

MORPHETT VALE EAST NEWSLETTER



Morphett Vale East
School



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Dear Families,

What a fantastic celebration we had for **Harmony Day!** It was truly heartwarming to see our school community come together to recognise and celebrate the rich diversity that makes our school such a special place. A huge congratulations to all of our students and families who performed and proudly showcased their culture during our special assembly—you made the day incredibly meaningful and memorable. A big thank you also goes to our **P&F Committee** for their wonderful support in planning the day and for organising the **special lunch order fundraiser**, which was a great success. Other highlights included the shared lunch on the oval, where students enjoyed connecting with one another, and of course, the spectacular visit from the Chinese dragon, which brought so much excitement and joy to everyone involved.

Our teachers are currently **conducting interviews** and I would like to sincerely thank all families who have already taken the time to meet with their child's teacher. These conversations are invaluable in strengthening the partnership between home and school and supporting each child's learning journey.

Our school is actively participating in the **School Services Officers (SSO) Deployment Project**. We recently held our first workshop, which was an informative and productive day filled with reflection and rich group discussion. A key focus was on the important role SSOs play in scaffolding learning, building student agency and supporting students to develop independence in managing their own learning. We also explored the importance of clear communication between teachers and SSOs. It's so important that we continue to work collaboratively, to ensure roles and responsibilities are clearly understood and aligned.

Our students have also benefited from **two engaging incursions** recently. The **RAA Street Smart workshop** provided valuable road safety education, helping students develop the knowledge and awareness needed to stay safe as pedestrians, cyclists, and passengers. The **'Just Like You' disability awareness workshop** was another highlight, promoting understanding, empathy and inclusion by helping students appreciate the experiences of people living with disabilities. Shortly, our Year 5/6 students will attend the **Aquatics program**, where they will develop essential water safety and survival skills. This program not only builds students' confidence in and around water, but also promotes teamwork, resilience and an understanding of how to keep themselves and others safe in aquatic environments—an especially important life skill here in Australia.

Next Thursday (2nd April), we look forward to celebrating **Autism Awareness Day**. This is an important opportunity for our school community to deepen understanding of autism, celebrate neurodiversity and promote a culture of inclusion where every student feels valued and supported. Further information about this day is included in this newsletter.

As we approach the end of term, I would like to thank our entire school community for **your ongoing support and positivity**—it truly makes a difference. I wish all families a safe and happy Easter break and hope you enjoy the upcoming school holidays. A reminder that Friday, 10th April will be the final day of Term 1, featuring our much-anticipated **Colour Run** in the afternoon, followed by an **early dismissal at 2:00pm**. We look forward to welcoming students back for Term 2 on Monday, 27th April.

Kind Regards,

Anthony McIver

Principal - Morphett Vale East School



WEEK 9, TERM 1 - 2026

ISSUE: 3

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Anthony McIver

Principal

Ellen Barr

Deputy Principal

Rick Whitbread

Student Wellbeing Leader

DIARY DATES

March

- Wed 25th - Early Finish 2:10pm
- Tues 31st - 5/6 Aquatics

April

- Thurs 2nd - Autism Awareness Day
- Fri 3rd - Good Friday
- Mon 6th - Easter Monday
- Fri 10th - Last Day, Colour Run, Early Finish 2:00pm



ROAD SAFETY REMINDER

To ensure the safety of all students and staff, we kindly remind parents and caregivers that the staff car park is strictly for staff use only. Please do not use the staff car park when dropping off or collecting your children. Instead, park outside the school grounds.

A reminder regarding Monarch Street: the school side of Monarch Street is a designated 'Kiss and Drop' area. According to the signage, this area is a no parking zone from 8:00–9:00am and 2:00–3:30pm. The opposite side of Monarch Street is a 'No Standing' zone during the same hours (8:00–9:00am and 2:00–3:30pm). Please follow these regulations for everyone's safety and to comply with local traffic laws. Council Rangers have been regularly patrolling these areas.



BIKE AND SCOOTER SAFETY REMINDER

For the safety of all students and staff, we ask that bikes, scooters and similar items are walked—not ridden—through the courtyard before and after school.

Thank you for helping us keep our school grounds safe for everyone.



