

Tarwin Lower Primary Newsletter

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Tarwin Lower Primary School

Small School, Big Opportunities

23rd February 2022

Newsletter No. 2

Dear Families,

We have been back at school for three and a half weeks and it has been TERRIFIC! Wow! It was great to have 96% of our students arrive at school on time every day this week! Well done!

The kids also had a wonderful time with their first swimming lesson at SPLASH. Some were a bit apprehensive, as they have missed out on lessons for two years, but they used their courage and jumped (splashed?) right in. Great to see, and it aligns with our value of the week which is having courage.

There has been a lot happening at the school and also behind the scenes. As such, this newsletter is bursting with information. So please read carefully.

We are having our school review next week, and a part of this is parent feedback. Please see the first article.

Our school council elections are now open. Please consider nominating yourself or encouraging others to nominate. This newsletter has information about the role of school council and nomination forms. Or please collect a form from the office.

Compass is a very important part of being connected to school. In Compass you can now access child's classroom newsletter, book in a Conference time and read the first report comment.

Please contact the office if you are having problems logging in. We can reset your password.

We are an eSmart school and also Respectful Relationships school. In this newsletter please read the article about the common misconceptions of online child sexual exploitation. There is also a link to an article

about why you should never tell girls “He is mean to you because he likes you.”

Attendance is a focus of our school this year. Please read the article about why every day counts. There is also a new system at school for signing your child in and out. It uses the Compass Kiosk—which is like a fancy iPad.

Our uniforms are looking fabulous. School Council has allowed time for families to transition over. The new uniforms will become compulsory in Term 3 2023.

We have information about COVID restrictions. This was correct at time of publishing. The restrictions are slowly relaxing. There is no more QR check-ins. However mask wearing remains in place in primary schools due to the low vaccination rate of children. We let you know of any changes when they happen.

Don't forget to check out the calendar of important dates for this term. It seems to be getting fuller not lessening!

Warm Regards,

Jennifer Cox

Principal





School Review

All schools must participate in a school review every 4 years, which helps to inform the development of the schools 4 year Strategic Plan. The aim is to create a self-sustaining cycle of continuous improvement, where schools are supported to improve student outcomes.

A part of the review is parent focus groups. These will take place on **Thursday 10th March from 8.45am—9.15am**. This is a chance to make our school even better based on feedback.

If you are able to spare 30mins on that day, please let the office know.

School Council Elections 2022

Our school has seven Parent Member vacancies. The vacancies are for a two-year term.

The current School Council members are as follows:

- Alex Brusamarello

Parent Members: Retiring at this election

- Ms Vanessa Fisher
- Ms Jayde Headlam
- Mr Shannon Dwyer
- Ms Kylie Laing

I would like to thank our ‘retiring’ school council members for their significant and important contributions to the school community. Retiring school councillors are able to renominate for School Council.

Please see the attached;

- Fact sheet - School Council Elections – information for parents
- Nomination Form for Parent member
- Self Nomination Form for parent member

Personal Goods Brought to School at Owner’s Risk

Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises.

The Department of Education and Training does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will not pay for any loss or damage to such property. Therefore, bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school is discouraged. If it is special, please keep it at home.

Harmony Day

“Everyone Belongs”

Wear your favourite colour to school for Harmony Day on **Monday 21st March**.

There are some fascinating statistics about Australia's diversity that can be good conversation-starters:

- nearly half (49 per cent) of Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent who was
- we identify with over 300 ancestries
- since 1945, more than 7.5 million people have migrated to Australia
- 85 per cent of Australians agree multiculturalism has been good for Australia
- apart from English, the most common languages spoken in Australia are Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Italian, Greek, Tagalog/Filipino, Hindi, Spanish and Punjabi
- More than 70 Indigenous languages are spoken in Australia.

300 Nights Reading

We love to celebrate students’ reading achievements. The last 2 years, with repeated interruption made it too difficult to monitor reading.

This year we are bringing back our reading awards. Every child who records 300 nights or more will receive a trophy at the end of the year. To reach 300 nights a child must read every night including the weekend. The trophy recognises the significant commitment on behalf of the student and the family.

