



Principal's Letter

I hope this finds you all safe and well. I would like to start by thanking the entire school community for your support of the Government's efforts to minimize movement across the state and implementing Stage 4 restrictions, your patience and understanding as we have implemented the Department of Education and Training guidance in an endeavour to keep our community safe.

We have transitioned seamlessly to teaching and learning using Seesaw and Webex conferences with all staff building on the skills, knowledge, feedback and experiences from our last remote learning period. It has been so wonderful to see so many students engaged and uploading messages and photos/video of their work or participation.

We completely understand that the current situation again creates many challenges and that remote learning for some is extremely difficult and we appreciate that many of you may be juggling working from home commitments, other children at home and limited access to outside opportunities given current restrictions.

We want you to be kind to yourselves, do what you can when you can and if that is too difficult, it's ok, health and safety is the priority. I have attached a Wellbeing Booklet for you and your family to use during this time. I hope that you find it useful.

Finally, I would like to wish all the fathers and male role models in our school community a very Happy Father's Day for this Sunday! You play such an important role in the life of our children. They look up to you, want to be like you and love you. To all of the dads who are putting in the hard work to support your child/children during remote learning, I say thank you, on behalf of all of the Furlong Park staff.

Lee Bullock
Principal



Footy colours day

Tuesday 8 September (PE & Class Party) & Wednesday 9 September (PE). You can dress up in your favourite team colours for AFL, Soccer, AFLW or Rugby!

Term Dates 2020

Term 3 – 13 July – 18 September

Term 4 – 5 October – 18 December

Upcoming Events 2020

Everyday 9:30am – lessons are uploaded

Every Tuesday – class parties via Webex

Saturday 19 September – Sunday 2 October –
School holidays

Monday 2 November – Curriculum Day –
SCHOOL CLOSED

Tuesday 3 November – Melbourne Cup –
SCHOOL CLOSED

Thursday 17 December – End of Year Party –
finish at 2pm

Friday 18 December – Clean up day

Dance Program

Our Physical Education program for Term 3 started with Dance with Rebecca and Mary. Rebecca and Mary worked with all classes to provide our students with a wonderful dance program focussing on contemporary dance, hip hop and jazz. They incorporated the themes of "Seasons" for Room 2,3,8,& 9 and "Olympics" (locations & countries) for Rooms 4, 6 & 7. Rebecca and Mary are experienced dance teachers and the students enjoyed learning from them. Furlong Park School Council funded our 10-week program which was cut short due to remote learning. We hope to have Rebecca and Mary with us again in the future.





Triple P – Positive Parenting Program



Families can now access free expert parenting advice through the online Triple P – Positive Parenting Program.

The program is relevant to families with children between 2 and 16 years and provides strategies to deal with specific challenges, such as building children's resilience and dealing with conflict.

There are courses specifically for parents of toddlers to tweens, and for parents of pre-teens to teens.

It gives parents strategies to:

- raise happy, confident kids
- manage misbehaviour so everyone in the family enjoys life more
- set rules and routines that everyone respects and follows
- encourage positive behaviour
- take care of themselves as a parent
- feel confident they're doing the right thing.

 Sign up to the Triple P program via their website.

Do you know these signs?

Auslan is a beautiful language that connects everyone at Furlong Park. Caitlin, our wonderful Auslan teacher, has created these fantastic, easy to use lessons especially for you! We encourage all families to learn Auslan so they can better communicate with their Deaf family member – it's so important. Below are the links to all of the lessons Caitlin has created. We challenge you and your family to learn as many signs as you can, you could even have a competition in your own home – Who can remember the most?

Remote Learning 1.0

- ['Health & Wellbeing'](#)
- ['Seesaw & Technology'](#)
- ['Learning at home and school'](#)
- ['School holidays'](#)

Prior to the school closure:

- ['General everyday signs'](#)
- ['Opposite words'](#)

Remote learning 2.0 so far:

- ['Medical related'](#)
- ['People related signs'](#)
- ['Places'](#)



Senior Graduation

Covid-19 has disrupted many plans this year, including the graduation for our seniors. In previous years, we have celebrated the time the seniors have spent at Furlong Park with a graduation dinner which included families, staff and even past staff. Although our end of year camp and graduation do not seem possible at this stage, a group of staff are working hard to mark the occasion and make it special for our seniors who will be heading off to secondary school next year. More details to come soon!



Are you a Hawthorn fan?

POD, which is part of Deaf Children Australia, has received a wonderful opportunity for our families to meet some of the Hawthorn Football Club players! The event will be held online.

