



Bungaree Primary School Newsletter



Term 1, Week 8
20th March, 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,

As we move through the term at Bungaree Primary School, I want to thank our community for its patience and support during a few moments that have required flexibility from us all and asked us to adapt and support one another. Despite these challenges, our students and staff continue to show positivity and resilience, and it has been encouraging to see learning and connection remain strong.

This year, we have our largest NAPLAN cohort in recent years, and our Year 3 and Year 5 students have approached each assessment with a sense of calm, confidence, and genuine effort. While NAPLAN provides one useful gauge of achievement, it is only one part of the picture. At Bungaree Primary School, we take a holistic view of every child's learning journey, celebrating growth across academic learning, sporting pursuits, the arts, social development, emotional wellbeing—the list truly goes on. We are proud of our students in all the ways they learn, strive, and shine.

We also want to acknowledge the fabulous effort of our Cross Country runners. Their enthusiasm, persistence, and team spirit were wonderful to see. A special congratulations goes to Nola, who achieved an impressive third place in the Girls 9-year old group. Following the Senior Cross Country, our students enjoyed quality social time with our friends at Lal Lal Primary School—meeting up with our Juniors, who also embraced their run, learning, and play together. It was a lovely reminder of the strength of our broader school community.

Harmony Day was another highlight this fortnight celebrating the richness of cultures within and beyond our school. Alongside the message "Everybody Belongs," students and staff had the chance to enjoy a warmly spiced Nepalese goat curry prepared as part of the day's activities. The shared tasting experience sparked wonderful conversations and added a delicious, authentic touch to our celebration of diversity.

This year, we are placing renewed focus on teaching and modelling positive community spirit. Respect remains central to who we are, and we are working with students to understand how respectful actions—kind words, listening, including others—shape the culture of our school. These lessons are woven into daily routines, classroom

discussions, and our expectations for how we treat one another. We appreciate families echoing these values at home, helping students make thoughtful choices in their relationships and interactions. Together, we are building a community where every child feels safe, valued, and connected.

A reminder that Parent-Teacher Interview bookings are now open on Compass for Wednesday, 25th March. These conversations are a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress and strengthen the partnership between home and school.

And finally, don't forget our Easter Raffle. Please refer to the note Ange sent home last week for all the details—we appreciate your support in making this a fun and successful community event.

Thank you for your continued support in helping make Bungaree Primary School a place where respect and positive community spirit thrive.

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

March

Wednesday 25th Parent-Teacher Interviews—bookings are open on Compass. **1:00pm dismissal.** BungaBuddies open for bookings from 1:00pm.

Friday 27th MARC Van at school

April

Wednesday 1st Ms K and some students visiting Wallace Kinder. Details to follow.

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.

Student Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards this week:

Bungaree Award: Lily, for demonstrating respect for her belongings and positive attitude by regularly tidying her tub to ensure everything is organised and cared for.

Numeracy Award: Pieter (absent), for demonstrating positivity and determination when working independently to demonstrate the twos counting pattern by using concrete materials.



School Council News

We had two candidates formally nominate as Parent Representatives, and as a School Council, we are so fortunate that parent voice is heard and we can contribute to the governance of this school. Many thanks to Andrew and Sophia for their nominations—both parents have been elected unopposed, and will be appointed to School Council for the next two years.

In our AGM last week, Andrew was elected as President; and Sophia Vice-President for 2026.

In our March meeting, the following policies were renewed, reviewed and ratified:

- Cash Handling Policy
- Electronic Funds Management Policy
- Communication with School Staff Policy
- Mobile Phone Policy.

These will be updated on our school website shortly.



Central Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration is now open for 2027

In Victoria, children can start kindergarten at 3 years old, which means two years of **free** kindergarten before school.

Registering for kindergarten

- Register your child the year before they attend kindergarten.
- Registrations open January 1 for the following year.
- Select three preferences.
- Families are encouraged to register by 31 March to support placement planning, however registrations remain open year round.
- Your child may be eligible for Priority of Access, Early Start Kindergarten or additional Pre-Prep hours. Please answer all questions on the registration form.



For more information and to register simply scan the QR code or visit ballarat.vic.gov.au/childergarten

Do you have questions or need support?