So get reading and make sure you record it in your diaries! Reading diaries are collected each day and a running total is kept.



connect

At Tarwin Lower Primary School we value the connection between home and school. As such, our teachers have written their term letters to school families about the learning for the students. This is so you are informed about what is happening.

These are now available on [Compass](#).

Conferences

These will occur on **Tuesday 1st March from 3.40pm – 6.00pm**. Bookings are made through [Compass](#).

The conferences are face to face for adults who are fully vaccinated. Please show your certificate to the teacher on arrival and wear a proper fitted mask.



Please be on time, as teachers can not go over the allotted 10 minutes. If you are not vaccinated or wish to have the meeting virtually or over the phone due to work commitments, please contact the teacher on [Compass](#).

The conference is a great opportunity for teachers and parent/carers to learn from each other. By working as a team both can be better informed about the child in areas such as their strengths, wellbeing, learning, and social development. Together we can have a fuller understanding of the child, which will benefit them both at home and at school.

Your child's teacher may have contacted you and made other arrangements for a meeting. If so, you do not need to attend both.

If you are unable to make the Conference evening, please contact your child's classroom teacher via [Compass](#), and another day and time will be arranged which is convenient to you both.

Fortnightly Reports

Each fortnight the teachers upload a report comment onto [Compass](#). The most recent one is how your child has settled back to school. The next one will be on reading. These comments make up the end of semester report.

We strongly believe in keeping our families in the loop with their child's learning. Please log into [Compass](#) to read these comments.

Ambulance Cover

It is Departmental policy that the cost of any medical attention or ambulance for a student will be borne by the parent/ guardian. Parents are liable for all medical expenses incurred as a result of student injury, including transport costs such as ambulance or air ambulance costs. I would encourage all families to ensure that they have personal ambulance cover.

Swimming

Swimming began today and all students had a great time. 4 more sessions to go on each Wednesday. Don't forget to pack spare underwear, a plastic bag for wet things, towel, goggles and, of course, bathers.



RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Never Tell Her "He's Mean Because He Likes You"

When girls get teased, harassed, or bullied by boys, there's often someone who pulls out this tired phrase:

"I bet he likes you!"

Read an article which explores what "he must like you" really teaches kids, and breaks down several reasons why we need to stop associating mistreatment with romantic affection.

<https://www.amightygirl.com/blog?p=21631>





Attendance

Students Absent from School

A reminder to parents of arrangements for children absent from school:

- Please submit absence via the Compass Parental Portal.
- Parents of children absent without notification will be contacted by SMS at 10am each day.
- If your child is absent for two days in a row and no reason is given on Compass, the classroom teacher will call home.

Late Arrivals and Punctuality

If your child arrives late, after the 9:00am bell, they must come to the office. They will be then signed in on the Compass Kiosk and given a laminated card to take to their classroom. If your child goes straight to the classroom after 9am, they will be asked to go back to the office.

By signing your child in, the records will automatically be adjusted, so your child is then marked as late rather than absent. Punctuality is very important. Please assist your child by having them to school on time.

Leaving Early

If for some reason your child needs to be collected during school hours, it is our responsibility to ensure that procedures are in place for the collection of your child. Please come to the office to sign out your child. The office will contact your child's classroom teacher via phone and ask them to send the child to the office. Please do not go to the classroom.

The procedures determined by the Department of Education & Training are as follows:

- Students must only be collected by their parents/carers (subject to any specific court orders) or by a person who has been authorised by you to pick up your child.
- If the person is not known to the school, verification of identity using suitable photo identification (eg. driver's licence) will be

requested.

- The adult will record all information on Compass Kiosk screen including;
 - ◊ The child being checked out early
 - ◊ Reason
 - ◊ Adults name

These requirements are necessary to comply with Department regulations, minimise legal liabilities, and assist with emergency management and to provide adequate duty of care.

As you would agree, students have missed a lot of face to face time at school in the past two years. Being at school now helps them to re-establish friendships and a sense of belonging. It also helps them to achieve their best academically when they are at school everyday.

