

Congupna Primary School

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



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PAYMENTS:

Account Name: Congupna Primary School

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Account number: 1014 5385

Dear School Community,

We have an **AFL Visit from Carlton Football Club** tomorrow morning. Students will participate in a short Question and Answer session initially, before going to the oval for a big Kick-to-kick! It is always great to see professional sportsmen and women visit our students and answer all their fantastic questions. We will compile an Autograph Sheet to share with all students, but if you have any specific Carlton Football Club merchandise you would like signed, we will make sure that these items can be signed.

Our **School Swimming Program begins on Monday** with six scheduled sessions over the two weeks. We have had to make some last-minute modifications due to situations out of our control and will start with three sessions each week comprising of **Monday, Tuesday and Thursday** in the first week and **Monday, Tuesday and Friday** in the second week. There will be an assessment day at the start to ensure all swimmers are placed in the appropriate groups. We will travel by bus to swimming from school at around midday and return at around 2:30pm. All students should wear rashies (both indoor and outdoor pools), and students swimming in the outdoor pool will be asked to apply sunscreen. Swimming sessions last 30 minutes and we have two sessions, one after the other so there will be a short eating/play time outside of the pool. **Students should wear their bathers underneath their school clothes** to school so that they can get changed very quickly before swimming. Students should bring goggles (if they use them), a towel, dry underwear, a plastic bag (to keep your swimming bag dry) and a rashie (**Label all items!**) All students need to have permission forms and payment finalised before swimming and swimming is compulsory. We expect all students to participate. It is not about creating swimming superstars, it is about giving our students the skills they need to be safe in and around water. Non-swimmers will attend the pool and read quietly if they have a good excuse not to participate.

Please find attached a Timetable for our upcoming Student Learning Conferences on **Friday 13th February**. This is a student-free day apart from the 15-minute time slot dedicated to talking about each student's individual learning goals. Please negotiate any required changes directly with

each classroom teacher. Changes are not always straightforward as we have many siblings that attend interviews one after another. Alternatively, if this day does not suit, you may seek an alternative day and time that does suit and teachers will make every effort to try and accommodate these requests. We will be asking teachers to stick **very tightly to the 15-minute slots** as we have some families go from class to class and do not want to waste people's time. If you require more time, please let teachers know that you would like a follow up meeting if required. All conferences will take place in student's respective classrooms, apart **from Grade 5/6 who will be in the STEM Lab**. This is due to TheirCare operating out of the Library on this day for students who require care.

School Community involvement at our school is very much encouraged through participation in our School Council, Parents & Friends Committee or Congupna Cruzers soccer teams. **You will find a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations** Form attached, as well as a **Fact Sheet for Families**. We have three vacant Parent positions and two vacant School Employee positions on School Council in 2026, and we are **seeking nominations before 4pm on Thursday 12th February**. More information will follow in the coming weeks for both our Parents & Friends Committee and Congupna Cruzers.

Thanks for Reading, Adam Cleary - Principal

Thought for the week

The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

- President:** Fiona Davis
Deputy: Lauren Sibio
Secretary: Wendy Sidebottom
Treasurer: Jill Richardson
Members: Adam Cleary, Brad Benton, Sam Prentice, Jaclyn McCarty, Jeremy Lee, Greg Joinbee, Amy Ellis.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING DATES

24 February 2026 —AGM

SCHOOL PARENTS & FRIENDS

- President:** Angie Grills
Secretary: Alice Evans
Vice President: Erin Wilson
Treasurer: Jill Richardson
Members: Amy Ellis, Lauren Sibio, Jess Benton, Bec Threlfall, Robyn Reynolds Brooke McLeod, Fi Davis, Bernadette O’Toole, Lexi Wright, Georgina Prentice, Emily Krake, Jacinta Allen, Jayde Bannister.

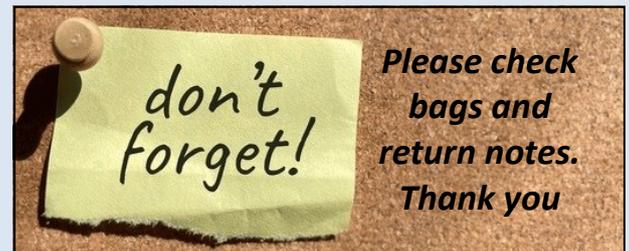
TERM 1 CALENDAR - 2026

February

- 9th Swimming Program (Mon)
 10th Swimming Program (Tues)
 12th Swimming Program (Thurs)
 13th Student Learning Conferences
 16th Swimming Program (Mon)
 17th Swimming Program (Tues)
 20th Swimming Program (Fri)

March

- 9th Labour Day Holiday
 13th Athletics Carnival
 31st School Photos



AUSKICK & SUPERKICK CLINIC

Session details
 Location – Deakin Reserve, Shepparton
 Timings – 4.30 - 5.30pm
 Date – Thursday 5 February
 Ages – 5-12 (can be 4 turning 5 in 2026)

REGISTER HERE

Auslan

Summer

Start with flat hand, fingers touching chin and thumb extended. Move hand out turning wrist so that hand ends with palm facing forward a small distance in front of shoulder. Can end lower and in the direction of the hot thing.



