

# Parrot Chatter NEWSLETTER

18 FEBRUARY 2026 | TERM 1 WEEK 4

## Meet the Teacher Conferences

Thank you to everyone for being so flexible with changing the dates of the Meet the Teacher Conferences to Monday this week. If you happened to miss out on making an appointment and still wish to meet with your child's teacher, please contact the office or your child's teacher to arrange an alternative time to meet with them.



## 3-6 Camp

Our 3-6 students leave on Monday to attend the Cottage by the Sea Camp in Queenscliff. They will be there till Thursday and have a jam-packed week of fun, adventure and activities. The bus will leave on Monday morning just before 9am so please ensure students are at school on time. Please also ensure you have checked the clothing list and ensured students have all required items packed. The camp is a strictly no NUT camp - so please ensure you have not packed any nut items in their lunch for the first day.

## Swimming Carnival

The year 1-6 Swimming Carnival will be taking place on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. Please ensure you have paid for the event on compass or at the general office.



## FLOWERDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

*A small school, doing BIG things*

## Student Pick up

Please be reminded, that parents must pick students up from the top of the stairs or outside the classroom at the end of the day. We have multiple trades and trade vehicles on site and do not want students running onto the road during end of day pick up.

## COMING UP THIS FORTNIGHT:

23  
FEB

3-6 Camp: Cottage by the Sea  
Monday to Thursday

25  
FEB

Prep Rest Day - every Wednesday in  
Term 1

2  
MAR

Dental Van - Australian Dental Health  
Victoria

4  
MAR

Prep Rest Day - every Wednesday in  
Term 1

4  
MAR

Small School's Swimming Carnival -  
Healesville Pool

9  
MAR

Labour Day Public Holiday - No  
School



# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

## STUDENT LEADERS

On Friday last week, Cindy McLeish our local MP attended our assembly where she congratulated and awarded our new 2026 student leaders with their certificate and badge. We are so pleased to announce our student leaders for 2026, who will be guided by Alex and Andrew - our Student Voice, Agency and Leadership team.

FPS SCHOOL CAPTAINS	FPS SCHOOL VICE CAPTAINS	STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
Chase Nelson Jaxon Montgomery	Zavier Jacobs Ryan Moore	F/1 - Otto Hall 2/3/4 - Kai Nelson 4/5/6 - Malakye Moore
BUNJIL HOUSE CAPTAINS	GUUGUUBARRA HOUSE CAPTAINS	BILLIN BILLIN HOUSE CAPTAINS
Elliott Harding Zaine Montgomery	Kruzz Nelson Cooper Hare	Jake Wertz Laken Rutland

## ATTENDANCE



WEEK	F/1 CLASS	2/3/4 CLASS	4/5/6 CLASS
1	97%	93%	93%
2	95%	93%	96%
3	94%	94%	97%

# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

## SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

If you are interested in standing for the Flowerdale Primary School Council read on to find out what it involves.

School councils play a key role in Victorian government schools and being a member is a rewarding and challenging experience. Acting as a team, council supports the Principal and staff to provide the best possible educational outcomes for students.

Each councillor brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role and must also be willing to learn new skills.

As a member of the FPS Council, you will be involved in a minimum of eight and no more than nine meetings per year.

**These will be held on a Monday afternoon via Webex or in person from 2pm-3pm.**

You also have an important and active role at events such as the FPS School Fair, sports and performance carnivals and nights and be an automatic member of the PFG. Your level of participation will vary depending on your work and family commitments.

We are incredibly fortunate to have members of our community who each year are prepared to take on the responsibility of school council membership. Our parent members are the key to understanding our parent community, your opinions, your interests and your concerns.

Each year we look forward to working with such an interested and dedicated group, who enjoy a laugh together while never losing sight of the main purpose of our school, which is:

**At Flowerdale Primary School, we believe that all students have the right to learn and feel safe in their learning environment. We know that all students have individual needs, and our goal is to work together in partnership to ensure our students experience success in their learning.**

This year on your behalf, I would like to recognise the commitment of the staff and parent members whose term finishes this year; Sarah Hopkins, Jasmine Mills, Karen Moore, Clinton Kay and Brooke McDonald. I would like to thank them for the time and energy they have given to the FPS children and community.

