



# DUNKELD CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

*We are a Child Safe School and we will protect all children at all times.*

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Find us on 

## Newsletter No. 2 – Wednesday 17 February 2021

### FEBRUARY 2021

- Wednesday 17 **Prep students do not attend school.**  
COVID-19 Lockdown Period.
- Thursday 18 School Swimming Program.
- Friday 19 House Swimming Sports at the Dunkeld Swimming Pool - modified program, please see Acting Principal's report for more details.
- Monday 22 Smart Spelling commences.  
Call for School Council nominations.
- Tuesday 23 ~~Parent / Teacher Interviews.~~ POSTPONED – date to be advised.  
**School Council Meeting commencing at 7.30pm at the school.**
- Wednesday 24 **Prep students do not attend school.**  
School Assembly commencing at 2.45pm.
- Friday 26 ~~SGSSA Swimming Sports at the Penshurst Swimming Pool.~~ **CANCELLED.**

### MARCH 2021

- Monday 1 School Council nominations due in by 4.00pm.
- Thursday 4 MARC Library (Mobile Area Resource Centre).
- Friday 5 First SAKG Kitchen and Garden classes for 2021 (Year 4/5/6 Group 1 Kitchen and Group 2 Garden).  
**Open Morning including morning tea and a farewell ceremony for Mrs Jane Higgins.**
- Monday 8 **LABOUR DAY Public Holiday.**
- Wednesday 10 Didjeribone – whole school performance (School Performance Tours).
- Thursday 11 MARC Library.
- Thursday 18 MARC Library.
- Friday 19 Regional Swimming at the Horsham Memorial Swimming Pool.
- Wednesday 24 SGSSA Athletics at Pedrina Park, Hamilton.
- Thursday 25 MARC Library.

### APRIL 2021

- Thursday 1 **Last Day of Term 1 – early dismissal at 2.30pm.**
- Friday 2 **GOOD FRIDAY.**

## FROM Mrs Dee-Anne Gerring, Acting Principal...

### Acting Principal's Report

To focus on the first few weeks of school, students settled in to their new classrooms with their new teachers with great enthusiasm. Our Learning to Learn Program combined well with swimming and we had a very smooth start to the year. Unfortunately the lockdown period we are experiencing now, has put a dampener on things, but the fantastic news is we are back to school tomorrow, ready to continue the great start to the year we have had.

### Swimming

Our Swimming Program has again been run by Lea and Jen McArthur, as they have for many years now. Their passionate attitude to swimming is second to none and we are incredibly lucky to have them provide their knowledge and expertise each year to our young people. Swimming is such a valuable life lesson and the improvement and confidence we see in each child after this program is amazing. Thank you Lea and Jen, along with their wonderful volunteer teachers and parents.

Obviously the Swimming Program has been interrupted this week. We are back to the pool tomorrow (in line with COVID-19 restrictions), but will have an altered sports day on Friday. Information has been sent to families on this. There will unfortunately be no parent or community spectators for this event, due to density limits within the pool area. We understand this is disappointing for our students and families, but we will be sure to take many photos and videos to share.

It was also decided yesterday, that the SGSSA District Swimming that was to be held at Penshurst on Friday 26 February, will not go ahead due to uncertainty of the situation and timing. However, times will still be recorded for the next level of competition at Warrnambool.

### Parent Teacher Interviews

Due to the current lockdown situation, our school has decided to postpone our Parent Teacher Interviews which were to be held next Tuesday 23 February 2021. Although we will be back to school as (COVID) normal on Thursday, we will have little time to gather forms, organise and provide times for parents to attend. We would also prefer to hold off the interviews until we have further information on parent and visitor access and see how things will look at schools over the coming weeks.

### **Staff Leave**

Mrs Clare Kennedy will be on leave from Wednesday 24 February 2021 to the beginning of Term 2. We welcome Ms Bev Hampton on staff, for SAKG Kitchen classes, during Clare's leave.

### **Operational Guidelines**

There have been some altered restrictions for the Stage 4 Lockdown. Schools have been closed from Monday 15 – Wednesday 17 February 2021 with onsite learning only available to vulnerable students and students whose parents cannot work from home due to being essential workers.

Schools are to return to onsite learning from tomorrow, Thursday 18 February, however we may see stricter restrictions back in place. I will inform all families and the community of any changes as soon as we hear.

### **Staff and Visitors to school**

Staffing is to be limited during the lockdown period and there are to be no visitors to school grounds. This includes Grampians Cricket Club players and club members. Only essential workers may attend the school at this time.

### **Stay home when unwell**

The most important action school communities can take to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), is to ensure that any unwell staff and students remain at home and get tested, even with the mildest of symptoms.

### **Practise good hygiene**

All staff, students and visitors to schools should undertake regular hand hygiene, particularly on arrival to school, before and after eating, after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing or using the toilet.

### **Ensure physical distancing**

A variety of strategies to support physical distancing among all students and staff should be pursued, where possible on school grounds.

Staff **must** practise physical distancing 1.5m between themselves and other staff members or adults to the extent that is reasonably practicable. Staff should physically distance themselves from students where appropriate and feasible. A face mask provides protection when physical distance cannot be maintained.

