



Friday 17th March 2023

Year Three - Year Six Student Agency Electives

Dear Year Three - Year Six families,

A focus of our new School Strategic Plan (SSP 2022- 2026) is providing opportunities for increased student voice, agency, and engagement.

As such, we are launching Year Three - Year Six Student Agency Electives.

ACTIONS REQUIRED BY YOU:

- 1. Commit time to read the information below as a family.**
- 2. Respond with your elective preferences by Tuesday 21st March 2023.**

In order to make this information easier to understand and access, it is presented in a Q&A format.

What are Student Agency Electives?

Student Agency Electives (or electives as they are referred to in this letter) are an opportunity for all students in Year Three - Year Six to engage with electives from a variety of subject areas which may not appear within the traditional primary school curriculum.

Who can take part, and when will electives occur?

All students in Year Three - Year Six will be taking part.

Elective subjects will be conducted each Friday during Session 6, with some electives also involving the third recess on a Friday afternoon for setup.

The program will commence in Week 9, Term One - Friday 31st March 2023.

Electives cycles will run for the duration of one term, with new elective and subject choices being made for the following term.

Electives will not be held during the first and last week of each term.

What if elective timetabling clashes with an extra-curricular out-of-school event?

Due to the busy nature of school calendars, and the wide variety of community groups which we partner with, this may happen on the odd occasion.

If this occurs, students will be encouraged to attend the out-of-school event as a priority.

Who will lead the elective subjects, and how were they chosen to be offered?

Electives are being facilitated through a combination of school staff and community partners.

The current electives have been offered to provide 'something for everyone' based upon what we know about our students.

If a supervising staff member is unavailable to facilitate an elective session (eg: an absence with no replacement available) students from this elective will be allocated to another elective for that session only.

During the first session of each elective cycle, students will be provided with the opportunity to voice what they would like to learn within the subject area.

Moving forward, we intend to provide students with increased opportunities to have voice when formulating future elective offerings.

When are student elective preferences due back to school?

Being provided with elective choices is a great opportunity, but it also requires great responsibility from students.

Student elective preferences must be returned to classroom teachers no later than Tuesday 21st March 2023.

Students who do not return preferences by this date will be placed into an elective subject with remaining vacancies.

How will the school allocate elective preferences?

This is a challenging task for the school. The nature of elective programming is that students may not always get their top choices.

All students must be resilient and thoughtful when selecting electives.

The school will endeavour to provide students with their highest possible elective preference, based upon the following criteria:

- Any prerequisite requirements for the elective
- Group dynamics and sizing
- What staff know about student learning.

Remember, electives are an exciting learning initiative which will continue to be offered, with each term presenting a new opportunity for students to list new elective preferences.

What are the electives on offer, and how do students choose?

This information is over the page.

Read the elective descriptors over page, and return your preference form to your classroom teacher no later than Tuesday 21st March 2023.

All electives detailed below will be held during Term Two, 2023. Should an elective preference include localised excursions, permission will be required via Compass as per normal school protocols.

Some electives may be in high-demand, and therefore may be offered in repeated terms. Some electives may also change dependent upon demand. At this point in time, students cannot partake in the same elective for two terms within the one year.

Kids in the Kinder

Supervising Staff:

- Melinda Rowe
- Dandenong Ranges Childcare Staff

Prerequisites:

- None

Group sizing limit:

- Maximum of 10 students

Elective Summary:

This elective is targeted at students who enjoy helping younger peers, and may even be considering being a teacher in the future. You may even just be someone who loves helping out as a bigger buddy for younger children!

We will visit the Dandenong Ranges Childcare Centre each Friday and assist with teaching younger students, from toddlers to four-year olds. Sometimes we might also attend localised excursions with supervising staff.

Getting down with a deck

Supervising Staff:

- Lachlan Prasad
- Kaitlyn Dam- Knox Skatepark YMCA accredited coach

(Kaitlyn's recent achievements: 2021- Top 4 Open Moomba National Street Championship, Top 3 Open Women's Bowl Championship- Adelaide Rumble on the Reef, Top 5 Open Women's Street Championship- Adelaide Rumble on the Reef, 2023 Open Woman's Bowlzilla Invitational Gold Coast Championship, Renton Millar sponsored skate team... and this is just to name a few!)

