

Values: Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful & Be a Learner

From the Principal's desk ...

Welcome to the 2022 school year

Hello and welcome to a new school year to all students, staff and families. An extra special welcome to our new families, we hope that you enjoy being a part of the Murchison Primary School community.

Our start to the new school year has been very positive with students arriving ready to learn. Our staff have spent a lot of time at school over the break to ensure our classrooms are set up and planning for 2022 was underway. The Murchison Primary School Staffing Profile for 2022 is as follows:

Foundation-Year 1 Lee-Anne Wheeler & Karen Vraca

Year 1/2 - John Ford & Elly French

Year 3/4 - Narelle Wood & Felicity Watson

Year 5/6 – Sharne Bravo & Kellie Cox

Art - Karen Vraca

Music - Nicole Thorne

Education Support – Sharon Reilly, Jo Sanderson & Narelle Warwick

MASK – Sharon Reilly

Business Manager- Shelly McCormick

Principal – Karen Goodwin

2022 Student Leaders

Congratulations to the following students who have gained the honour of leadership positions at our school. I am sure they will be outstanding representatives both within our school and the wider community.

School Captains:

Isabella Robinson & Jet Williams,

House Captains:

Goulburn - Frankie Ewart & Max Ewart,

Waranga – Charlotte Sumner & Ned Bathman.

Code Red

Murchison Primary School has been identified as a Grassfire At Risk Site. This means that on Code Red days the school will be shut. No students or staff are to attend the site on Code Red Days. Parents will be notified via Skool Loop or a phone call should this occur.

RA Tests

Thanks to students and staff who are undertaking RAT testing twice a week.

The following advice has been given from the Department for the current time:

Scenario	Required actions for the student/family
A student tests positive to COVID-19, either through RA test or PCR test	Isolate at home for 7 days (inclusive of weekends) and do not attend school during this period. Inform the school, that they have tested positive to COVID-19. A negative test is not required to return to school following completion of 7 days of isolation. Follow the Checklist for COVID cases .
A student is a household contact or house-like contact*. You have spent more than four hours with someone who has COVID-19 inside a house, accommodation, or care facility.	Notify the school that they are a household or household-like contact. Follow the Checklist for COVID contacts . Students must quarantine for 7 days (inclusive of weekends) and must not attend school during this period.
A student has been in contact with a case of COVID-19, including at school or at work.	If asymptomatic , students and staff should continue to attend school and monitor for symptoms. If symptomatic , all students must stay/return home, take a rapid antigen test, or get a PCR test if a rapid antigen testing kit unavailable. On receipt of a negative test result, and if well enough, the student member can return to school. If students are too unwell to attend school, Follow the Checklist for COVID contacts .

Serious Nut Allergy

We have a student who has been diagnosed with Anaphylaxis caused by an allergy to some types of nuts. Anaphylaxis is a serious condition which can lead to swelling of the eyes, face and airways. Staff update their Anaphylaxis training every 6 months to keep informed of the signs and symptoms and treatment procedure (administration of an EpiPen injection). We ask all families to consider this when packing the following products or anything containing traces of these products in their child/ren's school lunches and snacks. **Macadamia nuts, Peanuts, Pecans or Walnuts.** All other nuts and seeds are fine to have at school. Your assistance with this is very much appreciated.

School Times & Road Safety

School begins at 8:45am each day. For working parents or those who would enjoy breakfast we offer our Breakfast Program between 8:00am and 8:30am for students arriving between these times. Students are supervised in the yard from 8:30am. Students should line up outside the back door at 8:45am after the bell to enter the building. School finishes at 3:20pm each day with lunchtime from 1:30pm to 2:20pm.

For the safety of our students, we ask that children crossing Impey Street MUST use the School Crossing, which is unsupervised in the mornings, and supervised by a staff member in the afternoon. Children crossing Rushworth Road should use the 'Supervised School Crossing'. Where a supervisor will be on duty from 8.15am to 9.00am in the mornings and from 3.15pm to 3.45pm each afternoon. Cyclists and scooter riders must wear a helmet and should wheel bikes and scooters across crossings and into the school grounds.

Vic Roads recommends that children under 10 do not ride unsupervised and children under 12 are expected to ride on the footpath.

School Council Elections

We have 3 vacancies this year and are calling for nominations for election to School Council. Current Councillors are able to re-nominate. If you are interested, nominations forms are available from the office. A "Notice of Election" form will be on display in the office.

School Council is a very important part of our school and sets policy and oversees school financial practices.

Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund (CSEF) - Applications

If you hold a Health Care Card or Pension Card you may be eligible for \$125.00 towards your child's camp, excursions and sports. All you need to do is complete the CSEF application which is available in the school office and return it to school. If you received the CSEF from Murchison Primary School in 2021 there is no need to complete a new application this year, unless your circumstances have changed. Please contact the office if you have any queries.

