

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE WELCOME TO TERM 4!

I hope you and your families had a wonderful break. Term 3 was filled with many celebrations, including Furlong Park being featured in the Herald Sun on 15 September. The article highlighted what an excellent and vibrant school Furlong Park is and how unique it is. You can watch the video [here](#).



### Music Concert! Thursday 14 November 6:30pm

Every year, our whole school community comes together to celebrate our students' dance and musical performances that they have been working hard on. We welcome all family and friends to join us at Sunshine Secondary College, Northumberland Road, Sunshine. We ask for a gold coin donation, and don't forget to bring cash if you wish to purchase raffle tickets for our raffle, which will be drawn on the night. All proceeds go towards our music program.

Please note that a video of the children will be taken on the night. This video will be used on our website, the TV in our foyer, and by our generous donors from Musica Viva in their promotional material. If you do not wish your child to be in this video, please contact me at the school as soon as possible. Your child will receive more information soon, but please remember they will need to wear all black on the day.

## TERM DATES 2024

**Term 4:** Monday 7 October – Friday 20 December

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### TERM 4

- Fri 25 October** – Teacher Appreciation Day
- Mon 4 November** – STUDENT-FREE DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
- Tue 5 November** – Melbourne Cup Public Holiday – SCHOOL CLOSED
- Thu 14 November** – Concert music excursion all day
- Thu 14 November** – School Music Concert 6:30pm, all families & friends welcome
- Wed 20 November** – Deaf Sports Day
- Fri 22 November** – Hearing Australia Visit
- Mon 9 December** – School SSG Meetings
- Tue 10 December** – Last day for Caterpillars 3-year-old program
- Fri 13 December** – Butterflies 4-year-old program Graduation & last day
- Fri 20 December** – End of year party
- Fri 20 December** – Last day of Term 4 – Early finish at 2pm

### 2025

- Mon 27 Jan** – Australia Day
- Tue 28 & Wed 29 Jan** – Pupil Free Day – SCHOOL CLOSED
- Thur 30 Jan** – First day of Term 1

### What do I need to wear?

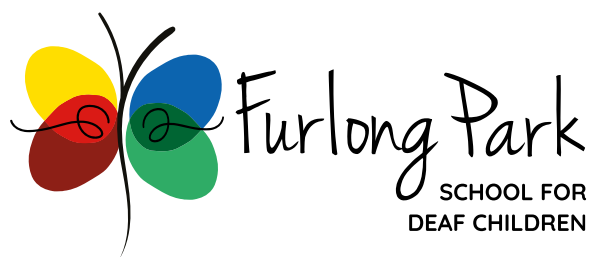


#### Remember:

All black — no patterns or other colours

Shoes are not worn on stage. Bare feet only on stage.

If you are not sure, bring your clothes in to school for your teacher to see and they can check them for you!



## \$400 School Saving Bonus for Families

In Term 4, 2024, families with a child enrolled in a government school from Prep to Year 12 in 2025 will receive a one-off \$400 School Saving Bonus. This bonus provides support for education-related costs, such as school activities, uniforms, and textbooks.


To ensure you receive the \$400 bonus, please make sure

your email address and phone number are up to date with us. You can check this information by contacting us directly. Further details are provided in the information sheet included in this newsletter.


Warm regards,

Lee Bullock


*Principal*



THE EDUCATION STATE



VICTORIA  
State Government



Department of Education

## School Saving Bonus

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### Information for government school parents and carers

**About the School Saving Bonus**

The Victorian Government is making life that little bit easier for families by providing a one-off \$400 School Saving Bonus.

This support will help cover the cost of school uniforms, textbooks, and school activities like camps, excursions and sports.

The School Saving Bonus is in addition to existing and continuing means-tested supports for Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) and the Affordable School Uniforms Program.

The School Saving Bonus will be provided to schools and families in Term 4, 2024.

**Who receives the School Saving Bonus**

The School Saving Bonus is available for parents and carers of all Victorian government school students from Prep to Year 12 in 2025, except for full-fee international students, home schooled students, TAFE students and students attending kindergarten in 2025.

**Actions for parents and carers**

Parents and carers of children who meet the School Saving Bonus eligibility above are required to do the following by **Friday 18 October 2024**:

- **Complete enrolment**

If your child, or children are changing government school for Term 1 2025, or starting Prep or Year 7 in 2025, please complete enrolment. For more information, read about [Enrolling in School](#).