Lost Opportunities

- ▶ An 80% attendance rate is the equivalent of missing one day per week or 40 days per year or over 2 ½ years P-12
- ▶ 85% = 30 days per year or 2 years P-12
- ▶ 90% = 1 day per fortnight or 20 days per year or over 1 year P-12
- ▶ 95% = 10 days per year and over half a year P-12



Uniforms

Last night School Council agreed that our new school uniform items will be 'phased in' gradually with full compliance by the start of Term 3 2023.

As you are all aware, Tarwin Lower Primary School has a compulsory school uniform policy inclusive of many clothing options. This policy has been written, reviewed, endorsed and modified by School Council and is binding as per all other school policies.

The school uniform order form is on the website and available at the office. Teachers will be monitoring school uniforms and making contact with parents where needed. If your family are experiencing financial hardship or require further assistance with purchasing the uniform, please contact the office. We will be more than happy to assist in accessing State School's Relief, which is an organisation committed to assisting families in providing school uniforms for children.

If you wish to order uniform items, please contact the office. There are samples available for you to see.

Mobile Phones

The Minister for Education released the 'Students Using Mobile Phones Policy' for all Victorian government schools on 7 October 2019.

This policy requires all students who choose to bring mobile phones (or phone call/text message capable devices) to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours, including recess and lunchtime. All schools are required to have a local school policy on mobile phones that reflects this requirement, and which provides details for the implementation of the policy at their school. At Tarwin Lower Primary School, mobile phones must be dropped in at the office where they will be locked in the school safe, ready for pick up at the end of the school day.



From the office...

Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)

Applications are open for this year's CSEF. If you are the holder of a current Centrelink card you are invited to apply. \$125.00 is paid into your school account to be used for Camps, sports & excursions. Application forms are available from the office. Please see the attached flyer for details.

Please note: Previous applicants at this school do not have to re-apply. Their applications will be rolled over into this year.

Dental Health Visit

Forms have been sent home for the School Dental Initiative. This is a free dental check for all students.

Late forms can still be accepted. The van will be visiting in the week starting on 7th March.

Curriculum Contributions

Payments for Curriculum Contributions can still be made through the office if you haven't already done so.

School Bank Details

ACC NAME:	Tarwin Lower Primary School
BSB:	633108
ACC:	151500626



A Word From the Chaplain

Earlier this month I visited the Venus Bay Community centre and took part in the free, Wednesday community lunch. If you have not visited this centre before or attended the lunch, I encourage you to check it out. We feasted on fried rice, ice cream and fruit salad on the Wednesday that I visited. I also got to meet some very interesting locals, who I would not have had the opportunity to meet otherwise. A Community Recycling Enterprise (Opportunity Shop) runs from the centre, in addition to a Thursday morning playgroup. I was excited to hear that there is a school holiday program for the children, which includes craft activities. If you would like to know more about any of the above or other services, please contact Alison, the Manager or check out the Venus Bay Community Centre Facebook page.



How exciting that we have managed to get through the first month of school without any disruptions. This year is already looking very different to last year and no doubt there is much relief about that. As always, I am here to support you and your family as you negotiate through the challenges of 2022. I feel very privileged to be a part of the Tarwin Lower Primary School community and thank you for the way you have so warmly embraced me. I enjoy very much our chats at school pick-up time, interacting with your children in the classroom and the playground and being on staff. Being part of a smaller school community is a good fit for me and has enabled me to diversify and develop in the way I provide Chaplaincy services. My days continue to be busy and varied, but hopefully I'm never too busy to stop and chat. Yours, your children's and the staff's wellbeing will always be my first priority.

Before signing off I want to say a special thank you to the ladies who are helping with breakfast club this term. Without you, we would not be able to run the program 4 out of 5 mornings a week. The students really enjoy the social aspect of breakfast club and trying out the new cereals. I wonder what will be on the menu the next few weeks. Sue

Masks

As students are still being asked to wear masks in the classroom we encourage families to send cloth masks with their children. This is much kinder to the environment and creates much less waste.

