



NEWSLETTER

2 - 2024

Thursday 22nd February, 2024

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

It feels strange writing a fortnightly newsletter. It has been fantastic seeing our students having a lot of fun, getting to know their new classes and enjoying their learning. It is very natural for children to experience nerves and even a little anxiety as they get used to the changes that a new year brings. There are some wonderful picture books that help to ease those first day nerves. You may like to view or read these stories with your child.

Here are some of my recommendations:



These books are available to watch online, or from your local library.

Student of the Week recipients will be published on Compass and Facebook on a Thursday afternoon.

How fantastic was our Family Fun Afternoon on Wednesday? It was so great to see so many parents and carers at our school and enjoying a picnic lunch and some fun activities with their child. It is always a highlight of our year, and I know that our staff team really enjoyed the opportunity to have some fun with our students and meet some of their parents and carers. Thank you to each and every one of you that found the time to come and spend the afternoon with us on Wednesday.

PARENT / TEACHER INTERVIEWS "Getting to Know Your Child"

An important way to communicate is via Parent Teacher Interviews. We have organised these for Wednesday 28th February from 11:00am – 7:00pm. Information about the interviews and how to book a time was sent home last week and posted on Compass and Facebook platforms. If you would like help setting up an interview time, please call the office on 9743 0633.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

It is that time of year when we run our School Council elections for the year ahead. This year, nearly all school councillors are coming to the end of their 2-year membership, so there will be several School Council vacancies for any interested parents. All parents and carers are invited to either self-nominate or

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nominate another parent in our forthcoming School Council elections. The notice of elections and nomination form, as well as a School Council fact sheet, is attached to this newsletter.

The School Council Annual General Meeting will be held on March 19th and marks the beginning of the new committee membership.

Please consider joining our 2024 School Council committee where you will be instrumental in shaping the future of our school.

As we look to form our new School Council for the year ahead, I would like to thank all current School Council members for their service and support over the last couple of years.

TUTOR PROGRAM

This year we will continue to provide a tutor program designed for learning catch up and extension. Several different programs operate throughout our school based on student learning needs. To determine students who are participating in the programs, staff look at assessment results, work effort and student attendance. For the programs to be fluid and sequential it is imperative that students participating in these programs are at school as often as possible.

In 2024 we will be operating the following programs:
Literacy - LLI (catch up and extension)

Numeracy – maths / Year 1 EMU (catch up and extension)
Students will participate in these programs for different periods of time. For some of these programs there is an expectation that students complete additional homework. It is vital that families work with the school to ensure that this is done. If your child has been identified to commence one of these programs this term, you will be contacted shortly by the teacher. Thank you for working with us to catch up and extend students.

COMPASS APP

We encourage all of our families to download the Kurunjang Primary School Compass App. Via the Compass app you are able to notify the school of your child's absence, book parent teacher interviews, make payments, electronically sign permission forms and view your child's reports (some of these items you need to open the browser in order to complete). For further instructions on how to access the application, please contact the office for your individual login details. If you require assistance navigating Compass or help logging in please contact the office.

Kurunjang Primary School is committed to being a child safe organisation and embedding a child safe culture into our practices and processes to ensure all children who attend the school are safe at all times.



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FACEBOOK

Our Facebook page is a great way for us to promote a positive sense of community and showcase all the wonderful things that happen at our school. It is a great tool to share important information about events and activities that take place here at Kurunjang Primary School as well as celebrating positive achievements within our school.

MOBILE PHONES

A reminder that the Department of Education has in place a mobile phone ban that requires students who bring mobiles phones to school to have them switched off and securely put away during school hours.

The department is requiring all schools to ensure this ban is in place and enforced from the start of the 2024 school year.

The ban applies equally to all government schools right across the state.

This helps ensure that school is a learning environment free from unnecessary distractions and disruptions.

By ensuring mobile phones are kept away at recess and lunch times, students can interact with each other face-to-face, without the distractions and social pressures that mobile phones can cause.

I ask for the support of all our families, staff and students in continuing to support the implementation of this policy in our school.

