



# “Learning Together”



*A community of active thinkers who can achieve their dreams.*

*Caring, Respectful, Learners*

Issue No. 1

Term 1

Week 1

4th February 2022

## PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Dear Parents and Carers

### Welcome to the 2022 school year!

I wish to congratulate all of our students for the way they have settled into their classes during the first few days. All of the students have done a wonderful job of coming into school and demonstrating our values of being caring, respectful learners. Our new Prep students have been absolutely amazing and have been already doing some fantastic learning. Let’s hope that the rest of our 2022 school year can continue to run as smoothly as it has this week!



### Welcome New Staff

It is always exciting to welcome new staff members into our school community. This year we welcome three new members of staff. Mr Matt Grimshaw is teaching Prep this year and will be our Junior Team leader. Matt has been teaching at a number of other schools, most recently at Pakenham Consolidated school.

Ms Sam Berry and Mr Josh Hasan also join our team as Education Support staff. Both Sam and Josh have been getting to know the staff and students this week and we are excited to welcome them on-board.

We will introduce all three new staff members to you in the coming newsletters.

### Preps—Wednesdays Off—FROM LAST YEAR

This Wednesday was the first “rest day” for our 2022 Prep students. Mr Grimshaw will be meeting individually with each Prep student over the coming Wednesdays to do some 1:1 assessments. This information is very useful for helping to determine a starting point for learning and for measuring learning progress throughout the year. Matt will be in touch with Prep parents to arrange a time for the assessments.

**ASSEMBLIES-EVERY FRIDAY AT 2.50PM IN THE UNDERCOVER AREA –ALL PARENTS WELCOME**

### IMPORTANT DATES

- Thursday 24th February—District Swimming Carnival
- Tuesday 1st March—Aths Sports Carnival—Geoff Watt Track
- Wednesday 2nd March—School Council meeting
- Thursday 3rd March—School photos
- Monday 7th March—back up day for School Aths
- Monday 14th March—Labour Day—public holiday



## COVID and Return to School

**A number of processes and rules have come into play for the start of the school year in order to keep school communities safe from Covid, to minimise the spread of the virus and to try to keep interruptions to learning to a minimum. These include:**

**Rapid Anitigen Tests (RATs)** - the state government will provide all students and staff with enough RAT tests to conduct 2 per week over the first 4 weeks of school. **Unfortunately, Drouin South PS has not yet received our supply of RATs** despite several emails and phone calls to the relevant departments. We have been advised that our RATs are on the way and that we can expect the rest of our delivery early next week. Parents will be notified as soon as the RATs are ready for collection. Any positive cases will need to be reported to the school and appropriate isolation of infected persons and household contacts will need to occur. More information will be sent home when the RATs arrive.

**Masks**—masks are compulsory inside school buildings for adults and for all students in Years 3-6. masks are highly recommended for students in years P-2. Teachers do not have to wear masks whilst directly teaching with students. We ask that parents please ensure students bring fresh masks to school each day.

**Vaccinations**—All staff members are fully vaccinated and will all be required to have their 3rd dose within the coming weeks. Vaccinations are now available for primary aged children and we encourage families to make appointments to have children vaccinated. Any volunteers who work in the school or at school based events also need to be vaccinated. Visitors/parents must show vaccination status and sign in to enter any school buildings.

**Air Purifiers**—The school has received 6 air purifiers. These have been placed in each classroom as these are the areas that students and staff occupy most often throughout the school day.

**Fresh Air Breaks**—Teachers will be increasing the number of opportunities that students have to use outside areas. This may be extra outdoor physical activity, outside lessons and general breaks throughout the day.

**Limiting Inside Visitors**—School are still required to limit the number of visitors entering buildings. We ask that parents refrain from entering buildings at school unless absolutely necessary or by appointment. and only for exceptional circumstances.

**Encourage social distancing and personal hygiene**—social distancing is very difficult to uphold in schools. We will encourage students to wash hands regularly and will provide sanitiser for use in all classrooms.