COVID -19 Restrictions

Sincere thanks again to all families for your support and patience during these early weeks of the school term. We have been particularly grateful for the close communication with families; this has been vitally important for composing our daily updates and helping everyone to have the most up to date information possible. We can't emphasise enough the importance of regularly administering the rapid antigen tests that have been provided by the Department of Education & Training as many students can be asymptomatic.

Unfortunately due to COVID restrictions parents/guardians are not able to attend assembly until further notice.

As you are aware, all Victorian schools are operating in accordance with mandated COVID response measures. Staff are mandated to undertake 2 RATs each week. Staff and families are required to notify the school if there is a positive COVID test and then isolate for 7 days.

Students in years 3-6 are still required to wear masks indoors. This is due to the low vaccination rate among young people.

Our next shipment of RATs have been delivered and will be going home tomorrow (Thursday). We request students are tested each Monday and Thursday morning.



Congratulations

Week 2 students - for trying their best.



New Baby!

Congratulations to David and Chrissy on the safe arrival of their new daughter. A little sister for Sam, Jack & Eleanor. Best wishes to you all.



Happy Birthday

We hope you had a great day on your birthday

- ◆ Sam
- ◆ Sue Cronk



Week 3 students - for having a positive attitude.





Fact sheet 1: school council elections – information for parents

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad direction of a school, in accordance with Ministerial Order 1280 Constitution of Government School Councils, and the Education and Training Reform Act 2006. In doing this, a school council may directly influence the quality of education for students.

Who is on the school council?

For most primary school councils, there are several possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected parent member category** – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department employees can be parent members at their child's school providing that they are not engaged in work at the school.
- **A mandated elected school employee member category** – members of this category make up no more than one-third of membership. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- **An optional community member category** – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experience. Department employees are not eligible to be community members.
- A small number of school councils have **nominee members**.

For all schools with a Year 7 and above cohort, there is an additional category of membership:

- **A mandated elected student member category, two positions.**

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills and a range of experiences and knowledge that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

Each member brings their own valuable skills and knowledge to the role, however, in order to successfully perform their duties, councillors may need to gain some new skills and knowledge.

It is important to have an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

Code of conduct for school councillors

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the *Public Administration Act 2004*.

School councillors must comply with the Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to:

- **act with honesty and integrity** – be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty
- **act in good faith in the best interests of the school** – work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds
- **act fairly and impartially** – consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self-interest
- **use information appropriately** – respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available
- **exercise due care, diligence and skill** – accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school
- **use the position appropriately** – not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage
- **act in a financially responsible manner** – observe all the above principles when making financial decisions
- **comply with relevant legislation and policies** – know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law
- **demonstrate leadership and stewardship** – set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable.

Indemnity for school council members

School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in:

- a. the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or
- b. the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council.

In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

How can you become involved?

By participating in, and voting in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

**What do you need to do to stand for election?**

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for nominations in Term 1 of each year. Council elections must be completed by 31 March, unless varied by the Minister for Education.

If you stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or, you can nominate yourself in the parent member category. You can only be nominated by another member of the same electorate that you are eligible for (e.g. a member of the parent electorate may only nominate another parent of that electorate)

Department employees with a child enrolled at a school where they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for parent membership at that school.

Return your completed nomination form to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt via post, email or by hand delivery.

Generally, if there are more nominations than vacancies a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

- Consider standing for election to school council.
- Ask the principal for instructions if you are not sure what to do.
- Be sure to vote if the election goes to ballot.
- Contact the principal if you are unsure about what is required at any stage of the election process.

Form 4: nomination form for parent member category

I wish to nominate (name below)
for an elected position as a parent member on the school council.

Candidate's details

Name
Residential Address:
Contact phone (mobile or landline):
Email:

Nominators details

I am the parent/guardian of (name below)
who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

Statement	Yes (Mark with an x)	No (Mark with an x)
The person I have nominated is:		
an employee of the Department of Education and Training.		
an employee of the school council.		
is engaged in work at and for the school.		

Name of nominator

Signature of nominator

Date:	
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Candidate to complete

I accept the nomination and I am prepared to serve as a parent member of the above-named school council.

