



Serpell Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Tuesday 10th February 2026

From the Principal

Diary

Wednesday 11th February

Year 1 Incursion: Puppet Kerfuffle

Monday 16th February

Student School Council Assembly Presentation

Monday 16th February

District Swimming

Friday 20th February

Parents Association – Annual General Meeting (9:30am)

Monday 23rd February

Lunar New Year Assembly

Friday 27th February

Yr 6 Captain Presentations Assembly

Monday 9th March

Public Holiday: Labour Day

Ready for Approval and/or Payment on XUNO

Excursion Levy

Senior Sport Levy (Year 6)

Photography, Filming and Recording Students – Consent Form

District Swimming (Select Students)

Tuckers Road, Templestowe, Victoria 3106

Telephone: (03) 9842 8182

OSHC: 0424 454 961

Email:

serpell.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Website:

www.serpellps.vic.edu.au

VICTORIAN SPORTING AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

This week we were delighted to receive notification that two of our Year 6 students from last year have been awarded the 2025 Victorian School Sporting Association Blues Awards for excellence in sport. They are Jeremy Harianto for Soccer and Ethan Ma for Swimming. These boys and their families will be presented with the awards at a special ceremony at the MCG Members Dining room in March. Congratulations to both students. We know that their dedicated training and commitment has been first class and to have it recognised is wonderful. Thank you also to sports teacher Kris Sais who nominated the athletes and supported them on their road to success throughout the year.

ASSEMBLIES EVERY MONDAY AFTERNOON

School assemblies are held each Monday afternoon, and parents are encouraged and welcome to attend. The assemblies feature an Acknowledgement of Country, the Australian National Anthem, the presentation of certificates of achievement and announcements by the Junior School Council representatives. Depending on the time of year, they may also feature orchestra performances, choirs, class musical items and cultural celebrations. The times for this month are Year 2 and 3 - 2pm, Years Prep and 1 - 2.30pm Years 4, 5 and 6 - 3pm.

On special cultural events, such as Lunar New Year, Greek Easter, Eid, Diwali, Persian New Year or Xmas, whole school assemblies are held for the school to celebrate together. The first of these will be held on Monday 23rd February at 2pm for the experience of Lunar New Year. We would love to see you there.

SCHOOL CAPTAIN, HOUSE CAPTAIN and JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

This coming Friday, 51 students from Year 6, 28 girls and 23 boys, will take up the challenge of nominating for a leadership position in the school. The process will involve each child making a speech to their peers in Years 5 and 6 and a democratic preferential ballot counting of votes. Congratulations to all students who have nominated. The captains will be announced next Friday afternoon and will lead our assemblies next Monday. A formal presentation of badges assembly will be held for families on Friday 27th February.

Elections in all classes are currently taking place for Junior School Council positions. Perhaps your child has been practising their public speaking at home. Badges will be presented at assemblies next Monday afternoon, 16th February. The positions become vacant again in June, giving a second round of opportunity to other children. Democracy is alive and thriving at Serpell!

WILMA CULTON PSM

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

School Saving Bonus (SSB)

A reminder to all parents, there will be **no SSB in 2026**. If your child has unspent funds from last year this will be allocated to the following – in this order:

2026 Excursion/Incursion Levy - \$100 (Compulsory)
 Senior School Sport (Yr 6 only) - \$ 60 (Compulsory)
 School Swimming Program - Various amounts - to be advised (User pay)
 School Camp (Yr 3 to 6) - Various amounts – to be advised (User pay)

The unspent money will continue to be allocated to Excursions/Incursions, Sport and Camp for future years until it is all used up, **you will not lose this money**.

Camps / Sport / Excursion Fund (CSEF)

For holders of eligible Health Care cards, the amount of money being deposited for students in 2026 will be \$400 per child. The funds will be allocated to costs in the following order:

2026 Excursion/Incursion Levy - \$100 (Compulsory)
 Senior School Sport (Yr 6 only) - \$ 60 (Compulsory)
 School Swimming Program - Various amounts - to be advised (User pay)
 School Camp (yr 3 to 6) - Various amounts – to be advised (User pay)

The unspent money will continue to be allocated to Excursions/Incursions, Sport and Camp for future years until it is all used up, **you will not lose this money**.

