



Gembrook Primary School

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email: gembrook.ps@education.vic.gov.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



DIARY DATES

19th December 2023

<u>DECEMBER</u>	
Monday 18th	Final Assembly for Grade 6 students 3:00pm
Tuesday 19th	Last day of School 3:20pm finish
Wednesday 20th	Curriculum Day— Student Free Day
<u>JANUARY</u>	
Tuesday 30th	First Day Term One 2024

A Message from Justin Butler the Acting Area Executive Director

Dear Gembrook Primary School Community,

I write to express my appreciation to Mrs Kerri Drew, who, along with staff and School Council, have continued to lead the school community during Mr. Fitzpatrick's absence.

I appreciate the challenges Brendan's absence has created, and in particular, would like to acknowledge and highlight the successful School Review which was held earlier this term, that resulted in clear directions being made for the school's new Strategic Plan.

I further wish to advise that the substantive Principal of Gembrook PS, Mr Fitzpatrick, will not be continuing in the role. Mrs Drew has agreed to continue in the Acting Principal role for term 1 and the Substantive Principal position will be advertised during term 1, for a term 2 start date.

Regards,

Justin Butler

Acting Area Executive Director

Department of Education

If you or your children would like assistance in relation to this announcement from Justin Butler, services will be available through the school once school resumes.

Gembrook Primary School respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional owners of the land on which we meet, share ideas and work together. We also pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.



A note from Mrs Drew....

Dear Families, Carers and Friends,

Well, 2023 has absolutely flown by, and here we are at the end of the school year and our final newsletter for 2023! As I reflect on this fantastic and somewhat busy school year, I am grateful for the wonderful and supportive school community we have.

I want to make special mention of our wonderful teachers, ES and support staff, who have worked so hard throughout the year to ensure that students and in particular, student achievement, engagement and wellbeing is the primary focus at Gembrook Primary School.

A huge thank you to Shelley and Marita who have worked tirelessly in the office, making sure that our school runs smoothly and efficiently.

Thank you also to our School Council and Parent and Friends Association members who work so hard for our school. As I've said before, Gembrook Primary School is such a great TEAM!

Thank you to our wonderful students. I know I am biased but we really do have wonderful, bright and happy students who are a pleasure to teach. Thank you kids for all your hard work and your dedication to your learning.

Thank you to all our outstanding parents and carers who support our beautiful school in so many ways.

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a lovely Christmas and a happy, safe and restful holiday. I hope you get to spend lots of time with loved ones, family and friends and I can't wait to see you all in 2023 for another fantastic year of learning at Gembrook Primary School!

Farewell to graduating families:

As we come to the end of the 2023 school year, it is time to say farewell to our graduating families who are leaving Gembrook Primary School. Thank you to the;

Baker Family	Delaney Family	Kolbeck Family	Ruigrok Family	Winder Family
Brown Family	Farr Family	McCoy Family	Templer Family	
Brophy Family	Galvin Family	O'Dwyer Family	Thomson Family	
Davison Family	Hayward Family	Pantorno Family	West Family	

for the great contribution you have made to Gembrook Primary School over the years. We will miss you and we wish you all the very best for the future.

2024 Student Leadership

I was just so impressed by the quality of the 2024 student leadership speeches and the commitment of our grade five students to step up to leadership roles. Our grade five leadership candidates spoke with pride and passion about their school and their desire to make a significant contribution during their final year of primary school next year.

School Captains

Emelia Hawkins
Flynn Power

Vice School Captains

Macey McLeod
Blake Johnstone

PBL Leaders

Charlie Snoxell
Piper Gunther-Kemp
Isla Jones

Kurth Kiln House Captains

Claire Prouse
Layla Thornton
Darcy Henzen

Beenak House Captains

Cooper Rowlands
Fletcher Hines

Redwood House Captains

Ivy Paull
Kayla Simonetta

Tynong House Captains

Ethan Richards
Aiden Delaney
Jolie Carter

Congratulations and well done to EVERY student who applied for a 2024 student leadership position. I have met with applicants and we have discussed lots of further exciting leadership opportunities for next year.

Step Up Day!