Please contact Family and Children's Services

☎ Call 5320 5720 ✉ Email kindergarten@ballarat.vic.gov.au

👤 In person Parent place, 39 Sturt St Ballarat. Every Thursday 9:30am–2:30pm

Translation services are available.



Happy birthday in March

14th—Sinead's birthday

27th—Lindsay's birthday

29th—Tabby's birthday



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!



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.

Online Gaming Information for Parents and Carers

Information for parents and carers from the eSafety Commissioner.

Online gaming has many benefits

Gaming can be a way to:

- Have fun and be entertained.
- Relax and reduce stress.
- Keep the mind active.
- Develop creativity.
- Strengthen decision making and strategic skills.
- Connect with others.

For most gamers, playing is a casual pastime. But a growing number of people play or watch competitive gaming (or eSports) as individuals, teams or families. Many gamers belong to vibrant and active communities.

Gaming can be used for a range of other purposes. These include general school education, right through to specialist workplace training (for example, flight simulations and various defence and cybersecurity exercises).

While gaming often has positive effects on the mental health and wellbeing of participants, it also has risks – like most online activities. This information sheet provides practical tips and links to further information, so you can help your child reduce the risks and maximise the positive experiences of gaming online.

State of play

According to a major Australian gaming industry report:

- Typical daily casual game play is 10 minutes, twice a day typical daily in-depth game play is 1 hour.
- 47% of gamers are female.
- 78% of gamers are over the age of 18.
- The average age of an Australian gamer is 34 years old.
- Adult players have been gaming for an average of 12 years.

Competitive gaming, known as eSports, is a multi-billion dollar industry that includes many gaming genres and titles, such as League of Legends and Counter Strike Global Offensive. Gamers also watch eSports to learn strategies to improve gameplay.

Gaming risks

It is important to take a balanced view and recognise that gaming, like everything online, has its pros and cons.

eSafety research has found that people playing online games can be exposed to risks including:

- Cyberbullying (for example threats, verbal abuse, ganging up, exclusion).



- Inappropriate language, age-inappropriate content, or access to pornography.
- Unwanted contact from others, including 'grooming' by a sexual predator.
- In-app purchasing.
- Themes or elements that may encourage young people to gamble now or later in life.
- Giving out too much personal data.
- Spending too much time online.

Many multiplayer games involve hundreds or even thousands of people playing at the same time. The gamers can communicate with friends and strangers through web cam, private messaging or online chat functions. This increases the risk of contact from online abusers or bullying from other players.

Managing gaming

The best way to help your child manage the risks is to take an active interest in their gaming.

Select the right privacy settings

Make sure your child only joins games suitable to their age and maturity. The privacy settings can also be restricted so your child only plays or chats with gamers they know.

Choose the right games

Collaborate with your child on game purchases – have them suggest the game they wish to play or purchase. Ask them to find out the recommended age, information about the content and how to use the privacy settings.

... continued over



Online Gaming continued ...

... from previous

- To identify if a game is beneficial, ask:
- Are there emotional benefits? (Is it fun?)
- Are there cognitive or learning benefits? (Do you need to solve problems?)
- Is creativity required? (Do you build stuff?)
- Is it a social game? (Do you connect with other players and is the connection safe?)

Ratings and reviews

You can look up games on the Australian Classification website to check their rating and other information about the content, to help you decide if it is suitable for your child. Check out the video Quick guide to Australian classification ratings.

The eSafety Guide has information about popular online games, apps, social media sites and other digital platforms. The guide explains what the game is and how people use its tools and functions. It also provides the gaming company's age recommendation and links to key safety information, including how to report and block abusive players.

eSafety can direct an online service or platform to remove illegal content or ensure that restricted content can only be accessed by people who are 18 or older. Find out more about illegal and restricted online content.

Commonsense media provides parents with reviews of the latest games and apps (as well as movies, TV shows and books).

Get involved

Co-play

Many gamers watch video tutorials or 'walkthroughs' to help them play. You can watch these with your child so you can both understand the games better. Learn the lingo with your kids – you can search online together to check the meaning of terms like 'walkthroughs', 'first player shooter' and 'PVP'. Play the game yourself, or even get into the habit of co-playing with your child.

