

# MURRABIT GROUP SCHOOL

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## NEWSLETTER

- 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022

### School Values:

- Respect
- Honesty
- Teamwork
- Learning
- Persistence

### Dates to Remember:

3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Swimming
7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Swimming
14 <sup>th</sup> February	Zone Swim Trials
15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Swimming
21 <sup>st</sup> February	Mallee Zone Trials
23 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Swimming
24 <sup>th</sup> February	P&F Meeting
25 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	Murray Plains Swim Carnival
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Regional Twilight Swimming

### **Welcome to the 2022 School Year.**

**“ We want the children at MGS to Fly”**

I am very excited to return to the wonderful Murrabit Group School for Term one. It has been a smooth and happy start, even with so much continuing uncertainty. We welcome back all our existing families and a special welcome to the four new Foundation students and their families I would also like to welcome Miss Meganne Bath to our teaching staff and congratulate Ms Campi on taking on the tutoring role. I'll be in Grade 5/6 with 11 students, Ms Hird will lead Gr 2/3/4 with 15 students and Miss Bath will be in Foundation/ Grade one



with 8 students. Ms Campi will be in Grade 2-6 2 days a week and one day a week tutoring. Ms Jones will continue Italian/ Music on Thursdays when we aren't swimming. The MARC/ MAAC service will commence next week but will resume to normal after the 4 weeks swimming program. Jeanette will support Grade 2/3/4 and continue excellent library duties. We will be advertising for an ES staff member shortly to replace Danielle. Mrs Ficken is in the office each Monday and Wednesday and Terry will visit each Thursday morning to sort out all our computer issues.

Our three classes are currently discussing our whole school mission and values. Classroom pledges are being created and will be shared with you at home next week. Please take time to discuss with your child/ren.

“Murrabit Group School's belief is that every student has the ability to learn, and this occurs in a flexible, warm, happy and positive environment.”

A big thankyou to the families who helped maintain the school in the holidays and a revised roster will be sent home soon. Murray has done a splendid job tidying inside and out.

We are happy to be able to welcome parents back on site for pick up and drop-off. Only parents who are vaccinated can enter the school building and must wear a mask as per DET policy.

As is good safe schools' practice, if you/ or a carer drop off or pick up a child late/early please fill in the book on the front office ledge. Please communicate through the school landline 54572284 or soon to be added school mobile, as well as communicating with the classroom teacher. I hope that soon we will be able to have parents help with classroom programs and join us for assemblies. I will let you know as regulations change.

## Newsletter

This year we will be publishing the newsletter fortnightly. The newsletter will be emailed to families and will also be on the school webpage.

If there is any other important information that needs to be sent out Gaby will let you know by text message.

## Covid Update

We will continue to follow health measures recommended by the Department.

Free rapid antigen tests will be available for the first 4 weeks of Term 1 2022.

Twice-a-week testing will be strongly recommended for both students and staff.

The department will supply the tests to our school – you do not need to buy your own. If you won't be using the tests please inform the school or return the kits sent home.

Students and staff will do the tests at home; they only need to report their result if it is COVID-positive. They must report a COVID-positive result to:

- the school/ Gaby by phone-0429336539 or the [RA Test Portal](#); this is so the school can support them, record that they will be absent while in 7-day isolation, and let the rest of the school community know there has been a positive case onsite and that they should monitor for symptoms
- the Department of Health via the [COVID-19 Positive Rapid Antigen Test Self-Reporting Form](#) or call centre on [1800 675 398](#).

Information about how to do a test and how to read RAT results, including a how-to video is [available online](#).

Where a student is a household contact of a positive case (that is, they have spent more than four hours with someone who has COVID-19 inside a house, accommodation, or care facility) they must inform the school and isolate for seven days and not attend school during that period.

Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19, have completed

their 7-day isolation period and are subsequently asymptomatic do not need to undertake surveillance testing for 30 days. Principals must notify staff and the school community through an email or text message when a student or staff member has (or multiple students or staff members) have returned a positive COVID-19 test result and had attended the school.

Schools can allow parents to enter buildings onsite for student pick-up and drop-off if there are QR code locations for parents to check in. Parents/ carers are required to show proof of vaccination to enter a school building. Where this is not possible, schools should not allow parents to enter buildings for pick-up and drop-off.

## Vaccination requirements

Parents and carers must have had two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine or have a valid medical exception (with limited exceptions) to enter school buildings.

Visitors and volunteers including parents performing work on school sites (both inside and outdoors) are required to have received three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine by 25 February 2022 if they became fully vaccinated on or before 25 October 2021. For those that became fully vaccinated after 25 October 2021, the deadline is 15 March 2022, or have a valid medical exception.