School Assembly

School Assembly is held each Monday morning from **8:50am**. For the present time parents, we will not be able to attend, all assemblies will be streamed on Facebook.

2021 Year Books

Did you miss out on ordering the 2021 Year Book? We have a few copies still available from the office for \$10.

House Swimming Sports

House swimming sports will be held next Tuesday February 8 at the Murchison Swimming Pool. Events will start from 11:45am for the senior students with the younger students joining us from 12:30pm for some fun water activities. Permission notes were sent home yesterday. Unfortunately, this event will not be open to parents and extended family.

Conveyance Allowance

In 2022, Families travelling 4.8 km or more to school are eligible for Conveyance (Travel) Allowance. Everyone, old and new parents need to fill out an updated form available from the office.

Child Safe Standards

Murchison Primary School is proudly a Child Safe School, including being a leading school in Respectful Relationships.

Facebook

Have you checked out our Murchison Primary School page?



Have a great week!

Karen Goodwin

AROUND THE SCHOOL:

Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful & Be a Learner



FOUNDATION STUDENTS 2022

From Left to Right

*Back: Charlie, Jude, Mabel, Paisley, Hugh,
Alyssa & Milla*

Front: Winnie, Aston, Lacie, Harly & Lucas

Absent: Maxie

LIBRARY NEWS: The library is now open for 2022 borrowing. There are still some of our precious books that were not returned last year. There are also a number of Take Home Readers missing. We ask that you have a good search around your home to ensure all MPS owned books are returned for future use. Thanks!



MASK: Welcome back to MASK 2022! I hope you have enjoyed your break and are looking forward to a fun year. The children have discovered a few new items in our room and have enjoyed playing with them! Welcome to the new families who will be using our service this year. Account are sent out by email fortnightly and we appreciate it if they are kept up to date. We believe the emailing out of your accounts is working very well. Please let us know if there is a problem. You all have access to your enrolment forms, can you please keep them updated and correct so that we don't have any troubles within CCS. Please see our friendly Shelly to collect enrolment forms and I would appreciate them filled out before your child start. See you soon. Sharon



SCHOOL LEVIES (\$220 for 2022): are charged for each student to cover the cost of providing all the materials and equipment for thier learning programs. These parent contributions are only to recover our expenses. The charge for Kids N Fruit is \$15.

PERSONAL PROPERTY: Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. The Department of Education does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property. We are just reminding everyone at the beginning of the year. Staff and students are discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

MURCHISON PRIMARY SCHOOL BYOD Year 3-6:

IPADS (wifi only) that can run IOS 10 and 11 are suitable to be part of the BYOD program. Participation in our BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) program is voluntary and only for Year 3-6 students. Children will not share their device with other students. Students without an IPAD will have the opportunity to share a school one. All students have been given an agreement form, if your child will be bringing a BYOD, please complete the form and return it to school.

Shop around, IPADS are much cheaper than what they used to be. Important information about purchasing is given below.

Purchasing through JB HiFi can be completed online. The school has registered with JB HiFi Education and access is through:

<https://www.jbeducation.com.au/byod/>

The JB HiFi School Code to login is:

Murchison2018

Make sure you click on 'In store pickup'.

Remember that Officeworks and Harvey Norman have competitive prices and do not require an online order.

Students who received netbooks from the school last year are also able to bring these devices for use at school.

We ask that all devices are charged at home overnight.



BPay option is available at Murchison Primary School. **Your Biller Code is unique**

to you and shows on the statements. You can use BPay for School Fees, Kids n Fruit, Excursions, Camps and After School Care i.e. any payments you make to school. When you use the Bpay facility what you are paying for is not identified when it arrives at the school. If you are simply paying your outstanding balance this won't be a problem, however if you are selecting one item to pay out of several, you will need to tell us what you are paying for by: a note to school or by phoning Shelly in the office. We ask for your assistance what you are paying for. In line with DET policy, if you do not advise what you are paying for, the BPay funds will be allocated to the oldest charges on your account.

