

Gembrook Primary School



50 Main Rd GEMBROOK 3783 Ph: 03 5968 1313 Fax: 03 5968 1548 School Office Hours 8.30am-4.30pm
email: gembrook.ps@education.vic.gov.au
www.gembrookps.vic.edu.au

Vision: To provide every student with every opportunity to be the best they can be.

Mission Statement A view to the future

Gembrook Primary School is a vibrant and aspirational education community, providing a safe and supportive learning environment that enables a personalised, engaging and challenging learning program. Our objective is for students to achieve the academic, social, emotional and physical growth to thrive in a global society



4th February, 2022

DIARY DATES

| <u>FEBRUARY</u> | |
|------------------------|---|
| Tuesday 8th | <i>Whole School Information Evening (via Webex) 5:50pm</i> |
| Wednesday 9th | <i>Volunteer Induction 9:15am (Circle of Harmony)</i> |
| Thursday 10th | <i>GPS Swimming Carnival grade 3-6</i> |
| Friday 11th | <i>Prep and New Family Cuppa 9:15am (Circle of Harmony)</i> |
| Tuesday 15th | <i>"Getting to Know You" Interviews (via Phone call)</i> |
| Wednesday 16th | <i>"Getting to Know You" Interviews (via Phone call)</i> |
| Thursday 22nd | <i>EDEC Swimming Grades 3-6 selected studnets</i> |
| Friday 25th | <i>CURRICULUM DAY (Student Free Day)</i> |
| <u>MARCH</u> | |
| Wednesday 2nd | <i>Division Swimming selected students</i> |
| Monday 14th | <i>Labour Day Holiday</i> |



**SUN SMART 'HATS ON'
FOR ALL OUTDOOR
ACTIVITIES**



Hats available for purchase at the School office (\$10)

A VIEW TO THE FUTURE

Bren's Banter

Dear Families and Friends,

It is with great excitement that I write to you in our first newsletter for 2022! I hope that your Christmas and holiday season was fantastic and that you have had the opportunity to rest, relax and recharge!

Welcome back EVERYONE! A special welcome to all of our beautiful (and enthusiastic!) new prep students and their families who have joined our wonderful school community. We look forward to forging strong and lasting relationships with you, as together we support your children on their education and life-journey at Gembrook Primary School. Welcome also to new students and families who have joined us across other year levels.

Of course, there clearly remains some stormy COVID-19 seas to navigate, but together over the past two years, we've shown that nothing is insurmountable. Please see updated COVID safe procedures for schools included in this newsletter. DET are placing importance on minimising volunteer and visitor attendance on-site so our whole school Information Evening coming up next Tuesday 8th February will now be conducted via Webex (details to follow on Compass) and our 3 Way Conferences taking place in the week commencing Monday 14th February will now be held via phone call. We are really hoping that this current advice from DET changes once we get through this crucial first four weeks of term.

We are an aspirational school with an absolute focus on improving student learning outcomes and already there is a palpable buzz of excitement as we get stuck into the new school year. There will also be several exciting new announcements coming up soon!

A BIG thank you to GPS staff!

Thank you to our wonderful staff. ALL teachers spent lots of time at school over the holidays setting up their classrooms and getting them looking superb for the start of the school year. Teachers also spent time planning for engaging and effective term one student learning. A huge thank you to Shelley who spent lots of time over the hols completing administration tasks for the start of the school year. That sort of staff dedication is certainly very much acknowledged and appreciated.

School improvement work over the holidays and a special thank you to Stu Watson:

A large amount of work on our buildings and grounds was completed over the holidays.

Our beautiful and historic library building was in much need of repair and painting and this work was carried out in January. Please take note of the fresh paint with no more rotten weatherboards!

We were also finally able to have technicians come and carry out a complete repair and upgrade of our electronic sign. After being installed in 2017, our electron sign has been an absolute winner and increased our level of communication with our school community and extending to the broader local area. Our electronic sign is now significantly updated and includes coloured text, graphics and video capability.

