



# Bungaree Primary School Newsletter

Term 1, Week 4  
20th February, 2026

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**Principal:** Catherine Barnes

Respect

Positivity

Determination

Creativity

*We would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which we all live and learn, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community. We acknowledge the Wadawurrung people of the Kulin Nation, where we share a place of belonging. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and thank them for taking care of this country over countless generations.*

*Koling wada-ngal (Let us walk together)*

## From the Principal

Hello everyone,

What an energising start to the year it has been. Over the past week, our students have shown remarkable enthusiasm as they stepped forward to nominate for our 2026 Junior School Council. Their confidence, creativity and genuine desire to lead our amazing school community have been wonderful to witness. We are delighted to now congratulate our newly elected representatives—Mitchy, Annie, Nola and Nora, and look forward to the leadership they will bring throughout the year.

You'll also find important information in this newsletter about our upcoming School Council election process, which will be conducted in line with the Department of Education guidelines. We encourage families to take a moment to read through the details and consider how they might like to be involved.

It's hard to believe we are already nearing the halfway point of the term. With so much happening across the school, time is certainly flying. One of the highlights ahead is the launch of our Bulldogs Read Program, which begins with a Family Information Session this Monday night. We strongly encourage our Year 3-6 families to come along and learn more about how they can be part of this exciting literacy initiative. The program also includes an opportunity to attend the Bulldogs v Suns match at Marvel Stadium on 14th March. Tickets are limited, so please see me directly if you would like to register your interest.

Around the school, our improvement works continue to take shape. Renovations in the Art Room are progressing well, and once completed, we will move on to replacing the heritage windows in the Big Room. We are also preparing to refresh the garden beds around the Main Building and begin updates to the vegie garden. These projects will help lift and brighten our grounds, ensuring our school remains a vibrant, welcoming and inspiring place to learn.

Thank you for your ongoing support. It's shaping up to be a fantastic year.

Please keep an eye on Facebook and Compass for school updates. As always, keep safe and look after yourself, your family, friends and neighbours. Stay grateful, kind and mindful, as we say and do in school.

Miss Catherine Barnes, Principal

## Calendar

### February

- Friday 20th School Twilight Picnic at Kirk's Reservoir, 5:00-6:30pm
- Monday 20th Bulldogs Read Program family information night at the Ballarat Library, 5:45-6:45pm
- Monday 23rd- Wednesday 25th Student Support Group meetings for Individual Education Plans (as required)
- Friday 27th MARC Van at school

### March

- Monday 2nd Bulldogs Read "Welcome Event" excursion (Years 3-6). Details to follow on Compass.
- Wednesday 4th STEM incursion (at school)—Technology
- Monday 9th Labour Day public holiday—SCHOOL CLOSED
- Wednesday 11th- Monday 23rd NAPLAN assessment window
- Friday 13th MARC Van at school
- Saturday 14th Bulldogs v Suns AFL game at Marvel Stadium—Bulldogs Read students.
- Friday 20th Wathaurung Cross Country events. Details to follow.
- Friday 27th MARC Van at school

### April

- Thursday 2nd Student Showcase, 9:00am. Last day of Term 1, 2:30pm dismissal.
- Monday 20th Curriculum Day—SCHOOL CLOSED
- Tuesday 21st Term 2 commences.



**Our Service Road to school has a 10km/h speed limit. For everyone's safety—students, families and staff, please abide by this speed limit when arriving and departing from school at all times. Thank you.**

# JSC Speeches: A celebration of courage, character and catch-cries!



Over the last week, our Year 3-6 students have been busily writing, refining and practising their Junior School Council election speeches – and what a joyful, inspiring and thoroughly entertaining journey it has been. As staff, we could not be prouder of the courage, enthusiasm and genuine desire to lead that each student demonstrated. Their peers were just as impressed, cheering them on with warmth and admiration.

