



Principal's Letter

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the Student Support Group meetings last week. Having 31 out of 35 parents attend, we are able to provide essential information to parents about our school as well as establish goals for our students for the next six months.

Effective communication is essential to the successful running of any school. We now have phone calls, text messages, Communication Diaries, emails, face to face meetings, FaceTime, Compass, the school website and Seesaw. It can be tricky to know what we use to communicate the right information. We will soon be creating a page document to help parents and staff know the most effective way to communicate what you need. In the meantime, please ensure you regularly check your child's communication book and make sure you're signed up to Compass. If you're not, please contact the school office for assistance.

Lee Bullock
Principal

School council – calling for nominations

Our school council is made up of three parent members, one community member, and one staff member. I would like to thank Anh and Mary, two parents who have worked on our school council for two years now. Both Anh and Mary's positions are up for nominations. School council meets 8 times per year and helps to make decisions around budgets and the direction of the school. No experience is necessary though a dedication to attend all meetings is important. If you would like more information, please contact Lee in the office. If you would like to be on school council, please complete the nomination form attached. If we have more than two nomination forms, we will go to a ballot.

Term Dates 2020

Term 1 – 29 January – 27 March

Term 2 – 14 April – 26 June

Term 3 – 13 July – 18 September

Term 4 – 5 October – 18 December

Upcoming Events 2020

Monday 9am – Assembly all parents welcome

Friday 3pm – Assembly all parents welcome

Every Tuesday – swimming

Every Thursday 9:15am-10am – Community Auslan

Sunday 1 March – 8am-5pm Bunnings BBQ

Free double pass to Mini Spin

Mini Spin is a show created for deaf children. Furlong Park has no connection to the performance though the organisers would like to give one family a free double pass. If you would like to attend this show, please contact Ayin in the office on 93123244 or fulong.park.ds@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Get \$50 off your Camp Fees!

Don't forget this Sunday is our annual Bunnings Sausage Sizzle at Sunshine. Please complete the attached form if you haven't already. If your child is in Room 4, 6 or 7 this year and you volunteer, \$50 will be put towards your camp fees. The remainder of the money goes school camps.





What is Occupational Therapy (OT)?

Hello. My name is Lisa de Vaux, I am a new Occupational therapist working at Furlong Park School. My role will be working closely with teachers and Education support workers in the classrooms.

OT works to improve fine and gross motor skills and motor planning. It can also help kids who struggle with self-regulation and sensory processing, which may result in outbursts.

Here are a few examples of some of the things we are able to help with in OT:

- Self-care routines like getting dressed, using utensils, toileting (fine motor skills and motor planning)
- Writing and copying from the white board (fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination)
- Holding and controlling a pencil, using scissors and drawing (fine motor skills, motor planning)
- Throwing and catching (gross motor skills like balance and coordination)
- Organizing a backpack, your desk area (motor planning, organization skills)
- Helping children who have challenges in regulating their sensory needs (self-regulation skills)



OT consists of exercises and activities to build specific skills that are weak. For example, if a child has untidy handwriting, an OT may use multisensory techniques to help with handwriting. If a child struggles with focus, the therapist might have that child do full-body exercises before sitting down to do work.

I hope this gives a better understanding of the role in OT at school. I'm looking so forward to working with the children and to help them reach their full potential.

Bus staff have a new experience!

Our bus staff had a new experience the other week when they came for one of their regular training sessions at Furlong Park. They all had a simulated 'deaf experience' where they felt what it was like trying to have a conversation when they were unable to hear. They realised how much they wanted to be a part of the conversations happening around them and said how important it was for their partner to be facing them, speaking clearly and signing as much as possible. They are looking forward to learning morning Auslan signs throughout the year.





Come and join Community Auslan with Caitlin!

Every Thursday 9:15am – 10am, Caitlin is teaching Auslan to beginners. We've had mums and dads, new staff and community members join us each week. This is a wonderful free opportunity to learn Auslan and signs that are relevant to you and your child. We'd love to see you there!





DAREBIN ARTS SPEASY PRESENTS

MINI SPIN

By Anna Seymour and collaborators

A Deaf-led interactive dance rave for children!

14 & 15 March

Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre

Ages 5 +

darebinarts.com.au



Darebin
Arts

FAMILIES



FUN IN THE PARK

Join our POD group in the park to meet other families in a casual and fun environment.

Parents of the Deaf (POD) Vic, provides a support network for families and cares of children who have any degree or type of hearing loss. POD Vic is inclusive and does not value one communication method, culture or technology.

Sunday 15th of March
10.30am-12.30pm

Burwood East Reserve
Playground.
Burwood East, VIC 3151



A Parent Mentor from Deaf Children Australia will also be in attendance.

Morning tea will be provided. Please bring a plate of snacks to share too. BYO hot drinks.

RSVP

pod.vic@deafchildren.org.au

0437 754 545



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the CSEF visit
www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

If you applied for the CSEF at your child's school in 2019, you do not need to complete an application form in 2020 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments**; your child has started or changed schools in 2020 or you did not apply in 2019.
- **changed family circumstances**; such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2020.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



Family Camp

For deaf and hard of hearing children and their families

Saturday 27 June –
Sunday 28 June
2020

DOXA's Malmesbury Camp
1000 Vaughan Springs Rd,
Drummond North VIC

Giant swing and climbing tower! Family challenges, trampolines and games.

"This is a great way to meet a welcoming community and learn more about what it really means to have a deaf child."

- Kids, make new friends through loads of fun activities
- Share experiences with other families
- Parents/caregivers, attend workshops on schools, the NDIS and other supports for the best outcomes for your child
- Panel of young deaf and hard of hearing adults sharing their experiences and answering your questions

Age: Primary school 5 - 12

Cost can be covered by NDIS or fee for service

Child: Access to community

Adult: 3 hours of Parent/ Career Training

Sibling: \$120

Book online: www.deafchildrenaustralia.org/book-online

Bookings close: 29 May 2020

Email: referral@deafchildren.org.au

Phone: 1800 645 916