

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

I am thrilled to share with you all how proud I am of our students for their incredible performance at the Musica Viva music concert. It was a beautiful sight to see our school community come together and support our children as they showcased their musical talents. From our 4-year-olds to our two seniors who are leaving, every student put their heart and soul into their performances, and it was a joy to watch.

As we approach the last weeks of school, I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our teachers, staff, and parents for their unwavering support throughout the year. Our students have had an engaging full program of learning, and it's all thanks to your hard work and dedication.

I encourage parents to continue to come to our assembly on Friday at 2:45 pm. It's a great opportunity to see our students in action and celebrate their achievements. Additionally, parents are welcome to come and visit our new classrooms by contacting their child's teacher.

Thank you for your continued support of Furlong Park School for Deaf Children.

Warm regards,
Lee Bullock
Principal

IMPORTANT RETURN TO SCHOOL DATES 2024

- School aged students will return to school on Tuesday 30th January.
- Butterflies (4 year old program) will begin on Thursday 1st February

All students who are currently enrolled in our 3 year old program this year will automatically be rolled over to the 4 year old program for 2024.



TERM DATES 2023

Term 4: 3 October – Wednesday 20 December

UPCOMING EVENTS 2023

TERM 4

Thursday 26 October – Thursday 7 December –

Auslan for families every Thursday except Thursday 16th November

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

Friday 8 December – Butterflies graduation
11:30am – 1pm

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

Friday 8 December – Prep information session and tour
9:15am – 11am

Wednesday 13 December – Year 6 Graduation
6pm-9pm

Friday 15 December – End of Year Party!

Wednesday 20 December – Last day of term (2pm finish)

A VISIT FROM MINISTER BILL SHORTEN MRS SHORTEN

The Minister Bill Shorten and Mrs Shorten visited our school back in September and were enchanted by our wonderful students and staff. Their 2023 Christmas card will represent our school and three of our lucky students Muadh, Kobie & Charlene.



WARU JOURNEY OF THE SMALL TURTLE

We are thrilled to share an exciting experience that Room 1 and Room 3 had on Thursday, September 14th. Our students embarked on a memorable journey to the Arts Centre, which was both educational and entertaining.

To kick off the day, we all hopped onto a bus and ventured into the heart of the city. The students were absolutely delighted to be out and about, exploring the world beyond the classroom.



Once we arrived at the Arts Centre, the highlight of our day awaited us – a captivating performance presented by Bangarra Dance Theatre. The story they brought to life revolved around the remarkable journey of a turtle, from its arrival on the islands to the delicate process of laying eggs and returning to the ocean as baby turtles. Two talented actors skillfully narrated this Torres Strait Islander tale, engaging our students by encouraging them to participate in specific movements that depicted the turtle's journey.

Moreover, the performance highlighted the important issue of ocean pollution. We witnessed how debris from the ocean can entangle the turtle, making it challenging



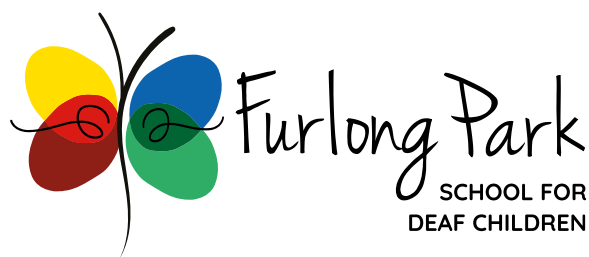
for them to swim freely. This powerful message resonated with our students and sparked conversations about the importance of environmental conservation.

We are proud to share that the entire performance was Auslan interpreted, ensuring accessibility for all our students. It was an inclusive and enriching experience for everyone involved.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the support of Schools First funding, which made this excursion possible. It's thanks to initiatives like these that we can offer our students unique opportunities for learning and growth.

Thank you for your continued support in fostering a rich and diverse educational experience for our students.





THUNDERSTORM ASTHMA – BE PREPARED THIS POLLEN SEASON

Grass pollen season, which typically runs from October to December each year in Victoria, brings an increase in asthma and hay fever symptoms. It also increases the risk of thunderstorm asthma. For people with asthma or hay fever, especially those who experience wheezing or coughing with their hay fever, thunderstorm asthma can be sudden, serious and even life threatening.

Furlong Park School for Deaf Children will implement a range of measures to keep our school community safe as the risk of thunderstorm asthma increases.

Many of our staff are trained in asthma first aid, and we will monitor the VicEmergency app to receive thunderstorm warnings, and, where appropriate, keep students indoors when weather forecasts identify greater risk.

During the season, there are some things you can do to prepare and protect yourself and your family:

- If your child has ever had asthma, talk to your doctor about what you can do to help protect them from the risk of thunderstorm asthma this pollen season, including updating your asthma action plan. Taking an asthma preventer properly and regularly is key to preventing asthma, including thunderstorm asthma.
- If your child has hay fever, see your pharmacist or doctor for a hay fever treatment plan and check if you should have an asthma reliever puffer. These are available from a pharmacy without a prescription.
- If your child has hay fever and experiences wheezing and coughing, it is important to make sure they don't also have asthma. Speak to your doctor about an asthma action plan.
- Where possible, avoid being outside during thunderstorms from October to December, especially during the wind gusts that come before the storm. Go inside and close your doors and windows. If you have your air conditioning on, turn it to 'recirculate'.