It was fantastic to see lots of happy and enthusiastic students on Tuesday 12th December in their grades for next year. Step Up Day ran from 9:15am until 12:30pm and provided a fantastic opportunity for students to meet their new teacher and fellow students for 2024. Teachers had planned some great 'getting to know you' activities and there was a really positive 'buzz' around the school.

Year 6 Graduation:

Our grade six graduation dinner and ceremony took place last week and it was such a memorable event. Our graduating students performed their speeches with joy, consideration for others and reflection, and at times quite funny! The sun came out on a magnificent venue, which made the setting spectacular. A huge thank you to Mr. Jones, Miss Lagerwey and Miss Pike for making our graduating students an evening to remember.

Thinking about 2024 already!:

Just a reminder that school starts next year on Tuesday 30th January @9am sharp.

Merry Christmas and HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE! See you in 2024!

Kind Regards
Kerri

Academic Excellence Awards

Cooper PrepG Numeracy

Congratulations on an outstanding year of numeracy learning! You are always focused during lessons and display a positive attitude and growth mindset. Your enthusiasm for a challenge has seen you continuously grasp new concepts, and further develop your knowledge in all areas of mathematics. You have been particularly successful in the topics of money, volume and capacity, and place value, where you are able to partition numbers into the thousands. An incredible achievement, Cooper. You should be very proud of yourself!

Jordan PrepO Literacy

I'm thrilled to congratulate you on your exceptional reading and writing skills! It is evident in your word choice and ideas that you approach your writing with thoughtfulness. Your ability to infer and pose insightful questions while reading demonstrates a deep engagement in texts. Your eager and positive attitude towards literacy enriches not only your learning but also the classroom environment. I cannot wait to see where your love of learning takes you in the future. Excellent semester of literacy Jordan

Milla 1/2M Literacy

Congratulations on a remarkable semester of achievement in literacy, Milla. You have shown exceptional dedication and focus to improve your reading skills. I am in awe of how deeply you have strengthened your comprehension skills. You have used personal goals and teacher feedback to guide future learning, and have consistently recorded high-quality thinking tracks. You should be very proud of your efforts, Milla! Congratulations.

River 1/2W Numeracy

Congratulations on all your achievements and hard work in numeracy this semester, River. You have challenged yourself at every opportunity and proven yourself to be a highly reflective learner. You apply a positive growth mindset during all math tasks, and look for ways to extend your skills and strategies. You demonstrate a strong understanding of place value concepts and use your knowledge effectively. You should be very proud of your efforts, just as I am River. Very well done!

Liam 1/2H Numeracy

Liam, you should be so proud of the way you have worked in numeracy this semester. Each lesson you strive for the best and look for ways to extend yourself. What I most admire about you is the way you are able to take your knowledge of one concept and apply it to another. Your passion and drive in mathematics is really fun to watch and how it lifts our class up. Congratulations on your award.

Josephine 1/2DM Literacy

Congratulations on an outstanding semester of learning and improvement, Josie! You have made incredible advancements in developing a growth mindset, especially in regards to your reading and writing skills. You demonstrate strong comprehension strategies as well as a solid understanding of the writing process. You have built upon the ability to find ways to extend your learning and apply feedback in a positive and constructive way. We are very proud of your achievements. Very well done, Josie!

Evita 3/4B Literacy

Evita, your passion and commitment to your learning is truly inspiring and infectious. When reading, you carefully consider a text and locate evidence to form your critique or analysis. Your writing displays an engaging and unique voice, which is further strengthened by your high-quality word choices and your ability to take risks. Our conferring sessions demonstrate your eagerness to seek feedback and achieve your goals. Well done Evita!

Luke 3/4S Numeracy

Congratulations on your achievements Luke! It's been fantastic to witness your understanding of mathematical concepts and the application of that knowledge in your work. Your ability to stay focused on numeracy learning tasks reflects a commitment to the high expectations values. Additionally, your growth mindset and capacity for in-depth thinking are truly commendable. Keep up the great work!

Lachlan 3/4V Numeracy

Lachlan, I couldn't be prouder of the dedication and growth you have made in numeracy this semester. The way you demonstrate a growth mindset when tackling challenging problems sets a high standard for those around you. This has enabled you to extend your numeracy knowledge in all mathematical concepts. Keep approaching your learning positively, and you will reach goals far above even your own high expectations.