**The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions at FPS are as follows:**

### **Parent Member - 5 members**

Each member holds the position for a 1 year term.

No more than one third of the total members must be from this category.

### **DET employee member - 3 members**

Three of these members are for a two-year term and one ongoing position is held by the principal. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

### **Community or coopted members**

If required, members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences.

# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

## 2026 ELECTION TIMELINE

EVENT	DATE
Notice of election and call for nominations	Feb 9
Closing date for nominations	Feb 23
Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted if required	Feb 24
Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed if required	On or before March 3
Close of ballot if required	March 10, 4pm
Vote count if required	March 11
Declaration of poll if required	March 11
Special council meeting to coopt community members (the principal will preside)	March 23
First council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside)	March 23

**This year we have 4 parent member vacancies and 2 staff vacancies.**

### **How can you become involved?**

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are vacant positions.

In view of this, you might seriously consider:

- Standing for election as a member of the school council
- Encouraging another person to stand for election

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

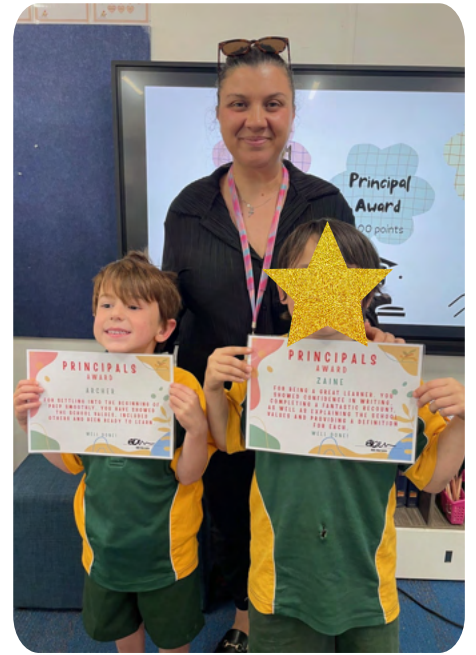
No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

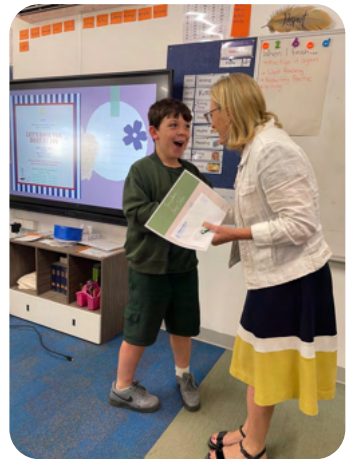
Thank you for your support

**Stephanie Marcanio**

Principal

# STUDENT AWARDS





# STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

PRESENTED BY CINDY MCLEISH



## DENTAL VAN VISIT



Australian Dental Health will be visiting Flowerdale Primary School from the week beginning on 02/03/2026 to provide on-site dental check-ups for eligible students. Dental check-ups help maintain good oral health and are a simple way to have this taken care of during the school day. Parents and guardians are required to complete a consent form prior to the visit.



**Register and provide consent here:**

<https://adh.jotform.com/253428036184861>



## AUSLAN SPELLING BEE

This term during Auslan classes students will be taking part in the Auslan Spelling Bee! This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to practise and celebrate their fingerspelling abilities.

### What is the Auslan Spelling Bee?

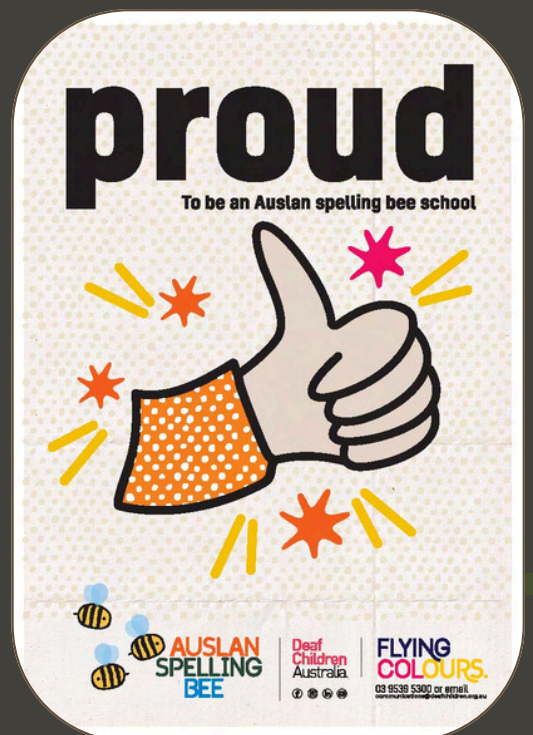
It is a little different from a traditional spelling bee! It focuses on the visual and manual skills required for signed language. Students will be tested on:

