

Gembrook Primary School



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www.gembrookps.vic.edu.au

School Office Hours 8.30am-4.30pm

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



17th February, 2022

DIARY DATES

FEBRUARY	
Tuesday 22nd	<i>EDEC Swimming Grades 3-6 selected students</i>
Wednesday 23rd	<i>School Council</i>
Friday 25th	<i>CURRICULUM DAY (Student Free Day)</i>
MARCH	
Wednesday 2nd	<i>Division Swimming selected students</i>
Wednesday 2nd	<i>First Kmotion</i>
Thursday 3rd	<i>Prep-2 Athletics</i>
Tuesday 8th	<i>Grade 3-6 Athletics</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,

Last Friday, I hosted a principal from a nearby school who was keen to visit our beautiful school and see our teaching and learning program in action across all year levels. I'm so very proud to say that the feedback we received was outstanding in terms of our whole school practice, incredibly passionate staff, enthusiastic students and our orderly learning environment.

I'm also extremely proud to share with you that leaders from the DET Differentiated Support for School Improvement (DSSI) team have asked if they can bring teachers from other schools to Gembrook Primary School to see our literacy reading and writing workshop lessons in action.

This is great acknowledgement of our school, and fantastic recognition for our incredibly dedicated and hard-working teachers and education support staff.

Below: A teacher from Scoresby Primary School observing one of our prep superstar teachers Mrs. Liston in action!



STOP PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT!!! ELECTIVES PROGRAM STARTING TERM 2!

As a school, we have worked incredibly hard over the last five years establishing a high quality, whole school approach to teaching and learning, prioritising improving student learning in literacy and numeracy.

As part of this year's GPS Annual Implementation Plan (AIP), and linking with our next step around student and family engagement in learning, we are so very excited to announce that starting in term two, we are launching a student 'electives' program.

The electives program will run once per week with more details to follow. However, electives will be open to all students, and the choice of electives will be amazing! Our wonderful staff have offered to run electives including Auslan, Dance, Clay Pottery, Woodwork, Propagating, Cartooning, Coding and many others.

Preps and their buddies!

It's been such a lovely experience observing just how well our senior school students are caring for our brand new preps. The care and guidance that our senior students have shown has been outstanding, so thank you! Together with our two brilliant prep teachers, Miss. G and Mrs. Liston, our new preps are in very good hands and are in for a fantastic year of learning at Gembrook!

Information Evening

Thank you to everyone who attended our School Information Evening on Tuesday via Webex. Of course, hosting an event like this on Webex is just never the same as in person, however I think we all made the best of it, and lots of important information was communicated.

A big thank you to our wonderful school captains India and Bronte who introduced the evening, speaking about the things they love most about Gembrook Primary School.

Thank you to our awesome teachers who provided great information about teaching and learning for this year, as well as planned events for 2022.

A VIEW TO THE FUTURE

Bren's Banter

Swimming Carnival

What an awesome day was had by all who attended our grade 3-6 swimming carnival last Thursday. Great weather and smiles all round was the order of the day with our students competing in a range of events and representing their house team superbly at Lilydale Swimming Pool.

A big thank you to our wonderful P.E. teacher Mr. Adnam and Miss. Banks who organised such a fantastic day. Thank you to all teachers and staff who gave our students such a great experience. Thank you also to the many mums, dads and grandparents who came along to support, cheer and enjoy the day!

Finally, thank you to our wonderful students who participated throughout the day in great spirit, looking after each other and representing our school so well.

Final results:

4th place: Beenak with 125 points

3rd place: Redwood with 137 points

2nd place: Kurth Kiln with 156 points

1st place: Tynong with 157 points



Getting To Know You Interviews

On Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon this week, teachers conducted 'Getting To Know You' interviews. These interviews, at the start of a school year, provide an excellent opportunity for teachers, parents and students to discuss and share information relevant to learning, and vital to ongoing engagement, improvement and success. Thank you to our teachers who have provided flexible interview times during the week that have often extended into the evening.