I also want to say a special thank you to Stu Watson who spent such a large amount of time at school over the holidays completing a number of jobs including gardening, removing rubbish, weeding, spraying, whipper snipping, edging and blower vaccing and actually VACUUMING the entire Circle of Harmony! Stu regularly, and very generously, donates lots of time, as well as his skills and knowledge, to help our school community and keep our beautiful school looking even better. Thanks Stu, your generosity is very much acknowledged and appreciated.



A VIEW TO THE FUTURE

Bren's Banter

Start Up Program Celebration

On Wednesday afternoon, all students celebrated the completion of our 2022 Start Up Program. Our Start Up Program has proven to be an excellent way to set all students up for a great year of learning. The program assists in establishing agreed routines, procedures and expectations as well as initiating agreed norms and structures in relation to reading, writing and maths lessons. Our school values of Respect and High Expectations are investigated and discussed and working as a united team is a definite priority.

It was fantastic seeing our students engaging with our Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL) 'At All Times' matrix and choosing a specific goal to work on. Students then created their own special 'Gemstone' to display their goal in their classroom. Thank you to Mrs. Drew for organising this year's start up program and celebration. Great job everyone!

Term 1 2021

Of course we are a very dynamic school and there is always lots happening. Term one for 2022 is certainly no exception. Some special events for this term include:

'Getting To Know You' teacher/parent/student interviews the week beginning Monday 14th Feb.

Prep and new parents morning tea Friday 11th February 9:30am (fingers crossed for fine weather as we'll need to hold this outside!)

GPS Swimming Carnival Thursday 10th February Grades 3-6 at Lilydale.

EDEC Swimming Carnival Tuesday 22nd February

Curriculum Day – **Student free day Friday 25th February**

Whole school Information Evening Tuesday 8th February.

Toastmasters Public Speaking / Leadership program for Grade 6 students – Term 1.



Curriculum Day Friday 25th February:

Friday 25th February will be a **student free day** as staff embark on a great day of professional learning around literacy with highly respected education consultant Danny Hyndman. Danny has been working with us now for over four years, and as a school community, we are very fortunate to be the beneficiaries of his incredible knowledge, skills and passion around improving student learning.

Gembrook Primary School Values:

Current research states that one of the things that high performing schools have in common is that they set and maintain high expectations for the entire school. As stated above, our Start Up program included unpacking and discussing 'Respect' and 'High Expectations' with all students. It would be great if you could please regularly discuss 'Respect' and 'High Expectations' with your child (particularly over the next few weeks) as they begin their new school year.

Priorities for 2022 at GPS

Once our 2022 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) has been formally approved, we will upload it to the school website. I can however, share with you our focus areas for this year. A major priority will be around keeping our students, staff and families safe in the current COVID climate. Please be assured that we are working extremely hard to keep us all safe and secure at school.

In relation to teaching and learning, our two formal improvement priorities are: 'Excellence in teaching and learning', and 'Creating a positive climate for student learning'. Broadly speaking, the first priority will involve targeted and focused professional learning for staff, with a particular emphasis on literacy and numeracy. The second priority will involve increasing student voice and agency (with a particular emphasis on student engagement in learning), individual student goal setting and monitoring, celebrating achievement and building school pride. Underpinning these priorities and initiatives will be Gembrook Primary School's values of Respect and High Expectations.

A VIEW TO THE FUTURE

Bren's Banter

The Department of Education and Training (DET) 2022 priorities for all Victorian government schools forms an important part of our AIP. This goal has been mandated because of the challenges for student learning and wellbeing that were the result of the events of last year and remote learning.

The DET priorities goal has two major focus areas:

Learning catch up and extension.

Wellbeing

Our GPS 2022 AIP actions include:

Introduction of GPS Student Learning Digital Portfolios to enhance family engagement in student learning (more information to follow!).

Implementation of Tutor Learning Initiative in literacy (reading) and numeracy (number).