What stood out most was the way students spoke from the heart. Many shared their personal beliefs about leadership, reminding us that even our youngest learners understand the importance of kindness, responsibility and integrity. As one student put it, *“I try to be a good leader every day.”* Another reflected, *“A good leader is honest and tries to make people happy,”* while others proudly connected their values to our school culture: *“I show respect, positivity, determination and creativity because it is the Bungaree Way.”*

Of course, no JSC campaign would be complete without a few memorable slogans. This year’s speeches delivered them in abundance. From the confident *“Vote for L and your day will go well”* to the delightfully honest *“So vote for Logan, I can’t think of a slogan,”* students showed that leadership can be both serious and wonderfully light-hearted. We also enjoyed the rhythmic charm of *“Vote for little JC for JSC!”* and *“Vote little AT for JSC!”* along with the creative promise of *“So vote for Nora ... for a ... fun school year.”*

Some students shared their commitment to wellbeing and care: *“I will be with you through the sad, down, tired, happy and exciting times because ALL emotions are OK.”* Others highlighted responsibility and safety: *“I try to make sure everyone is safe and on the right path.”* And of course, we can’t forget the student who opened with the unforgettable, *“G’day fellow farmers ... I’m ready to shine,”* or the one who proudly declared, *“... you will probably know me for my classy, cool, beautiful dad jokes.”*

Every speech—serious, funny, heartfelt or bold—reflected a genuine desire to contribute to our school community. We applaud every student who stepped up.

Finally, we congratulate our elected JSC representatives for 2026: Mitchy, Annie, Nola and Nora. We know you will lead with pride, positivity and purpose.

*“Leadership is not about being the best. It is about inspiring others to be their best.”*

Miss Barnes on behalf of all staff

# School Mowing

Is your family able to help in the mowing of the school grounds sometime this year? Every little bit helps, and everyone values the contributions of family volunteers in this task to keep our grounds beautiful.

Please see Miss Barnes if you can help.

THANK YOU!



# Annual Privacy Reminder for Our School Community

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools’ Privacy Policy](#) and the [Schools’ Privacy Collection Notice](#).

Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [Google Workspace for Education](#) safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child’s information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using Google Workspace for Education, please contact the school.

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools’ Privacy Policy – information for parents](#).

# Happy birthday in February

18th—Nola’s birthday



Curriculum Day—please diarise

Monday, 20th April

*School will be closed on this day as approved by School Council, for staff professional learning in our small school cluster.*

Together we can grow

## Wellbeing Wisdom

### 'I' statements, what they are and why they work!

I statements are a commonly used method to help with problem solving and communication that is healthy and blame free! "I statements" specifically focus on moving sentences away from any direct or indirect, focusing on ownership of emotions and objective statement of actions/situations. An example of this is if you said "you annoy me when you take my seat". Instead of this, using an I statement would look like "I feel annoyed when my usual seat is taken, can you please move."

See the difference?

A simple change of the word 'You' to the word 'I' can encourage empathy and understanding in others, rather than potential defensiveness and arguments. This strategy is very useful for children to express their feelings and opinions in a way that is assertive and can help develop strong social skills that will carry throughout their lives.

In adulthood, using 'I' statements can help promote healthy discussions that are blame free, solution focused and emotionally aware.



Sinead



## Junior Classroom Update

The F-3 class has been busy learning across Literacy, Numeracy and Wellbeing in engaging and hands-on ways.

In Literacy, students have been focusing on adding value to their ideas by developing them with greater detail and creativity. This learning came to life through our puppet show project. Students worked in pairs to brainstorm themes, write and refine their ideas, design advertising posters that were displayed around the school, and ultimately perform for an audience. Our Senior class students were a wonderful audience, listening attentively and asking thoughtful questions about how the performers developed their ideas. It was a fantastic opportunity to build confidence and celebrate our creativity.

In Numeracy, our Year 3 students have been learning to play Yahtzee, with a strong focus on strategy, number knowledge and problem solving. Through the game, students have practised skip counting and vertical addition and have been using calculators to check the accuracy of their answers. It has been wonderful to see their confidence with number skills grow in such an engaging way.