PANDA Award!

At last Friday's assembly, we re-launched our weekly PANDA (Perfect Attendance No Days Absent) AWARD with students recording perfect attendance, including prompt arrival, for the week having the opportunity to win a FREE lunch order!

Laura in 1/2W was our first winner for 2022 and will enjoy a delicious free lunch on Friday!

Research states that regular and prompt attendance at school is absolutely essential for success in learning!

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.

Have a great week everyone and all the best, Bren.

STARS OF THE WEEK TERM 1 WEEK 1



Jack Prep L

Jack, you have made an excellent start to school. You are a kind and thoughtful member of our grade, who is always looking after others, and you tackle each new learning task with care and pride! Well done!

Angus Prep G

What a fantastic start to school you have had Angus! You are already displaying enthusiasm towards your learning, and have also been showing kindness to your peers. I can't wait to see what you will achieve this year!

Ruby 1/2H

Well done Ruby for ensuring that your peers always feel welcome and part of our school team. You displayed our school value of respect when enquiring with your peers and seeking their opinion during collaborative class work. What an amazing role model!

Matilda 1/2W

Wow Matilda what a great start back to school you have had! Thank you for being a wonderful role model in class by always demonstrating our school values of respect and high expectations. I love how you have focussed during learning tasks this week, and how you have taken pride in your work. I can't wait for a great year together. Keep up the hard work!

Leo 1/2F

Well done Leo on your excellent start to school. You have been such an enthusiastic member of our class since returning. Thank you for always showing respect and high expectations.

Ryan 1/2M

Ryan, congratulations on making such a fantastic start to the year. Your friendly smile each morning is such a lovely way to start the day. It is great to see you so engaged in each lesson and always trying your best. I love that you are always finding ways to help your peers and teachers. Great work!

Darcy 3/4V

Congratulations Darcy, on an exceptional start back to school. Throughout our start up program, you have displayed a positive attitude towards your learning and have demonstrated high expectations in improving your knowledge. I am looking forward to seeing you grow over the coming year in all aspects of your learning.

Fletcher 3/4S

Congratulations on your fantastic start back at school, Fletcher. I have loved watching your willingness to learn and engage in class discussions and learning tasks. What a role model you have been for your peers! I am excited to see what you achieve this year, Fletcher!

Koby 3/4B

Congratulations Koby, on an exceptional start back to school. Throughout our start up program, you have been a role model to your peers and have demonstrated a commitment to improving and challenging yourself. I look forward to another outstanding year of learning together!

Alex 5/6L

Alex, you have made such a fantastic start to the school year, showing care and pride in your work. You have used PBL to set yourself positive goals, and have made great decisions surrounding your learning. I am so excited to see all that you achieve this year. Keep up the outstanding effort!

Rushiya 5/6O

Rushiya, you have had an exceptional start back to school. I have loved your positive energy in the classroom. I can see you are going to be a focused and determined member of 5/6O this year. I can't wait to see you achieve your learning goals, while having heaps of fun in grade 6. Keep up the excellent work Rushiya!

Eloise PrepG –Art

Eloise, I was so impressed with how you settled into the art room routine on your very first art lesson. Not only that, the way you coloured your front cover really impressed me. It was done to perfection by colouring in between the lines without leaving any gaps. Mrs. D can't wait to see your artistic ability and creativity in our art room.

Jamison 3/4V - Italian

Jamison, I am super impressed with the confident way you approached your first Italian lesson. Though new to the language, your listening skills and positive attitude meant you were confident to take part in a dialogue, modelling language to the other students! Well done! Bravo!

STARS OF THE WEEK TERM 1 WEEK 2



Georgia Prep L

Georgia, you have made such a great start to school. You have already learnt our routines, and are consistently organised when packing up after a learning task. You are kind to other members of our team, and try your best at each lesson. What a star!

Marlee Prep G

Marlee, you have had a magnificent start to school! You have been making excellent choices for your learning by choosing to sit near the front during mini lessons, and always showing active listening. Keep up the fantastic effort!