Criteria:

- Aged 6 and up,
- Auslan or bilingual,
- A fan of the Hawthorn Football Club.

To register your interest email pod.vic@deafchildren.org.au with your answers to the following questions:

- Who the child's favourite player is and how long they have been a Hawks fan for?



Deaf Children Australia (DCA) Parent Mentor Groups

Please find the attached flyer to know more about the DCA groups.
You can also join the [POD VIC](#) facebook page.

Parent to Parent Support
Someone who understands

Providing the Right Supports For you and Your Child

POD Groups

You might also want to connect with other families who share similar experiences. POD Groups are active, supportive and welcoming networks of families who have a child or children who are deaf or hard of hearing. All children are welcome regardless of preferred communication methods or hearing device and equipment they use.

So, whether you are just starting out or have many years experience, you are very welcome to join your local group.

There is no cost to join in, and POD gatherings are inclusive, all inclusive, fun family activities.

Contact

Anyone can access Deaf Children Australia's services without the need for a referral. If you would like to chat for a Support Parent or find out more about the Parent to Parent Program or POD Groups, please contact us.

E: help@deafchildren.org.au
W: www.deafchildren.org.au
F: www.facebook.com/deafchildrenaustralia
P: 1800 645 916

ndis

Building Connections

A mum who has accessed Deaf Children Australia's Parent to Parent Program explains how her family's journey changed after connecting up with a Support Parent.

Positive Futures

A mum explains how she and her husband were feeling after their son's diagnosis.

Here for Families

When my second son was diagnosed with a profound bi-lateral hearing loss, it was such a daunting experience. When he was a month old, we spent hours in the hospital struggling to comprehend all the information being relayed by a string of specialists. Then we met our Support Parent and for the first time since the diagnosis, I thought this is someone who really knows how overwhelmed you can feel.

We appreciated how fortunate we were to have so much support and technology available but it was so important to talk with a parent who could put it all in perspective, to help us feel much more positive about our son's future and to feel hope. Now, he is doing so well!



Parent to Parent Support

Someone who understands

Providing the Right Supports For You and Your Child

POD Groups

You might also want to connect with other families who share similar experiences. POD Groups are active, supportive and welcoming networks of families who have a child or children who are deaf or hard of hearing. All children are welcome regardless of preferred communication methods or hearing devices and equipment they use.

So, whether you are just starting out or have many years experience, you are very welcome to join your local group.

There is no cost to join in, and POD gatherings are inexpensive, all inclusive, fun family activities.

Contact

Anyone can access Deaf Children Australia's services without the need for a referral. If you would like to chat to a Support Parent or find out more about the Parent to Parent Program or POD Groups, please contact us.

E: helpline@deafchildren.org.au

W: www.deafchildrenaustralia.org.au

F: www.facebook.com/DeafChildrenAustralia

P: 1800 645 916



After learning your child is deaf or hard of hearing, you may have many questions. Deaf Children Australia (DCA) can help through our free services - Parent to Parent Program, Life Stories Program, National Helpline and Information Services.

It can be reassuring to speak with another parent who has travelled a similar path, and can provide unbiased information and support during this time.

Our Parent to Parent Program is available statewide across Victoria. Trained Support Parents are available to meet with families through one on one home visits or phone contact, in your community or at Early Intervention Centre playgroups or at parent group events such as POD Groups. Support Parents can provide group or one on one support.

Here for Families



Positive Futures

A mum explains how she and her husband were feeling after their son's diagnosis:

"When my second son was diagnosed with a profound bi-lateral hearing loss, it was such a confronting experience. When he was a month old, we spent hours in the hospital struggling to comprehend all the information being relayed by a string of specialists. Then we met our Support Parent and for the first time since the diagnosis, I thought this is someone who really knows how overwhelmed you can feel.

We appreciated how fortunate we were to have so much support and technology available but it was so important to talk with a parent who could put it all into perspective, to help us feel much more positive about our son's future and to feel hope. Now, he is doing so well!"

Building Connections

A mum who has accessed Deaf Children Australia's Parent to Parent Program explains how her family's journey changed after connecting up with a Support Parent:

"My son's hearing loss was identified at the Newborn Hearing Screening. We just kept plodding along from one specialist to the next but there were some defining moments on our journey – like when an audiologist organised a Support Parent to ring me. Finally someone actually understood exactly what I had been through.

Importantly, speaking to another parent normalised everything for me. I felt connected - and I had a sense of belonging. By talking to another parent, I got the gift of empowerment and strength – which every child needs from their parents!"