In Wellbeing, we have enjoyed checking in with Martin and Hugh from The Resilience Project. Students have been exploring emotions and learning strategies to support positive mental health. Our Wellbeing Wall is well underway, featuring our "bucket filling" display and creative modelling clay representations of different emotions. It has been a thoughtful and meaningful way for students to express and understand their feelings.

We are very proud of the enthusiasm and growth we are seeing across all areas of learning.

*Ms K and Miss Murphy*

**Bungaree PS**  
is online



## Senior Room Update

The Senior Room has enjoyed a wonderful start to the term, with lots of smiles, positive energy and a warm welcome to our new classmate. It has been lovely to see students supporting one another and building strong friendships as we settle back into learning together.

A highlight has been working on and presenting our JSC speeches, where students confidently shared their ideas about leadership and how they can help make our school an even better place. The courage, effort and pride shown by all students was fantastic to see and truly reflects the strong leaders in our school.

In the classroom, we have been building our maths skills by exploring place value in decimals up to thousandths and beginning statistical investigations, learning how to collect, organise and interpret data. It has been a happy and productive start to the term, and we are excited for all the learning still to come.

*Miss Murphy*

# Pancake Day ... Yum!



## Drop Off & Pick Up Times

Families are reminded that our school policy states that formal school supervision begins each day at 8:45am and concludes at 3:45pm. Before and after these times, teachers plan and prepare learning programs and meet together to discuss school matters.

Please respect this as important time for teachers in their professional practice; and ensure that you drop off your child/children between 8:45-9:00am each morning and collect them before 3:45pm.

On Breakfast Club days (Wednesday–Friday) students can be dropped off to the Art Room/Kids Kitchen from 8:30am.

## Sun Smart in Term 1

We have reminded students that during Term 1 all schools follow the principles of being Sun Smart. Everyone, students and staff alike, are required to wear a broad rim hat during outside play or learning activities. Children who do not have a hat will be required to play in designated shady areas. If you need to purchase a new hat, please contact the office for details.



## Student Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards this week:

**Bungaree Award:** Jack, for demonstrating respect and positivity during our first onsite evacuation drill by showing extraordinary leadership skills.

**Literacy Award:** Lindsay (absent), for demonstrating determination and creativity in spelling to sound, write and draw spellings.

**Numeracy Award:** Feenix, for demonstrating positivity and determination when completing their numeracy assessments, taking their time and putting in their best effort.



# School council elections - Information for families

## What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad direction of a school, in accordance with Ministerial Order 1280 Constitution of Government School Councils, and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. In doing this, a school council may directly influence the quality of education for students.

## Who is on the school council?

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

- **A mandated elected parent member category** - members of this category generally comprise more than one third of the council's total membership. Department employees can be parent members at their child's school providing that they are not engaged in work at the school.
- **A mandated elected school employee member category** - members of this category make up no more than one-third of membership. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- **An optional community member category** - members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experience. Department employees are not eligible to be community members.

A small number of school councils have nominee members. For all schools with a Year 7 and above cohort, there is an additional category of membership:

- **A mandated elected student member category, two positions.**

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

## Why is parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills and a range of experiences and knowledge that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

## Do I need special experience to be on school council?

Each member brings their own valuable skills and knowledge to the role, however, in order to successfully perform their duties, councillors may need to gain some new skills and knowledge.

It is important to have an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

## Code of conduct for school councillors

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the *Public Administration Act 2004*.

School councillors must comply with the Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct

is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to:

- **act with honesty and integrity** - be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty
- **act in good faith in the best interests of the school** - work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds
- **act fairly and impartially** - consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self-interest
- **use information appropriately** - respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available
- **exercise due care, diligence and skill** - accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school
- **use the position appropriately** - not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage
- **act in a financially responsible manner** - observe all the above principles when making financial decisions
- **comply with relevant legislation and policies** - know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law
- **demonstrate leadership and stewardship** - set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable.

## Indemnity for school council members

School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in:

- the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or
- the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council.

In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

## How can you become involved?

By participating in, and voting in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

... continued over.

# School council elections - Information for families

... from previous.