Laura 1/2H

Well done Laura, on an excellent start to the school year. You continually show high expectations and complete tasks to the best of your ability. You have also shown a strong growth mindset towards your learning. Keep up the amazing effort Laura!

Owen 1/2W

Owen, what an outstanding week you have had. Thank you for being a role model to your peers by always following instructions the first time, trying your hardest in all activities and always taking on and applying feedback. You are consistently demonstrating the school values of respect and high expectations, and I can't wait to see what you will achieve this year!

Maya 1/2M

Maya, I want to thank you for the kind and caring attitude you have shown to everyone in 1/2M, as we all get to know each other. You are always on the lookout for someone who needs help, and readily offer your assistance without being asked. Thank you for making our classroom such a supportive and happy place in which to learn.

Arabella 3/4V

What an excellent start to the term you have had Arabella. During this week, after completing your essential assessment, you went straight to the dictionary to research the word 'prime'. You came across this word in one of the questions and was unsure of its meaning. You independently wanted to further your understanding, by researching it's meaning in the dictionary. I am so proud of the dedication you have towards your learning

Layla 3/4S

Congratulations on a fantastic week at school, Layla. I have loved watching your confidence grow as you engage in class discussions. Your efforts in problem solving this week certainly did not go unnoticed. I am excited to watch you grow and see what you achieve this year, Layla!

Nibek 3/4B

Congratulations Nibek, on an exceptional start back to school! You have engaged in your learning tasks with passion and a desire to learn. You have been thoughtful and kind towards your peers and staff. Each day, you warm my heart and make me so proud.

India 5/6L

India, I am so incredibly proud of the leadership you have shown. You did an outstanding job preparing and delivering your speech at our school information Webex. The initiative you take shows how truly capable, independent, and enthusiastic you are. We are so lucky to have you as a leader within our school community.

Austin 5/6J

Austin, you have demonstrated your resilience repeatedly this term. You have consistently embodied our school value of high expectations by having a growth mindset in the classroom. I feel privileged to have witnessed your efforts.

Isla 5/6O

Isla, what an excellent role model you have been in 5/6O. You have worked so well in each of our lessons. I was particularly impressed with your writer's notebook seed, using colour. You have embraced PBL, earning yourself eight gem chips. Keep up the positive attitude, and hard work Isla.

Cooper 1/2F - Italian

Cooper, you have impressed me so much this week! You have independently increased your spoken vocabulary, by looking up lists. I loved the way you were able to tell me you had finished your work, 'finito' this week! Bravissimo!

Academic Awards

Term 1 Week 2

Reader of the Week: **Matilda 5/6L**

Writer of the Week: **Dakota PrepL**

Speller of the Week: **Matilda 1/2M**

Mathlete of the Week: **Flynn 3/4B**

ART ROOM REMINDER



Can all students please remember to bring their art smocks to school. Please ensure they are clearly named. Every student must have one to protect their clothing in Mrs D's class.

PFA NEWS

THANK YOU!

2021 Parents and Friends Association TEAM MEMBERS

We had a wonderful year working together and raising much needed funds for Gembrook Primary School.

Every contribution, no matter how big or small, physical or knowledgeable, combined to create amazing events for our children to enjoy and practice life-skills.

GPS and myself greatly appreciate every one of you!

Michelle VDV (2021 PFA President)

Michelle Van Der Vlugt	Jane Uprichard	Kim Delaney
Melissa Filarski	Ruth Elliot	Alison Neil
Rebecca Anderson	Tamara Ekanayake	Melissa Williamson
Kylie Stormer	Tamara Ware	Nicole Francis
Kylie Richards	Tamara Hawkins	Nicky Todd
Claire Loughhead	Karren Geoffrey	And more!

2022 PFA TEAM

Would you be interested in joining this amazing group of volunteers?

Throughout the year, we organise fun events such as Discos, meal days, Trivia nights, Mother's/Father's Day stalls, Food drives, Raffles and more.