Embedding the Gembrook Primary School Developmental Curriculum Continuum where students can track their own progress in literacy and numeracy and set new individual learning goals.

Engagement with highly regarded education consultant Danny Hyndman.

Embedding the GPS Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL) initiative.

Increase opportunities for student voice and agency throughout the school.

Investigate tools for recording and monitoring student wellbeing.

Increase opportunities for student engagement in learning.

Introduction of GPS Student Electives initiative (more information to follow!)

Look for opportunities to reestablish community links.

High Expectations – School uniform!

Thank you to mums and dads and all of our students who came to school on Monday in absolutely FULL school uniform..... including.....black shoes and a blue broad brimmed hat!



Grade 6 Toastmasters Public Speaking and Youth Leadership Program

We are very excited to announce that our Grade 6 students will commence the 'Toastmasters Public Speaking and Youth Leadership Program' next Monday morning. This comprehensive program will run weekly throughout term one and will culminate in a dedicated speech night. There is no doubt that the ability to speak well and confidently in front of others is such a great life skill, and we are very fortunate to have dedicated members of Emerald Toastmasters, Wayne and Eileen A'vard facilitating this brilliant and worthwhile program.

Term 1 = Hats on!

Just a reminder that all students and staff need to have their hats (broad brimmed blue hats) on whilst outside at recess and lunch and when participating in outside activities. It is also vitally important to make sure that all hats are clearly labelled with your child's name. Thank you for helping with this.

A VIEW TO THE FUTURE

Bren's Banter

Information Night Tuesday 8th February

We're really looking forward to our Whole School Information Evening that is coming up on Tuesday 8th February kicking off at 5.50pm on Webex. Bronte and India, our two superb school captains who will tell everyone a little bit about why they love Gembrook Primary School.

Then our learning centre information sessions will start at 6:00pm for Preps, 6:25pm for Grade 1/2, 6:50pm for Grade 3/4 and 7:15pm for Grade 5/6.

We'd love to see you there via Webex as there'll be lots of things discussed including:

- Education programs
- Classroom learning structures, student learning goals and activities.
- Class expectations

Importance of the link between home and school.

Meeting link:

<https://eduvic.webex.com/eduvic/j.php?MTID=m0d807a23e2192b274612ba5d4912f0a4>

Meeting number:

2653 575 5335

Password:

GPS

2022 Parents Welcome Morning Tea

All Prep parents, and parents who are new to our beautiful school are invited to a morning tea in the undercover area near the Circle Of Harmony on Friday 11th at 9:15am. This will be a great opportunity to get to know each other in a friendly and relaxed environment, so please come along and celebrate the beginnings of a wonderful experience at Gembrook Primary School. Please sign in via our QR codes and remain mindful of social distancing requirements.

Have a great week everyone and all the best,

Bren.

Punctuality

It is absolutely vital for a child's successful education experience that they attend school every day and **arrive on time**. School starts at 9 o'clock! Walking into the classroom at 9 o'clock means you are late, as teaching begins at 9 o'clock and the teacher should not be organising students and talking with parents when teaching begins. The optimal time to enter the classroom is 8:45am, as this allows students to catch up with their friends and teacher, students and parents are able to give the teacher important information, students can change home reading books and have their diary looked at by their teacher.

At 9 o'clock, the teacher is giving all the important information for the day, the daily timetable, marking the roll and following up on housekeeping. If a student arrives late, the student misses this important information and it is hard for the teacher to drop minutes from the mini lesson to catch up students who arrive late. Finally, students often become stressed when they are late and this is not setting students up successfully for their daily learning.

So if you find you are getting to school late, try one of these strategies to help get to school on time;

- Set your alarm 5 minutes earlier
- Go to bed earlier so it is easier to get up
- Make lunches the night before
- Pack school bag the night before
- Get clothes ready the night before
- Set the table ready for breakfast the night before

SCHOOL OPERATIONS GUIDE

The Victorian Government has announced some new measures for the beginning of the 2022 school year across all Victorian schools.

