

Congupna Primary School

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



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Dear School Community,

Welcome to our first Newsletter for 2024 and what we are hoping will be another very successful year at school. We have eleven new students in Grades F, 2 and 4 and five new staff members across the school, including a teacher that will be sharing the Grade 3/4 classroom with **Ms Sage Kuch on Mondays - Ms Niamh (pronounced Neve) Lowe**. As well as Ms Kuch and Ms Lowe, we also have two new Teacher's Aides **Ms Emmily Sowter (Miss S) and Mrs Brooke Hodgetts (Mrs H)**, and a new psychologist **Mrs Rachel Robertson** who started today. So along with all of these new additions, we also have classroom changes for Ms Mangiameli (5/6) and Ms Kildey (1/2) and all of this change has been a breath of fresh air. Students have settled extremely well, and we are excited for a busy and productive first Term.

You may have noticed some improvements have been made to our school service road and staff car park fence over the summer holidays. We also had a major water leak at the front of the school which took most of the summer holidays to locate and repair, so it has been quite an eventful break! **A wider rubber speed cushion will be refitted on the service road in the coming days**, so traffic slows before the school crossing and ensures the safety of our students. There is also some extra asphaltting works scheduled to take place over the next week. Please don't park on the main road at pick up or drive from the service road onto the main road in front of the school. The service road has a single entry and exit point that needs to be used safely by everyone, especially at drop off and pick up.

We are currently seeking Nominations for School Council. We have three Parent positions that are up for re-nomination and two Staff positions that are up for re-nomination. **Current members can renominate.** If we have more nominations than positions vacant, we will proceed to an Election. Please see the Fact Sheet and Nomination Forms attached and send me a Seesaw message or call me if you would like to discuss your potential nomination.

Our Kitchen Garden Program starts tomorrow, and we have five sessions planned for Term 1. We plan to tidy up our Chook pen and Vegetable Garden tomorrow and look forward to seeing Katie Thorp work closely with our

students again focusing on different nutrition, kitchen and gardening teaching and learning.

Our School Swimming Program starts in just over a week on Monday 12th February in both the Indoor Pool at the Squash Centre and the Numurkah Outdoor Pool across the road. The whole school will leave school each day at midday for six x half-hour lessons over two weeks. Students and Staff will arrive back at school each day at around 2:15pm on our scheduled swimming days. **The cost is \$60 per student for the six lessons and this needs to be paid before next Friday 9th February.** If you need assistance or would like to set up a payment plan, please contact administration. Please see permission notes for what to bring. We like to ensure that students wear their bathers underneath their uniform so that we do not have a lengthy changeroom visit at the pool before lessons.

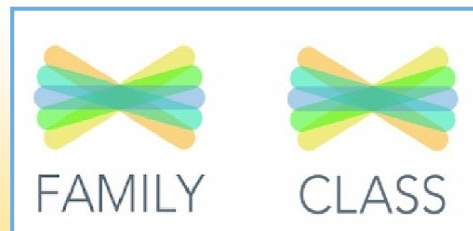
We have an AFL Visit next Monday lunchtime and I am very pleased to announce that the mighty Essendon Football Club will be visiting. If you would like to send specific Essendon merchandise to be signed, there will be a time allocated to this. Otherwise, all students will receive signatures from the players who attend and get their photo taken. I requested that Timmy Watson attend but they said that he had retired, so we will just have to make do.

For those new families to the school, our first Assembly will take place on Friday at 2:40 pm. We will be **presenting our new Foundation students with a Welcome to School pack** amongst other things, and everyone is welcome. There will also be a Foundation Parents Meeting straight afterwards in the F/1 Classroom.

Thanks for Reading, Adam Cleary - Principal.

Thought for the week

**Trust the magic
of new beginnings.**



2024 SCHOOL COUNCIL

President: Tim Bye
Deputy: Lauren Sibio
Secretary: Wendy Sidebottom
Treasurer: Fiona Davis
Members: Adam Cleary, Sarah Tricarico, Jess Benton, Jeremy Lee, Jill Richardson, Sam Prentice and Jaclyn McCarty.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Term 1

Tuesday 21 February from 6:30pm - AGM

2024 SCHOOL PARENTS & FRIENDS

President: Angie Grills
Secretary: Amy Ellis
Vice President: Georgina Prentice
Members: Bernadette O'Toole, Lexi Wright, Lauren Sibio, Jess Benton, Robyn Reynolds, Alice Evans, Emily Krake, Jacinta Allen, Rebecca Threlfall, Jayde Bannister, Brooke McLeod, Ebony Thorn, Fiona Davis and Erin Wilson.

Lunch Orders Start Tomorrow



The Congupna General Store offer lunch orders for our School each Friday.

See the Lunch List attached to this newsletter for details of what can be ordered and prices.

Please write your child's name, class and their order clearly on a brown paper bag or sandwich bag and enclose the correct money.