- **Check your contact information**

Ensure your contact information is up to date with your school. You can check this information by contacting your school directly.



## Accessing the \$400 School Saving Bonus

You do not need to apply for the School Saving Bonus.

The Department of Education will email you in November 2024 with your \$400 School Saving Bonus. You will be able to access it via an online system.

You can decide how to best use the School Saving Bonus for your family's needs. You can choose how to allocate the \$400 in the online system.

The bonus can be used towards 2025 school costs, which may include:

- camps, trips, excursions and incursions
- swimming and sporting programs
- outdoor education programs
- graduations
- school uniforms
- textbooks.

The bonus can be used at your school's approved textbook or uniform suppliers either in-store or online, or through State Schools' Relief. The list of suppliers may include a school uniform or bookshop. Any amount that you choose to allocate to textbooks and uniforms will be valid until 30 June 2025. It will then transfer to your child's school account for future activities.

Funds will roll over for use in future years if it is not all spent in 2025.

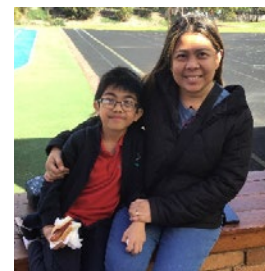
## Families with more than one eligible child

Families who have more than one child at the same school can combine their School Saving Bonus payments to use on one child, or for a specific activity. So, for example, a family with 3 children who are all government school students would receive support to the value of \$1,200 and choose how they spend those funds. The School Saving Bonus cannot be combined across different schools.

## More information

To learn more about the School Saving Bonus visit [vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus](https://vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus). Translated information will also be available on the School Saving Bonus website in the next few weeks.





## FATHER'S DAY AFTERNOON

We had a fantastic time with our fathers and special people during the Father's Day afternoon on Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> of August.

Our guests were able to join us for a celebratory sausage sizzle cooked up by our super chef, Craig, and served with help from our principal, Lee and some of our student leaders.



We all had fun including our guests in a special extended recess time, playing ten pin bowling, bean bag toss, a giant *Connect Four* game, and more.

Working hard to prepare for our guests, students made colourful magnetic photo frames in their art sessions with talented art teacher, Shak, as well as creating special cards for their loved ones. The junior students in rooms one, three, and four, performed a signed song, *Daddy*, to the tune of *Bingo*, after diligently practising all term.

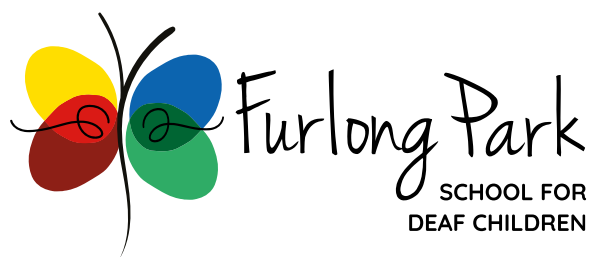


As always, we rounded out our week with a whole school assembly, sharing with our special guests the wonderful work that students are doing, showing our school values of caring, safety, learning, and responsibility.

Thanks so much to all of those in the Furlong Park community that contributed to the success of this event, including staff and students that helped to plan and prepare. A big thanks, once again, to our amazing parents and carers that continue to support our students and school!

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## WHOOPING COUGH

Whooping cough cases are [continuing to increase across Victoria](#), particularly among school-aged children.

[Whooping cough](#) is a very contagious infection, mostly spread through coughing or sneezing. Symptoms include:

- blocked or runny nose
- tiredness
- mild fever
- severe bouts of coughing, often followed by a 'whooping' sound on breathing.

Whooping cough can lead to life threatening infections in babies.

If your child is unwell, they should not attend school. Please see a doctor if you or your child develops whooping cough symptoms. Early diagnosis and treatment will help reduce the spread of the infection.

Students diagnosed with whooping cough must not attend school

If your child is diagnosed with whooping cough, they must not attend school for 21 days after the onset of the cough, or until they have received 5 days of antibiotic treatment. You must notify the school if your child is diagnosed with whooping cough.

