



Principal's letter

I hope that you felt some relief and excitement as restrictions were lifted after our 263 days in lockdown. I've said it many times, but I will say it again – Thank You! Thank you to our wonderful parent community for supporting your children during this extremely difficult time. I'm sure you're all looking forward to some sense of normality returning into your lives.

We are already in Week 5 of an 11-week term. I know the staff are keen to welcome all children back full time, allow them time to settle in, support their wellbeing yet also use these last weeks to engage them in their academic work.

We will be in regular contact with you regarding any changes that can be made to having visitors on site and graduation ceremonies taking place. There are lots of exciting things for us to look forward to.

Even though restrictions are lifting, many people are finding their situation difficult. If you feel you or a loved one needs support, please reach out to the many organizations available to you. These have been listed in our newsletter previously, though I'll list them again.

Useful mental health supports:

- **Beyond Blue Phone: 1800 512 348**
A dedicated service for those feeling anxious, stressed, depressed or need assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.
[Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Support Service](#)
- **Carers Victoria**
Represents and provides support for carers in Victoria. carersvictoria.org.au
- **Disability Information Helpline**
Phone: 1800 643 787
Access to information and referrals for people who need help because of COVID-19, including access to counselling (available Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm).
- **Eating Disorders Victoria**
In response to COVID-19, Eating Disorders Victoria has implemented a new Wellbeing Program to assist people living with eating disorders and their support people during these challenging times.
eatingdisorders.org.au

Term Dates 2021

Term 3 – 12 July – 17 September

Term 4 – 4 October – 17 December

Upcoming Events 2021

Monday 1 November – School Closed for Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 2 November – School Closed for Melbourne Cup Day

Friday 5 November – Celebrating Teacher's Day

Friday 12 November – School Photos

Wednesday 24 November – Early Education Program SSGs (Butterflies only)

Tuesday 30 November – School SSGs

Wednesday 1 December – Graduation for EEP Butterflies

Friday 3 December – Last day for EEP Thursday/Friday program

Tuesday 14 December – Graduation for students going to secondary school

Thursday 16 December – 2pm Finish and End of Year Party

Friday 17 December – Clean up day

- **HeadtoHelp Phone:** 1800 595 212
Telephone advice from trained professionals and, if needed, connection to the best support or service for the caller (Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm). HeadtoHelp also provides online resources for callers and healthcare professionals. headtohelp.org.au
- **Lifeline Australia:** Phone: 13 11 14
A crisis support service offering short term support at any time for people who are having difficulty coping or staying safe. lifeline.org.au
- **PANDA Phone:** 1300 726 306
Support for individuals and families to recover from perinatal anxiety and depression. PANDA's National Perinatal Anxiety & Depression Helpline (Monday to Friday, 9am to 7.30pm) or online. panda.org.au



Principal's letter (Cont.)

- **Smiling Mind**

Smiling Mind's digital care packs provide tools and resources for parents, carers and teachers to support positive mental health for the children in their care.

smilingmind.com.au

- **TANDEM carers**

Represents organisations and individuals who care for people living with mental illness.

tandemcarers.org.au

Lee Bullock
Principal

Room 9

It was wonderful to welcome the students back to school, they were very excited to see their friends again. Room 9 had a fun outdoor activity where we had to search for Wally, we had clipboards with recording sheets and crossed off each number every time we found Wally. It was great to see everyone working as a team!



School photos

School Photos will be taken on Friday 12 November. Early Education Program children who do not normally attend on that day are welcome to be driven by the parent/carer for the whole school photo. Children should arrive from 9am for this photo and it normally takes approximately 30 minutes for all the children to be placed in the photo.



Baby news

We had some wonderful news in recent weeks. Lucila, our Educational Support, and her husband Josh welcomed Lucas Samuel on 14 October. Aylin, our Administration Officer, and her husband Faruk welcome their son Mikail on 1 October. Both families are doing well.



Lucila and Lucas



New staff

We would like to welcome our new staff to Furlong Park School for Deaf Children. Caroline Rodriguez, Administration Officer. Caroline will replace Aylin during her maternity leave.

Ben Anania is our School Technician. Brodie-Jean Clark White, Lisa McKenzie and Lauren Stuart are our Education Support workers.

We've previously had Craig Merlo join us though we hadn't shared his photo. Craig looks after our school grounds and buildings.



Craig Merlo



Brodie-Jean Clark-White



Caroline Rodriguez



Benjamin Anania



Lisa McKenzie



Lauren Stuart

Teachers Day – This Friday

This Friday is World Teacher's Day where we celebrate the wonderful work of our teachers.

Staff farewell

At the end of Term 3 we said thank you to Melissa Bryson for her work in the PE department and wished her all the best as she moved to another school.

