



PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

It has been a wonderful start to 2023 at Furlong Park School for Deaf Children!

One thing that really stands out at Furlong Park is the way students care for each other. It fills me with pride each morning as I welcome students off the bus and I see all our students caring for each other, particularly wanting to help those that are younger than them. The older children have buddies in our prep class and enjoy spending time with them during indoor play, when it's raining or too hot outside.

Thank you to each parent who attended our Student Support Group (SSG) meetings. Our SSG days are so important as they're an opportunity for you to share information with your child's teacher and learn about what they're doing in the classroom. We really appreciate it when parents sign up to sessions when the message goes out on Compass, as this helps us prepare and organize interpreters. We also appreciate it when parents arrive at their meeting on time and avoid rescheduling, as our teachers make themselves available on these days.

On Thursday we welcomed 12 adults to our Auslan for Families session! We had mums, dads and grandparents. It's not too late to join. You're welcome to come on Thursdays at 9:15am, we'd love to see you there!

Our building works are coming along well and we're so excited to move back into our office and Early Education Program in Term 2! Next we will have a brand new building with 8 large classrooms for our school aged children.

Warm regards,
Lee Bullock
Principal

TERM DATES 2023

Term 1: Tuesday 31 January – Thursday 6 April

Term 2: Monday 24 April – Friday 23 June

Term 3: Tuesday 11 July – Friday 15 September

Term 4: Monday 2 October – Wednesday 20 December

UPCOMING EVENTS 2023

TERM 1

Monday 27 February – Hearing Australia visits Furlong Park for Hearing Awareness Week

Monday 13 March – SCHOOL CLOSED for Labour Day

Friday 17 March – National Day against Bullying & Violence

Tuesday 21 March – Harmony Day – Students wear orange

Thursday 23 March – World Maths Day

Monday 27 March – Auslan Day

Thursday 6 April – 2pm early finish

TERM 2

Tuesday 25 April – SCHOOL CLOSED for Anzac Day

Monday 8 May – Friday 12 May – Mother's Day stall

Friday 12 May – Mother's Day celebrations for all mums

Monday 15 May – SCHOOL CLOSED for Professional Practice Day

Tuesday 16 May – Education Support Staff Day – say Thank You to our ES!

Wednesday 24 May – National Simultaneous Story Time

Monday 29 May – Friday 3 June – Reconciliation Week

Monday 12 June – SCHOOL CLOSED – KING'S BIRTHDAY

Thursday 15 June – School Photos

Monday 19 June – Friday 23 June – NAIDOC week celebrations

Friday 23 June – 2pm finish

TERM 3

Monday 10 July – SCHOOL CLOSED – Pupil Free Day

Friday 4 August – Principal Appreciation Day

Monday 14 – Friday 28 August – Science Week

Monday 21 August – Friday 28 August – Book Week

Monday 28 August – Friday 1 September – Father's Day stall

Friday 1 September – Father's Day celebrations for all dads

Thursday 9 September – R U OK? Day

Monday 11 September – Friday 15 September – National Week of Deaf People

Friday 15 September – 2pm finish

TERM 4

Thursday 12 October – Primary Deaf Sports Day

Friday 27 October – Teacher Appreciation Day – say thank you to our teachers!

Monday 6 November – SCHOOL CLOSED – Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 7 November – SCHOOL CLOSED – Melbourne Cup Day

Friday 10 November – Remembrance Day ceremonies for 11 November

Tuesday 5 December – Last day for Caterpillar (3-year-old) program

Friday 8 December – Last day for Butterflies (4-year-old) program

Tuesday 12 December – Leaver's Graduation

Friday 15 December – End of Year Party!

MUSIC CONCERT AVAILABLE TO WATCH ONLINE

We are so excited to share our music concert from November last year with you all. We hope you enjoy watching it again with your families <https://clickv.ie/w/POtu>



ANNUAL PRIVACY REMINDER FOR OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY



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 read our school's collection notice, found on our [website](#).

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education](#) safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education, please contact the school.

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy – information for parents](#). This information is also available in ten community languages:

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

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 Alice Kelly and Soma Elias for their contribution over the past few years. All of our school council positions are now up for nomination. School council meet 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 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. Nominations close **Friday 3 March 2023**.



School success starts
with attendance

HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IN SCHOOL: BUILD THE HABIT OF GOOD ATTENDANCE EARLY SCHOOL SUCCESS GOES HAND IN HAND WITH GOOD ATTENDANCE!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in **school**
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to **read**
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few **weeks**
- Being late to school may lead to poor **attendance**
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch **up**

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important.

Good attendance will help children do well in high school, tertiary education and at work

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular **bed time** and morning routine
- Lay out clothes and pack **backpacks** the night before
- Don't let your child stay home unless they are truly **sick**
- Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a **reason to** stay home
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers for advice on how to make them feel comfortable and excited about **learning**
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a **neighbour**, or another parent
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips during school **time**

Furlong Park School for Deaf Children

HARMONY DAY 21 MARCH

Wear orange on
Tuesday 21st March to
celebrate Harmony Day



EVERYONE BELONGS





FPSDC
Auslan
for Families

Auslan classes are back at
Furlong Park School for Deaf Children!