Free rapid antigen tests

Free rapid antigen tests will be available for the first 4 weeks of Term 1 2022.

Twice-a-week testing will be strongly recommended for both students and staff.

The department will supply the tests to our school – you do not need to buy your own.

The department will distribute all kits to schools as early as possible. I will let you know once the test kits are available for collection.

Students and staff will do the tests at home; they only need to report their result if it is COVID-positive. They must report a COVID-positive result to:

the school by phone or the [RA Test Portal](#); this is so the school can support you, record that your child will be absent while in 7-day isolation, and let the rest of the school community know there has been a positive case onsite and that they should monitor for symptoms the Department of Health via the [COVID-19 Positive Rapid Antigen Test Self-Reporting Form](#) or call centre on [1800 675 398](#).

Information about how to do a test and how to read RAT results, including a how-to video is [available online](#).

DET Vaccination requirements

Parents and carers must have had two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine or have a valid medical exception (with limited exceptions) to enter any school buildings.

All staff working in schools need to be fully vaccinated or have a verified medical exception.

COVID-19 vaccinations for students are not required for them to attend school but vaccination for students is highly encouraged. If your child has not yet had their first dose, please try to organise this before term begins. For more information on how to book a vaccination, including important information about vaccination for children aged 5 to 11, visit [Vaccination information for children and teenagers](#).

Ventilation

We will also make sure that classrooms are well ventilated by opening windows and doors, to minimise the risk of infection. Air purifiers are operating in every classroom as an added safety measure.

Face Mask Requirements

Students in Grade 3 and above must wear a face mask indoors at school, and Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) programs, unless a lawful exception applies. Students must wear face masks even if vaccinated. Students are not required to wear masks outside.

Students in Prep to Grade 2 are strongly recommended to wear a face mask indoors at school or an OSHC program.

Visitors to schools aged 8 and above must wear a face mask in all indoor spaces, unless a lawful exception applies.

Everyone over 8 years old must wear a face mask when travelling to and from school on the school bus.

Vital COVIDSafe steps

Please remember that if your child is unwell, they should stay at home and get tested. If your child presents with any of the symptoms listed below, we will contact you and request you to pick up your child and collect a RAT.

- fever
- chills or sweats
- cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath
- runny nose
- loss of sense of smell or taste
- headache
- nausea
- vomiting
- diarrhoea

Hand hygiene, mask wearing, and social distancing will continue in Term 1.

Staffing our school

I know many of you will have questions about what happens if your child's teacher gets COVID-19. We will be able to bring in extra teachers and other staff if we need them, and we will be doing everything that we can to make sure our school stays safe and open.

Other information about school operations

Our Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) program will operate as normal.

Please feel free to contact me to clarify any concerns you may have. Of course, I'll keep you updated once further DET advice becomes available. There's no doubt that this term is going to be challenging for all of us, but we are also very excited about the prospect of a 'remote learning' free year!

In accordance with DET advice, we are doing our best to limit visitor attendance on-site, at least for the first four weeks of term one. Therefore, our whole school Information Evening will be held via Webex and our 'Getting to Know You 3 Way Conferences' will be conducted via phone call. At this stage, where the weather permits we intend to hold Friday assemblies outside to enable parent

Thank you for your continued understanding, flexibility and support.

SCHOOL NEWS

We invite you to book in for our *Getting to know you interviews*.

Teachers will be available 3:30-6:00 pm on Tuesday February 15th and Wednesday February 16th, 2022.

The main purpose of these interviews is for parents/carers to share any information you believe is important for teachers to know to foster your child's learning and success at school.

At this stage parents will not be able to attend in person with their child due to pandemic related limitations on visitors in schools. The interviews will be conducted by telephone.

Your teacher will phone you at the appointed time.

Please book a time when you can be available to take a phone call from the teacher.

Please also be aware that interviews are strictly 10 minutes long.

If you need additional time with a particular teacher, please arrange a phone call.

Any further questions please contact the School Office on 5968 1313.

