



Principal's letter

A very warm welcome back to all our families and a big welcome to the 13 new families that join our Furlong Park community for the first time. I hope that during the summer holidays you were able to find some time to rest and recuperate and enjoyed spending time with your loved ones.

As always, it was wonderful to see lots of smiling faces walk through the doors this week and great to hear many students tell me how excited they were to return to school. When children feel safe and welcomed, they are more open to learning and that is what I've seen whilst visiting classrooms and in the playground this week.

I'm sure that your family continue to face challenges, as we all do, during this time. How fortunate we are to be able to access Rapid Antigen Tests for all staff and students for the first four weeks of school. It's also great to hear of our 5-12-year-olds accessing their free vaccinations. All these actions help to keep our school as safe as it can be. You would have received daily updates regarding the positive cases of COVID-19 in our school, I will continue to send those out so that you are aware of the covid cases in our community and for you to follow the directions in the Compass message.

Staff shortages continue to be an issue right around the globe. Furlong Park School for Deaf Children are calling on past and retired staff members to support us during this difficult time. If your child's teacher is absent and we are unable to find a replacement, then they will either join another class or two classes will merge to be one. This is always our last resort, and we work hard to have our school day run as smoothly as possible and avoid disruptions.

If you have any questions or concerns, please always contact your child's classroom teacher and they will be able to support you.

I look forward to being back at school more this year and working with the staff and students to achieve great things. I wish you and your family all the very best for the year ahead!

Warm regards

Lee Bullock
Principal

Term Dates 2022

Term 1: Tuesday 1 February – Friday 8 April

Term 2: Tuesday 26 April – Friday 24 June

Term 3: Monday 11 July – Friday 16 September

Term 4: Monday 3 October – Tuesday 20 December

Upcoming Events 2022

Term 1

Monday 28 February – Tuesday 1 March – Smile Squad Dental Van

Monday 14 March – School Closed Labour Day

Tuesday 15 March – Friday 25 March – 9 Days of Swimming

Monday 21 March – Harmony Day

Term 2

Monday 2 May – Friday 6 May – Mother's Day Stall

Tuesday 3 May – Friday 6 May – School Camp

Monday 16 May – Education Support worker Appreciation Day

Monday 13 June – School closed for Queen's Birthday

Term 3

Friday 15 July – School Photo Day

Monday 15 August – Friday 19 August – Science Week

Monday 22 August – Friday 26 August - Book Week

Monday 29 August – Friday 2 September - Father's Day Stall

Thursday 8 September - R U OK? Day

Term 4

Friday 28 October – World Teacher's Day

Tuesday 1 November – School Closed for Melbourne Cup

Friday 11 November – Remembrance Day

Thursday 17 November – School Music Concert @ 6:30pm

Tuesday 13 December – Graduation for Students going to Secondary School



Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day – Tuesday, 8th February

This Safer Internet Day, we are calling on everyone to play it safe and fair online.

This global initiative brings families, schools, organisations and governments from 170 countries together to raise awareness about online safety.

At Furlong Park, students took part in an Activity day last week which focused on safe internet use. Students practiced using iPads safely, read a story about the importance of having rules at home for internet use and learnt a song called “My family rules”. At the end of the day, all students performed the song which was filmed to show at the next school assembly. Alarmingly, when asked, most students reported that they do not have any family rules for when using the internet at home and many are unsupervised during screen time.

We are urging parents to:

1) Discuss appropriate online behaviours

Read the attached flyer and discuss these important online behaviours with their families.

2) Create a family tech agreement

For a great template called “Creating a family tech agreement”, scan the code:

This will support you to build good online habits together as a family.



3) Participate in eSafety’s “Parent guide to helping kids thrive online” webinar

This webinar offers tips about how to support young people to socialise, learn and have fun online safely. It explains how to access information, use technology safely and navigate new online platforms.

Pick a webinar that suits you:

- Tuesday 8 February 12.30 to 1.30 pm
- Thursday 10 February 12.30 to 1.30 pm
- Wednesday 23 February 7.30 to 8.30 pm

Register here:



Vaccinations

It’s been fantastic to see such excitement around the return to school and we want to keep it that way. A crucial part of that is getting as many students vaccinated as possible.