Further information on mobile phones

Exceptions: For a small number of students with particular health needs, an exception to the policy may be granted. Please contact Wendy or Toni to discuss.

Emergencies: In the event of an emergency or if you need to immediately contact your child, I ask that families contact the school office who will pass on a message as required.

School mobile phone policy: A copy of our school's local mobile phone policy, which implements the government's mobile policy in line with our local context, is available on the school website.

Parent support: The Mobile phones in schools webpage provides links to resources for families to help them balance their children's time using mobile phones.

ALL THINGS ATTENDANCE

Absences: The preferred method of notifying the school of your child's absence is by using Compass. All parents have access to the Compass parent portal where you can add an attendance note regarding your child's absence. If you have not received your login details or have forgotten your login details, please contact the school office on 9743 0633. If a student is absent on a particular day and the school has not been previously notified by a parent, or the absence is otherwise unexplained, Kurunjang Primary School will contact parents via SMS, prompting the parents to contact the school to explain the absence.

Late Arrivals: School commences at 8.50am and finishes at 3:10pm. The Morning Roll is marked by 9:00am. Students arriving at school after 9:00am are regarded as 'not present' until they report to the office and get signed in as late.

Early Leavers: If Students need to leave the school early. Parents/guardians need to log into their Compass Parent Portal and put an attendance note including the time of pickup and the reason for the early finish. Students need to be collected from the front office. If collecting your child at school reception, ID maybe required. For student safety reasons, the school is only able to release students to a parent/guardian or emergency contact. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to keep the emergency contact list up to date.

In circumstances where parents require a sibling or alternative adult to collect their child early, permission must be given to the school in writing, prior to the child being signed out.

Attendance can be contacted via the following methods:

1. Phone: (03) 9743 0633 press 1 to leave a message on the attendance line.

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2. Access your child's compass portal and log absence/attendance (Preferred).

CAR PARK DANGER

For the safety of our students and our community - please when you are coming to the office, do not cut through the car park, but use the paths provided, which run along the side of the building.

PARKING WARNING

Please be aware that Council Parking Officers will be patrolling, so park according to the signs. Be sure also not to block driveways or obstruct pathways.

COVID UPDATE

There is at present an increase in community transmission of COVID in Victoria. You can help us keep our school as safe as possible by taking 2 important steps:

Ensure your COVID vaccinations are up to date. Information on how and where to get vaccinated is available on the Get vaccinated webpage.

If your child shows symptoms of COVID, please ensure they stay home and get tested. The easiest way to test is to use a rapid antigen test (RAT).

Free RATs are available from your local council where you can collect 2 packs of 5 RATs and an extra 2 packs for each person in your household. People with disability and their carers can get 4 packs of 5 RATs. You are not required to have a Medicare card and you can collect RATs as many times as you need. You can also buy RATs at supermarkets, pharmacies and other retailers. If your child has symptoms but tests negative, please ensure they stay home until they no longer have symptoms. If the RAT test result is positive, please ensure they stay home for at least 5 days and until there are no more symptoms. Thank you for your support – these steps will help us all stay well.

ASSEMBLY

We will be having Foundation to Year 2 assembly tomorrow.

Year 3-6 assemblies will be held on the 1/3 & 15/3

Foundation assemblies will be held on the 8/3 & 22/3.

Finally, as always, I would love to hear any feedback you have about our school, so please feel free to email me at ANY TIME at kurunjang.ps@education.vic.gov.au with any thoughts, concerns, feedback or suggestions that you may have to continue to make our school a wonderful place to be and to learn. I will get back to you as soon as I can and really do appreciate any feedback that you have to share.