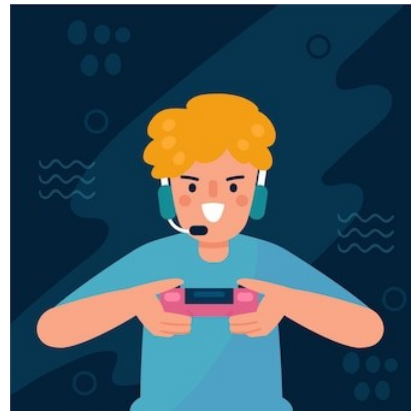
Listen and ask questions

Have a conversation with your child about common gaming issues using the eSafety kids and eSafety young people pages to guide them. You can workshop strategies to deal with upsetting or inappropriate behaviour and learn together how to report, mute and block abusive players.

Co-design rules

Kids are more likely to follow rules if they helped to create them. Part of the discussion and negotiating is explaining why a rule might or might not work.

One of the things that may help to manage your child's gaming is negotiating the time they are allowed to spend online – before they start playing. Together you



could decide a limit on how many games or levels can be completed, or the length of playing time.

It's also good to establish rules about when and where digital devices and consoles can be used. For example, making it clear that games have to be played in open family areas not in bedrooms, homework has to be finished first, or screen time ends an hour before sleep.

Help regulate time online

You may be concerned that your child is spending too much time playing online games. There is no magic number for 'healthy' hours or minutes. If gaming is balanced with other activities and sleep, there is usually no need for concern. Many young people game a lot and still study, socialise and feel happy.

But if gaming starts to have negative impacts on your child or your family, you may need to encourage them to better regulate their time online. You can read more about the signs to look out for when your child is spending too much time gaming. It may be useful to get your child to reflect on the impact gaming is having on their life by helping them do a self-evaluation.

If you have serious concerns about your child and online gaming or gambling, seek professional advice from a doctor, psychologist or school counsellor. Gaming disorder has now been recognised by the World Health Organization as a mental health condition and there are practitioners who specialise in internet overuse problems. eSafety does not recommend any particular practice but there are listings on niira.

Responsible gambling Victoria has information to support conversations about gaming and gambling.

For other relevant advice and resources you can also check out our list of counselling and support services, or go directly to KidsHelpline, eHeadspace or Beyond Blue.

eSafety Commissioner

2026 BUNGAREE AUSKICK & NETTA PROGRAM



The Bungaree Football Netball Club is running “Auskick” and “Netta” program for girls and boys, aged 5-10. Netta will be run by Sophie Boyd and Piper Drew. Auskick will be run by Josh Quinlan.

Netta Registration:



Both programs create opportunities for children to learn basics skills, get some exercise, and make new friends!

Auskick Registration:



The sessions will take place at the Bungaree Community Centre on Friday nights from 5-6pm.

It will be a 10 week program running from April 24th until June 26th. The cost to participate for Netta is \$50 and Auskick is \$85.

In one fun-filled day, kids will learn and play footy in a safe, inclusive environment. They'll pick up new skills, play mini-games and get creative with designing a footy or uniform. Plus have a footy goodie bag to take home.



Our youngest players learn footy through fun, age-appropriate games that build skills, confidence and teamwork, led by NAB AFL Auskick coaches.



Older kids level up their footy skills through modified game play and challenging activities that build teamwork, leadership and lasting memories in a fun, energetic day.

*Kids can join NAB AFL Auskick if they are turning 5 in the calendar year (before 30th June in WA).

BALLARAT SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

BALLARAT NORTH SESSION
TUES APRIL 7 | 9AM-3PM
C.E. BROWN RESERVE

BALLARAT SOUTH SESSION
TUES APRIL 14 | 9AM-3PM
MT CLEAR REC RESERVE

PHOENIX BASKETBALL

**CALLING ALL KIDS BORN 2017-2021
WHO WANT TO LEARN BASKETBALL
JOIN OUR FREE COME & TRY DAY
LED BY FORMER PHOENIX PLAYER**

ETHAN FIEGERT

Sunday 22nd March
10:30am - 12pm
(arrival 10:20am)

Location: The Arch
(Ballarat High School Gym)



BungaBuddies
Bungaree Primary School OSHC



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.

Together we can grow

Cross Country Fun



Together we can grow