Volunteer Induction

The Department of Education requires all volunteer workers to have an induction each year. If you would like to be a volunteer within our school community, please join Mrs Drew on **Wednesday 9th February at 9:15am in the Circle of Harmony.**

All volunteers will need to complete this induction, as well as have a current Working With Children Check.

Please note at this stage no volunteers are allowed in our classrooms. However, outdoor excursions such as Swimming Carnival and Athletics is encouraged and welcome.

Prep and New Families Cuppa

Friday 11th February at 9:15am in the Circle of Harmony.

This will be a great opportunity to get to know each other in a friendly and relaxed environment, so please come along and celebrate the beginnings of a wonderful experience at Gembrook Primary School.



SCHOOL NEWS

A Department of Education Mobile Phone and Digital Devices Policy came into effect from Term 1, 2020

Students will be required to switch off and store phones or devices securely from the first bell until the last bell each day.

At Gembrook Primary School students will need to hand in their phone or device to the office when they arrive at school and collect it after the dismissal bell. Phones will be in a locked filing cabinet throughout the day.

Families should contact the school office should you need to pass an urgent message to your children prior to 3pm.

The updated school policy has been ratified by school council and is uploaded to the school website .

Students Late to School

ALL students who are late to school (as of 9am)

MUST collect a late pass from the office and
be signed in by a parent

BEFORE they go to class

Roles are marked as soon as students arrive in class
This is to ensure that the school has an accurate role of students
who are present

Conveyance Allowance 2022

Applications are now available for conveyance allowance for Term 1. This allowance is available to Gembrook Primary School students who use a private car to travel to school and who live 4.8k or more by the shortest practicable route from the school or the last stop on the school bus route and attend the nearest appropriate school at which admission is possible.

Your application is valid for the entire school year if your circumstances do not change.

Application Forms are available at the school office and should be submitted to the school by **Friday March 11 2022** More information about the Conveyance Allowance Program is available at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/finance/Pages/conveyance.aspx>

SCHOOL NEWS

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 available on the school website.

Update Contact Information

Please inform the school if your contact information changes. Changes can be made on the COMPASS app or by contacting the school office. We must be able to contact you in case your child is sick or has been injured. If the primary carers / parents don't respond, the emergency contacts provided on your child's enrolment form will be contacted.

Anaphylaxis / Food Allergy

There are a growing number of children who suffer from a variety of allergies. Most serious are those allergic to foods such as nuts, nut products, and dairy products, and their severe reaction is known as anaphylaxis. At Gembrook Primary School, we have a child who is in this category.

The teaching staff have a number of procedures in place to ensure that appropriate precautions are taken. Parents are requested to be very conscious of the danger that food allergies pose for some children.

We ask you to support the health of children with food allergies by ensuring that your child understands that they should not touch food that belongs to someone else and should not share food. It would also be appreciated if families could avoid sending products containing nuts (including peanut butter, cookies, muesli bars with nuts etc) to school in your child's lunch. Peanut butter for breakfast and dinner but not for lunch! It is vitally important to please wash hands thoroughly if handling these foods before coming into the school.

If you are sending food for sharing, perhaps for a birthday, we ask that the classroom teacher is informed prior to the time, so that the parents of these children are given the opportunity to provide a special treat for them on the day.

Thank you for your understanding.

Entering an Attendance Note

From the Compass home screen (or from your student's profile), click the **Add Attendance Note** item.

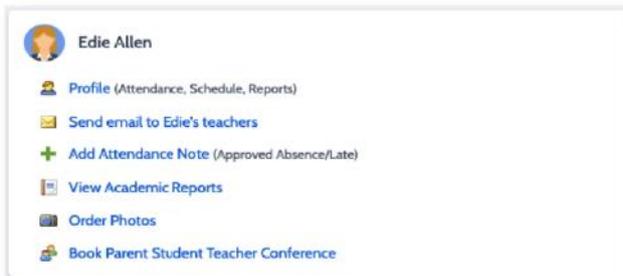
From the pop-up window

Select the reason

Enter a brief description of the absence

Select the start and finish time

Click the 'Save' button



What is an Attendance Note?