- **Fingerspelling:** Students will need to use the Auslan alphabet to clearly and correctly spell words with their hands.
- **Visual Reception:** Students will be shown pictures of everyday objects. They then fingerspell the word for that picture.
- It's a fun and challenging way to strengthen their memory and finger spelling abilities.





























### How Families Can Help at Home

Help your child review the Auslan fingerspelling alphabet at home. You can take turns fingerspelling simple, everyday words. Perhaps pick a word to fingerspell each week. Visit the Deaf Children Australia Auslan Spelling Bee web page to access the free resources. Encourage Effort: The most important thing is that they have fun and try their very best!

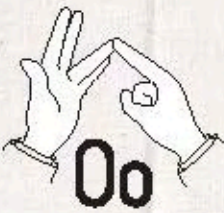
Thank you for your support of our language program!



# auslan fingerspelling alphabet

		 Aa	 Bb	 Cc	 Dd
 Ee	 Ff	 Gg	 Hh	 Ii	 Jj
 Kk	 Ll	 Mm	 Nn	 Oo	 Pp
 Qq	 Rr	 Ss	 Tt	 Uu	 Vv
 Ww	 Xx	 Yy	 Zz	 Auslan left hand	 Auslan right hand

## Vowels



### TWO KEY TIPS

When communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, ask them how they prefer to communicate because not all lip read or use Auslan, and some are oral/spoken. You can ask by writing it down or using notes on your smart phone.

Whichever hand you write with is your dominant hand when signing. In the poster the person is right handed.

**AUSLAN  
SPELLING  
BEE**

Deaf  
Children  
Australia



**FLYING  
COLOURS.**

03 9539 5300 or email  
communications@deafchildren.org.au

# BUDDY SESSIONS IN PMP CLASS





## RUGBY VICTORIA SESSIONS

A big thank you to Gus from Rugby Victoria for reaching out to FPS and showing support after our students were impacted by the fires over the break.

As always, our students thoroughly enjoyed the sessions, and it was fantastic to see them showcase their rugby skills in a competitive game.

We were also very grateful to receive a generous donation of rugby equipment, which will be a great addition to our collection.



# FOUNDATION / YEAR 1 CLASS



What a wonderful start to the year we've had in our F/1 classroom!

Our Foundation students have been busy learning the sounds m, s, f, a, and p – we are so proud of how quickly they are picking them up! Meanwhile, our clever Year One students have been stretching their brains with their long a sounds (ai, ay) and their long e sounds (ee, ie, ea, e\_e, ey). What superstars! And the excitement didn't stop there...

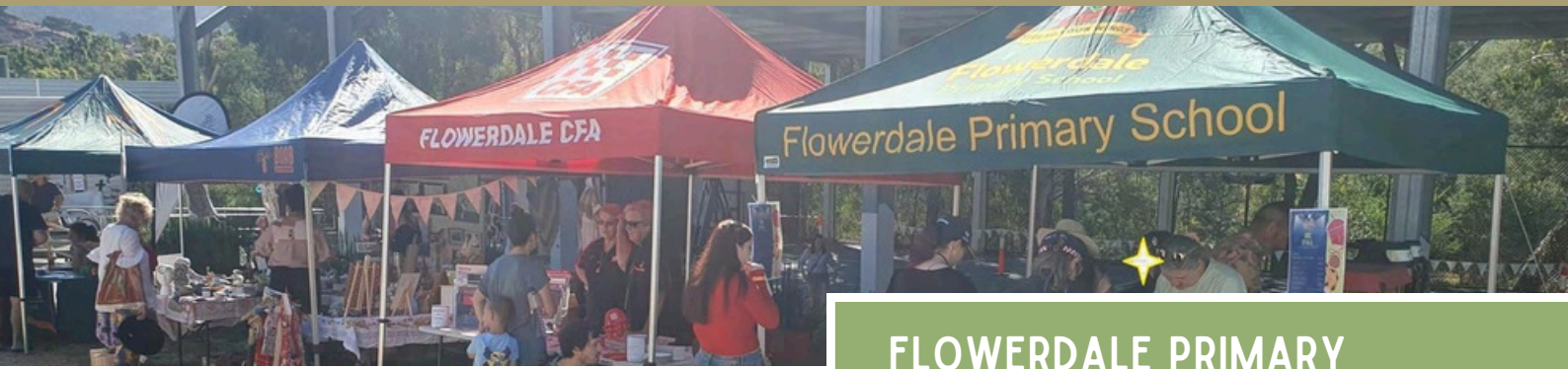
We even had some very special visitors join our learning – Jamie's ducklings!