Tom

~ Learning Together

NOTIFICATION AND APPROVAL REGARDING EXTENDED ABSENCES FOR FAMILY HOLIDAYS OR EVENTS

We appreciate that families from time to time may be absent for family holidays or events. In the event that you know you will be absent please come to the office to collect a notification regarding extended absences for family holidays or events form for approval. This will enable the class and specialist teachers to be aware of the absence and for the absence to be recorded on compass

FORWARD PLANNING

Wednesday 28th February

- Parent Teacher Conferences ~ Students free day

Wednesday 6th March

- School Photo Day

Monday 11th March

- Labour Day ~ Public Holiday

Monday 18th March – Thursday 22nd March

- Year 2 ~ Swimming Program

Tuesday 19th March

- School Council ~ AGM

Thursday 28th March

- Foundation-Year 2 ~ Easter Bonnet Parade
- CSEF Applications Close
- Last Day Term 1 ~ Early Dismissal 2.10pm

Monday 15th April

- Student Free Day ~ Students not required at school

Tuesday 16th April

- First Day Term 2 ~ 8.50am Start

Thursday 25th April

- Public Holiday ~ ANZAC DAY

Friday 7th June

- Student Free Day ~ Students not required at school

Monday 10th June

- King's Birthday ~ Public Holiday

Friday 28th June

- Last Day Term 2 ~ Early Dismissal 2.10pm

Monday 15th July

- Student Free Day ~ Students not required at school

Tuesday 16th July

- First Day Term 3 ~ 8.50am Start

Wednesday 14th August

- Parent Teacher Conferences ~ Student free day

Friday 20th September

- Last Day Term 3 ~ Early Dismissal 2.10pm

Monday 7th October

- First Day Term 4 ~ 8.50am Start

Monday 4th November

- Student Free Day ~ Students not required at school

Tuesday 5th November

- Public Holiday ~ Melbourne Cup

Thursday 19th December

- Last Day Term 4 ~ Early Dismissal 12.30pm

Friday 20th December

- Student Free Day ~ Students not required at school



WEARING OF SCHOOL HATS

Please note that the wearing of school hats is compulsory in Terms 1 & 4. Please make sure your child has a Kurunjang Primary School embroidered hat for Term 1. School hats are only available from Buxwear, Bakery Square Melton.

**** IMPORTANT ****

APPLICATIONS FOR CSEF CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSION FUND FOR NEW STUDENTS/FAMILIES

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you have a valid means-tested concession card, such as a Veterans Affairs Gold Card, Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible. There is also a special consideration category for asylum seeker and refugee families.

Payment amounts this year are \$150 for eligible primary school students. Payments are made direct to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions and sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

If you applied for CSEF through our school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year, unless you have additional children attending school this year or there has been a change in your family circumstances.

If you would like to apply for the first time at Kurunjang Primary School, please come into the school office to collect an application form.

Please check with the school office if you are unsure, and please return completed forms to the school office as soon as possible



STUDENT MEDICATIONS FORMS

Could all updated medical forms be returned to the Office as soon as possible. If your child no longer has any medical conditions or allergens have changed we need to be notified in writing. All Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Allergy and medical conditions need to be updated yearly as per department guidelines.

If you took medications home at the end of last year, please ensure that they are returned to the sickbay ASAP. All medications are to be kept in sickbay and not with the students.

Thank you ~ Deb Burnside



LIBRARY

We currently have a large number of overdue library books. If you have found any school library books at home, could I ask that these be returned to our library as soon as possible.

Thankyou
Lynne Notman ~ Library Technician

2024 Photo Day

Online Order Instructions

Dear Parents and Students of Kurunjang Primary School,

Your school photo day is on 06-03-2024 and your school prefers orders to be placed online. It is important that the ordering instructions below are followed, and all students are photographed regardless of purchase.

**** IMPORTANT PLEASE NOTE – ONLINE ORDERING FOR SIBLING PHOTOS WILL CUT OFF ON 05-03-2024 ****

ONLINE ORDERING: Your child's school photos are now available for secure online purchase only

4 EASY STEPS TO ONLINE SCHOOL PHOTO ORDERING

- Step 1: Click Here. - Click on this link if you are using a supported device - OR - Go to www.advancedlife.com.au before photo day and enter your school code [9E1 A19 PMC]
- Step 2: Enter your student's details
- Step 3: Choose the package that best suits your needs (all orders will be delivered to the school for collection)
- Step 4: Pay for the photos via the shopping cart (upper right corner of the page)

****Online Orders have a 1.5% merchant fee applied when using Visa, Mastercard or PayPal.**

Please note: If you miss photo day, portrait and group packages can still be ordered online for 7 days afterwards with no late fees. After that time, late orders will require separate processing and handling and therefore will incur a \$15.00 late fee per package.