I hereby declare that:

- I am not, and have never been, insolvent under administration
- I am of sound mind
- I have not been found guilty of an offence that is, or would if committed in Victoria be, an indictable offence
- I am not a registrable offender within the meaning of the *Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004*.



Term 1 – important dates	
Wed 23 Feb	Prep rest day and prep individual testing
Wed 23 Feb	Swimming Lessons for years 1-6 @SPLASH
Mon 28 Feb	School Review
Tues 1 March	Family / Teacher Conferences – 3:40pm-6:00pm
Wed 2 March	Prep rest day and prep individual testing
Wed 2 March	Swimming Lessons for years 1-6 @SPLASH
Fri 4 March	Clean Up Australia Day
Mon 7 - Fri 11 Mar	Dental Health Van - one day during this week
Wed 9 March	Prep rest day
Wed 9 March	Swimming Lessons for years 1-6 @SPLASH
Thurs 10 March	School Review
Mon 14 March	Labour Day Holiday
Wed 16 March	Preps first Wednesday
Wed 16 March	Swimming Lessons for years 1-6 @SPLASH
Mon 21st March	Harmony Day
Tues 22 March	Venus Bay Bug Blitz and Mangrove excursion (Years 2-6)
Wed 23 March	Swimming Lessons for years 1-6 @SPLASH
Fri 1 April	Waratah Athletics for years 3-6 @Foster
Thu 7 April	District Athletics @Foster
Fri 8 April	Last day of school – finish 2.20pm
School Holidays 9-26 th April	
Mon 25 April	ANZAC Day – no school
Tues 26 April	Curriculum Day – no school
Wed 27 April	First day of Term 2



Tarwin Valley MARC

Term 1, 2022

MARC Library News

WELCOME BACK TO 2022!

We begin a new year with hope and confidence that it will be a full year of learning experiences, socialization and happiness. Our love of literature remains, as always, firmly in place and we will continue to grow and share that with our students. In MARC, reading and all that it encompasses, is our absolute and constant focus for all our students.



PREVIEW OF LEARNING

We have begun Term 1, 2022 with expectations of behaviours and learning for all. In Weeks 2,3 and 4 all students will share books by the authors Junior/Julia Donaldson, Middle/Gus Gordon and Senior/Margaret Wild. In Week 5 we will enjoy new literature such as 'Go Home Cat' by Sonya Hartnett for the junior students. Weeks 6 and 7 will be devoted to Library Studies focussing on Non Fiction books and their specific features and classification. In celebration of Harmony Day, Week 8 chosen books will support understanding and knowledge of diversity. Week 9 gives further opportunities to 'discover' new literature. Finally Week 10 will have 'Easter' as its focus.

Yours in Learning and Reading,
Jeanette Johnson & Sophie Callcott

New books in the van—available to borrow now!



AUTHORS IN FOCUS THIS TERM

Julia Donaldson

<https://www.juliadonaldson.co.uk/>



Gus Gordon

<http://www.gusgordon.com/>



Margaret Wild

<https://www.allenandunwin.com/authors/w/margaret-wild>



DID YOU KNOW?

In 2022 the MARC van will be at:
Meeniyan PS on Monday
Welshpool PS on Tuesday
Tarwin Lower PS on Wednesday
Toora PS on Thursday
Fish Creek PS on Friday

Remember to return your books on these days so you can borrow!



COVIDSafe measures extension 17 February 2022

We want to thank parents and students for the great job they have done in keeping our school as safe as possible by following important COVIDSafe measures such as mask wearing, physical distancing, ventilation, getting vaccinated and rapid antigen testing.

This has meant that our school has remained open and our students in class. This is a fantastic outcome and a testament to the hard work of parents, carers, students and school staff.

Rapid antigen tests

To keep schools as safe as possible, the Victorian Government has extended the COVIDSafe measures introduced for the beginning of Term 1. This includes extending the availability of free rapid antigen tests (RAT) for screening until the end of term. It is anticipated an additional 24 million RATs will be provided to schools and early childhood settings to continue to support early detection and prevent infection, for use at home.