### Specialist Subjects

This year our “specialist” learning areas will include Physical Education (Mr Denby Moore) and the Arts (visual and performing—Mrs Adelle Phillips) These lessons will commence next week and will be held from Monday to Wednesday. All classes will have 1 hour of physical education and 2 hours of The Arts.

*Michael Smith—Principal*

*Caring, Respectful, Learners*

## GRADES AND TEACHERS FOR 2022

Prep	Mrs Matt Grimshaw
Grade 1/2S	Mrs Melissa Swan
Grade 1/2H	Mr Ashley Hallihan
Grade 3/4	Ms Anna Nauta
Grade 4/5	Mrs Jordan Puncher (Mon,Tue) Mr Denby Moore (Wed, Thurs, Fri)
Grade 5/6	Mrs Belinda Moore
PE	Mr Denby Moore (Mon, Tues)
The Arts	Mrs Adelle Phillips (Mon, Tues, Wed)
Tutoring-Catch-Up	Ms Eden deRobillard (Mon-Fri)
Education Support	Mrs Jenny Eacott, Ms Sam Berry, Mr Josh Hasan

### Curriculum Day—31st January

All staff worked extremely hard on Monday this week as we prepared to build our knowledge for the school year. Donna Richards from the Australian Childhood Foundation presented a day focused on “Making Space for Learning” - How to support students who have been affected by childhood trauma.

We learned about the development of the human brain and how negative experiences in early childhood can affect the development of a human brain. One of the major developmental issues it can cause is the inability for human beings to self-regulate their emotions. Often the smallest of triggers (e.g. a sound, a smell, a facial expression) can be enough to cause some children to go into fight, fright or freeze response. This can often cause disruption in class and learning or in severe cases can lead to injury to self and others.

Our role as educators is to try to work with our trauma affected students in ways that assist them to become more self-regulating as children and into their adult lives. We discussed many strategies that can be applied including simple strategies that can be used in all classrooms with all children.



# Book Club LOOP

## for Parents

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

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

**[www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP](http://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP)**