All staff working in schools need to be fully vaccinated or have a verified medical exception.

COVID-19 vaccinations for students are not required for them to attend school but vaccination for students is highly encouraged. If your child has not yet had their first dose, please try to organise this before term begins. For more information on how to book a vaccination, including important information about vaccination for children aged 5 to 11, visit [Vaccination information for children and teenagers](#).

## Ventilation

We will also make sure that classrooms are well ventilated by opening windows and doors, to minimise the risk of infection. We have received air purifiers, which will be

used around the school as an added safety measure.

## School Fees

Murrabit Group School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of our school's voluntary contributions for 2022 is \$160.00 per student. This can be paid at any time via BPay or direct deposit. Details will be sent home soon.

## Head Phones

The school supplies most resources that students need for their learning. However we ask that each student has their own headphones. The students require headphones when they are using programs on the computers and iPads.

## Welcome BBQ and Classroom Information Session

Normally at the start of the year we run an information session and have a family BBQ. Unfortunately, this is on hold at the moment. We will check and confirm in March. If you have any questions about class programs, please make a time to communicate with the classroom teachers.

## Mobile Contact

Please add my number to your phone list. 0429336539 until we purchase a school mobile.

I ask new families to send me a text with your mobile number so I can update the school contact list. You may be contacted for a variety of purposes: to share a special moment or achievement of your child, to remind you of upcoming events or to send important information, especially regarding covid at the moment.

## Start of the school Day

Children are asked not to arrive at school before **8:40 am** as the yard is not supervised until then. The classroom doors will not be opened until 8:40am. We understand there are times when children may need to arrive at school before 8:40. If this is the case, please call the school to make this arrangement.

## Drinks

Students **MUST** bring along a labelled drink bottle of water to have on their tables. It is very important that students drink lots of water, especially in hot weather.

## Absences

A reminder that attendance at school is vital for all students. Every day counts and it is not okay to be away unless the child is ill. Please contact the school on 54572284 or send a text to Gaby 0429336539. Unexplained absences will be followed up each day by the school as per the Education Department policy.

## Medications

All families with students with asthma and allergies **MUST** provide a new management plan **by the end of February** signed by a doctor. If you require the school to give your child medication, please send in a medication permission form.

## Emergency Contact Forms

Students will have their emergency contact detail forms sent home this week. **Please check that the information is correct, alter if necessary and send back to school even if no changes are made.** It is essential that the school has the correct phone numbers, emergency contacts, allergy and asthma details.

## Foundation/ Prep Students

Foundation students are not required at school on Wednesdays for the month of February.

Over the next few weeks Miss Bath will be conducting a literacy and numeracy survey with each Foundation student

## School Uniform

Children are expected to wear school uniform at all times. State School Relief can help with school uniforms if needed. Please see Gaby if you require assistance. **Please make sure you name all school uniforms!**

## **Camps, Sports and Excursion 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 will be 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. An application form is attached with the newsletter.

## **Ambulance Cover**

Parents and guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs, unless the injury is caused by the negligence (carelessness) of a Department or school council employee or volunteer. Please note that if an ambulance is called for your child this also is not covered by the school. We recommend that all families have Ambulance cover as this can become very costly.

## **Book Club**

During the school year your children will receive Scholastic Book Club catalogues. There is no obligation to purchase items. If you do purchase items and want them for a gift, just let the school know and we won't send them home with your child.

## **Monday Lunch**

On Mondays the children may order lunch from the Murrabit Shop. Orders can be made directly with the shop or placed on the tray in the multipurpose room. Payment needs to accompany the order. An updated menu price list is attached to the newsletter.

## **Review Family Fire Plans**

With the resumption of school, it is a timely reminder to review and update family fire plans. As per the schools OH&S schedule,

a practice school fire drill will be scheduled in the month of February.

## **Camps in 2022**

We are hopeful that our camping and excursion program will return to normal and is yet to be confirmed.

This year the Year 5/6 students will be heading to the Education Department Outdoor Ed camp at 15 Mile Creek for a week with Gunbower, Koondrook and Leitchville Primary Schools. The expected cost will be approx. \$300.00 depending on the cost of the bus.

The Year 3/4 students will join the Cluster Schools - Gunbower, Koondrook and Leitchville and attend the Billabong Camp in Echuca for a 3-day camp. The expected cost will be approx. \$250.00 depending on the cost of the bus.

## **Student Leadership**

Our grade six students will be presenting their speeches at assembly next week. They will be applying for various leadership roles, captain, vice-captain, sports, and bus captain roles. We will video and share their speeches with families.