The need for this program will continue to be monitored, and may end earlier based on health advice. This is great news and will mean we're able to continue identifying COVID-19 cases as early as possible, reducing the impact on our school and individuals. [Department of Health modelling indicates that in the first two weeks of school returning, the program has already prevented more than 21,000 cases in schools alone. Their modelling indicates, assuming a 75 per cent compliance rate with screening of students, that by continuing RAT screening in schools for the full 10 weeks of Term 1, we will prevent:](#)

- ◆ 61,000 COVID-19 infections in children aged 5 to 17
- ◆ more than 150,000 COVID-19 infections in the overall community (on average 15,000 per week over 10 weeks, or more than 2,100 per day)
- ◆ around 400 hospital admissions.

The department will continue to supply RATs to our school for your use. These will be sent home with students tomorrow. Twice-a-week testing continues to be strongly recommended for both students and staff, each Monday and Thursday morning. Testing will be conducted at home, and students and staff must report any positive result. There is no requirement to report a negative result.

Vaccination

Vaccination is another key component to protect students and staff in school settings.

Vaccinations for children aged 5 to 11 are open and third dose vaccinations for 16 to 17 year olds are now available.

There are lots of convenient options to access vaccinations. These include state-wide vaccination hubs, your local GP or pharmacy. You can book your appointment in a few different ways, including:

- ◆ online: coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine
- ◆ by phone: 1800 675 398 (Coronavirus Hotline)
- ◆ In person: talk to your local pharmacy, doctor, or attend a state-wide vaccination hub.
- ◆ using the COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Finder - [COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Finder | Australian Government Department of Health](#)

In addition, schools provide a trusted place among the community to access vaccination, particularly for families who may experience language or social barriers.

Following successful implementation of school pop-up clinics at the commencement of Term 1, more than 230 schools across Victoria are currently hosting mini-vaccination clinics led by GPs and pharmacists. Many of these clinics will also make vaccinations available the broader school community, inclusive of families of students and school staff.

Ventilation

Improving ventilation is one of the most effective measures to keep education settings safe. 51,000 air purifiers were delivered to schools by Term 1, 2022 to support COVIDSafe settings in schools.

Up to an additional 60,000 air purifiers will be rolled out to schools ahead of winter to supplement natural and mechanical ventilation during the cooler months.

The winter allocation will provide enough purifiers to cover all classrooms, in government schools and low-fee non-government schools based on current enrolments. This includes general purpose classrooms and other specialist classrooms such as art and science rooms.

Mask rules will remain the same, with students in Grade 3 and above required to wear masks – although they will not be required outdoors.

On behalf of the school, I would like to thank you again for your continued support in helping your child to complete the rapid antigen tests and other COVID Safe measures. As a result of these efforts our school can continue providing a safe environment for students and staff.



Form 3: self-nomination form for parent member category

I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent member on the school council.

Name

Residential Address:

Contact phone (mobile or landline):

Email:

I am the parent/guardian of

who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

Statement	Yes <i>(Mark with an x)</i>	No <i>(Mark with an x)</i>
I am an employee of the Department of Education and Training		
I am an employee of the school council		
I am engaged in work at and for the school.		

I am prepared to serve as a parent member of the above-named school council.

I hereby declare that:

- I am not, and have never been, insolvent under administration
- I am of sound mind
- I have not been found guilty of an offence that is, or would if committed in Victoria be, an indictable offence
- I am not a registrable offender within the meaning of the *Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004*.
- I am not suffering from any medical condition that would affect my ability to perform the role of member of a school council.

Signature of Candidate

Date: _____



THE EDUCATION STATE

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.





1-2-3 Magic & Emotion Coaching Program

Free live ONLINE program for parents of children aged 2 to 12

Tired of yelling and nagging?

Resolve difficult behaviour in children aged 2 to 12.

In 3 sessions parents will learn:

- How to discipline without arguing, yelling or smacking;
- How to handle challenging behaviours;
- How to use emotion coaching to encourage good behaviour;
- Strategies for encouraging good behaviour;
- How to sort behaviours and choose correct strategies using "The 3 Choices Model".