Prerequisites:

- Students must have their own skateboard, approved helmet, knee pads, elbow pads (wrist pads highly recommended)

Group sizing limit:

- Maximum of 10 students

Elective Summary:

In this class you will be learning everything about skateboarding! We will run through how to maintain your skateboard and what all the parts of the skateboard are. When we have learnt all about skateboard maintenance, we will start getting comfortable on the skateboard and we will learn how to control it. Once we understand this, we will begin to practise some basic tricks and then we will get to have a look at and pick our own tricks.

During wet weather, we will undertake group projects such as 'deck art'.

DJ-ing, Sound Engineering and Radio Production

Supervising Staff:

- Michelle Wright
- Ren Cuttriss- 3MDR 97.1FM Education Officer

Prerequisites:

- None

Group sizing limit:

- Maximum of 10 students

Elective Summary:

Have you ever dreamed of being on the radio? Do you want to learn how to produce music, sound engineer and learn about what all of the cool buttons on a mixing-deck do? Maybe you just want to hear your own voice on the radio and produce your own content - interviews, radio, talk shows. *We can teach you how to do all of this and more!*

In this class we will learn how to write radio programming, collect and edit sound-bytes, stings and music. Working as a team we will produce at least one radio show which will go to air over the school's speaker system and be played during a Wednesday afternoon timeslot on 3MDR 97.1FM. Audiences will even be able to download your show as a podcast...so cool!

Digging up the past - Palaeontology

Supervising Staff:

- Llewela Humphries

Prerequisites:

- None

Group sizing limit:

- Maximum of 15 students

Elective Summary:

Palaeontology is the study of ancient life, from dinosaurs to prehistoric plants, mammals, fish, insects, fungi, and even microbes. Are you interested in learning more about these wonderful life forms? Do you want to dig for fossils? If yes, join Miss H and step back in time.

We will take part in localised digs both at school and off-site, and learn from guest speakers who actually work in the field!

Be ready to get your hands dirty!

No-cooking Cooking Class

Supervising Staff:

- Melissa Woollard

Prerequisites:

- None

Group sizing limit:

- Maximum of 12 students

Elective Summary:

No-cooking cooking class...what even does that mean???

In this class you will learn how to safely cook food without the use of an oven (yes that's right you can cook and feed yourself yummy and healthy food when there are no adults around to help you...BONUS!)

Do you want to learn more about cooking and food preparation? Do you want the chance to make and eat yummy food at school? Learn how cook for yourself when nobody else at home will do it for you! Come along and learn how to make yummy, delicious and nutritious snacks without the use of an oven.

Learn about food nutrition, food handling, and kitchen safety.

Calisthenics - Dance and performance sport

Supervising Staff:

- Stacey Bowles

Prerequisites:

- None

Group sizing limit:

- Maximum of 12 students

Elective Summary:

Calisthenics is the sport with performing at its heart. It offers a unique combination of dancing, singing, gymnastics and technical skill, developing strong, confident leaders through friendship and teamwork.

If you are interested in learning some new skills and techniques while learning a unique Calisthenics routine, this is the elective for you.

As a team we will even get to perform a routine for a live audience!! Sooooo cool!!!

No experience needed.

Auslan - communicate with sign language

Supervising Staff:

- Amanda Oakley

Prerequisites:

- None

Group sizing limit:

- Maximum of 20 students

Elective Summary:

Auslan is an expressive visual language that Deaf and hard of hearing people use to communicate in addition to their family and community members. It involves hand shapes, movement, body position and facial expressions.

In this class, we'll explore simple phrases, lots of useful signs, learn the Auslan alphabet and play fun communication games whilst gaining an understanding of Deaf culture.

We will also learn how to mentor and teach others students at our school, and work up our confidence to hold Auslan conversations.

Aerobics - the sport of fitness

Supervising Staff:

- Hayley Oliver

Prerequisites:

- This elective runs for the duration of 2023 (you will be in this elective each term as part of our Upwey South Primary School representative team)
- A commitment to attend tournaments on the possible dates of May 6th, June 17th and July 22nd 2023.