Academic Excellence Awards

Ryder 5/6P Literacy

Congratulations on your brilliant efforts in writing this semester. I am so blown away by the way you plan and craft an imaginative story. Your stories have transported us to worlds filled with wonder, and your mastery of descriptive language has made each narrative come alive in the minds of your audience. Ryder, your dedication to honing your writing skills has not gone unnoticed. You should be so proud of yourself. Keep it up and keep writing!

Claire 5/6J Numeracy

Claire, you were an invaluable member of your netball maths team this season. "The Coconuts" were very fortunate to have you as a teammate. You are a capable problem solver, and quickly identify strategies that help you identify reasonable solutions to open ended problems. You always demonstrate high expectations, especially when you strive towards achieving your independent learning goals. You deserve to feel immensely proud; all of your hard work is clearly paying dividends. Congratulations Claire.

Isla 5/6L Literacy

Isla, I absolutely love your capacity to delve meaningfully into texts. You are able to hold rich conversations about the stories you read, and explore varying text types. You have a love of historical fiction, especially those that involve the history of cats. You have worked on making connections between the characters you read about, and how they fit within their settings and storylines. Pulitzer Prize recipient Mary Schmich states, 'reading is a discount ticket to everywhere', and Isla, I know that your reading journey is just beginning. I am so looking forward to seeing where your literary travels take you, for I know you are incredibly capable.

Henry 1/2DM Music

Henry, your engagement and commitment to music this semester has been remarkable. Your ability to grasp musical concepts and use them in your compositions and performances showcases your dedication and hard work. You've excelled in our group performance of "You are my Sunshine" and your rhythmic compositions are always at a high standard. Congratulations, Henry, on a stellar semester in music!

Sarah 3/4V Music

Sarah, you have consistently engaged in Music throughout this year. You have consistently come to music with a growth mindset ready to learn. Your rhythmic and melodic compositions are a standout, and you always go above and beyond with our activities every lesson. Well done on a fantastic year in music Sarah, I look forward to seeing what you'll achieve in the years to come.

Jameson 1/2DM PE

Jameson, you have consistently engaged in P.E. Your ability to pick up strategies within games and sports, and then utilise them to your team's advantage, was impressive. You excelled in the target unit this term, and made quite the bowler, golfer and archer. Well done Jameson on an outstanding semester!

Jolie 5/6J PE

Jolie, you are so dedicated to being the best athlete possible. You can consistently understand the objectives and rules of games and sports. You are able to use game sense to build advantages over your opponents. Jolie you were absolutely exceptional at EDEC basketball, EDEC girls football, and orienteering. Keep up the outstanding work, looking forward to seeing your continual growth.

Lara Prep ART

Lara, your dedication in Visual Arts this year has been outstanding! You have a great basis in colour theory and often use this to make effective choices when planning your artworks. You always show a growth mindset when learning new skills. Your fine motor drawing and painting skills continue to improve across each term! A fantastic effort during your first year of school, well done!

Bonnie 3/4 ART

Bonnie, what an amazing year of learning! You have truly embraced an inquiry based art style. You consistently trial ideas, media, and designs in your folio. This reflective and detailed planning has enabled you to complete many impressive artworks across both semesters. You continue to develop your understanding of other artists, analysing their themes and use of elements in your artist reflections. An outstanding year! Well done!

**The PFA would like to thank everyone
who donated towards our recent
Christmas Raffle**

**Thank you to the many wonderful
school families
and the following businesses;**

Michelle Van Der Vlugt Tupperware

Gembrook IGA

Spencer's Store

The Independent

Tinkers Corner

Becs Beehive Supplies

Emerald Australia Post

Lisa Maree Hair Salon

Robert Gordon

Emerald Fruit Barn

KK Studio

Hills Physiotherapy

Bellvue Orchard-Summer Snow

Repco Pakenham



Happy Birthday

December



16th Callum 12DM
16th Flynn 56J
18th Leni 34S
18th Jordan 56L
21st Billie 12W
21st Piper 56P
27th Tallulah 34B
28th Chashanda 12H



Emergency Management at GPS



Schools on the Bushfire At-Risk Register and Category 4



School preparedness and pre-emptive actions for the bushfire season

Fire danger ratings indicate how dangerous a fire would be if one started in those conditions and provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life. They can be a trigger for action in the community and for school and household level fire plans.