It makes me smile as I walk through the school and kids recognise me, say hello with big smiles as they remember the activities we arranged for them over the year.

There are many ways in which you can contribute in the lead up to these events.

Many of these can be done at home or involve approaching shops or ordering/collecting products. Food days, stalls, discos etc are concluded on school premises.

To help on premises: Dept of Education requires volunteers to be vaccinated and to complete the Volunteer induction program run within the primary school.

Please show your interest by contacting 5968 1313 or gembrook.ps@education.vic.gov.au

SCHOOL LUNCH ORDERS

GEMBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL LUNCH ORDERS TERM 1 2022

	<i>Weekly Lunch Special</i> \$5.50	<i>Weekly Treat Special</i> \$3.00
11TH FEB	Sausage Roll With tomato sauce.	Blueberry Muffin (DF)
18TH FEB	Pizza 1 - Hawaiian. 2 - Margherita.	Shortbread Cookie
25TH FEB	Nachos (GF) Cheese, salsa and sour cream.	Chocolate Muffin (DF)
4TH MARCH	Savoury Scroll 1 - Cheese and Vegemite. 2 - Cheese and Ham.	Gingerbread Cookie
11TH MARCH	Baked Potato (GF) Cheese, coleslaw, sour cream.	Apple Muffin (DF)
18TH MARCH	Quiche 1 - Mushroom and Spinach. 2 - Bacon and Capsicum.	Choc Chip Cookie
25TH MARCH	Pasta Bake (GF) Penne pasta, spinach, napoli sauce and cheese.	Lemon Slice
1ST APRIL	Pizza 1 - Hawaiian. 2 - Margherita.	Mint Slice

JUICE
\$3.00

Apple

Pineapple

Orange

HOW IT WORKS

WRITE ORDER ON ENVELOPE WITH

Full Name

Grade

Sub Total of Order

PLACE CORRECT CHANGE IN ENVELOPE

PLACE ENVELOPE IN CLASS TUB BY 9.05AM

LUNCHES WILL ARRIVE AT THE START OF LUNCH

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

February

14th Ollie 34B
14th Cooper 34V
16th Harvey 56O
18th Angus 56O
19th Hunter 34B
22nd Georgia 34B
22nd Curtis 34V
24th James PrepG
25th Liam 12F
25th Anna 34B



OSHClub Newsletter

Gembrook OshClub

Newsletter

February 2022

OSHClub



What's been happening...

A BIG Welcome to all the families that attend OSHClub, and to our little Kinder's. We are over the moon with how the last two weeks have gone and how well everyone has transitioned.

Hopefully by now most families have met our new Coordinator, Rylee. Rylee has worked at OSHClub for several years, working her way up from being an Educator, to Assistant Coordinator and now Coordinating Gembrook OSHClub.

We are so grateful to still have our wonderful Stevie here with us morning and afternoons. Stevie is very well known in the community as her family attend Gembrook.

We are thrilled to announce that Gembrook OSHClub is running a holiday program this school holidays with two excursions and two incursions. We are asking for families to get the word out and to make sure that if any families would like their child to attend School Holiday Program, they make sure they get their enrolments in through our website oshclub.com.au and click Join OSHClub to start your enrolment today. We are extending our Holiday Program to other schools around the area including Emerald, Cockatoo, Macclesfield, and Hoddles Creek. So please get the word out so that we can process enrolments soon.



Mon-Fri 7am-9am and 2.30pm-6pm
0439014489
gembrook@oshclub.com.au

oshclub.com.au
1300 395 735

Coming Up

FEB Winter Olympics

FEB CHILD'S MENTAL HEALTH

Feb 14th VALENTINES DAY



Club News

THIS YEAR WE ARE INTRODUCING STUDENT LEADERS TO OUR SERVICE. WE PROMOTED IT TO OUR STUDENTS LAST WEEK AND THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS THAT PUT THEIR HAND UP WAS EXCITING. WE ASKED ANY CHILD FROM GRADE FOUR AND ABOVE TO PUT THEIR NAME FORWARD TO BE OUR FIRST OSHCLUB STUDENT LEADERS.