Group sizing limit:

- Maximum of 12 in a team (plus 3 reserves)

Elective Summary:

Aerobics is an exciting international sport which is open to people of all genders and backgrounds. Many elite aerobic athletes you see on television started as a child by just becoming curious about what is involved in the sport of fitness.

You have the opportunity to be part of Upwey South's first ever Sport Aerobics team!!!

Sport aerobics is a fun fitness routine that combines aerobics, dance and fitness. You will get the chance to learn a routine to perform on stage and compete with other schools.

No experience needed.

Asian Pop Culture and Languages

Supervising Staff:

- Michelle Lee

Prerequisites:

- None

Group sizing limit:

- Maximum of 20 students

Elective Summary:

Do you have an interest in learning how to speak an Asian language? Do you want to learn more about Asian pop culture, from K-Pop to Manga cartooning, and from dragon influences to tea ceremonies?

As a qualified language teacher in Korean, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Japanese, Michelle Lee can teach you common words, phrases and cultural aspects of these amazingly rich cultures.

This unit will start with learning all about Japanese Manga culture. Manga is the Japanese version of comic books, and you will even get the chance to create your own comic with the correct use of manga techniques.

Following manga, we can go anywhere with this elective which will be guided by student interests!

School of Rock - USPS Rock band!

Supervising Staff:

- Penelope Lang
- Groove Foundations instrumental teachers

Prerequisites:

- You must play an instrument or sing, and have the support of your instrumental/singing teacher (inside or outside of school) to join the band
- This elective runs for the duration of 2023 (you will be in this elective each term as part of our Upwey South Primary School Rock Band!)

Group sizing limit:

- Maximum of 10 students

Elective Summary:

We are looking for 10 rockstars to form our first ever USPS Rock Band!!!

Our school Rock Band will be made up of students who can play the drums, guitar, keyboard, etc as well as some confident vocalists. The ideal 'rockstar' will currently be enrolled in instrumental lessons at school, including glee and vocal lessons (as this will enable extra focussed rehearsals).

Ms Lang is currently so excited, she is even organising a live tour schedule for later in the year!!!

Knitting Kids

Supervising Staff:

- Meagan Tustin

Prerequisites:

- None

Group sizing limit:

- Maximum of 15 students

Elective Summary:

Knitting Kids is targeted at students who are interested in learning a variety of knitting techniques, and working with textiles and patterns to make interesting projects.

This class provides lots of opportunity for students to learn how to make and create clothing items, decorations, bag tags, etc. You name it... we can teach you to make it!

Everyone is welcome, and no experience is required. Let's get creative!!

Masters of Mountain Bikes

Supervising Staff:

- Justin Scicluna
- Lysterfield MTB District Trail Riders Club supervising staff

Prerequisites:

- Students must have their own approved bike helmet (AS/NZS 2063:2008); *helmets will be checked by staff prior to taking part in practical lessons*
- Students must have their own correctly fitting bike (can be a mountain bike or BMX) which is appropriate for both road and trail riding; *bikes will be checked by staff prior to taking part in practical lessons*
- Riding gloves are highly recommended
- A willingness to take part in group rides within and beyond the school boundary

Group sizing limit:

- Maximum of 12 students

Elective Summary:

Do you want to learn how to manage and maintain your bike - such as how to fix brakes, wheel punctures, re-chain, fix gearing, adjust handlebars, seats, and everything else that moves!

Once you are confident with the above, then your bike can take you anywhere from the open road to single downhill mountain trails!

In this elective you will gain knowledge and understanding of the road traffic environment, road laws, and bike safety. You will develop the physical and cognitive skills to manage your bike and be a safe cyclist; both on your own and as part of a riding group.

Dependent upon your demonstrated skill-level, we will work with jigsaw-jumps, flat surfaces, obstacles, and rough-terrain riding.

Year Three - Year Six Student Agency Electives

Term Two 2023 Preference Form

Complete and sign form below.
Choose 8 of the 12 elective subjects. List your preferences in order; starting with your first preference listed next to the # 1.
Return this page only to your classroom teacher no later than Tuesday 21st March 2023.

Student Name: _____

Class: _____

Student signature: _____

Parent/career signature: _____

# 1	
# 2	
# 3	
# 4	
# 5	
# 6	
# 7	
# 8	