***PE—Mondays and Tuesdays***

***Art & Music—Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays***

***Remember your smock for Art!***

### **HATS, DRINK BOTTLES AND NAMES ON ITEMS**

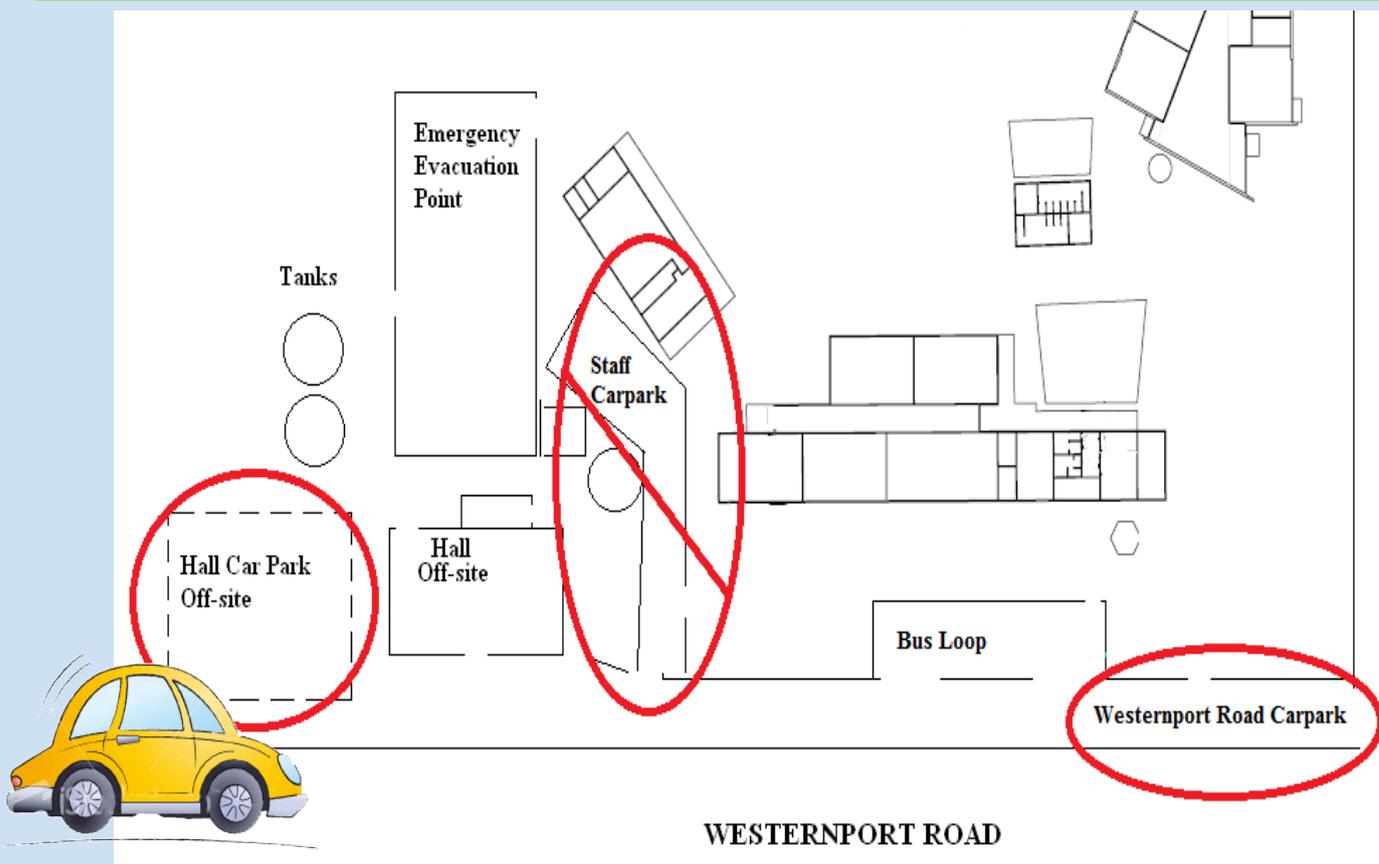
As a Sun-Smart School, all students are required to wear a hat whilst outside between Mid-August and beginning of May each year. Students that don't wear a hat are required to play in the undercover area at recess and lunch times. It is also important to have a water-bottle (non-glass) for use at school.

All items of clothing and all belongings should be clearly named. Many items are found at school each day and most are able to be returned to their owner as they are clearly named. There are many items that unfortunately end up in lost property and never find their owner again!



### **Car Parking**

We understand that the school car park areas can become quite busy at the end of the school day. We ask that parents please use the marked spaces at the front of the school OR park at the Drouin South Hall. Please do not park in the bus loop, the staff car park, on the neighbour's property/driveway or across the other side of Westernport Rd. One way of ensuring a car park space is to arrive 5 to 10 minutes after the bell. There is a teacher on gate duty (front and back) until 3.30pm each day. Please see the plan below.



# We have partnered with Flexischools, to make school lunches even easier.

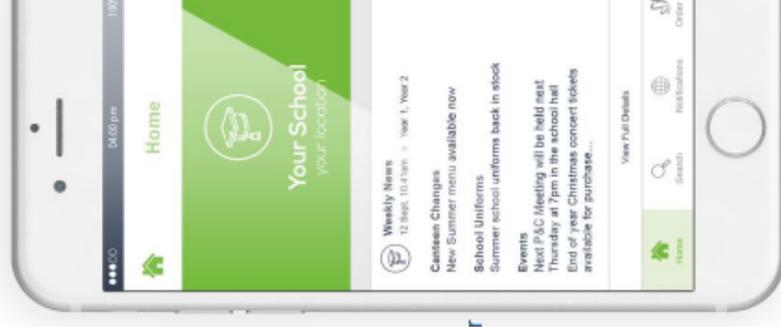
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**flexischools**