We will be announcing our leaders in our next Newsletter, so keep your eye out!

Our leaders will help with running activities, programming, doing our program scrapbook, running child meeting, and helping run the Clubs.

We will be running a Science Club, Cooking Club and eventually a Gardening Club.



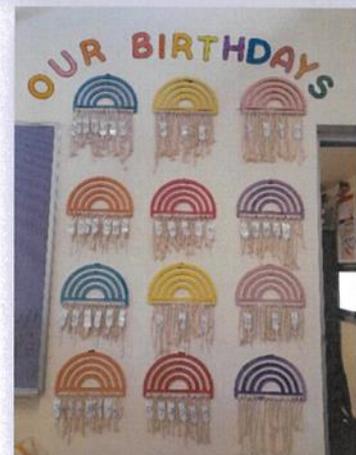
Coordination Corner

Hopefully you have noticed by now the slight changes we are making to our room. We are working hard to create a warm and welcoming environment for the children. We have added a quiet corner in our room with a tent for children to relax in and a new bookshelf with gorgeous fairy lights.

WE ALSO HAVE MOVED OUR INFORMATION CORNER CLOSER TO THE DOOR SO PARENTS CAN SEE OUR PROGRAM, ROSTER AND MENU FOR THE WEEK. SOON OUR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN WILL ALSO BE JOINING THAT AREA SO THAT PARENTS HAVE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING ON WHAT WE ARE WORKING TOWARDS AT OSHCLUB.

WE HAVE ADDED A NEW BIRTHDAY WALL WHICH THE CHILDREN HELPED MAKE AND THIS WEEK WE ARE WORKING ON OUR COMMUNITY WALL. WHERE WE WILL BE INCORPORATING THE SCHOOL POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING (PBL) PROGRAM INTO OUR SERVICE. OUR GOAL THIS YEAR IS TO WORK AS ONE WITH THE SCHOOL, FAMILIES AND PRE SCHOOL.

THERE WILL BE MORE INFORMATION RELEASED REGARDING BOOKINGS FOR THE HOLIDAY PROGRAM, SO KEEP YOUR EYE OUT FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.



KMOTION IS BACK!

A FREE after school program for Foundation to Grade 6. Full of fun, games & Prizes.

KMOTION @ GEMBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL

**WEDNESDAYS:
MARCH 2ND, 9TH, 16TH & 23RD
3.20 - 5.00PM**

Enter at the front door of the
Multi

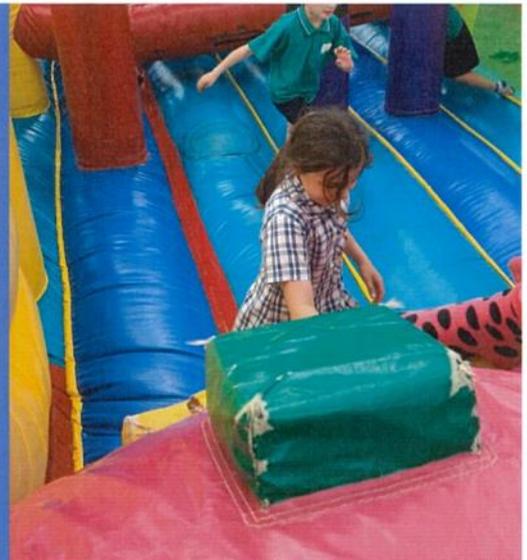
Themes include:

Water Frenzy

Jumping Castle Craziness

Easter Eggsravagnanza

and more



Heat Policy: Kmotion will NOT run on days declared **CODE RED**, **EXTREME** or on days predicted to reach **38 deg** or above.

AFTERNOON TEA: MENU

- March 3rd: Fruit, water / cordial & small pkt of chips
- March 10th: Fruit, water / cordial & popcorn
- March 17th: Fruit, water / cordial & small pkt of shapes
- March 24th: Fruit, water / cordial & a cinnamon donut

Prizes may include the occasional treat. If your child has particular nutritional needs please contact Naomi

Registration forms can be collected from & returned to the Gembrook Primary School office. You can also register at KMOTION on any program day.