## **PRIVACY COLLECTION STATEMENT – Information for parents and carers**

During the ordinary course of your child's attendance at our school, school staff will collect your child's personal and health information when necessary to educate your child, or to support your child's social and emotional wellbeing or health in the school context. Such information will also be collected when required to fulfil a legal obligation, including duty of care, anti-discrimination law and occupational health and safety law. If that information is not collected, the school may be unable to provide optimal education or support to your child or fulfil those legal obligations.

For example, health information may be collected through the school nurse, primary welfare officer or wellbeing staff member. If your child is referred to a specific health service at school, such as a Student Support Services officer, the required consent will be obtained. Our school also collects information provided by parents



and carers through the School Entrance Health Questionnaire (SEHQ) and the Early Childhood Intervention Service (ECIS) Transition Form.

Our school may use online tools, such as apps and other software, to effectively collect and manage information about your child for teaching and learning purposes, parent communication and engagement; student administration; and school management purposes. When our school uses these online tools, we take steps to ensure that your child's information is secure. If you have any concerns about the use of these online tools, please contact us.

School staff will only share your child's personal or health information with other staff who need to know to enable the school to educate or support your child, or fulfil a legal obligation.

When our students transfer to another Victorian government school, personal and health information about that student will be transferred to that next school. Transferring this information is in the best interests of our students and assists that next school to provide optimal education and support to students.

In some limited circumstances, information may be disclosed outside of the school (and outside of the Department of Education and Training). The school will seek your consent for such disclosures unless the disclosure is allowed or mandated by law.

Our school values the privacy of every person. When collecting and managing personal and health information, all school staff must comply with Victorian privacy law. For more information about privacy including about how to access personal and health information held by the school about you or your child, see our school's privacy policy:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/schoolsprivacypolicy.aspx>

Throughout this notice, 'staff' includes principals, teachers, Student Support Service officers, youth workers, social workers, nurses and any other allied health practitioners and all other staff at our school. This includes employees, agents, and

service providers (contractors) of the Department, whether paid or unpaid.

Assembly Monday 9am. Senior leadership will create a weekly Vlog which will be posted on Facebook.

## **Tutor Learning Initiative to continue in 2022**

We are delighted to share the news that the Victorian Government is continuing the Tutor Learning Initiative (TLI) in 2022. This initiative is designed to address the continued impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on student learning and engagement in Victoria.

Congratulations to Emily Campi who will be taking on this role every Friday.

The extension of the initiative will allow Murrabit Group School to continue to provide our students who need it most with targeted TLI learning support in the 2022 school year.

Despite the continued challenges Murrabit Group School and schools across Victoria have faced this year, the TLI has ensured that students, who may have fallen behind or become disengaged, receive the help they need. In 2021, the TLI has enabled Victorian government schools, and qualifying non-government schools, to engage over 6,400 teachers as tutors.

We would like to thank all the tutors, teachers and families who were involved in supporting Murrabit Group School's TLI program in 2021. This year, our school was able to offer small group learning for 8 students in Literacy and Maths achieved We look forward to continuing the TLI program in 2022 to provide small group learning support that will enable our students to flourish now and in the future.

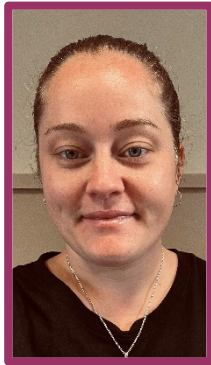


Whole School - 2022

## Welcome Meganne

Welcome back to school students and parents! My name is Miss Meganne Bath and I thought it would be nice for me to share a bit about myself with you all. I studied my degree mostly online and completed my Bachelor of Education Degree through the University of South Australia. I started that in 2017 and completed it in 2021. I currently live in Barham with my partner and two dogs, and love to spend my time completing sudoku puzzles, playing netball or in general outside doing something physical or hands on. I believe my passion for teaching stems from the love and enjoyment I got (and still do get) out of helping all of my younger 4 siblings do their homework whilst they're in school – this and being the oldest I was always enticing them to play 'schools' with me so I could practice the fundamentals. I have a great love for science, technology and being active in the classroom and I plan to implement as much of these things as I can into my teaching and learning practice to help students enjoy learning and make it feel more exciting and fun. I hope to have a great year here at Murrabit Group School, and I can't wait to get involved and meet some of the parents behind our lovely students.

