

Our vision:

At University Park PS, we work collaboratively to ensure every individual learns to their full potential and is a respectful and responsible member of the community.

Our Values:

Respect

Responsibility

Learning

Honesty

Collaboration

Our School Improvement Goals:

Student Achievement:

To ensure that the annual learning growth for every student in literacy and numeracy is greater than one year.

Student Engagement:

To improve engagement by building student voice in their learning.

Student Well-being:

To enhance support for every student to thrive in a safe and stimulating learning environment.

UPPS Update

It has been a busy fortnight, as we have been holding interviews for staffing for 2018, given the recent departure of Miss Elshaar and the fact that we will be farewelling Miss Creasey at the end of this term. Miss Creasey was successful in gaining a teaching position at a school nearer to her home. We congratulate her and wish her all the best for the future. We also look forward to welcoming some exciting new staff to UPPS in 2018, as a result, along with 52 new Foundation students.

Our new staff will be introduced in our next Newsletter, as we are still in the process of interviewing applicants and finalising appointments to relevant positions. We appreciate your patience and understanding in relation to this matter, as such processes do take time.

Positive Psychology for Parents

Did you complete the free Signature Strengths survey via the following link?

<https://www.viacharacter.org/www/Character-Strengths-Survey>

If so, you may now want to find out more, in terms of character strengths and how they can be useful to helping you and your child/children at home. When I completed a Master's Degree in School Leadership, my Professor, Lea Waters, taught me, and 29 other Principal Class Officers across the State of Victoria, the relevance of a strengths-based approach to teaching and learning. She is now a published Author. Her game-changing book and online course, entitled *The Strength Switch*, is suitable for parents, teachers, school counsellors, and mental health practitioners working with young people and families. It combines Lea's research on strength-based parenting and positive education together with three decades of research from strength-based science and positive psychology. Lea shows the benefits of building on children's strengths, rather than correcting their weaknesses, with many practical exercises, activities and tools. By showing you how to throw the "Strength Switch", you can help your children build resilience, optimism and achievement. This approach enhances self-esteem and energy for both children and teenagers. The *Strength Switch* will show you that a small shift can yield enormous results. For more information and access to some of Lea's free resources, visit:

<https://www.strengthswitch.com/>

Upcoming events

We have had a wonderful year with many parents to thank for supporting our students, staff and school events. Our annual 'Parent Helper/Volunteer Morning Tea' is being held on **Wednesday, December 13th, at 11:00am**, in building 3. Please come along on this day, so that UPPS staff can express our gratitude to you.

Our final culturally themed **Morning Tea** is fast approaching. Please join us in celebrating our **Polynesian** population on **Friday, 22nd December, from 11am-12pm**. Bring a plate of food to share and stay for some cultural enlightening. As this day will be the last day of Term 4, the Polynesian celebration will follow our Final Assembly for the year, so all Parents/Guardians are welcome to attend our Assembly at 10am and our Morning Tea from 11am.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Louise Dingley
Acting Principal

Quote: *'Greatness lies not in being strong but in the right use of strength.'*
Henry Ward Beecher

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:
SCHOOL BANKING DAY IS EVERY TUESDAY

Monday, 11th December: Assembly at 9am in Building 3

Wednesday, 13th December: Parent Helper/Volunteer Morning Tea at 11am - Building 3

Wednesday, 13th December: UPPS Music Concert

Prep-Grade 2 (3:30– 4:30pm)

Grades 3-6 (5:00– 6:00pm)

Thursday, 14th December: School Council Meeting at 6:30pm

Tuesday, 19th December: Grade 6 Graduation Ceremony at 5pm in Building 3

Wednesday, 20th December: UPPS BluBuddies & Movie Day

Friday, 22nd December: Final 2017 Assembly at 10am in Building 3

Friday, 22nd December: Polynesian Morning Tea at 11am in Building 3

Students dismissed at 1pm

Sunsmart Policy

The UPPS Policies and Procedures Sub-Committee of the School Council developed our Sunsmart Policy in 2015. The Policy is available to view on the School's Website. The information and

expectations formulated are based on guidelines from the Cancer Council and the Department of Education and Training (DET). As a result of these guidelines, **students are required to wear their school hats from the 1st of September**, rather than from the beginning of Term 4, and **whenever UV levels reach 3 and above*, until the end of April**.

During these times, the 'No Hat, No Play' rule will apply and additional sun protection measures will be promoted via the school Newsletter, Website and Assemblies. As a result, parents are encouraged to be vigilant by checking the UV Index and responding accordingly to promote safe sun

practices. This information can be found on the following site:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/uv/melbourne.shtml>

Please ensure that your child and/or children have access to their own school hat to allow their full participation in the playground during break times.