TERM 1 CALENDAR - 2024

February

2nd Swimming Permission Notices Due
2nd First Kitchen Garden Program
2nd Foundation Information Session 3pm
5th AFL Visit
7th No Foundation Students
8th School Council Nominations close
9th Kitchen Garden Program
12th Swimming @ Numurkah YMCA
13th Swimming @ Numurkah YMCA
14th No Foundation Students
15th Swimming @ Numurkah YMCA
16th Student Learning Conferences
(Student Free Day)
20th Swimming @ Numurkah YMCA
21st No Foundation Students
22nd Swimming @ Numurkah YMCA
22nd Book Club Due
23rd Swimming @ Numurkah YMCA

March

5th School Council AGM
11th Labour Day Public Holiday
15th Athletics Carnival @ McEwen Reserve
27th School Photos (Wednesday)
28th Last Day of Term 1
29th Good Friday Public Holiday

TERM 1 CALENDAR - 2024

April

15th First day back for Term 2
25th Anzac Day Public Holiday
28th Bunnings BBQ (P&F Fundraiser)

Lucinda Threlfall



2023 Terrific Kid of the Year

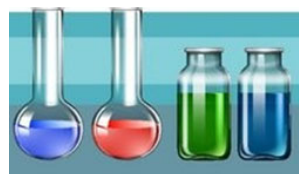
Lucinda has channelled her natural enthusiasm and intellect into being a bright and bubbly, but very strong leader at school in 2023. Lucinda has always had a strong aptitude for leadership but has adopted a much more collaborative and inclusive approach. Her leadership, quiet confidence and outstanding ability will hold her in very good stead to achieve anything in life that she sets her mind to. You have come a long way Lucinda, and you and your family should be very proud.



Phil Markham

STEM

Award Winners for 2023



**Will O'Toole
and
Lachie Davis**



A big welcome to some of our fabulous new staff members (from left to right).

Psychologist Mrs Rachel Robertson and Teacher's Aides
Mrs Brooke Hodgetts (Mrs H) and Ms Emmily Sowter (Miss S).

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSION FUND (CSEF)

If you currently hold a health care card, your child is eligible for the CSEF payment. Please call into the office to sign a form to claim the CSEF payment. A new form needs to be signed each year. The amount of \$125 will be received by the school and will be used to cover the cost of the swimming program and excursions.

CONGUPNA PRIMARY SCHOOL LUNCH LIST

HOT FOOD

Chicken Nuggets	\$1.00
Dim Sims	\$1.00
Potato Cake	\$1.00
Mini Pies / Mini Sausage Roll	\$1.00
Hot Dog (plus sauce)	\$4.50
Ham and Pineapple Pizza	\$4.00
Cheeseburger	\$5.00

COLD FOOD

Ham / Chicken Sandwiches	\$4.00
Add tomato, cheese, lettuce, beetroot, carrot	Add 20c per item

COLD DRINKS

250ml Apple / Orange Juice	\$3.00
250ml Chocolate or Strawberry Milk Nippy	\$3.00

DRUMBEAT for kids



Harnessing Hope
Outside support for inside healing

Discovering Relationships Using Music, Beliefs, Emotions, Attitudes and Thoughts

Join us for nine weeks of drumming and fun. The program can help your child in the following ways:

- improve their mental wellbeing
- increase their self-esteem
- reduce their stress levels
- build their communication and teamwork skills.



Dates

9 weeks
22 July - 16 September

When

Thursdays
4:00 - 5:00pm

Where

FamilyCare
19 Welsford St,
Shepparton

This DRUMBEAT program is targeted for children (8–12 years) who have experienced unhealthy relationships.

For more information, call FamilyCare's Central Intake 1800 161 306



4–10 February 2024

Awesome lunch, awesome day!

www.healthylunchboxweek.org.au

SCHOLASTIC Book Club

orders are due:

22 February 2024

Early Years

Primary Education

Secondary Education

Higher Education & Skills

Putting right foot forward, because Every Day Counts!

Getting your child up, dressed, fed and off to school isn't always easy. But it's super important for their education.

There are no safe number of days for missing school. Every day missed can put a student behind – with their studies, with their friends and with their connection to school.

Illness is a valid reason to stay at home. But there are very few other reasons... and every day missed adds up:

- Missing a day a fortnight adds up to four weeks a year – or an entire year of education by Year 12
- A child missing a day a week will miss 2 ½ years of school – placing them well behind their peers
- Even missing 30 minutes a day adds up to four weeks a year

With school starting, we encourage parents and carers to set routines and

talk positively about the importance of attending school every day. Try to avoid doctor or dentist visits during the school day and plan family holidays for the term break.

Schools always want to positively work in partnership with their families. Act early if you have attendance concerns by contacting your child's school and asking for advice and support.

Because Every Day Counts.

Hear Shepparton primary students spread the message:



SHEPPARTON
EDUCATION PLAN

The Shepparton Education Plan
improving education outcomes & life opportunities
from early years to adulthood
www.vic.gov.au/education-plans

Appendix A

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 according to Ministerial Order 1280. 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 category 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.
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Form 2: notice of election and call for nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of:
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Congupna Primary School

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00pm on:

8 th February 2024

The ballot will close at 4.00pm on:

15 th February 2024

Following the closing of nominations, a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school.

The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

Membership category

Parent member

Term of office

Year

From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in:
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2024

to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in:

2026

Number of positions:

3

Membership category

School employee member

Term of office

Year

From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in:
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2024

to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in:

2026

Number of positions:

2

Following the closing of nominations, a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school.

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Principal signature



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 (Mark with an x)	No (Mark with an x)
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 not been insolvent under administration within the last three years
- 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:	
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