



## Principal's Letter

A big warm welcome back to all of our families and a special welcome to our new families joining us this year in what is our first official newsletter for 2021!

I was incredibly proud of all of the children here at Furlong for the way they have started off the school year. From our first assembly they were calm, focused and ready to learn! As I walked around the school and visited classrooms, I saw students demonstrating our four values, 'Caring for others, Being Safe, Being Responsible and Being a Good Learner'.

After all our hard work as a state to reduce our COVID cases, it was wonderful to come back into 2021 and be able to meet together as a whole school in our first Assembly since Term 1 last year! Although I'm so proud of the job our whole school community did during remote learning, it is great to be able to be in the same room again and I hope in the new future, we can welcome back parents into our assemblies. I will keep you updated of any changes to this.

Term 1, 2021 is looking bright! There is a buzz of activity happening with 'Glasses for Kids' eye testing, 'Smile Squad' Dental visit, 'Student Support Group' meetings, 'Swimming' for all school aged children and camp for our older children!

It's so important to keep up to date with everything that is happening so please put important dates into your calendars and set alerts to remind you. If you don't have Compass sending you 'Push Notifications' please set that up so that you are alerted to information straight away.

If you ever have any concerns for your child or wish to discuss something, please contact your child's teacher by calling the school office, sending them an email, or writing in the communication diary.

I look forward to sharing all that we accomplish in 2021!

Warm regards,

Lee Bullock  
Principal

## Term Dates 2021

**Term 1** – 28 January – 1 April

**Term 2** – 19 April – 25 June

**Term 3** – 12 July – 17 September

**Term 4** – 4 October – 17 December

## Upcoming Events 2021

**Monday 8 and Tuesday 9 February** – Glasses for Kids

**Thursday 11 February** – 9am – 12pm First Day for Caterpillars (3 year olds) and morning tea for new parents in Early Education Program

**Friday 5 March** – Hearing Australia visits

**Monday 8 March** – school closed for Labour Day

**Tuesday 9-19 March** – swimming for all school aged children

**Friday 19 March** – Harmony Day

**Monday 22 – Thursday 25 March** – Camp for older students

## Privacy Policy

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#).

Please take time to remind yourself of the school's collection statement, [found on our website](#).

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy – information for parents](#).

This information is also available in nine community languages:

- Amharic
- Arabic
- Dari
- Mandarin
- Somali
- Sudanese
- Turkish
- Urdu
- Vietnamese.





## Furlong Park makes front page!



### Back to school

Twins Colby and Sebastian, and Rania and Dania, were among the excited pupils starting school at Furlong Park School for Deaf Children last week. The school reopened for 2021 on Thursday and there was plenty of fun for the two sets of twins and their school friends. Colby and Sebastian, 8, and Rania and Dania, 6, are two of three sets of twins at the school this year. The school has about 55 students. A third set of twins will start on February 11 and will be part of the school's early years program. Principal Lee Bullock said it was possibly the first time the school had welcomed three sets of twins.

Tara Murray

## \$10 million

Last year we were very excited to announce that Furlong Park had received nearly \$10 million for building works. We have now secured an architect and are beginning to plan our renovations. Construction will commence towards the end of 2021 and will be complete towards the end of 2022. This is a wonderful opportunity to expand and improve the buildings at Furlong Park.



## Notice of election and call for nomination

Our school council is made up of three parent members, one community member, and one staff member. I would like to thank Marie Madigan, a parent who has worked on our school council for two years now. Marie's position is up for nomination. 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. The school council will also have great input into our new building works project. 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 in the information pack provided at the beginning of the year. If we have more than two nomination forms, we will go to a ballot. Closing date for nominations is Tuesday 16 February 4pm.





## Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund applications

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 \$125 for eligible primary school students and \$225 for eligible secondary school students [remove primary/secondary as necessary]. 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 there has been a change in your family circumstances.

If you would like to apply for the first time, please contact the school office on [insert school phone number] and ask for an application form.

You can also download the form, and find out more about the program and eligibility, on the Department of Education and Training's Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund web page.

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



## Do you know these signs?

- [‘Health & Wellbeing’](#)
- [‘Seesaw & Technology’](#)
- [‘Learning at home and school’](#)
- [‘School Holidays’](#)
- [‘General everyday signs’](#)
- [‘Opposite words’](#)
- [‘Medical related’](#)
- [‘People related signs’](#)
- [‘Places’](#)
- [‘Celebrations’](#)
- [‘Time-related’](#)
- [‘Animals’](#)
- [‘Phrases related to animals’](#)
- [‘Emotions and feelings’](#)
- [‘Questions’](#)

## Notices from external organisations

Western Health is seeking feedback and support from our community. We want to hear your voice in how we can make our health service even better to meet your needs. If you have some time to assist us with developing new programs, attend short on line meetings and assist us to “hit the mark “ with our care for you , your family, or your specific community – we please encourage you to contact Manager, Consumer Partnerships ph: 0481 917 695 or email [consumers@wh.org.au](mailto:consumers@wh.org.au)

We will provide all of the support that you need to be part of the process.



## Children's mental health week

It was Children's Mental Health Week last week, from 1 – 7 February 2021. The theme was "Express Yourself" which is fitting as at Furlong Park we encourage our students to communicate, share and embrace our unique, special selves.

All mental health related resources are applicable for any time throughout the year and I have come across some great links which I would like to share with our Furlong family.

[Raising Children Network](#) is a 'one stop' shop of resources and information for parents/carers and any interested parties

[Successful kids, happier families - Triple P Positive Parenting Victoria \(triplep-parenting.net.au\)](#) – podcast and blogs and courses you can customise to suit your situation, and the best thing is that its ALL free and can be watched/listened at any time. There are no captions, however you can click on the resources tab and access information and get them to email you a summary of the chosen podcast.

[Children's Mental Health Week 2021](#) has captions and the interpreter is signing in British Sign Language which is a different to Auslan with some similarities.

If you have any concerns or questions about the mental health of your child, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher and together, come up with strategies to support your child.

Rachelle Stevens

## Book packs for school aged children



A friendly reminder that stationery packs are now available for us to give to your child. We will be able to do this once payment is made. If you're unsure how to do this, please contact the school office.

## Staffing Update

I would like to welcome two new staff members for 2021. Firstly, Melissa Bryson has previously worked at Furlong Park and we are excited that she has returned to teach PE as well as look after our Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) and Respectful Relationships Program. We also welcome Jaestacchia (Tacchia) Strafonda as our teacher in Room 7! Tacchia is settling into Furlong Park and enjoying working with our older students.



Melissa



Jaestacchia