It is Jamie's job at home to raise his ducklings, and we were lucky enough to have him bring them in to share with the class. We are very proud of how responsible Jamie is raising the little fella's with care.

Like all big adventures, our first month has had a few ups and downs. But just like Jamie's ducks, our F/1 students have shown they are clever, brave, and resilient. We can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings! It's going to be a fantastic year!



# PARENTS & FRIENDS GROUP (PFG)



## OUR PROGRAM

Flowerdale Primary School's Parents and Friends Group plays an active part in fundraising, engaging with the students, and supporting school activities. Whether you can contribute ideas, help plan, drop off shopping (you'll be reimbursed), be an extra set of hands at school, or help with housekeeping afterwards, the saying "many hands makes light work" certainly rings true here! Examples of what we have done in the past are:

-  Serving lunchtime ice poles (term 1 & 4) / warm milos (term 2 & 3)
-  Hot lunch days
-  Celebrating Mothers / Fathers / Teachers days
-  Ride to School day
-  Support on athletics / swimming / cross country / excursion days
-  Weekly tea towel cleaning roster
-  Partnering with the kinder for Disco & Dinner / Trivia nights
-  School Fair, and much more!

We are always welcoming parents and friends to join in. Please see Jess Caminiti (Ryda, Ava, Max's mum) School Council President, or Sarah Hopkins (Elliott, Marley's mum) PFG coordinator, if you've got any questions, ideas, or would like to catch up over a walk, talk, or drink :)

Are you on FB messenger? Join our 'Flowerdale PS parents/carers' chat group for an easy way to ask a quick question.

## FLOWERDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL FAIR



Save the Date  
**SATURDAY 28 MARCH 2026**

Thanks to everyone who has already reached out about the school fair! If you have any of the following you can loan us for Saturday 28th March, please let Sarah Hopkins (Elliott & Marley's mum) or the office know as soon as possible.



### RESOURCES WE STILL NEED:

- BBQ & gas bottle x 2
- Reusable tablecloths x 6
- Orange t-top bollards x 12
- Sand bags / weights to secure marquees x 16
- FOGO bin (120L) x 2

Next newsletter we'll put the call out for volunteers to help us with setup, assisting during the fair, or pack down at the end.

If you'd like to get on board with the planning and learn how easy it is, we'd love for you to join us :)

FOOD STALLS | MARKET STALLS



RAFFLE PRIZES & MUCH MORE!

COME & JOIN US FOR OUR  
**FLOWERDALE PRIMARY**

# SCHOOL FAIR

SATURDAY  
**MARCH 28**

10AM - 2PM

ENTRY PASS  
\$15 EACH OR 4 FOR \$50

FREE ENTRY:  
0-3 YEARS & 65+

FUN FOR  
THE WHOLE  
FAMILY!

ENTRY INCLUDES

**4 HOURS OF UNLIMITED ACCESS TO**

INFLATABLE OBSTACLE COURSE & GIANT SLIDE  
ROLLER SKATING | PETTING ZOO | FACE PAINTING  
GIANT BUBBLES | AFRICAN DRUMMING

With thanks to



SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2026



AHOY!

SEA YOU AT THE CREEK FOR A  
SAIL & A SAUSAGE.