2026 Swimming Program Dates

Prep	3 rd August – 14 th August
Year 1 & 2	17 th August – 27 th August
Year 3 & 4	11 th May – 22 nd May
Year 5 & 6	25 th May – 3 rd June

2026 Camp Dates

Year 3 Weekaway	19th October – 20th October
Year 4 Phillip Island	26th October – 28th October
Year 5 Rumbug	4th November – 6th November
Year 6 Howqua	30th November – 4th December

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Friday, 20th of February, at 9:30am in the staff room. All parents are welcome to this event. This is a great opportunity for parents to find out about the Parent's Association events and how to get involved. We will have Nick Thuys, Year 6 teacher and STEM learning specialist as our guest speaker at this event. Nick will talk to parents about the STEM programs and technology here at Serpell. Please mark your diaries to attend this event. Looking forward to seeing you all there, especially our new parents.

FROM THE CANTEEN

A reminder to parents that students cannot bring anything larger than a \$5.00 note to spend at the canteen during recess or lunch. If your child brings anything larger than this, it will not be accepted. Thank you for your support.

SERPELL ORCHESTRA

Any student who learns an Orchestral instrument (not piano), is welcome to participate in the Orchestra. They should be able to read music and have a good level of sight reading. I will NOT be including percussion this year due to the repertoire chosen. Please see Miss Wuttke or email Susan.Wuttke@education.vic.gov.au if you would like further information or advice. Rehearsals for Orchestra will start on Friday 13th February (Week 3) from 2:30pm – 3:30pm in the Hall. Students will be dismissed at 3:30pm from the Hall. There will be many opportunities for performances at assemblies throughout the year.

SENIOR CHOIR

Ms Carol Zhong will be conducting the Senior Choir again this year. She brings a great deal of experience and skill to this role. Any student from Year 3 to Year 6 is welcome to participate. Please see Ms Zhong in the 5CZ room or email her at Carol.Zhong@education.vic.gov.au if you would like further information. Rehearsals are on Tuesday lunchtimes from 12:30pm to 1pm in the Music Room. There will be many opportunities for performances at assemblies throughout the year.

JUNIOR CHOIR

Miss Wuttke will be conducting a new Junior Choir this year. Students from Year 1 and Year 2 are welcome to participate. Rehearsals will be on Monday lunchtimes from 12:30pm to 1pm in the Music Room. Please see Miss Wuttke or email Susan.Wuttke@education.vic.gov.au if you would like further information or advice. There will be many opportunities for performances at assemblies throughout the year.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

As we settle into the rhythm of the 2026 school year, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the parents who have already volunteered as Class Representatives. Your willingness to support your child's class, strengthen connections among families, and uphold our school values is deeply appreciated. The Serpell community is strengthened every day by the support and goodwill of families like yours.

We are still seeking more Class Representatives across several year levels. Our aim remains to appoint two representatives per class, ensuring shared responsibilities and balanced support for families and teachers. If your child is in any of the classes listed below, we warmly invite you to consider joining our team.

Prep	PMR	PSF	PSB	PSC
Y1	1SW	1HS	1CR	
Y2	2KJ	2TL	2SD	2TH 2MR
Y3	3TS	3LD	3RC	3SW
Y4	4CB	4SM	4CM	4JB 4NH 4RP 4RA
Y5	5CZ	5LF	5BD	5KT
Y6	6SS	6NT	6LN	6NM 6RM

The role continues to centre on supporting the class by preparing and distributing the Class Friendship List, promoting communication and connection among families, and helping to strengthen the sense of belonging within the class by organising one informal social activity each term. The time commitment is modest, yet the positive impact on the Serpell community is significant. If you are willing to take on this meaningful role, please contact me at serpellclassrep@gmail.com with your name, phone number, and your child's name and class. Your contribution helps nurture the warm, inclusive and connected community that makes Serpell so special. Thank you!

Karen Liu
Class Representative Coordinator
serpellclassrep@gmail.com



* FUN
* CONFIDENCE
* SELF DEFENSE

KARATE AT SERPELL PRIMARY SCHOOL



FREE TRIAL LESSON

CALL ROBERT TODAY

0404 846 166



East Doncaster Secondary College

OPEN NIGHT

Bookings must be made to attend a College Tour

Thursday 12 March 2026

Tours start at 4:45pm, with the last tour departing at 6:20pm.

Bookings open on Trybooking on 19 February 2026 at 3:30pm.

<https://www.trybooking.com/DBSBB>



Tickets will not be available on the night.