FAMILY / SIBLING PHOTOS:

EASY ONLINE FAMILY / SIBLING PHOTO ORDERING

- Go to www.advancedlife.com.au before photo day and enter your school code [9E1 A19 PMC]
- Family/Sibling photo orders online close on 05-03-2024

Please Note: A portrait and a class group photograph will be taken of every student at the school, regardless of purchase. Photographs of your children taken as part of a class group are only permitted to be distributed within their own class. Your child's name will appear on the class group photo. If you DO NOT wish your child to be photographed, please contact your school office with your instructions prior to Photo Day.

Please feel free to contact us via email or phone should you have any queries regarding your child's school photo order.

info@advancedlifevic.com.au or 03 9852 1133

Advancedlife Team



Have you signed up to the Compass App?

In order to keep you up to date with important information Kurunjang Primary School is part of a portal system called COMPASS.

Through Compass, you will be able to update personal details such as phone numbers and be kept up to date with important dates, whole school events, excursions, book parent teacher conferences, contact teachers and more.

You will be able to view your child's school report and learning tasks completed throughout the school year via Compass.

If you have not yet signed up, please return the slip below for you to receive your personalised login details.

✂-----



I would like to receive my COMPASS APP details to be kept updated with my child's reports, school events, reminders and calendar items.

Name: _____

Student name/s: _____

Class: _____

Parent Communication and Concern Process

If you have a query or question about your child or the school we encourage you to seek assistance.

It is important to us that you have your concerns answered.

Listed below are the people within the school community who can assist you.



Team Leaders - Foundation: Amy Leahy; Year 1: Estelle van Sittert; Year 2 Edison Potts; Year 3/4: Rob D'Elia; Year 5/6: Ellie McClafferty; Specialists: Lidia Woolley

Leadership Team Members – Numeracy: Sophia Iosifidis; Literacy: Kez Hudaverdi; Wellbeing: Danielle Sheedy; SEL/Inquiry: Lyndal Ryan; ICT: Laurence Gatt

Assistant Principal – Foundation-2: Wendy McCall

Assistant Principal – Years 3-6: Toni Havers

Principal – Tom Goddard

DET – Department of Education & Training – Regional Office: 1800 338 663




Learning and Playing Together Playgroup

Term 1, 2024

Kurunjang Primary School, Mowbray Cres, Melton 3337.

Friday 9-11am. Parents must stay with their child/children.

Enquiries – 9743-0633

<u>Date</u>	Theme/Activity – Sessions may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> literacy and numeracy activities, playtime – developing friendships story time rhyme time, singing and dance outside play – co ordination craft time – fine motor skills dramatic play cooking guest speakers and excursions will be organised. 	
9th Feb	 All about me 	
16th Feb	 Summer 	
23rd Feb	 Australian Animals 	
1st March	 Construction 	
8th March	 Colours 	
15th March	 Cooking 	
22nd March	 Easter 	

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS - INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

WHAT IS A SCHOOL COUNCIL AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

WHO IS ON THE SCHOOL COUNCIL?

For most primary school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
- A mandated elected school employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. Department employees are not eligible to be community members.

A small number of school councils have Nominee members.

For all schools with a Year 7 and above cohort, there is an additional category of membership:

A mandated elected student member category, with two positions.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

WHY IS PARENT MEMBERSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

DO I NEED SPECIAL EXPERIENCE TO BE ON SCHOOL COUNCIL?

Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role. Councilors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

HOW CAN YOU BECOME INVOLVED?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term one each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO TO STAND FOR ELECTION?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term one each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

Department employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election.

You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

REMEMBER

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the principal for further information.

Form 3: self-nomination form for parent member category

I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent member on the school council.

Name

Residential Address:

Contact phone (<i>mobile or landline</i>):

Email:

I am the parent/guardian of
who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

Statement	Yes (Mark with an x)	No (Mark with an x)
I am an employee of the Department of Education and Training		
I am an employee of the school council		
I am engaged in work at and for the school.		

