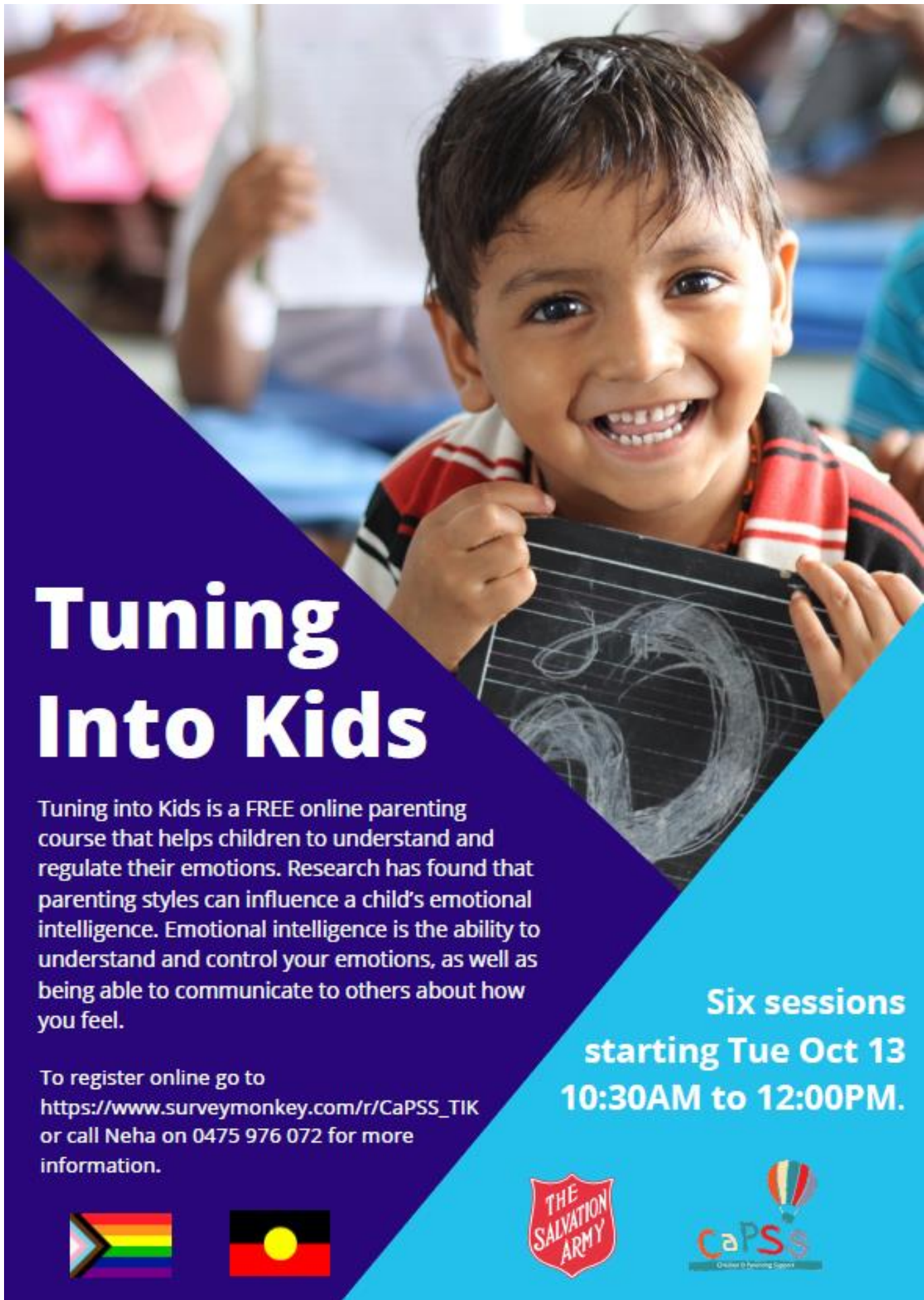
We continue to receive enrolments for 2021 and ask that if you have a child at home starting school next year that you please make sure you have returned the enrolment forms to school. Student and teacher placement is based on numbers of students enrolled at each year level and we want to make sure our workforce plan is as accurate as possible to provide the best learning environment for your children. If your children will no longer be attending Footscray Primary School in 2021 please notify the office as soon as possible. Enrolment forms are available to download from our website, or can be sent via email or post if you contact the office.

Publishing House

I haven't forgotten about the publishing house. I will speak with students this week to announce the successful applicants and share how everyone else can get involved too. Remember that there will be new opportunities each year to work in the publishing house and many other projects like this that we can build together in 2021!

Future Newsletters

We are happy to share the news that we have a new way of delivery your fortnightly newsletter. It is moving to an online platform that will be easier to use. eNews has a user-friendly design with a navigation structure that allows you to move easily between articles, save calendar dates onto your device, find past newsletters with ease and translate articles into your preferred language. Even better, eNews has been optimised for mobiles for reading on the run. You will still receive the newsletter via Compass, but instead of opening a document you will click the link and it will take you straight to our eNews.



Tuning Into Kids

Tuning into Kids is a FREE online parenting course that helps children to understand and regulate their emotions. Research has found that parenting styles can influence a child's emotional intelligence. Emotional intelligence is the ability to understand and control your emotions, as well as being able to communicate to others about how you feel.

To register online go to https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CaPSS_TIK or call Neha on 0475 976 072 for more information.

Six sessions
starting Tue Oct 13
10:30AM to 12:00PM.





IF
CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE LED
TO INCREASED LEVELS OF STRESS AND
PARENTING HAS BECOME HARDER THAN
YOU CAN MANAGE

CALL

NEHA 0475 976 072

SHAUN 0455 521 154



Mon-Fri 8am-8pm, Sat 10am-3pm

Get in touch with CaPSS practitioners for on call parenting support,
ask for practical strategies to manage the stress and
get help in dealing with changing routines, behaviours, relationships and more

<https://www.facebook.com/capssmeltonwyndham/>