## SET UP YOUR ACCOUNT

- 1 Download the Flexischools App**  
Note: for iPhone and iPad please select 'Allow' notifications.
- 2 Add your School and Group**  
  
Click on the search icon, enter your school name, select your school and year group, or groups relevant to you.
- 3 Login/Register**  
Click the 'Order now' button located in the bottom right-hand corner of the app, this will open a login screen.
  - **Already a Flexischools user** - Enter your details and login. To save your login details select 'remember me'.
  - **New Flexischools user** - Click 'Register', enter your email address and follow the instructions in the email to set up your account. Once your account is set up, add new student, search for their school, enter student details and select their class.



## ORDER

- 1 Place your Order**  
Click the 'Order now' button located in the bottom right-hand corner of the app and select your student.
- 2 Make your Selection**  
Select the items you wish to order.
- 3 Make Payment**  
Select your payment option and complete payment to place your order.

Alternatively you can sign-up on [flexischools.com.au](http://flexischools.com.au)

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# School Readiness



Am I ready for school?



## Tips for parents

When your child starts primary school there are a number of skills that they should ideally have mastered. Use this sheet as a guide to help track their progress.

### Self-care

- I know when to wash my hands
  - I can wipe my nose
- I can ask for help if I don't feel well

### Speaking & literacy

- I am interested in reading stories & looking at picture books
- I am able to talk about myself, my needs & feelings
  - I am practising recognising my name when it's written down

### Getting dressed & undressed on my own

- I can button & unbutton my clothes
- I can put my own shoes & socks on
- I can put my coat on & use a zip

### Interest in the world & new activities

- I enjoy learning about the world around me
  - I am interested in exploring new activities or environments
    - I like asking questions

### Eating

- I can use a knife & fork
- I can open my packed lunch on my own
  - I am confident at opening wrappers & packaging

### Writing skills

- I like tracing patterns & colouring in
- I enjoy experimenting with different shaped scribbles
  - I am practising holding a pencil

### Going to the toilet

- I can go to the toilet on my own, wipe myself properly & flush
- I can wash & dry my hands without any help

### Independence

- I am happy to be away from my mummy, daddy or my main carer
- I am happy to tidy my belongings & look after my things
- I am feeling confident about starting school

### Listening & understanding

- I am able to sit still and listen for a short while
  - I can follow instructions
- I understand the need to follow rules

### Sharing & turn taking

- I can share toys & take turns
- I can play games with others
- I can interact with other children

### Counting skills

- I enjoy practising counting objects
- I like saying number rhymes & playing counting games
  - I can recognise some numbers when they are written down

### Routines

- I have practised putting on my uniform & getting ready to leave on time
- I have a good bedtime routine so I'm not feeling tired for school
- I'm learning to eat at the times I will on school days



# What does ParentZone offer?



Parenting challenges everyone.

At ParentZone we offer all parents and carers a chance to develop and strengthen their parenting skills. We provide free parenting groups, workshops, and resources for parents, carers, and the professionals who work with them.

The programs cater to all ages and stages, from newborns to teenagers. Program content responds to the needs of our communities. Our skilled and experienced facilitators will tailor the sessions to meet the interests of each group. Meet other parents in person or online.

ParentZone can help you to:

- Improve communication and understanding between parents/carers and children.
- Feel more prepared for the different ages and stages of childhood.
- Learn new ideas and strategies to shape children's behaviour positively and develop their potential.
- Strengthen relationships within the whole family.
- Foster stronger relationships while dealing with loss, disability, trauma, separation or divorce.
- Empower children to deal with their emotions.
- Build a more resilient family that can grow together.