To further reduce the spread of infection to your child and the school community, the [Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019](#) require that some students who were in the same classroom as a student diagnosed with whooping cough should not attend school.

Your child should not attend school for 14 days after they were last exposed to a person diagnosed with whooping cough, or until they have taken 5 days of a course of antibiotic treatment if they are:

- aged less than 7 years; and
- not fully vaccinated with 3 doses of whooping cough (pertussis) vaccine.

This exclusion is required by law – refer to the [School exclusion table for primary schools and children's services](#).

If your child is diagnosed with [whooping cough](#), please contact the school to let us know.

### More information

For more information about whooping cough, refer to [Whooping cough](#) on the Better Health Channel.

Vaccination is the best way to reduce the risk of whooping cough. The Department of Health recommends staying up to date with immunisations, including booster doses. A free booster dose of the pertussis vaccine is covered under the national immunisation program for students aged 12 to 13. If you are unsure about your child's vaccination status for whooping cough, please discuss with an immunisation provider, such as your doctor.

## THUNDERSTORM ASTHMA

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.



## SAFETY ONLINE

Parents and carers play an important role in supporting their children to be safe online and on social media. You can help your children safely navigate their digital world and educate them to avoid harmful online experiences. You can explore websites, games, apps and social media together and set some rules and boundaries.

Your support and guidance can give your children the knowledge to make sound decisions online and confidence to ask for help when they need it. It is also important to stay informed about online safety.

The Department of Education recognises this important issue and has developed fact sheets about supports to help keep students safe online and what to do if they are involved in an online incident.

The fact sheets contain links to evidence-based information on supporting positive and safe online

experiences, signs a child or young person might need support, what to do if something unsafe happens online, and where to reach out to for more support.

To access the fact sheets, refer to the Safe Socials webpage. The fact sheets are available in 19 community languages. The government is also launching public consultation on age limits for social media.

You and your children can share your experiences to inform proposed changes via an online survey, before 5pm on Friday 1 November 2024. For more information on the survey and to take part, refer to Proposed changes to social media age limits on the Engage Victoria website.

If you have any queries about this information, you can contact the department by email:

[bullystoppers@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:bullystoppers@education.vic.gov.au)





## JOIN US FOR A DEAF SPORTS DAY!

We warmly invite all family and friends to join us on Wednesday, **20th November, from 10am to 2pm** at the **Doncaster Athletics Club**. This special event brings together our students and Deaf children from schools across Victoria for a day of fun, competition, and camaraderie. Watch as they meet, race, and compete in various sports, showcasing their talents and fostering new friendships.

Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to support and celebrate our amazing students!

## SECONDHAND UNIFORM

We strongly encourage families to donate any uniform that your child no longer wears.

We accept any uniform item if they are in good condition and there is no visible damage. Secondhand uniform is available to families at no cost. Sizing and items varies depending on what is donated. You may enquire by calling the school office or sending an email to the school email address.



# PRIMARY SCHOOL DEAF & HARD OF HEARING ATHLETICS DAY



**WEDNESDAY** | 10am - 2pm  
**20TH NOV '24** | Doncaster Athletics Club  
125a George Street, Doncaster East

For more information email - [sportvic@deafsports.org.au](mailto:sportvic@deafsports.org.au)



## FIRST PEOPLE'S GALLERY EXCURSION – FROM ROOM 1 & 4

On Tuesday 10th of September Rooms 1 and 4 went on an excursion. This term for our focus books, we have been learning about Dreamtime stories. We went to the First People's gallery at the Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre (Museums Victoria) in Carlton.

We caught a bus and then went into the fantastic exhibition which included a variety of Aboriginal artefacts including clothing, tools, toys and baskets. Seeing the Aboriginal artifacts up close was a powerful way to deepen students understanding of the stories and culture.






The Indigenous garden visit added another layer of learning, allowing students to see and experience the traditional uses of native plants and engage with Indigenous art and wildlife. It's a shame they missed seeing the eel which made Tiddalick laugh, but it's great that they got to experience other aspects of the culture and environment.

It was a memorable day filled with discovery and learning.












**Slap! on your hat and Slop! on sunscreen, when the UV is 3 or above.**



**Even on cool and cloudy days.**

In Victoria, UV is 3 and above generally from mid-August to the end of April.

[sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au)

Use all five forms of sun protection

-  Slip
-  Slop
-  Slap
-  Seek
-  Slide



**THE FOLLOWING PROMOTIONS  
ARE FROM ORGANISATIONS  
OUTSIDE OF FURLONG PARK  
SCHOOL FOR DEAF CHILDREN.**





## AUSLAN BILINGUAL STORY TIME

Nurture a love of reading and help develop early literacy in both Auslan and English at our Auslan Bilingual Story Time. Each session is presented in Auslan by a Deaf storyteller along with a children's librarian who will present in English.

Suitable for all children aged 3-5 including deaf and hard of hearing children, their families, and carers. Note, Auslan Bilingual Story Time will replace the English language Story Time sessions in Terms 3 and 4. Presented in partnership with Deaf Children Australia and cohealth, and funded by the Department of Health.

**Where:** Braybrook

**When:** 11am Tuesdays during school term, starting July 16



**For more information:**

Phone: 9188 5850

Website: [www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library](http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library)



MARIBYRNONG  
LIBRARIES

Deaf  
Children  
Australia

cohealth







Storytime  
Sessions

Imagine, Explore, Discover, Connect



Brimbank  
City Council

# Auslan Storytime



## Let's read together!

Celebrate storytelling in all its forms with our fortnightly Auslan storytime sessions.

In partnership with Deaf Children Australia.

📍 St Albans Library  
📅 Fortnightly Sat sessions  
10 & 24 Aug  
7 & 21 Sept  
5 & 19 Oct  
2, 16 & 30 Nov  
🕒 10.30-11am



[brimbanklibraries.vic.gov.au](https://brimbanklibraries.vic.gov.au)  
Join your local library today



## Message from Deaf Children Australia

Hi POD Families and friends,

Please see the below information about this year's DCA Family Camp.



### DCA FAMILY CAMP SATURDAY 16TH - SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER, 2024 PGL CAMPASPE DOWNS

Hello Families,

Registrations are now open for the VIC Family Camp. If you haven't attended Family Camp before and would like to see what is involved, please click on this [link](#).

**Date: Saturday 16 & Sunday 17 November 2024**

**Venue: PGL Campaspe Downs**

<https://www.pgladventurecamps.com.au/campaspe-downs/>

DCA Family camp is for the whole family, not just the child with a hearing loss. Camp includes a packed program with activities for all ages and abilities with a focus on family fun and participation... activities for the big kids (age 5 and over) haven't been confirmed yet but are likely to include canoeing, abseiling, archery and more!

We provide Auslan interpreters at camp and all dietary requirements are catered for. We also have a Little Tykes area with craft and activities for the children aged under 5 who are not able to do the big activities. If you have a child in the Little Tykes area, one parent must be with them at all times.

Camp begins at 9.00am on the Saturday for families to arrive and register for camp with activities starting at 10.00am. The day is packed with activities with day one finishing with an evening meal and a fun, family trivia night with a relaxing drink.

Day two has more activities in the morning leading up to lunch and camp will finish around 1.00pm on the Sunday.

Accommodation will be dormitory/school camp style with single bunk beds. We will try to give each family their own room and bathroom, however this may not always be possible. PGL Campaspe provide a bottom sheet only on the beds, so you will need to bring doona's/sleeping bags, pillows and towels for each person. Alternatively, you can hire linen for \$15.00 per person. This information is included in the registration form.

DCA has managed to keep the camp deposit the same over the last several years, however due to rising camp costs, DCA unfortunately has had to change the deposit structure and cost this year. DCA is still funding the majority of camp costs, however, this year the deposit per family will be:

For a family of 3 people and under –  
\$350 plus GST. Total \$385.00

For a family of 4 people and above –  
\$450 plus GST. Total \$495.00

To register your interest please use the link below to complete the [registration form](#)

### Registration closing date is Friday 5th July

Once registrations have been received you will be notified if you have been allocated a place at camp. Places will be allocated first to families who have not attended one of our camps before. In the event that registrations exceed camp places, then a waitlist will be started and again families will be notified of this.

Once places have been allocated, the next step for families is payment of the deposit. Once payment has been received you will receive confirmation of your place at camp. Places will not be confirmed until the deposit has been received by the due date.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0424 782 027.

Kind regards,  
Stacey