DETAILS:

KMOTION is an after school program that includes games, craft, stories & afternoon tea.

Each week is run by HCSI Staff members & a team of trained volunteers. All staff & volunteers hold current WWCC & Police checks. Kmotion Gembrook is a child safe program adhering to child safe policies

KMOTION has behaviour guidelines & expectations to ensure all children have a safe and enjoyable time.



Contact Details: Naomi Dewar
Hills Community Strengthening Initiative
1-3 McBride St, Cockatoo.
PH: 0418 382 857
Email: naomi.dewar@echo.org.au

PLEASE CALL IF RUNNING LATE FOR PICK UP



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.

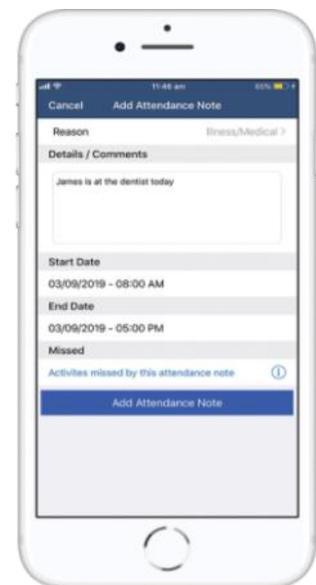
A screenshot of the 'Attendance Note Editor' form. The form is divided into several sections:

- Note Details:** Includes fields for 'Person' (Edie ALLEN), 'Reason' (Medical/Illness), and 'Details/Comment' (Feeling unwell - have a medical appointment this afternoon).
- Potentially Affected Sessions:** A table showing sessions affected by the note.
- Important Notice:** A text block explaining the legal implications of using the feature.
- Start and Finish:** Fields for selecting the start and finish dates and times.
- Buttons:** 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons at the bottom right.

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.



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

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.

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



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



Brookdale Farm Open Garden

Emerald

Sat 5 - Sun 6 March, 2022

Open 10.00am - 4.30pm

12 Charman Ave Emerald

This is a spectacular garden developed over the last 20 years. Some sections, particularly many trees, date back to the early 20th century.

Entry \$10 Students \$6 U18 free via Trybooking
<https://www.trybooking.com/BWMYX>

opengardensvictoria.org.au

Photo: Claire Tanasescu

GEMBROOK HANG OUT

Come and join in the fun with various activities each week!