TERM 1 PLANNER

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	31	1	2 No Foundation Students	3	4	5	6
2	7 Assembly 8:55 Swimming Trials Yrs 3-6 11:30	8 Coffee Club House Swimming Sports 11:30	9 No Foundation Students	10	11 Bee Shop	12	13
3	14	15 District Swimming Sports School Council	16 No Foundation Students	17	18	19	20
4	21	22	23 No Foundation Students	24	25 Bee Shop	26	27
5	28	March 1	2	3	4 Clean Up Aust. Day	5	6
6	7	8	9	10	11 Bee Shop	12	13
7	14 Labour Day	15	16	17	18	19	20
8	21	22 Life Ed School Council AGM	23 Life Ed	24 SSS Rehearsal	25 Ride to School Bee Shop	26	27
9	28	29	30	31 SSS Rehearsal	April 1	2	3
10	4	5	6	7	8 Bee Shop Last Day Term 1 2:20 Finish	9	10

Chaplain's News

"Count your blessings name them one by one"

It's great to be back at Murchison, there is a positive vibe in the air, lots of smiles, students reading and organising tubs. Just like last year on my first day hearing the sound CHAPPY.. Y is here filled me with thankfulness.

The title for this weeks Chappy news "Count your blessings" is extra special for my family right now. We, Miriam and boys Glen and Kirk were involved in a significant car crash on the weekend. We are thankful to have only minor bumps yet all three cars are written off. We are thankful to have been able to help the other drivers too who are all ok. We are thankful that other drivers and people we knew just happened to be there to lend a hand. I want to take this opportunity to thank our emergency services who did a fantastic job. I am thankful to be the Chaplain at Murchison for 2022. If I was to name all the blessings from last year I would be here for a while. I am looking forward to making lots of coffee's, hot chocolates, getting students involved with mechanics, playing lunch time music and making a difference every day.

Breaking News: Coffee Club has its own dedicated trolley (on wheels). "At the Gate" coffee is on! Starting next Tuesday February 8. What are you thankful for? If you want an exercise in well-being, grab some paper and a pen or phone, iPad, smart tv, pc, typewriter 😊 and make a list. Look at them once finished take time to be thankful. Count your blessings name them one by one is an old Sunday school song written by the late Methodist lay preacher named Johnson Oatman. (1856-1922) He wrote "Count your blessings, Name them one by one, Count your blessings, See what God has done". Chappy 😊



SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB- Issue 1 is due: Wednesday Feb 16.

The first addition of Scholastic Book Club has been



issued. Book Club offers a convenient way to purchase some great books at discounted prices. There are books for all ages and there are 8 issues per year. Therefore twice a term Book Club brochures are distributed to each student. Simply browse the brochures with your child, make any selections you may want, and order online via the LOOP website or app before the closing date or return the completed order to the school office with correct payment (in an envelope labeled Book Club). All orders are processed and then the books are delivered to school within two weeks.

If you are making a 'surprise-gift' order you'd prefer your child didn't know about please specify this on the order as books are delivered to your child to take home. If you don't wish for your child to be a part of Scholastic Book Club please let me know and you can be removed from the list.

Furthermore, every order you place earns MPS free books and learning resources.

Thanks in advance for your support, Felicity Watson

Introducing **Book Clubs LOOP** for Parents

LOOP is the Scholastic Book Clubs
Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for parents.

To order and pay for Scholastic Book Clubs by credit card visit:

www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP



Murchison Primary School Breakfast Club Program

We are very excited to announce that our school breakfast program is back we will be offering breakfast everyday.

The Department of Education through the State Government is again partnering with Foodbank Victoria to establish the Breakfast Club program in over 500 of the most disadvantaged schools across Victoria.

The benefits of having a Breakfast Club program at school include:

- Improvement in child engagement in the classroom;
- Improvement in school attendance;
- Improvement in behaviour;
- Develop of child's social skills;
- Improvement in academic outcomes;

To make this program a successful and sustainable one we need your support!

Breakfast Club - Expression of Interest

Support can be offered in a variety of ways; it doesn't have to be volunteering at the program of a morning. Please see the list below for ideas: (Please highlight/circle the areas where you can help).

1. I am interested in volunteering my time to help run the program of a morning (approx. 8:00 – 8:45):
Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday
2. I am interested in helping to cook foods for the program (for example: muffins) using the foods provided by Foodbank.
3. Any other great ideas: _____

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

STUDENT ABSENCES: Please phone the school or send a message if your child is going to be away. Attached to the newsletter will be an absence note to use if your child is absent from school. Children are expected to be at school every day unless unwell. Please support your child's learning and ensure they are at school by 8.50am **every day.**



Murchison Primary School Student Absence Form

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

Reason _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Please hand to
your class
teacher

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 and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are 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 the CSEF visit
www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

If you applied for the CSEF at your child's school in 2019, you do not need to complete an application form in 2020 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 in 2020 or you did not apply in 2019.
- changed family circumstances; such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2020.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



Kids in Hot Cars

NEVER LEAVE CHILDREN UNATTENDED IN A CAR

The thought of running a quick errand and leaving the children in the car for a minute can be tempting for a parent or carer. Leaving children unattended in a car on any day is dangerous, let alone a hot summer's day. It could result in serious injury or death. In some states it is against the law to leave children unattended in a car. Check the motoring authority in your state or territory for the relevant laws and regulations.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

On a typical Australian summer day, the temperature inside a parked car can be 20 degrees C to 30 degrees C hotter than the outside temperature.