Schools and children's services listed on the Department of Education and Training's Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR), and those at some lower risk of bushfire or grassfire on the Category 4 list, will be closed when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their Bureau of Meteorology district.

Gembrook Primary School has been identified as a BARR school and our school will close when there is a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating in the CENTRAL fire district.

Schools and early childhood services listed on the Department of Education and Training's Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and those at lower risk of bushfire or grassfire on the Category 4 list take pre-emptive actions on elevated fire danger days to minimise the risk of being caught in a fire in these conditions. The category of risk (per the BARR or Category 4 list) determines the actions that the school or early childhood service will need to take on days of elevated fire danger.

Our school will enact its pre-emptive action plan and also plan to close, in liaison with the Regional Director, on a day forecasted as Extreme Fire Danger Rating in our local government area (LGA), Cardinia Shire.

The department will advise our school of the potential for a **Catastrophic fire danger rating** as information becomes available, however the pre-emptive closure will be **confirmed by 1pm the day prior to Catastrophic fire danger day**. Fire danger ratings are forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology up to four days in advance.

Should a Catastrophic day be forecast, we will notify you of the closure by an SMS, COMPASS and email. If we are unable to ascertain whether our message has been delivered, we will attempt to contact you by telephone. A hard copy letter will be provided if time allows. Please ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.

Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be CONFIRMED ON THE DAY PRIOR and we will provide you with this 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 Catastrophic day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- Depending on which fire weather district is impacted, bus route cancellations may affect our school.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan cleared our facility's grounds and gutters of debris.

Emergency Management at GPS



Schools on the Bushfire At-Risk Register and Category 4



School preparedness and pre-emptive actions for the bushfire season Page 2:

Families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. **On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

The Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day. Please ensure your plan includes alternative care arrangements for your children in the event that our school is closed.

You can access current information about school and early childhood services closures, including those due to elevated fire danger, on the Department of Education and Training's website – see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

Multiple sources that offer information on emergencies are listed below:

- VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)

• ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Christmas Together

Christmas Hampers

Follow Bless Collective and the Salvation Army Pakenham are bringing the Christmas Spirit to those experiencing hardship. Do you reside within the Cardinia Shire and need help spreading the joy this Christmas in your family?

Register for a Hamper

simply scan the QR code or head to our website <https://bless.org.au/christmashamper> to fill in the hamper registration form!

follow **bless collective**

Supported by **Cardinia** Cardinia Shire Council

Pakenham YOU BELONG

THE SALVATION ARMY

Christmas Together 2023

Cardinia Support

Christmas can mean very different things to different people. Family and individual stress levels may rise throughout the Christmas season.

If you're experiencing financial or social difficulties, there are support services within Cardinia Shire that are available to assist you.

Where can I go for support with Christmas hampers?

- Christmas Together, Pakenham**
Toy and food hampers
Registrations open until 12 December:
bless.org.au/christmashamper
- Purton Place Preloved Shop, Pakenham**
Toy and food hampers
Registrations: call 0437 006 654
- Pakenham Library**
Care packs available to pick up:
• Wednesday 27 – Friday 29 December
• Tuesday 2 - Friday 5 January
No registrations required
- Have A Little Hope, Pakenham**
Christmas hampers
Registrations: call 0493 661 704
or email hannah@havealittlehope.org
- Turning Point Support Hub, Koo Wee Rup**
Food support
Pick up available Friday
22 December, 10am – 2pm
No registrations required,
just bring ID

Who can I share a free Christmas meal with?

- Gather Church, Pakenham**
Christmas dinner
Sunday 17 December from 4.30pm
Register: info@gather-church.org
- Bless Collective, Pakenham**
Christmas dinner
Thursday 21 December, 5pm-8pm
Register: www.bless.org.au
- AtRisk ILEAC, Officer**
Christmas dinner
Saturday 23 December from 6pm
Register: 0415 964 113
- Salvation Army, Pakenham**
Christmas Day lunch
Monday 25 December, 12pm-2pm
Register: 5941 4906
- Cockatoo RSL, Cockatoo**
Christmas Day
Monday 25 December, from 11am
Register: 5968 8053

For handy budget tips to help your family this Christmas, visit: goodshop.org.au

For a list of social, health and community services, visit www.cardiniasupport.com.au

Cardinia