Where: Gembrook Community Centre, 4 Gembrook Road, Gembrook

When: Tuesdays at 3.45-5pm
From 15 February to 29 March 2022

Age: 12-17 yrs

Cost: Free

For more information call 1800 496 884
or email
myplace@cardinia.vic.gov.au



Cardinia Shire Council

YOUTH SERVICES

TERM 1 PROGRAMS 2022

TO REGISTER CALL 1800 496 884 OR EMAIL MYPLACE@CARDINIA.VIC.GOV.AU

<p>BE UR SELF MONDAYS 4-6pm A safe and inclusive space for young people 12-17 years, who identify as LGBTIQ+ and allies. To join contact My Place Youth Facility</p>	<p>CARDINIA PRIDE WEDNESDAY 6.30-8pm Are you 17-24 years and passionate about creating change for the LGBTIQ+ community in Cardinia Shire? To join contact My Place Youth Facility</p>
<p>SWITCH THURSDAY 3.30-5pm For young people aged 12-17 years to make new friends and enjoy fun activities. My Place Youth Facility, 5-7 Main St Pakenham</p>	<p>YOUNG PARENTS GROUP WEDNESDAYS 11am-12pm A fun and supportive social group for young parents and their children. Pakenham Library, John St & Henry St Pakenham</p>
<p>YOUTH ACTION COMMITTEE WEDNESDAYS 5.30-7pm Youth Action Committee (YAC) is for young people 16-24 years who are passionate about the environment, sustainability and mental health in Cardinia Shire. To join contact My Place Youth Facility</p>	<p>CATCH UP WEDNESDAYS 5.30-7pm Come join the catch up crew! Make new friends, learn some new skills and have fun 17-24 years. My Place Youth Facility, 5-7 Main St Pakenham</p>
<p>GEMBROOK HANG OUT TUESDAY 3.45-5pm Fun activities for young people aged 12-17 years. No need to book, just pop in and join the fun! Gembrook Community Centre 4 Gembrook Rd Gembrook</p>	<p>EZINE Would you like to contribute to our quarterly Ezine Magazine? Contact My Place to find out more</p>
<p>YOUTH SUPPORT We offer free, confidential, short-medium term support to young people aged 12-24 years who live, work, study or play in the Cardinia Shire. Contact My Place to find out more</p>	<p>MY PLACE YOUTH FACILITY MONDAY TO FRIDAY 1-5pm Pop into the youth centre for a chat, to use the computers or to get information, advice or practical support from one of our friendly youth workers.</p>

*In the event of lockdowns, Cardinia Shire Youth Services team will adapt to online delivery of groups and programs as much as practically possible.



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



School Attendance Support Program - Transitions into School

Presented by School Attendance Support Program
Uniting

Going to school is a big change for the whole family.

- Are you wondering how the child can cope with the change of routine?
- Do you want to learn how to make the change less unsettling for the child?

If you have answered yes to any of these questions, this workshop is for you.

When: Tuesday 15 March 2022

Where : Online via Zoom

Time: 6:30pm - 8pm

Register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN__YKRz49S4yZ0zLapKIKHw OR Scan QR Code



Queries: CFCCardinia@anglicarevic.org.au/ 0457 825 076

CFC is funded by the Australian Government, Department of Social Services.
See www.dss.gov.au for more information.



anglicarevic.org.au

BETTER TOMORROWS



Building Children's Self Esteem For Parents, Carers and Volunteers

Presented by Jasbir Singh Suropada

Learn how to :

- Recognise low self esteem in children
- Help children build a positive mindset, better resilience and improved self-confidence.
- Help them recognise what makes them special.

When: Tuesday 26 April 2022

Where : Online via Zoom

Time: 6:30pm - 8pm

Register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZJVolu_xSb203-_aXSlpIA

OR Scan QR Code



Queries: CFCCardinia@anglicarevic.org.au/ 0457 825 076

CFC is funded by the Australian Government, Department of Social Services.
See www.dss.gov.au for more information.



anglicarevic.org.au

BETTER TOMORROWS



Encouraging Positive behaviour in Pre- Teens

Presented by Michelle Brown & Jayde Mitrevski

- What is good behaviours?
- How can we teach the children to be good?
- Practical ideas to encourage the behaviours you want to see in your child

When: Tuesday 22 February 2022

Where : Online via Zoom

Time: 6:30pm - 8pm

Register at :

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jv5m8GdQW25saCUSpELw



or scan QR Code

Queries: CFCCardinia@anglicarevic.org.au/ 0457 825 076

CFC is funded by the Australian Government, Department of Social Services.
See www.dss.gov.au for more information.



anglicarevic.org.au

BETTER TOMORROWS



Gaming and Gambling in Children

For Parents, Carers and Volunteers

Presented by Grace McArthur

An online workshop to help parents understand the key issues related to

- Gambling and young people, and how they can help their child develop informed attitudes to gambling.
- How pokies machines work.
- Sports betting.
- The blurred line between gaming and gambling, and more

When: Tuesday 10 May 2022

Where : Online via Zoom

Time: 6:30pm - 8pm

Register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3lQcJZAVQdOaYNFDlquIA or Scan QR Code



Queries: CFCCardinia@anglicarevic.org.au/ 0457 825 076

CFC is funded by the Australian Government, Department of Social Services.
See www.dss.gov.au for more information.



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BETTER TOMORROWS