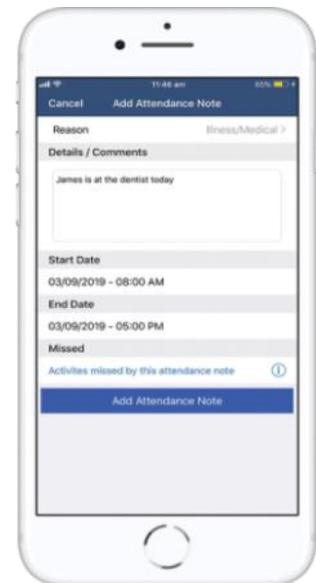
An Attendance Note is used to explain when your child is absent or late for school.

A screenshot of the 'Attendance Note Editor' form. The form is divided into several sections: 'Note Details', 'Potentially Affected Sessions', 'Important Notice', and 'Start/Finish' fields. The 'Note Details' section includes fields for 'Person' (Edie ALLEN), 'Reason' (Medical/Illness), and 'Details/Comment' (Feeling unwell - have a medical appointment this afternoon). The 'Potentially Affected Sessions' section contains a table with columns for 'Activity', 'Start', and 'Finish'. The 'Important Notice' section contains a warning about the legal implications of using the feature. The 'Start' and 'Finish' fields are set to 08/02/2021, 09:00 AM and 08/02/2021, 03:30 PM respectively. At the bottom right, there are 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons.

| Activity | Start | Finish |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 05GEN_05A (Yr 5 Gene... | 08/02/2021 09:00 AM | 08/02/2021 12:00 PM |
| 05GEN_05A (Yr 5 Gene... | 08/02/2021 12:30 PM | 08/02/2021 03:30 PM |

SMS Link

If your child is marked as absent without prior approval you will receive a message containing a link. When you follow the link, you will have the opportunity to explain the absence.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AT GPS

Emergency Management at Gembrook PS

We are now approaching summer in Victoria. Therefore we all need to ensure that we are well prepared in the event of a bushfire emergency.

The following is an update from The Department of Education and Training regarding procedures for our school during the bushfire season.

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools and children's services such as

Gembrook Primary School are listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district. Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days' notice of a potential Code Red day closure via letter, email, Compass, school electronic sign and the school website. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00 pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days
- School camps and excursions will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan - **on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the CFA advise that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day. As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan.

What can parents do?

- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you're planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.
- You can access more information about children's services closures on the Department of Education and Training website - see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

For up-to-date information on this year's fire season, visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.

Thank you for your support



SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

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 key directions of a school within state-wide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

WHO IS ON THE SCHOOL COUNCIL?

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

- A mandated elected Parent 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 as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
- A mandated elected school employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. 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 experiences. 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, with 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 that can help 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 life skills and knowledge to the role. Councillors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

HOW CAN YOU BECOME INVOLVED?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term one 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 following the commencement of Term one each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

Department employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election.

You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

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

REMEMBER

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the principal **Brendan Fitzpatrick** for further information.

Nominations take place from the 7th to the 14th of February 2022. Nomination forms will be available on Compass & at the office. There are 4 parent vacancies.

CSEF NEWS



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>

Latest application date 24/6/2022, the sooner the application is made the sooner the funds may become available.

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.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Gemco Youth Theatre fun for young people.



*Acting, Drama,
role play,
creating,
performance
skills, team work,
self expression,
confidence,
improvisation,
games.*



At the Gem Community Arts Centre.
19 Kilvington Drive Emerald.

Wednesdays from the **2nd Feb**

Juniors - (Prep to Year 4) 4.15 till 5.30pm - Leaders Joy + Linda.

Intermediates - (Years 4 to 7) 5.45 - 7.00pm. - Leaders Mandy + Amanda + Sharon

Seniors - (Years 7 to 12) 7 - 8.30pm Lachy + Sarah.