**ParentZone Gippsland is the Regional Parenting Service for Gippsland and supports families within the local government areas of Bass Coast, Baw Baw, East Gippsland, Latrobe, South Gippsland, and Wellington.**

**PARENTZONE**

# What's on in Term 1 2022

## Parents Building Solutions

Learn strategies, share stories and take some time out for you!

Dads Matter: online via Zoom, Fridays 4th March to 1st April, 10:30am - 12:30pm

Let's Talk About Parenting: online via Zoom, Thursdays 3rd February to 3rd March, 10:30am - 12:30pm

Dealing with your Child's Anger: online via Zoom, Mondays 28th February to 4th April (no session 14th March), 10:30am - 12:30pm

Let's Talk About Parenting: online via Zoom, Thursdays 10th March to 7th April, 5:30pm - 7:30pm

## Breaking the Cycle

For parents and carers of adolescents who are violent or abusive in the home

Wednesdays 9th February to 30th March, 10:30am - 12:30pm

Online via Zoom

## Tuning in to Kids

Teaches parents skills to help their children to understand and regulate their emotions.

Tuesdays 8th February to 15th March, 10:30am - 12:30pm

Online via Zoom

## Learning Through Play

Supported play for Latrobe parents/carers and their children under-school-age. Groups run throughout school term from 10:00am - 12:00pm.

Mondays: Outdoor play Matheson Park Churchill

Mondays: Indoor play Buckley St Morwell

Tuesdays: Outdoor play Immigration Park Morwell

Wednesdays: Indoor play Buckley St Morwell

Fridays: Indoor play, Churchill Community Hub

For bookings & enquiries contact: Parentzone Gippsland on 03 5135 9555 or email

[parentzone.gippsland@anglicarevic.org.au](mailto:parentzone.gippsland@anglicarevic.org.au)

**PARENTZONE**

# What's on in Term 1 2022

## Single sessions

These 2-hour sessions are based on Parents Building Solutions program and offered online via Zoom

### Raising Resilient Kids

Friday 25th February, 10:30am - 12:30pm

- How you can help your child cope in a chaotic world
- Improving your child's confidence and self esteem
- Helping your child to cope with change

### Bullying

Monday 21st February, 10:30am - 12:30pm

- Understanding what is bullying
- Recognising the signs your child is being bullied
- Knowing how to support your child
- Helping your child build resilience and learn protective behaviours

### Parenting Anxious Kids

Monday 7th February, 10:30am - 12:30pm

- How to respond when your child gets overwhelmed
- Helping your child to regulate their emotions
- Supporting your child with their challenges

### Making Time for Self Care

Tuesday 29th March, 10:30am - 12:30pm

- Strategies for feeling less overwhelmed
- Improving your confidence and self esteem
- Building resilience for yourself and your family
- Taking time out for yourself

### Understanding Your Child's Behaviour

Friday 11th February, 10:30am - 12:30pm

- Do you want to understand why some behaviours occur?
- Learn strategies to deal with behaviour?
- Communicate better with your child?
- Stay connected to your child?

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## Bringing Up Great Kids

The Bringing Up Great Kids' program supports parents and carers to:

- learn more about the origins of their own parenting style and how it can be more effective;
- identify the important messages they want to convey to their children and how to achieve this;
- learn more about brain development in children and its influence on their thoughts, feelings and behaviour;
- understand the meaning behind children's behaviours, and how to respond to children's underlying feelings and needs;
- explore new ways of communicating with children;
- discover ways for parents to take care of themselves and to find support when they need it.

Come along to these 6 sessions to learn strategies, share stories and take some time out for you!

**DATES:** Wednesdays 16th February to 30th March 2022 (no session 2nd March)

**TIME:** 10:30am to 12:30pm

**WHERE:** Online via Zoom

**COST:** FREE. Bookings essential.

For bookings & enquiries contact:  
Parentzone Gippsland on 03 5135 9555  
or email  
[parentzone.gippsland@anglicarevic.org.au](mailto:parentzone.gippsland@anglicarevic.org.au)

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