PARENT CLASSROOM HELPERS PROGRAM

CLASSROOM HELPER TRAINING TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IN EARLY YEARS LITERACY

LEARNING: Morning sessions Term 1

Parent training sessions for the Classroom Helpers program will be offered on a **Wednesday** morning this term. These sessions are designed around the areas of Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. If you are interested in assisting in the Prep, Year One or Year Two classrooms, attendance at the four training sessions is essential. If you would like to learn more about the way your child learns literacy skills, you are most welcome to attend. **There are four sessions each of approximately 90 minutes duration. You must commit to the whole four sessions.**

The following sessions will be held this term:

Wednesday 11th of February

Wednesday 18th of February

Wednesday 25th of February

Wednesday 4th of March

Time: 9.15-10.45am

Location: Staff Centre Administration building

No pre-school children please.

Please fill out the return slip below if you are interested in attending this Literacy Education Program and return it to the school office by **Tuesday the 10th of February**. We will be in contact with you before the workshops begin to confirm your place.

Daniel Packett
Assistant Principal

Parent Classroom Helper Program Sessions

I would like to attend the Parent Classroom Helper Program sessions this term.

Please print:

Name:

Child's name:

Child's teacher:

Email:

Contact Number:

WHY KIDS SHOULD PLAY BASKETBALL!

STAY ACTIVE & HEALTHY!

BOOSTS CONFIDENCE!

BUILD TEAMWORK SKILLS

MAKE NEW FRIENDS

IMPROVE MOTOR SKILLS

LEARN COORDINATION

DEVELOP DISCIPLINE

HAVE FUN & ENJOY THE GAME!

EXPRESS INTEREST: AMANDAGU@GMAIL.COM

Serpell Basketball – 2025 Highlights & Looking Ahead

2025 was a fantastic year for Serpell Basketball, with strong participation and wonderful growth across all age groups. As seen in our last newsletter photos, our Foundation (Prep) Miniball program was a huge success. All Prep students showed noticeable improvement in their basketball skills, built confidence on the court, and most importantly made many new friends along the way. We're thrilled that the majority of these players, both girls and boys, have continued their basketball journey in 2026, progressing into the Grade 1/2 division. This is a great reflection of the positive experience and supportive environment this program provides.

Last year, Serpell proudly fielded many teams across Grade 1 through to Grade 6. Our teams achieved some outstanding results, including champion, runner-up, and semi-finalist finishes, highlighting both skill development and strong teamwork throughout the season.

We currently still have a few spots available. If you're interested in finding out more, please let us know. With enough interest, we are more than happy to form additional new teams to ensure as many students as possible have the opportunity to play.

The season's grading games commence in the week of 16 February, and we are very much looking forward to another exciting and successful season ahead.

Let's make 2026 another great year for Serpell Basketball!



Calling All Parents & Grade 5-6 Students!

LEARN TO COACH JUNIOR BASKETBALL!

BECOME A SERPELL TEAM COACH!

LEARN THE RULES

FUN DRILLS & SKILLS

TRAINING TIPS

GAME STRATEGIES

PARENTS & GRADE 5-6 VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!

HELP OUR SERPELL STARS SHINE!

SIGN UP NOW!

Grow the Game at Serpell

Become a Coach or Junior Leader!

At Serpell, basketball is about more than just winning games. It's about confidence, teamwork, leadership, and having fun. To keep our program strong and growing, we need more coaches and helpers from within our school community.

One concern we often hear from parents is:

"I'd love to help, but I don't have the skills to coach my child's team."

We hear you — and we've come up with a solution.

The Serpell Basketball Association is planning to run **FREE** coaching sessions to support parents and Grade 5–6 students who want to get involved but aren't sure where to start.

What will the sessions cover?

- Coaching led by an experienced head coach
- Basketball rules and game understanding
- Simple drills and how to run effective training sessions
- Game-day basics, including rotations and team support

Why get involved?

For parents:

- Learn the basics so you feel confident coaching or assisting
- Support your child and their teammates in a positive environment
- Build stronger connections within the Serpell community

For Grade 5 & 6 students:

- Develop leadership, responsibility, and communication skills
- Be positive role models for younger students
- Gain valuable volunteering experience while having fun

For our school:

- More confident coaches and players
- Stronger teams and smoother seasons
- A supportive, connected basketball community

No prior coaching experience is needed, just a willingness to learn and help.

👉 Expression of interest: AMANDAGU@GMAIL.COM