Class sizes are limited, so enrol on 2nd of Feb at the Gem to secure your place.

For further information call Joy McLeary 0433193234.

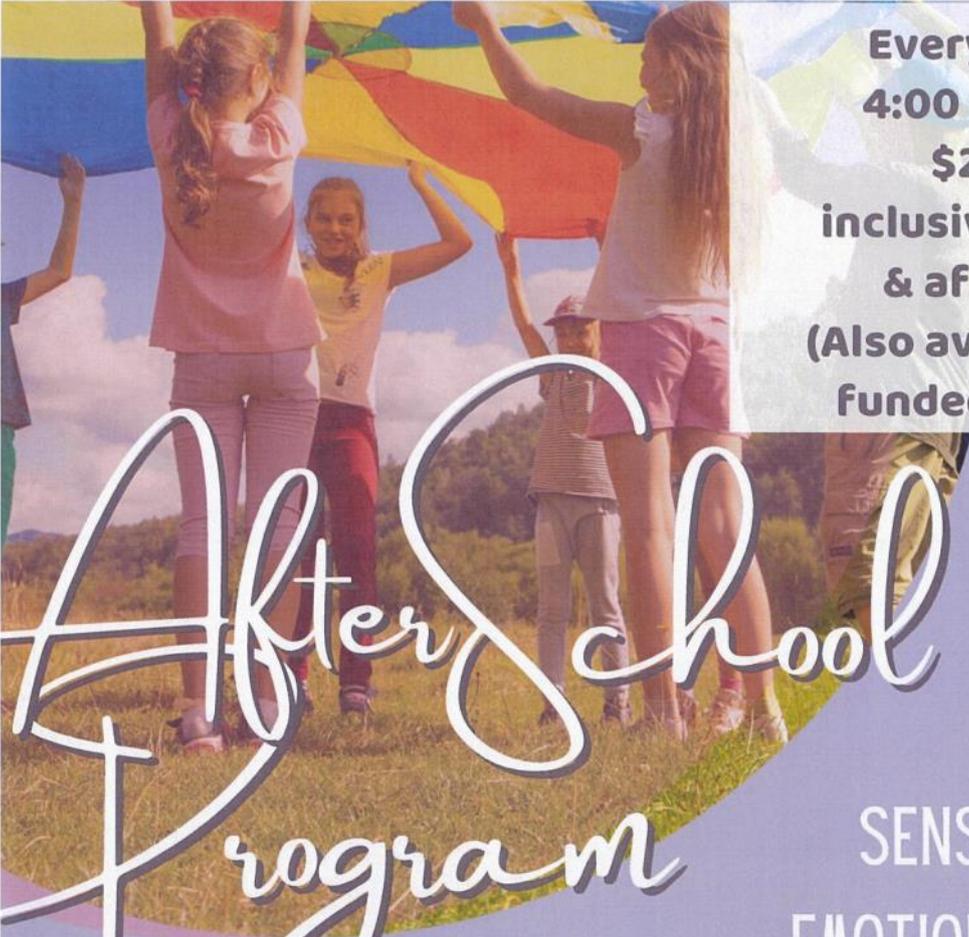
Try out the first session for free then if you love it, join the group!
Cost \$60 per 10 week term plus \$15 membership/insurance per year.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Every Wednesday
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm.

\$25 a week,
inclusive of materials
& afternoon tea.
(Also available for NDIS
funded participants)



After School Program

Perfect for those who
have or experience
(But welcome to ALL!)
Anxiety, Autism, Dyslexia,
Shyness/emotional
sensitivity, past trauma
or been bullied, ADHD,
separation/social anxiety

To enroll, email your
interest & child's details to:
info@smart-support.org

SENSORY PLAY
EMOTIONAL LITERACY
IMPULSE CONTROL
POSITIVE COMMUNICATION
WELLNESS ACTIVITIES
CALMING OUR INNER BEAST



smart support

UNDERSTANDING YOUR MENTAL HEALTH