ICE BLOCKS

We are pleased to let you know that ice blocks are still available for purchase every Friday at lunchtime.

Students can buy a half ice block for only \$0.50 cents or a whole ice block for \$1.00 each.



SCHOOL PHOTOS

School Photos – 8th May

We are excited to announce that school photos will be taken on Friday, 8th May.

This is a wonderful opportunity for students to capture special memories from their school year.



Individual and class photos will be available for purchase. Further details regarding photography packages and pricing will be sent home with students as we get closer to the date.

TERM 2 EARLY FINISH DAYS

To help families plan ahead, please note the early finish dates for Term 2. On the following Wednesdays, school will finish at 2:10pm:

- 13th May
- 3rd June
- 24th June

Please enter these dates into your phone calendar or diary to help remind you to collect your child on time. Thank you for your cooperation.



Student Leaders



Student voice and agency are an important part of our school community. We are committed to developing leadership skills and providing meaningful opportunities for students to take on responsibility. At Morphet Vale East School, we prioritise authentic student leadership experiences that empower students to make a positive contribution to our school.

To foster a strong sense of belonging and community, every child—along with their siblings—is placed in a House Team for their time at Morphet Vale East School. Our three House Teams are:

- Red Kangaroos
- Green Tree Frogs
- Blue Sharks

This week, our Year 5 and 6 students were introduced to the range of Student Leadership roles available for 2026. Students have been invited to nominate themselves for the positions of House Leader and Deputy House Leader. In 2026, our leadership model will align with our House Teams, with each House represented by a House Leader and a Deputy House Leader from the Year 5/6 cohort.

Information about the roles and the application process has been shared with interested students. As part of the selection process, students will present a short speech to their House Team on Friday 27 March. We encourage all students to consider applying and look forward to celebrating and announcing our 2026 Student Leaders in the coming weeks.

Student Leaders will take on a variety of roles and responsibilities throughout the year, including:

- Representing student voice in school decision-making processes
- Leading and managing the 2026 Legacy Project (e.g. improving a school space, leading a community initiative, or creating a lasting contribution for future students)
- Leading and supporting whole-school assemblies
- Planning and promoting fundraising events
- Supporting younger students when appropriate
- Assisting with digital equipment for assemblies and events
- Supporting school tours (optional)
- Planning and supervising lunchtime clubs
- Promoting whole-school events and cultural celebrations
- Welcoming and connecting with new students
- Assisting with school sporting events and Sports Day preparation
- Collaborating with staff to promote the school's vision, values, and learner dispositions



Please note that there will be no separate Sports Captain roles in 2026, as these responsibilities will be incorporated into the Student Leadership roles.

Class Leaders

In addition, we are excited to introduce Class Leader roles for younger students. Each class will have two Class Leaders, providing students with early opportunities to develop leadership skills and prepare for future leadership pathways within the school.

Ellen Barr
Deputy Principal



JUST LIKE YOU

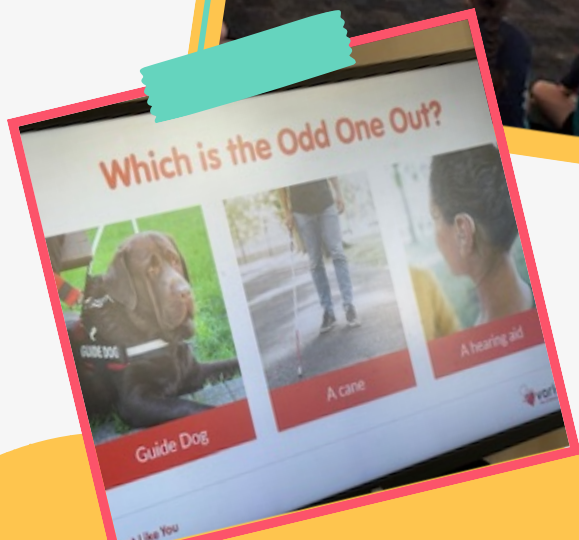
Incursion

This week, students participated in the “Just Like You” incursion presented by Emily and Emma from the Variety Club. The engaging and informative session focused on educating students about understanding, acceptance and inclusion of people with a disability—reinforcing the important message that people with a disability are really **JUST LIKE YOU!**

The program addressed both visible and hidden disabilities, helping students to recognise the diverse range of experiences people may have. Emily, who is blind, attended with her guide dog and shared her personal experiences with the students. A highlight of the session was learning about the essential role of assistance dogs and understanding why it’s important not to approach or distract them when they are working.