We'll also work on strategies so you can:

- Strengthen your relationship with your child;
- Strengthen your child's emotional resilience.

Parents will receive:

- A FREE workbook (valued at \$12) to apply the concepts learnt
- A Certificate of Completion

Do this highly sought after parenting program FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME -Hurry! Places are limited-

When?

11:30am - 2:30pm

Over 3 Thursdays:

March 17th

March 24th

March 31st, 2022

Cost?

FREE

Get in touch Bookings are essential!

Please contact:

Mark Brookes

Uniting Gippsland

5662 5150

gippsland.leonatha.reception@vt-uniting.org

[@vt-uniting.org](https://www.vt-uniting.org)

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EVERY DAY COUNTS

EVERY DAY COUNTS

PRIMARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

SCHOOL IS BETTER WHEN YOUR CHILD IS THERE

Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates.

It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

IN VICTORIA SCHOOL IS COMPULSORY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 6 -17 YEARS

Student Absences

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and developing good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

Family holidays - It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term. If you are planning to go on holiday during term time, make sure that you talk to your child's school in advance, and work with them to develop an absence learning plan.

"Day off" – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.



EVERY DAY COUNTS

School refusal - School refusing children will experience significant emotional distress not only when going to school but also at the thought of going to school; they may be absent from school for weeks or even months at a time. School refusal differs from truancy as children generally stay home with the knowledge of the parents and despite their best efforts to encourage their child to go to school. See: [My child or teenager has anxiety](#)

BEING AWAY FROM SCHOOL FOR ONE DAY A FORTNIGHT EQUALS MISSING 1.5 YEARS OVER 13 YEARS OF SCHOOL

If your child is away

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

Inform the school

- Speak with your child's classroom teacher and find out what work they need to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Training Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Chronic or ongoing attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice being issued to parent/s.

If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

Top attendance tips for parents

- Schools want to work in partnership with parents – act early if you have any concerns by contacting your child's school and asking for advice and support
- Remember that every day counts
- There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes and their social connectedness
- Talk positively about school and the importance of attending every day
- Open and prompt communication with your child's school about all absences is a good idea
- Avoid making routine medical and dental appointments during the school day or planning family holidays during the term
- Seek help from your school if you are concerned about your child's attendance and wellbeing. Schools want to work in partnership with parents to support student attendance and wellbeing.

Further information

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/studentmanagement/attendance/Pages/improve-attendance.aspx>

Common misconceptions of online child sexual exploitation

Online child sexual exploitation is a complex issue. There are many myths about the topic, and it's critical to get the facts right.