I am prepared to serve as a parent member of the above-named school council.

I hereby declare that:

- I am not, and have never been, insolvent under administration
- I am of sound mind
- I have not been found guilty of an offence that is, or would if committed in Victoria be, an indictable offence
- I am not a registrable offender within the meaning of the *Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004*.
- I am not suffering from any medical condition that would affect my ability to perform the role of member of a school council.

Signature of Candidate

Date:	
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You will be notified when your nomination has been received.

The personal information provided in this form is collected as part of the school council election nomination process. The information may be used to determine your eligibility as a candidate. Your personal information may be disclosed as a result of inspection prior to the commencement of voting or at any time up to one year from the declaration of the poll.

Your name will be included in a list of school council candidates and nominators (where applicable) posted in a prominent position at the school and for candidates, on a ballot paper (where applicable). Further, the name, membership category, gender (optional), term of office, office held (if any) of school council members and notification whether the member is an employee of the Department will be forwarded to the Department of Education and Training by the principal by 30 April each year as a record of council membership and may be used for statistical purposes.

You can access your personal information by contacting the principal on:

If you choose not to give some or all of the information requested your nomination may not be accepted.

If you have any queries about the school council nomination process, please contact the principal.

FORM 1: NOTICE OF FIRST SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION AND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

(Formerly **Schedule 3**: New Schools – Notice of Election and call for nominations – first school council election)

An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of

KURUNJANG PRIMARY SCHOOL

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on:

Monday 4th March, 2024

The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on:

Monday 11th March, 2024

Following the closing of nominations, a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school.

The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	TERM OF OFFICE	NUMBER OF POSITIONS
Parent member - two-year term of office	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2024 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of pool in 2026.	8
School employee member – two-year term of office	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2024 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of pool in 2026.	4
Student member – two-year term of office	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2024 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of pool in 2026.	0

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.



Principal signature

MOBILE SUPERMARKET BUS



Foodbank Victoria (FBV) in collaboration with Kinetic (operators of SkyBus) have developed a bespoke Mobile Supermarket bus that can transport fresh produce, pantry items, chilled products and frozen food to communities facing food insecurity.

HOW IT WORKS

- The bus will pull up at a location and open its door to the community to enter and collect fresh food for free. Recipients will step on to the bus, walk down the aisle and pick produce from either side, including items from a fridge and freezer.
- The mobility of the bus allows FBV to link into many different locations across Metro Melbourne.
- Through our connections with local charities, schools, neighbourhood houses and Councils, the bus will explore new locations and areas where there are food deserts, limited access to charity agencies and local transport barriers.
- The Mobile Supermarket buses will give FBV an opportunity to reach more varied communities at a local level through direct delivery of fresh food.

THE BENEFITS

- Increase access to healthy, nutritious produce.
- Provide an environment that fosters community connectivity and inclusion.
- Help bridge the gap in perishable food relief programs.
- The bus provides food relief in an environment of dignity and respect – recipients choose their own produce just like a supermarket, but with no cost. The buses offer an opportunity for community to gather, connect and receive much needed food.

WHAT FOOD IS ON OFFER?

- Food items for the buses will reflect the communities they are feeding by ensuring they are culturally appropriate to the local cohort.
- The bus will be able to stock around 8 different fresh produce items, 15 different ambient pantry items, 2 chilled items and 2 frozen items.

FIND OUT MORE

Contact our Community Food Programs Team at community@foodbankvictoria.org.au or head to our website.

foodbank.org.au





What you need to know

INVITATIONS

- The bus is an invitation only event.



ABOUT THE BUS

- 21 metres long
- 3 metres high X 3 metres wide
- Gross vehicle mass is approximately 28,000kgs (unladen)
- Fridge
- Freezer



MARKET DETAILS

- The duration of the market is 2hrs.
- We will need 30min either side of the market to set up and pack down.
- As the bus is 21 meters long, we may require some areas to be blocked off in advance.
- Must be parked on a flat surface.
- Needs substantial area for reversing and turning around.



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Free "Come & Try" Days