Through interactive discussions and real-life stories, students explored how everyone can play a part in creating a welcoming and inclusive community. The “Just Like You” incursion helped foster empathy and encouraged students to embrace inclusivity in all aspects of school life.





ATTENDANCE

From time to time, families may encounter the challenge of school refusal – when a child experiences significant distress about attending school and struggles to participate in the school day.

Understanding School Refusal

School refusal is when a child becomes extremely distressed about attending school and may miss part or all of the day. This distress is ongoing and very real for the child. They usually stay home with a parent's knowledge, even though families are trying hard to help them attend. School refusal can affect students of any age.

What it can look like

Families often describe mornings as a struggle. Children may:

- show high anxiety, crying or anger
- complain of headaches or stomach aches before school (that improve at home)
- refuse to get ready or leave the house
- have trouble sleeping
- plead not to attend

Why it happens

There is rarely one single cause. School refusal is often linked to anxiety or worries about separation, friendships, learning challenges or past negative experiences. It can also appear after changes or stressful events such as moving house, starting a new class, friendship conflict, bullying or academic pressure. Staying home may feel safer or give the child relief from those worries.

How families can help

Small, calm and consistent steps make a big difference:

- Acknowledge feelings while keeping the expectation of attendance (“I know it’s hard – we’ll work through it together”).
- Keep routines predictable, especially mornings and bedtime.
- Stay calm and encouraging; praise brave attempts.
- Keep home low-key during school hours and support completion of school work if absent.
- Celebrate attendance and effort, not just full success.

Working together

Families can get professional help to learn about managing school refusal and to sort out the problems behind it.. Health professionals can help identify anxiety or other concerns and provide support strategies. Schools will also work closely with families to gradually rebuild attendance and confidence. School refusal can be exhausting and worrying for parents and carers. Patience, consistency and support – both at home and school – help children regain confidence and reconnect with learning. If you are experiencing this, please reach out to the school; we are here to help.

The above is a truncated version of an article from the Raising Kids Network. You can find the full article here <https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/school-learning/school-refusal/school-refusal#working-on-school-refusal-at-home-practical-strategies-nav-title>

WORLD AUTISM

· AWARENESS DAY ·



THURSDAY 2ND APRIL

Students are encouraged to wear bright colours



ANYBUDDY CAN PLAY

PLAY.AFL/SUPERKICK

MORPHETT VALE EAST PS SUPERKICK CENTRE

1 MONARCH STREET, MORPHETT VALE, SA

WEDNESDAYS, 3:15PM - 4:00PM

8 SESSIONS - 6TH MAY - 24TH JUNE

Open to children aged 7 to 12

Superkick is FREE with a ORSR Sports voucher or \$100 without



REGISTER HERE



GOOD CLEAN FUN

PLAY.AFL/AUSKICK

MORPHETT VALE EAST PS AUSKICK CENTRE

WEDNESDAY, 3:15PM - 4:00PM

8 SESSIONS - 6th of May till 24th of June

Open to children aged 5 to 7

Auskick is FREE with a ORSR Sports voucher or \$100 without

ALL GIRLS GROUPS AVAILABLE



REGISTER HERE



Wayne Phillis FORD TIGER CUBS

JUNIOR BASKETBALL SESSIONS

4 - 8 YEAR OLDS

DEVELOP KEY SKILLS

LEARN BASIC GAME RULES

MAKE FRIENDS & HAVE FUN

FOR MORE INFORMATION

SOUTHERNTIGERS.COM.AU/TIGER-CUBS



Let's keep the fun going!

Momentum is building for our Monty the Monstar Fun Run on Friday 10th April

Has your child set up their online fundraising page yet? Now's the perfect time— It's super quick—and every dollar helps!

- Raise \$10 to receive a prize!
- Your child could even get to Slime the Principal— an unforgettable experience!

Join the fun and help us reach our goal while making epic memories.