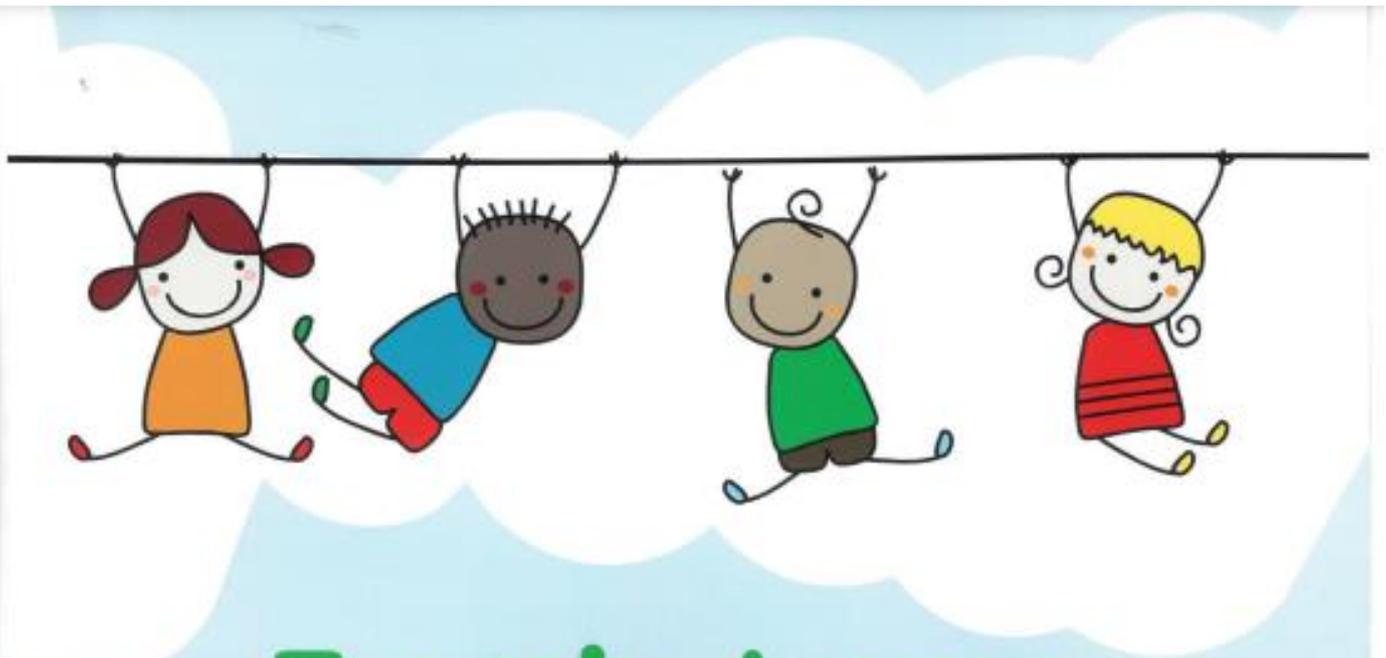
Myth	Reality
 <p>Online child sex offenders are 'strangers' to victims</p>	 <p>Online child sex offenders can be known to the victim, such as a family friend or relative</p>
 <p>My child is primary school-aged, so are not at risk</p>	 <p>Online child sexual offenders do not discriminate against age</p>
 <p>Only females are at risk of online child sexual exploitation</p>	 <p>Anyone under the age of 18 can be a victim of online child sexual exploitation</p>
 <p>Online child sex offenders are always older males</p>	 <p>Online child sex offenders can be any age, male or female and come from any background</p>
 <p>Online child sexual exploitation and child sex abuse doesn't happen in Australia</p>	 <p>Australian law enforcement continue to disrupt online child sex offender networks in Australia</p>
 <p>Parental controls and privacy settings are enough to keep children and young people safe online</p>	 <p>To ensure online safety, multiple strategies are needed, including open and honest conversations with children and young people</p>
 <p>Children's games (on gaming consoles or apps) are always safer</p>	 <p>Any site, game, app or platform with a chat function can be used by online child sex offenders</p>
 <p>Just viewing online child sexual exploitation and abuse material isn't causing any harm</p>	 <p>Viewing such material continues the cycle of harm for victims and creates a market to produce more material</p>
 <p>Online child sexual exploitation isn't as important as safety in the physical world</p>	 <p>Exploitation has offline impacts</p>
 <p>Children in smaller or more isolated towns are safer from offenders</p>	 <p>Victims of online child sexual exploitation can be located anywhere</p>
 <p>I would have time to notice the signs if my child was being groomed online</p>	 <p>It can take only minutes for online child sex offenders to gain trust and form 'friendships' with a potential victim</p>
 <p>Online child sexual exploitation and abuse won't happen to my child</p>	 <p>Online child sexual exploitation and abuse can happen to anyone under 18 years and offenders are skilled in exploiting vulnerabilities</p>

Have you seen inappropriate behaviour towards children online? Report it at [accee.gov.au/report](https://www.accee.gov.au/report)





23rd February 2022



Tarwin Lower Playgroup

Playgroup is a fun and nurturing environment, which provides a place for children to have new experiences and opportunities to play, socialise and discover their world.

Every Friday of the School Term

9am - 11am

at Tarwin Lower Primary School

WHERE YOUR CHILD CAN PLAY AND LEARN

This is a South Gippsland Shire Supported Playgroup. Call Michelle for more information in 0417 388 911 or 56629300



Tarwin Lower
Primary School



Kindness

Cooperation

Resilience

Respect