In view of this, you might consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

## What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations in Term 1 of each year. Council elections must be completed by 31 March, unless varied by the Minister for Education.

If you stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or, you can nominate yourself in the parent member category. You can only be nominated by another member of the same category that you are eligible for (e.g. a member of the parent electorate may only nominate another parent of that electorate).

Department employees with a child enrolled at a school where they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for parent membership at that school.

Return your completed nomination form to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt via post, email or by hand delivery.

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

## Remember

- Consider standing for election to school council.
- Ask the principal for instructions if you are not sure what to do.
- Be sure to vote if the election goes to ballot.
- Contact the principal if you are unsure about what is required at any stage of the election process.

Department of Education

# Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school excursions, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or- support an out of home care student you may be eligible for CSEF.

If you applied for CSEF at our school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

# Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of Bungaree Primary School.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4:00pm on 6/3/26. The ballot will close at 4:00pm on 13/3/26.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

| Membership category | Term of office  | Number of positions |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| Parent member       | From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2026 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2028. | 2                   |

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Miss Barnes

# Prospective Family School Tours

I encourage our district families—new to the area or new to primary education, to come along and see our beautiful school. Personal tours for prospective families are available by appointment, and can be made by calling the school on 5334 0253.

Miss Barnes

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.

Please check with me if you are unsure. CSEF has increased to \$400 for 2026.

Ange

## Moorabool Libraries News

The Moorabool Libraries have many upcoming opportunities for kids and families to be involved in projects over the coming months. Check out these great initiatives:



**2026 Moorabool Young Writers Awards** Calling all young storytellers! This year's awards invite students to take the classic tales we all grew up with – think Cinderella, the Three Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood, and Aesop's Fables – and reimagine them in bold, creative, and unexpected ways. A wonderful opportunity for imaginative young minds to shine. [Moorabool Young Writers Awards 2026 | Moorabool Shire Council](#)

**Platypus Sculpture and Animation Launch** The Bacchus Marsh Platypus Alliance warmly invites families to celebrate the official launch of the Platypus Sculptures at Lerderderg Library. The event will also debut a brand-new animation focused on platypus conservation, and includes a special guest speaker, ribbon-cutting ceremony, creative activities, and light refreshments – a great outing for all ages! [Moorabool Young Writers Awards 2026 | Moorabool Shire Council](#)

**Maker Space and Library of Things Survey** - This is a great opportunity for teachers to get involved! This short survey asks community members to share their ideas and interests to help shape an exciting new hands-on creative space and Library of Things at Ballan Library. Feedback on this survey will directly influence the equipment, activities, and programs we offer. Complete the survey here [Ballan Library & Community Hub Maker Space and Library of Things - Fill out form](#)

Flyers, posters and entry forms for these opportunities can be collected from our school office.

LOVE DRUMMING?

COCOSOUNDS PRESENTS...

**hanz on**  
drumming

WITH MASTER GHANAIAN DRUMMER  
MISHAEL GYABENG

THE HUB - 21 MAIN ROAD  
BALLARAT EAST, VIC.

ADULT CLASSES  
6-7PM MON & WED

KIDS CLASSES  
5-5:45PM MON

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US AT  
[COCOSOUNDS.COM](http://COCOSOUNDS.COM)

The poster features a central circular graphic with a colorful geometric border. Inside the circle, there are two handprints, one yellow and one brown, above the text "hanz on drumming". Below the text, there is a small photo of a man, presumably the drummer. The background is dark with a pattern of colorful triangles.

## BASKETBALL HOLIDAY CAMPS

MEET AND LEARN FROM THE MINERS,  
MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND HAVE FUN

WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> & THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
SELKIRK • 9AM - 3PM

TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> & WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
SELKIRK STADIUM • 9AM - 3PM



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The advertisement is framed in a light blue border. It features the Scholastic logo at the top, followed by the text "Book Club LOOP for Parents". Below this, there is a description of the LOOP platform and a website link. At the bottom, there are two buttons: "GET IT ON Google play" and "Download on the App Store".