



Principal's letter

And just like that, the 2021 school year comes to a close. We never could have predicted what this year was going to be like and I'm so proud of what we have achieved together. This year, more than ever before, showed us that the connection between the school and parents is incredibly important to improve the education outcomes for our children. The support both parents and staff gave to our children during lockdowns was outstanding and the turn out in the most recent SSG meetings was great. I know you all are looking forward to a very well-deserved break. I wish you all the very best over the summer holidays. Stay safe, keep active and look after one another. Remember, the supports are still available for you and are listed again below. I particularly want to wish our graduating students who are heading off to secondary school all the very best for your future endeavors. We will miss you greatly and hope that you come back to visit. Congratulations to our graduates – Myia, Gebremedhin, Sabrin, Lilly-Jane, Andrew and Zoubowa.

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 4 – 4 October – 17 December

Upcoming Events 2021/2022

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

2022

Tuesday 25 January – Office open for uniform purchases 9am-3pm

Wednesday 26 January – School closed for Australia Day

Thursday 27 January – Office open for uniform purchases 9am-3pm

Friday 28 January – School closed for Student Free Day

Monday 31 January – School closed for Student Free Day

Tuesday 1 February – First day of school for 2022

Thursday 3 February – First day for Butterfly program

- **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

Warm regards

Lee Bullock

Principal

Term dates 2026-2030

The Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 require the Minister for Education to determine the days on which a government school is required to be open for attendance by students.

The Minister for Education has set the term dates for 2026-2030.

Setting school dates well in advance assists with school planning and ensures the school community knows the days Victorian government schools are open for student instruction.

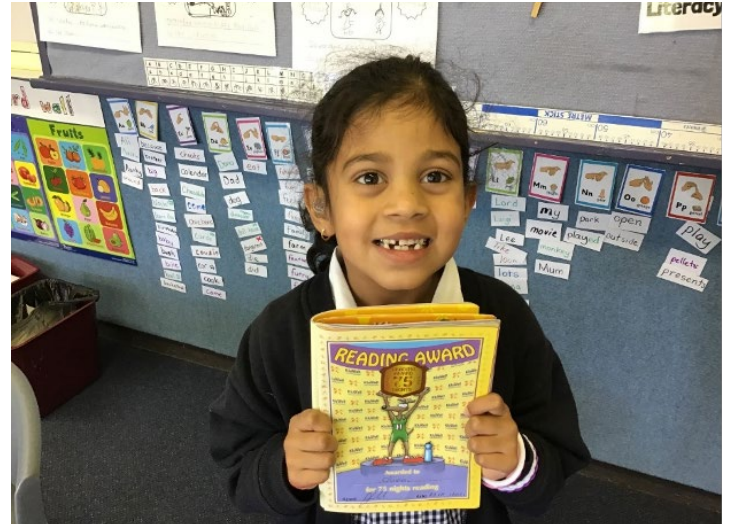
The 2026-2030 term dates are based on these criteria:

- there are four school terms
- the school year is 200 days
- the Australia Day holiday occurs before students return to school
- the first term vacation is to coincide with Easter
- that, as far as possible, a consistent pattern be maintained from one five-year block to the next.

More information is on the Department's website: School term dates and holidays in Victoria (education.vic.gov.au)

Bookworms

Congratulations to Olivia and Lord from Room 5 for reading 75 books.



Last day for Canteen – this Friday

Albion North Primary School have let us know that this Friday, the only Canteen items available are sausages in bread for \$2. All orders must be placed by Wednesday. No other canteen items will be available.



CyberParent App

The Australian Multicultural Foundation has launched an app called **CyberParent** which encourages safe and healthy internet use in Australian homes.

CyberParent equips parents with the knowledge and confidence to identify early warning signs and seek appropriate support from Australian service providers. It covers topical issues such as:



- Internet terms and definitions
- Information about social media and descriptions of popular apps
- Information about different dangers for young people online e.g. cyberbullying, online gaming and grooming/recruitment
- Practical tips on healthy and safe internet use
- Where you can go for help

CyberParent is available in a total of 17 different languages, including: English, Arabic, Chinese, Dari, Dinka, Farsi, German, Greek, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Pashto, Spanish, Somali, Turkish, Urdu and Vietnamese.

The **CyberParent** App is free and available on the App Store or Google Play.



CyberParent can be accessed by all devices that have an internet connection, however, it is optimised for tablets and smartphones. For those who wish to use **CyberParent** from a computer, the web app is still accessible from <http://amf.net.au/cyberparent>

Dot Shaw writing competition

Congratulations to four students from Room 2, Ehan, Hudson, Andrew and Leigh. These students participated in the Dot Shaw Young Writers Competition for 2021. Dot Shaw was a strong Deaf advocate for young Deaf children's development and love of literacy. Every year Deaf Australia hold a writing competition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students throughout Australia. These students are to commended as they worked on their entries throughout remote learning. Students were encouraged to image, plan, write and illustrate their entries. Also, a fun fact is that our valued ES Trudy also entered and was awarded first place when she was a student. Our students have great mentors to look up to. Thankyou to families who supported their child's entry also. Here is a photo of the students where our Principal Lee is showing everyone in the 'Zoom Assembly' the boys' certificates.





Our Scarecrow gets a facelift by Room 2!

Here is our scarecrow called Sleepy Butterfly. We made him a long time ago. It was fun. He was feeling sleepy. But, his head fell off because of the wind. The rain made his pants and boots wet. He was feeling sad. But then we made a new scarecrow. We had to paint his face. We put the straw in the body. We put the straw in his pants. Then Craig drilled on his hat. We put on his boots. He is feeling happy. We are feeling proud. Thankyou Craig.



World Teachers Day at Furlong Park.

On Thursday 9 November, we celebrated all our amazing teachers. We wanted to say a very big thank you and to recognise all the hard work our teachers have put in, not just this year for every year they have been teaching.

We thank them for their dedication, their caring natures, for their amazing hard work every day but especially during lockdowns. One of our school captains, Lilly-Jane, gave a wonderful speech thanking the teachers on behalf of all the students.

At the of the day all our wonderful teachers were presented with a beautiful plant to take home.



Farewell to our wonderful staff

Every year we say farewell to some of our wonderful staff, as they head out on new adventures and share their skills in other schools. This year we say a big thank you and goodbye to our Teachers Caitlin Hosken, Jaestacchia Strafonda, Maria McLaverty and our Education Support, Alexandra Kendall, Christine Nguyen, Caroline Rodriguez and Lauren Stuart.



A very special goodbye is to Joanne Nicolle who has dedicated her work to Furlong Park for over 20 years! Jo has made a positive impact on hundreds of students with her fun sense of humour and eagerness to support our children whenever she can. We wish her all the very best in her retirement and thank her for everything she has done for our school.



EEP Room

Mazin and Nathan's families applied for a bike through Variety, the Children's Charity, and they were successful in getting a free bike! You can see by their smiles how happy they both were.