We are **BRAVE** Awards

Willow Russell - for showing such bravery starting school and for having courage to try new things. Well done!

Mason Hepworth - for showing bravery staring at a new school and settling into the classroom.

Charlie White – well done on a great first week back!

Evelyn Soliman – for being brave and starting at Congupna with a smile and having a laugh. Well done!

Elijah Soliman - for your brave and excellent start to the year. Well done!

STEM Awards

Hestton Szymanski - for his detailed Natural Disaster picture.

It's a Girl

Congratulations to our teacher Miss Kuch and her partner Tom on the safe arrival of their daughter, born on Saturday 31 January.

Welcome to the world,
Maya Wren Rogers.

We wish the family all the very best during this special time.



School Crossing Supervisor Safety Awareness Day

Friday 6 February 2026

TOMORROW (Friday 6 February) is School Crossing Supervisor Safety Awareness Day. It's a reminder for all drivers to slow down, pay attention, and follow the rules at school crossings. Our Supervisors play a vital role in keeping children and families safe – but they also need our help to stay safe while doing their job.



2026 SEMESTER 1

STUDENT LEARNING CONFERENCES

Friday 13th February

	<i>Mrs Wendy Sidebottom & Mrs Sarah Tricarico Grade F/1</i>	<i>Ms Celeste Huttley Grade 1/2</i>	<i>Ms Julia Kildey Grade 3</i>	<i>Mr Clark Pettigrew Grade 4</i>	<i>Ms Amelia Mangiameli Grade 5/6</i>
8:00 am	L Howard	Krake	Newham	Ellis	Lancaster
8:15 am	Good	Ellis	Krake	Heard	Newham
8:30 am	Macaulay	Newham	White	Sibio	Richardson
8:45 am	White	Sibio	Bye	Binion-Hutchinson	Wallace
9:00 am	A Howard	Bains	Dohnt	Prentice	Bye
9:15 am	Dohnt	Charters	Prentice	Evans	Thorn
9:30 am	Prentice	Evans	Hovenden	Charters	Allen
9:45 am	Hovenden	Preston	Corneille	Wright	Harrison
10:00 am	Szymanski	Sharp	Harrison	Wilson	Wright
10:15 am	Thyne	Wilson		McRae	Szymanski
10:30 – 11:00 am MORNING TEA					
11:00 am	Ismet	Benton	Scott	Hepworth	Sunnerdale
11:15 am	Ismet	Hepworth	Mark	Benton	Martinez
11:30 am	Llewellyn	Hudson	Martinez	Sidebottom	Stevens
11:45 am	Head	Sidebottom	Wathen	Hudson	Keeble
12:00 pm	Nicolopoulos	Gattuso	Robertson	Lee	D'Agostino
12:15 pm	Lee	Joinbee	Nicolopoulos	D'Agostino	Robertson
12:30 – 1:00 pm LUNCH					
1:00 pm	Walters	Marshall		McCarty-Hill	Threfall
1:15 pm	Blake	Russell		Soliman	Sehgal
1:30 pm	Russell	Rodriguez-Saenz			Soliman
1:45 pm	Clark				
2:00 pm			Wathen		
2:15 pm					
2:30 pm					
<i>Other</i>		Pearce	Reynolds		
<i>Other</i>					

Form 2: notice of election and call for nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of <i>(school name below)</i>
<i>Congupna Primary School</i>

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00pm on <i>(insert day, month and year)</i> .
<i>Thursday 12th February, 2026</i>

The ballot will close at 4.00pm on <i>(insert day, month and year)</i> .
<i>Thursday 19th February, 2026</i>

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	2026
to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in	2028

Number of positions:	3
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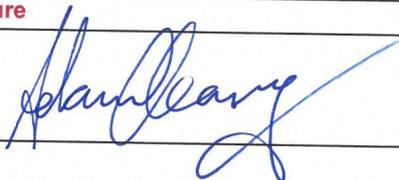
Membership category
School employee member

Term of office	Year
From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in	2026
to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in	2028

Number of positions:	2
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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 <i>(Mark with an x)</i>	No <i>(Mark with an x)</i>
I am an employee of the Department of Education		
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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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** – members of this category generally comprise more than one third of the council's total membership. 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.

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, 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.