The temperature inside a car can reach dangerous levels quickly; 75% of the temperature rise occurs within the first 5 minutes of closing and leaving the car. Large cars heat up just as fast as smaller ones.

Leaving the windows down slightly has little effect on the inside car temperature. Tests conducted by RACQ have shown that when car windows are left open by 10cm, the inside temperature is only 5 degrees C cooler than with the windows closed.

Young children are more sensitive to heat than older children or adults as their body temperature can rise 3 to 5 times faster. This puts them at greater risk of heatstroke and other health risks as their body temperature reaches dangerous levels much sooner.



HOT CARS SAFETY TIPS

- If you have to leave the car, even to run a quick errand - take the children with you.
- Never use the car as a substitute 'babysitter'.
- Never leave children in a car without adult supervision for any length of time, not even a minute!
- Lock cars and secure keys when at home to prevent children playing inside the car.
- Make 'look before you leave' a routine whenever you get out of the car.
- When a child is missing, in addition to checking backyard pools and any other bodies of water, be sure to check inside the car and the boot of any nearby vehicles.
- Never leave valuables in the car, including your kids!

SUMMER HOLIDAY TRAVELLING

- Provide plenty of cool water and fluids throughout the journey.
- Dress kids in lightweight and easy fit clothing.
- When planning a long journey, consider travelling in the cooler hours of the day.
- Plan to stop every 2 hours so all passengers can have a rest from travelling.
- If you need to protect babies or young children from sun through the car windows, use a visor or sunshade on the vehicle glass.
- On every trip, check the fit of your child's harness, child restraint tether straps and secure seatbelts to ensure they are correctly latched and firmly adjusted.

WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU SEE A CHILD ALONE IN A CAR?

- If you notice that a child has been left unattended in a vehicle call 000 and ask for the Fire Brigade.
- Give your location, the vehicle registration number, the approximate age of the child and the condition of the child.
- If the car is unlocked, open the doors and shield windows with a blanket etc. and wait for emergency services - or - safely try to remove the child from the vehicle if you are concerned about the child's condition as every second counts!

For further information please visit Kidsafe Victoria at:
www.kidsafevic.com.au

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www.lionsclubinternational.org

Newsletter article: Schools on the Bushfire At-Risk Register and Schools at Risk of Grassfire (Category 4)

Here is an article for you to publish in your newsletter or on your website. It will help you communicate to parents that your school is listed on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) or is a school at risk of grassfire (Category 4) and is prepared should a Code Red day be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner.

When using the article, you are advised to:

- review the text for relevance to the specific circumstance - noting that red text indicates statements that are optional or that must be reviewed for each use
- copy the required text onto your school's website or into the newsletter

School procedures for 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 listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and those at risk of grassfire (Category 4) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district. Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire or grassfire risk.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter [and SMS message/phone tree]. 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 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.
- All bus routes that travel through the Code Red area will be cancelled.
- Depending on which Bureau of Meteorology district is impacted bus route cancellations may affect our school.

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

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises 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, [reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters]

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, [by checking our website [insert URL] and by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- 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>

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



MURCHISON SWIMMING POOL

CARNIVAL TIME

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 18
4 -8 PM



Murchison Men's Shed will be there with food from 4 - 7pm
Sausages & Hot Dogs \$2.50 & Gourmet Hot Dogs \$5.00



Entry \$4.00 child, Adult \$5.00, members are free.

Please bring cash as we have no EFT

Please come and enjoy the festivities whilst supporting our community run pool and the Men's Shed



Early Days is a series of FREE workshops for parents and other family members of young children (0-7 years) who are on the autism spectrum. They are also suitable for parents who feel their child may be on the spectrum but have not received a formal diagnosis.

My Child and Autism Workshop for Parents

Part 1: Monday 7th February 2022:
9.30am-2.30pm

Part 2: Monday 14th February 2022:
9.30am-2.30pm

**must attend all workshops*

Progression to School Workshop for Parents

Part 1: Thursday 31st March 2022:
10.00am – 11.30am

Part 2: Friday 1st April 2022:
10.00am – 11.30am

**must attend all workshops*

Understanding Behaviour Workshop for Parents

Part 1: Tuesday 29th March 2022:
7.30pm – 9.30pm

Part 2: Wednesday 30th March 2022:
7.30pm – 9.30pm

Part 3: Wednesday 6th April 2022:
7.30pm – 9.30pm

**must attend all workshops*

It is highly recommended you attend the "My Child and Autism" workshop prior to attending any other workshops