



SCHOOL COUNCIL

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WEDNESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2023



PRINCIPAL TEAM NEWS

Respect, Resilience, Achievement & Community



We would like to pay our respect to the Dja Dja Wurrung people. The Traditional Custodians of this Land on which we gather today and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging.



Welcome back

Welcome back everyone. We hope you all had an enjoyable break and we are looking forward to a wonderful school year in 2023. The children in Grades 1 to 6 have settled in well after their first two days of term. We appreciated the attendance of families at our *Introduction & Communication* sessions held on Monday. It is the beginning, or continuation of, an important partnership between parents/carers and the classroom teachers.

Our Prep children have their first full day tomorrow. What a big day for them! We promise to look after your little ones and do all we can to help their start of school be a positive experience.

First Assembly for the 2023 year

Our first school assembly for the 2023 year will be held this Friday at 2:40 pm. We will present our Student Leaders with their badges. These leaders were announced in our final assembly last year. We are confident that Abygail, Adam, Andrea, Archer, Ava, Evan, Jake, Nate, Olive and Victoria will undertake this role with great enthusiasm and are excited for the opportunity to work closely with them throughout this year.

We will also be announcing our House Captains and presenting them with their badges at this time.

Families are invited to attend. We hope to see you there.

Lunch Orders

We are happy to be continuing our relationship with Garlands Bakery in Kangaroo Flat this year. They are the providers of our lunch orders here at school. The children will need to bring their order to school by 9:00 am on Wednesday morning. The order will be delivered on Friday ready for their lunch. Please refer to our school website for the [Lunch Order Price List](#). This commences next week - we can see the smile of the parents/carers knowing that is one less day to be packing a lunchbox (please don't forget the morning play snacks though).

Attendance

We will be having a strong focus on attendance this year. The last few years have meant that absence rates have been high and this means that your child is missing out on their learning and also impacts on their relationships with their friends at school.

A 90% attendance rate may seem high, however, this means that your child is missing out on one day a fortnight! We know that we would be challenged in our workplace if we were absent this frequently. Let us work as one to have the children attend school every day they are well. Consider when appointments are made and if it is unavoidable for these to be during school time, collect your child for the appointment and then return them to school whenever possible.

If your child is absent, then please ensure that we are notified of the absence with the reason for this. We are then able to enter in the correct information which is in turn, reported to the Department.

Mosquito Risk Management

As you are all probably aware, a range of mosquito-borne diseases have recently been detected in mosquitoes in northern Victoria. Our school is located in a high-risk area, and therefore we have been asked to take actions based on the advice from the Department of Health (before you become alarmed, it does not involve remote learning 😊).

The actions we are taking are as follows:

- Insect spraying - a pest controller will be engaged to apply residual insect barrier sprays to the outside of buildings, sheds, vegetation, fences and outdoor infrastructure where mosquitoes are most likely to rest.
- Use of insect repellent - the school has purchased insect repellent recommended to us (contains picaridin) and these spray bottles will be available in each of the classrooms. We will be checking with the children as they head out whether or not they would like to have this applied. If you are not wanting your child to apply *Aerogard Odourless Protection* then please advise the classroom teacher. Your decision will be respected.
- Maintenance - we will continue to have our lawns mowed to ensure there is not long grass for the mosquitoes to rest in and check gutters, stormwater pits and water tanks. Flywire screens will also be checked.

You may [click here](#) to find a handy guide to help protect you and your family from mosquito-borne disease; or alternatively, you may go to the [Better Health Channel](#) for information about preventing mosquito-borne diseases.

School Council Nominations

We are often asked as to how our parents and carers can support the school as a volunteer. One of the ways that you can do this is to become a member of the School Council. School Council meets a minimum of eight times a

year and it is a great opportunity to understand the work that is being undertaken by the school as it continues on its improvement journey; something every school is doing at all times.

Next week we will put out the call for nominations to fill vacant positions. The positions are for a two-year term, but please don't let that put families who have their children in their final year of primary school stop themselves from nominating.

We would love to have you join us. It is a wonderful way to meet other families within the school and get to know the staff representatives well, also. We do have a laugh at times while undertaking the more serious sides of things. Good governance of a school is critical in building confidence within the community and you would be welcome and valued.



Grade 3/4/5/6 Swimming Program

This year students from Grade 3/4/5/6 will be attending the Golden Square Pool for our swimming program. Students are expected to attend swimming classes as part of our school's Health and Physical Education program. The overall aim of the Aquatic Education program is:

- to develop an awareness of potential dangers in and around the water and teach a range of safety and survival skills.
- to provide a basis for children to continue aquatic activities either through recreational or competitive swimming or lifesaving.
- to progressively refine both competitive and survival strokes.

We will be attending the sessions during Term 1 Week 3 from Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February. Each session will be 45 minutes.

Session Times:

| Grade | Lesson Time |
|--|-------------|
| Group 1 Cassie Widdows 5/6M5 Tom Williamson 5/6M8 | 9:15-10:00 |
| Group 2 Leigh Westcott 5/6M7 Amanda Campbell 5/6M6 | 10:00-10:45 |
| Group 3 Jacqui Dyer 3/4L5 Emily Mogyorossy 3/4L8 | 10:45-11:30 |
| Group 4 Tom Gamble 3/4L6 Ashlie McKenzie 3/4L7 | 11:30-12:15 |

The cost for the 5 sessions including lesson fee, pool entry and pool hire, will be covered in full through a Sporting Schools grant and funding through Department of Education Swimming and Water Safety Program.

Students need to bring items in a sturdy bag (not plastic). It is very important that all clothing is named.

- bathers
- towel
- hat
- sunscreen
- goggles
- rash vest to wear in the pool

Information regarding this event will be on compass by Friday, where you will be able to provide consent for your child to attend.

Grade 3/4/5/6 Swimming Sports

On Monday 20th February, students from Grade 3/4/5/6 will be attending the Golden Square Pool for our swimming sports. Information regarding this event will be on compass by Friday, where you will be able to provide consent for your child to attend. There will be a cost for this event.

Thought for the Week

Happiness is an inside job.