Density limits do not apply in classrooms and other spaces for the purposes of student use, including corridors and other shared areas. Density limits of one person per two square metres apply to staff areas such as staff lunchrooms and areas accessed by the public, such as reception areas.

### **COVID-19 Tracing – ONCE LOCKDOWN ENDS**

**Any person who is on-site school grounds for 15 minutes or more is required to sign in at the front office.**

What this means for Dunkeld Consolidated School -

Drop off and pick up – We will continue with the same routine developed in 2020 for front of school drop off and pick up. A staff member will meet students in the mornings and deliver to the gate in the afternoons.

Parents and friends are welcome to enter the school for office matters, volunteer purposes and appointments with teachers etc, in which you may park in the car park or on the roadside past the front entrance. If parents and community members do not have a reason to enter school grounds, we ask that people do not, to avoid the need for signing in and to help with physical distancing and tracing measures, should the instance arise.

If parents are wishing to see a teacher, please place a note in the diary or send a message through Seesaw and they will arrange a time to meet.

### **Volunteers – ONCE LOCKDOWN ENDS**

We were thrilled to be able to have family members and friends onsite again for volunteer purposes. All volunteers are required to sign in and out at the front office. More information on how you can volunteer at our school in 2021 will be made available soon. We appreciate our community involvement.

### **Building and Grounds Works**

There have been some delays in finishing off our new building, due to availability of services and delivery of products over the Christmas period. We hope to see the building finalised over the next month. We also have some grounds works occurring over the coming weeks, with landscaping of the gardens surrounding the buildings and some works in our SAKG garden.

### **Open Morning**

We will be holding an Open Morning, including morning tea, on Friday 5 March, to officially welcome all our families back to the school once our building and grounds work are complete. More information and invites to come.

Thank you, Dee Gerring

## **CLASS REPORTS**



### **Year Prep/ One Report**

We have had the best time at school so far this year!  
We have learning how to give compliments and receive them. Here is Jackson and Lochie doing a role play with their puppets. One puppet compliments and the other says "Thankyou". We now know what the word compliment means and we can even say it! This was a lot of fun!



We have also begun working with numbers in Numeracy. Here is a picture of the new Preps making number towers to build a barn for the animals. The year ones are in the background learning to count on, when adding two numbers together.

We are very blessed to have Clare Kennedy helping in our classroom.

We would also like to thank Helen Trahar for assembling all our new furniture. We have a new puppet theatre to help with our speaking and listening and a new Supermarket so we can learn about money all year round as we play and shop! We got a new rug for our floor space that has some cool numbers and shapes on it and we also got some new storage!

To top off one of the best starts to the year we also received a new air conditioner to keep us cool.



### Swimming Report from Year 2/3

My name is Will Griffin-Wilson and I am going to tell you about our swimming so far. We have been learning diving and survival backstroke. We were also learning about our frog legs for our survival backstroke. We have been treading water and swimming lots of laps of the pool. My favourite part of the pool has been swimming all of the laps! I can't wait for swimming sports now. Thank you Lea McArthur for teaching us how to do a dive!



*Will Griffin-Wilson*

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

### School Council Elections 2021

Dunkeld Consolidated School will be holding its annual elections for School Council during February and March in 2021. In accordance with the Department of Education and Training's (DET) requirements, the election process must be concluded by the end of March. The timeline for the Council elections is given below:

Monday 22 February Call for nominations.  
Monday 1 March Nominations close at 4.00pm.

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	Term of Office	Number of Positions
Parent Member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2021 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2023.	4
DET Employee Member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2021 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2023.	2

If an election is required:

- Friday 5 March Distribute ballot papers on or before this date.
- Friday 12 March Close of ballot.
- Monday 15 March Count votes and declare the poll.
- Tuesday 30 March New School Council will meet.

Nomination forms for election to School Council are available from the school office. Membership is on a two-year basis (2021 - 2023). Retiring councillors are also eligible for nomination. If you have any queries about School Council membership, please contact the school office.

If Council elections proceed according to the timeline then the new Council will be able to meet during March. The proposed date is Tuesday 30 March at 7.30pm at school.

The retiring councillors are as follows:

**Parent Members:** Rachel Blackwell  
Lachy Patterson  
Brad Kyle  
Jackie Mibus

**DET Members:** Anne Gilbert  
Dee-Anne Gerring

### SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

The final meeting for the current School Council will be held on Tuesday 23 February 2021 commencing at 7.30pm at the school.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION FOR 2021

### Annual Privacy Reminder

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy.

Please take time to remind yourself of the school's collection statement, found on the Policies page on our website:

<https://www.dunkeld.vic.edu.au/page/111>

For more information about privacy, refer to: DET Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/Schools-Privacy-Policy-information-for-parents.aspx>

This information is also available in nine community languages: Amharic, Arabic, Dari, Mandarin, Somali, Sudanese, Turkish, Urdu and Vietnamese.

## ASSEMBLY

Our first assembly for 2021 was held outdoors on Friday 5 February. Student Leaders and Term 1 Class Captains were presented with their badges.