Protect yourself this pollen season – managing asthma and allergies matters.

Find out more

For more information, speak to your doctor. You can also visit the [Better Health Channel](#) website.

DISABILITY INCLUSION

From 2024 our school will begin introducing some changes to help us strengthen support for students with disability.

Disability Inclusion will help our school better understand what our students need to help them learn and participate at school. It involves:

- a new Disability Inclusion Profile and school funding model to strengthen support for students with disability
- more resources, training and coaching for our teachers and school staff about the best ways to support students with disability.

From 2024, the **Disability Inclusion Profile** will be available to help us identify the strengths, needs, and adjustments we can make to assist students' learning, participation and engagement at school.

The Disability Inclusion Profile replaces the Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD) application process.

Over the coming years, we will invite families of students who are currently part of the PSD, and other students with disability and additional learning needs, to participate in a meeting to complete a Disability Inclusion Profile.

We will use **school funding and supports provided through Disability Inclusion** for more training and professional development for teachers and school staff, expert advice about disability, employing new teachers and other staff to help plan and deliver adjustments for students, and resources to support learning.

The new Disability Inclusion approach ensures our school is better able to support students with disability and additional learning needs.

Furlong Park School for Deaf Children is excited to be part of Disability Inclusion and we look forward to continuing to support our students to learn and thrive.

If you have any questions about your child's learning or Disability Inclusion, or need translation or interpreting assistance, please contact Deb Moloney on 9312 3244.

SCHOOL REPORTS

Your child's school report will be available to download via Compass in the week of **4th December**.



GRAND OPENING OF OUR NEW CLASSROOM AREA

The suspense and anticipation of the completion of our new classroom areas had finally come to an end. The atmosphere buzzed with excitement as students and staff eagerly gathered to witness this significant occasion. As the ribbon was cut by our school captains, Muadh & Kobie and Principal Lee, cheers resounded through the air, symbolising the beginning of a transformative journey for all who walked through the doors. We are grateful for the support of our students, staff and parents. The grand opening of our new classrooms was more than just a milestone. It is a testament of our commitment to providing the best education to our students.



COVID-19 UPDATE

There is at present an increase in community transmission of COVID-19 in Victoria.

You can help us keep our school as safe as possible by taking 2 important steps:

1. Ensure your COVID-19 vaccinations are up to date. Information on how and where to get vaccinated is available on the Get vaccinated webpage.
2. If your child shows symptoms of COVID-19, please ensure they stay home and get tested. The easiest way to test is to use a rapid antigen test (RAT). We have RATs available at our school for collection. Also, free RATs are available from your local council where you can collect 2 packs of 5 RATs and an extra 2 packs for

each person in your household. People with disability and their carers can get 4 packs of 5 RATs. You are not required to have a Medicare card and you can collect RATs as many times as you need. You can also buy RATs at supermarkets, pharmacies and other retailers.

If your child has symptoms but tests negative, please ensure they stay home until they no longer have symptoms.

If the RAT test result is positive, please ensure they stay home for at least 5 days and until there are no more symptoms.

Thank you for your support – these steps will help us all stay well.

DEAF SPORTS DAY

On Thursday 26 October, all our school aged students went on an excursion to Deaf Sports Day and had a wonderful time seeing old friends and meeting new ones. All children displayed the school's values of being safe, responsible, caring, and a good learner. The staff were so proud of their sportsmanship and great attitude on the day.



R U OK? DAY

During the last week of Term 3 on Thursday the 14th of September, the students and staff at Furlong Park took part in activities to recognise the national day of action called R U OK? Day. This event takes place annually and is dedicated to reminding people to ask family, friends and colleagues, 'Are you ok?'. The purpose of this day is to empower people to regularly have meaningful conversations and connect with people around them in the aim to help others who may be struggling.

Students engaged in activities within their classrooms focusing on how to be a supportive friend, ways we can tell if our friends are upset and learning the four-

step process to having an 'R U OK?' conversation with someone.

In Room 3, students viewed videos made with Healthy Harold the giraffe and discussed what to do when we recognise our friends might need support. Students also enjoyed dancing to the R U OK? Day music video which was made for this year to assist children in their understanding.

If you would like further information or to view videos and links related to R U OK?

Day, please visit this website: <https://www.ruok.org.au/>





Lions Club Christmas Cakes for Sale

Contact the school office to make an order.

Payments are accepted in cash only.

Large (1.5kg) - \$20

Small (1kg) - \$16

Cakes will be delivered to the school on
Thursday 14th December.



Dear Families,
Exciting News!

The Seesaw app got a fresh new icon.

Don't worry - everything inside the app works the same.



OLD ICON



NEW ICON

Seesaw | www.seesaw.com