Join our awesome Auslan tutor, Trudy, in a
friendly and supportive environment to learn
Auslan signs to use with your child.

Day: Thursdays
from February 23 to March 30
6 Week Course

Time: 9:15am - 10:15am

Cost: Free

*Children welcome.
Coffee and tea provided.
Contact reception for more information.*





We are SunSmart - a note for families

Too much of the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer.

UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life. Skin cancer is the most common cancer in Australia. It is also one of the most preventable cancers.

You can't see or feel the sun's UV. Whatever the weather, if the UV levels are three or more, it's important to *Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide!*

Sun protection times

Don't just wait for hot and sunny days to use sun protection. Check the sun protection times each day so your family can be protected when they need to be.

Daily local sun protection times and weather details are available from the SunSmart widget on our school website, in the weather section of the newspaper, on the SunSmart website at sunsmart.com.au and as a free SunSmart app. Sun protection times can also be found at the Bureau of Meteorology website and live UV levels are available from ARPANSA.



SunSmart membership

Our school is a registered member of Cancer Council Victoria's SunSmart Schools Program. We aim to protect children and staff from too much UV.

Sun protection and skin cancer prevention is a shared responsibility. Please help support our SunSmart membership and sun protection efforts by ensuring your child follows the SunSmart measures included in our policy at school and at home.

During the daily local sun protection times (usually from mid-August to the end of April), **use these 5 SunSmart steps – even if it's cool and cloudy.**

1. **SLIP** on covering clothing

For free dress days, ensure your child wears clothing that covers as much skin as possible (e.g. elbow length tops with a higher neckline or collar and longer style shorts or skirts). Densely woven fabrics are best.



2. **SLOP** on SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen

Apply a generous amount of sunscreen at the start of the day and make sure children have sunscreen in their bag ready to reapply throughout the day. Sunscreen should be reapplied every two hours. Please ensure children get plenty of sunscreen application practice at home so they'll be all set when they are at school. Under supervision, ask children to put a dot of sunscreen on each cheek, nose and chin and rub it in (avoiding the eye area) and sunscreen squiggles or dots on the back of the neck, arms and legs to cover these areas.

3. **SLAP** on a hat that protects the face, neck and ears

Choose a wide-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hat. Peak caps and visors do not offer enough UV protection so please leave them at home. Please help your child remember to bring and wear their approved **school hat**. Please keep this at school so they will always be ready for outdoor activities, outdoor learning and play during school days. For the walk to and from school and weekends, please have an extra **home hat** to help keep children protected at home.

4. **SEEK** shade

Choose shady spots for learning and play whenever possible.

5. **SLIDE** on wrap-around AS1067 sunglasses

When appropriate and practical, help protect the eyes with sunglasses.

Need information in another language? Call 13 14 50 and ask to be connected to Cancer Council Victoria in your language



THE BELOW NOTICES ARE NOT ASSOCIATED WITH FURLONG PARK SCHOOL FOR DEAF CHILDREN BUT HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO US BY OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS



SENSEI LANCE

Martial Arts In Auslan

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

- ✓ 1:1 sessions via NDIS Physio
- ✓ Fun and inclusive
- ✓ Develop core strength
- ✓ Learn self defence

Starting Term 1 2023, limited spots available. Located in Newport.

EMAIL

LANCE@TWINSMARTIALARTS.COM.AU

FOR MORE INFO



FROM GEELONG ART'S CENTRE

We are passionate about providing every single child with the opportunity to engage in the wonderful world of creative arts and for many children in the G21 region, the Family Magic program marks their very first theatrical experience. Geelong Arts Centre takes great pride in helping families spark a love for the arts including *young ones who prefer a more supportive environment. AUSLAN Interpreted and Relaxed Performances enhance the theatre experience for children, while keeping the story on stage completely unchanged.*

SHOW TIMES & DETAILS

Mr Stink – Saturday 1 April, 2:00pm

(AUSLAN & Relaxed)

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge – Saturday 17 June, 12:00pm

(AUSLAN & Relaxed)

HICCUP – Saturday 26 August, 1:00pm

(AUSLAN & Relaxed)

ABOUT AUSLAN INTERPRETED PERFORMANCES

Auslan interpreted performances are for audiences who are d/Deaf or hard of hearing and use Australian Sign Language (Auslan).

Experienced Auslan theatre interpreters stand to the side of the stage and interpret dialogue and any text into Auslan, signing live.

ABOUT RELAXED PERFORMANCES

Relaxed Performances welcome audiences who would benefit from a more relaxed environment – this can include but is not limited to people with autism, sensory sensitivities, learning disabilities or dementia, as well as those living with anxiety or who have experienced trauma.

The atmosphere is non-judgmental, and we embrace noisy enthusiasm.

Audience members can also bring their headphones to reduce noise if they wish.

Specifically for relaxed performances, we leave the house lights on (dimmed), the auditorium doors stay open, and some technical elements may be modified, for example, strong lighting or sound effects are moderated.

Sometimes fantastical and funny, and always engaging, *Family Magic 2023* guarantees they'll leave the theatre with sore cheeks and full hearts. Help us give each and every child the opportunity to experience the wonderful world of creative arts and join us in getting the word out.

**For information regarding shows, bookings and more,
please head to geelongartscentre.org.au**