## TERM 1 CLASS CAPTAINS 2021

Congratulations to the below students who have been appointed Term 1 Class Captain for their individual grades.

Nellie - Prep/Year 1, Nate - Year 2/3, Yin - Year 4, Phoebe - Year 5, Mia - Year 6.



## SCHOOL BUS TRAVEL

If a student is an eligible bus traveller and is listed on the Mirranatwa or Woodhouse School Bus Rolls, the school will assume that the student is travelling home on the bus each afternoon, unless otherwise advised by parent/s.

Please advise the school office via the student diary or phone 5577 2384 if your child/children will not be travelling home on the school bus. Standing Orders for 2020 will not be carried over to the new school year. Please forward any Standing Orders for the 2021 school year to the school office.

As Dunkeld Consolidated School is a bus co-ordinating school, any queries should be directed to the school not the school bus drivers.

Thank you for your support and assistance, in helping our School Bus Program run smoothly.

## SCHOOL MEDICATION, ASTHMA AND ANAPHYLAXIS PLANS

**In the interest of safety, no medicines will be administered by teachers unless written permission and instructions are given by parents.** All medication and instructions must be given to the teacher to look after. If this is necessary, please assist us by providing medication in the original packaging that indicates your child's name, the dose required and the time the medication is to be given. Signed parental permission is required.

**Parents must notify the school of any Asthma attacks their child has had and a current Asthma Plan/Anaphylaxis provided at the beginning of each school year or if medication changes etc. The school must also be notified of any allergies that their child may have.**

## MOBILE AREA RESOURCE CENTRE (MARC) LIBRARY

This year the MARC Library Van will visit our school on a Thursday. Children are instructed in library skills and are able to borrow books from the MARC Van. Could you please ensure your child returns their MARC Library books to school on the due date. Remaining visit dates for Term 1 are: Thursday 25 February, Thursday 4 March, Thursday 11 March, Thursday 18 March and Thursday 25 March.

## BATTERY FUNDRAISER REMINDER

### The Dunkeld Consolidated School wants your Used Batteries!

The Dunkeld Consolidated School Council has been conducting an ongoing Battery Collection Fundraiser.

Kelly's Dunkeld have kindly offered to be a central collection point for used batteries for the Dunkeld Consolidated School (Jason Linskens was instrumental in organising this). Any unwanted car, truck, tractor, boat batteries etc may be dropped off at Kelly's Hardware Store, 101 Parker Street, Dunkeld.

Components of used batteries e.g. metals, acids and plastics are reclaimed, recycled and put back into the manufacturing process to build more batteries and household products, 98% of the battery is recycled.

If you require any assistance with the pick-up of your used batteries, please contact Simon Ross on 0408 984 499. Thank you for your support!

## Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program (SAKG)

### Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program (SAKG)

We wish to welcome you to the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden (SAKG) Program at Dunkeld Consolidated School for 2021. Classes will be held on a Friday this year, commencing on 5 March:

**Garden:** 10.00am – 11.00am Year 2/3  
11.30am – 12.30pm Prep/Year 1  
12.30pm - 1.30pm Year 4/5/6 Group 1 or 2

**Kitchen:** 11.15am – 2.00pm (Year 4/5/6 students will be split into two groups and will be in either the Kitchen or Garden on a fortnightly basis).

All students will participate in growing and harvesting produce in our Garden classes and Year 4 to Year 6 students will participate in preparing and sharing lunch together in our Kitchen classes. Prep to Year 3 students will have an introduction to Kitchen classes throughout the year.

All Friends require a Working With Children Check, applications may be completed online: [www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au)



### SAKG Kitchen Classes 2021

Year 4 to 6 students will alternate in weekly cooking lessons in the home-style kitchen with our Kitchen Specialist, Clare Kennedy. Students have a shared meal at the end of their Kitchen lesson and contribute \$4.00 each to help cover the cost of ingredients.

The school office will include this charge on your family statement for each kitchen class.

### From The Garden ... by Lisa McIntyre

There is nothing like sunny sunflowers to put a smile on your face, glorious fresh fruit, warmed by the sun and eaten straight off the tree, and harvesting massive potatoes from the Boat Bed - congratulations to everyone that had something to do with this fantastic produce - you are all wonderful gardeners!



### FORMS

Full Student Enrolment Information (forms) will be sent home to all school families in the near future. Could you please ensure you check all the details on the form and note any changes before signing and returning to school (even if there are no changes). Details from these forms are also used for the School Census, which will be conducted at the end of February so accurate information is very important.

**Art Smart Online**  
FANTASTIC ONLINE ART CLASSES

Brilliant artists and instructors take the classes in real-time on Zoom.

- Easy to organise - we make it simple for you.
- The kids will produce amazing art!
- The classes are so much fun we had to start a parents' class – Art Play for Adults. Why should kids have all the fun??
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- To see the activities planned for the classes click visit our website. [www.artsmartforkids.com.au](http://www.artsmartforkids.com.au) There are some amazing art ideas planned!

**FIRST CLASS FREE!**

Just \$12.50 a class (exc GST)  
The full price varies depending on the number of classes in the term.

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