Alongside ventilation and other vital COVIDSafe steps such as regular rapid antigen testing, supporting as many students as possible to be vaccinated will help make our school as safe as possible.

Bookings for children aged 5 to 11 to receive the paediatric Pfizer vaccine are open and we encourage parents and carers to get your child vaccinated, if you haven’t already done so.

The [Pfizer vaccine is safe and recommended for children](#). The vaccine will help protect your child from getting sick from COVID-19, help to reduce the spread of COVID-19, and help ensure kids can have more time at school and playing with their friends.

Vaccinations for children aged 5-11 years old are delivered at 2 appointments, 8 weeks apart. Children with specific medical vulnerabilities can access their second dose 3 weeks after their first dose.

If you’d like more information about this, you can read a recent statement from the [Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation \(ATAGI\)](#)

To book an appointment

You can book at your local [GP or pharmacy](#)

You can also book at a family-friendly vaccination centre by calling the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398.

You can also make [vaccination centre bookings](#) for your children online, though you will need to use an email address that has not been used in the system before

Helping children to get their vaccination

Vaccination centres understand that children may feel anxious about vaccination or have other support needs. A range of options are available to help children get vaccinated. Please discuss your child’s needs with the vaccination centre when you book an appointment.

Appointments are also available at Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Organisations.

Find out more about [vaccination for kids](#)



Respect in schools

Our school community has demonstrated incredible solidarity and resilience throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Being back in our classrooms with extra health and safety measures is another big transition, but it's the very best one for our children's education. As we navigate these changes to onsite learning, including required mask wearing for some students, it's more important than ever that adults in our school community treat each other with respect and kindness.

The Department of Education and Training has released a [new policy](#) that describes the positive behaviour expected from parents, carers, and other adults in Victorian school communities. The policy sets clear standards of behaviour to create a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment for students, staff and adults.

There are also other resources to support safe and respectful relationships in our school community, including information about getting involved in the school, advice on how to raise a concern or complaint, and parenting support resources. You can find the new policy and these resources [here](#).

You may also see a [new poster](#) up around our school, promoting positive behaviour.

Welcome new staff

I would like to welcome our new staff, Madeline (Maddy) Kennedy, our Administration Officer. Maddy can help you with general enquiries and any bus related enquiries. Tegan Mensinga is a teacher in our school area. Tegan has a wealth of experience working in special schools in our area and is excited to now work in a school for Deaf children. We also welcome back Andria Mavrikakis (Art and Room 7 teacher) and Louise Hennessy (speech pathologist) who both return after their leave.



Madeline Kennedy



Tegan Mensinga

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 our parents Alice Kelly and Soma Elias for their contributions to our School Council in the past two years as well as our staff member, Melanie Matsakos. These three positions are now available once again and I am calling 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 which can be requested from the school office. If we have more than two nomination forms, we will go to a ballot. Closing date for nominations is **Thursday 17 February 4pm**.



Variety
ACTIVATE
INCLUSION
SPORTS DAYS

A FREE, FUN & INCLUSIVE DAY OF ACTIVITIES TO TRY!



FOR PHYSICAL, SENSORY & INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES



Tuesday, 3rd May 2022

10:00am - 1:00pm

North Melbourne Community Centre

49-53 Buncle St, North Melbourne VIC 3051

**Limited places available.
To register attendance [CLICK HERE](#)**

Hosted by:



CITY OF MELBOURNE

Delivered by:



Contact:

Kristy Rohrer
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#Play it Fair Online

Through simple actions like being safe, respectful and kind
we can all #PlayitFairOnline

Be respectful

Consider others when you are online. There is no place for abuse, hate or discrimination in any aspect of life.



Be kind

Be a positive role model. Treat people with kindness, respect and understanding online.



Be resilient

Don't let a bad experience online get you down. Stay strong and get the right support, so you can bounce back as soon you're ready.



Be prepared to ask for help

Everyone needs support. Reach out to friends, family and eSafety if something goes wrong online.



Be safe

To stay happy and healthy, avoid situations that pose risks to yourself or others online.



Be responsible

Respect others online. Think how your actions might affect other people.



Be an upstander

You can help others when they experience abuse online by showing support and speaking up - if it's safe to do so.



To get advice and support or make a report go to esafety.gov.au