# LET'S ROCK THE BOAT AT FPS

FRIDAY, March 13 2026

12:30 PM

Moore Rd, Researve  
King Parrot Creek

RSVP ON COMPASS OR TO THE GENERAL  
OFFICE FOR CATERING PURPOSES

## AWARDS AND FLOWERSHOP POINTS FOR

THE BOATIEST BOAT - 500 POINTS  
MOST CREATIVE BOAT - 500 POINTS  
YEAR LEVEL WINNER - 500 POINTS  
FPS OVERALL WINNER - 1000 POINTS



# FPS

## Lunchtime Clubs

### TERM 1

Lunchtime clubs at FPS are another option for students to choose from during their break time. A staff member will run a club for students, should they wish to attend.

Monday	Tuesday	Friday
SRC Meeting Wk 4, 6, 8, 10	Robotics Club with Mr Stocker  Come along and learn about the world of robotics and coding. We'll use the Sphero robots to create programs that use their features. For those that just want to chill, we'll have tubs of Lego to play with.	Gardening with Alex
Arts & Crafts with Ms Mac		

- ✓ Attend with a positive mindset
- ✓ Hang out with new friends
- ✓ Learn something new



# KINGLAKE PONY CLUB

*A community run,  
family focussed club*

📅 Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month

🕒 9AM - 3PM

📍 Kinglake Trust Reserve

Showjumping  
Dressage  
Cross Country  
Trail Rides  
Camps  
Mounted Games  
**FUN!**

- ✓ Fun monthly rallies, making friends, socialising horses and new experiences
- ✓ Fantastic facilities
- ✓ Supportive club for all riders with ponies/horses
- ✓ Pathways to competitive riding

Contact us for more information or to arrange a come and try!  
[kinglakeponyclubcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:kinglakeponyclubcommittee@gmail.com)

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

## INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

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 financial circumstances and their outcomes.

## CAMPS, SPORTS and EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

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. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid directly 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 \$400 for all school students.

### HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year 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 this year.
- **changed family circumstances:** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>





# FLOWERDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

A small school, doing BIG things

# TERM 1 2026 Calendar

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<b>W1</b> JANUARY	26 Australia Day PUBLIC HOLIDAY	27 Start of Term 1 (Staff only) NO STUDENTS	28 Curriculum Day NO STUDENTS	29 Day 1 WITH STUDENTS  PMP/Sport	30  Kitchen Garden
<b>W2</b> FEBRUARY	2 Auslan	3 Art Van   Library	4 PREP REST DAY  PE	5  PMP/Sport	6  Kitchen Garden
<b>W3</b> FEBRUARY	9 Auslan	10 Library	11 PREP REST DAY  PE	12  PMP/Sport Library Van	13  Kitchen Garden
<b>W4</b> FEBRUARY	16 MEET THE TEACHER CONFERENCES  Auslan	17 Art Van   Library	18 PREP REST DAY  PE	19  PMP/Sport	20  Kitchen Garden
<b>W5</b> FEBRUARY	23 3-6 CAMP  Auslan	24 3-6 CAMP  Library	25 3-6 CAMP PREP REST DAY  PE	26 3-6 CAMP  PMP/Sport Library Van	27  Kitchen Garden
<b>W6</b> MARCH	2 DENTAL VAN  Auslan	3 Art Van   Library	4 SMALL SCHOOLS SWIMMING CARNIVAL PREP REST DAY	5  PMP/Sport	6  Kitchen Garden
<b>W7</b> MARCH	9 Labour Day PUBLIC HOLIDAY	10 Library	11 PREP REST DAY  PE	12  PMP/Sport Library Van	13 BOAT RACES & BBQ  Kitchen Garden
<b>W8</b> MARCH	16 Auslan	17 Art Van   Library	18 PREP REST DAY  PE	19  PMP/Sport	20  Kitchen Garden
<b>W9</b> MARCH	23 Auslan	24 DISTRICT ATHLETICS GRADE 4-6  Library	25 PREP REST DAY  PE	26  PMP/Sport Library Van	27  Kitchen Garden
<b>W10</b> MARCH / APRIL	30 Auslan	31 Art Van   Library	1 PREP REST DAY  PE	2 Last day of Term 1 1:30PM FINISH EASTER HAT PARADE	3 Good Friday PUBLIC HOLIDAY