*Miss Bath.*



## Bookclub

Bookclub order forms have been sent home and need to be returned before Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February

## Parents & Friends

Welcome back to school for 2022! 📚 🌟  
Hopefully everyone has enjoyed the holidays and the kids are excited to start a new year of learning. We welcome Mrs. Hogg back to MGS in the acting principal position for the start of the school year. We look forward to working together to provide for and support the kids during the 1st term. Unfortunately, P&F were not able to fill executive positions at the end of last year. After several challenging years 2022 brings with it an opportunity to start fresh, try new ideas and for positive change. We plan to have a special meeting to plan the future of P&F. **Thursday 24th Feb 5pm** at the Murrabit Rec Reserve Grand Stand. Please consider how you may be able to contribute to this group. We look forward to sharing thoughts and ideas as we try to reinvent and reinvigorate P&F.

*The P&F Team 😊*

## Curators

February – 1<sup>st</sup> Half - **Murray**



Foundation / Grade One Students



## Market Morning Teas



The following families are on duty for the Market Morning Teas on **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February**:- **Shea, Larkin, Gurnett**



## Sue's News

**Welcome** back to our **amazing** Mighty Murrabit students. We hope that everyone had a **wonderful** break and it was great to see so many **excited** faces and smiles this week. The classrooms are looking good as the carpets were steam cleaned during the holidays. Looking forward to a Covid free 2022...here's hoping, with legs and fingers crossed!

Our awards night was special for Claire, Leah and Xavier and we wish them all the best for their transition to High School. Our end of year was certainly a **busy** one and I would like to thank the students who helped with all the tidy-ups. A great **TEAM** effort! Special thanks to Jodie for all her efforts and she's now returned to Kerang. Did you know that she is getting married in March? What wonderful news!

Thank you for all the **lovely** gifts at the end of last year. They were certainly **appreciated**.

## Swimming up-dates...

### ...super fish...here we come!

Here are the **confirmed February** dates for our swimming program:

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday 4<sup>th</sup>

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>

Please remember to bring bathers and a towel each swimming day. We will be leaving school

at 12.30pm. Our sessions times are **1:00-2:15pm**. Entry cost is **\$2.60**. The total cost of the program per student is - **Prep: \$18.20 / Grades 1-6: \$26.00**. Can this please be paid by **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> of February**. If your child misses a session, this money will be reimbursed. There is **no cost** if your child holds a **seasons ticket** at the **Kerang Swimming Pool**. Lake Charm students will be part of our program again.

**Thank you** to Sarah and Kelly for offering to help with the program. **Thank you** to our Parents and Friends for helping sponsor the bus cost and to Sporting Schools who also finance the travel. We are so lucky!


**Kerang Division Zone Trial** will be held on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> of February**. Children will be selected for this event (9-13 years only) and a note will be sent out next week. Mallee Division is on Monday February 21<sup>st</sup> in Swan Hill. If children qualify at this event, the Regional Twilight meeting is on Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Our cluster *Murray Plains Swimming Carnival* is on **Friday 25<sup>th</sup>** of February. Keep this day free so you can come along and cheer! We will also need a few helpers for this day.

Please ensure the permission and medical forms that were sent out on Monday are returned by tomorrow, **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> of February** and that swimming entry fee is paid before **21<sup>st</sup> February**.

Thank you. *Cheers Sue*

## COVID-19 VACCINATION FOR CHILDREN AGED 5 TO 11 YEARS

Brought to you by  NDCH

### What are the benefits of vaccinating children?

- Offering direct protection against COVID-19 infection and severe disease
- Reducing transmission within the household, community and education settings
- Minimising the need for education setting closures, travel rescheduling and subsequent negative indirect impacts

### Are there any risks in vaccinating children?

The Pfizer vaccine is safe and effective to use for children between the ages of 5 and 11. In the Pfizer vaccine clinical trial, there were no vaccine safety concerns and no serious side effects detected.

### Is the vaccine dose for children aged 5-11 the same as for people aged 12 and over?

No, the dose of the Pfizer vaccine given to children aged 5-11 will be one third of the dose given to those aged 12 and over.

### What are the side effects of vaccination in young children?

Like any other medicine, all vaccines can have side effects. Children can experience common and expected side effects after the Pfizer vaccine, such as a sore arm, headache and fatigue. These usually only need treatment with paracetamol, and children rarely need to see a doctor for treatment. More serious side effects are very rare.

### Will children aged 5-11 need booster doses?

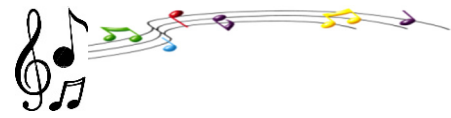
The TGA and ATAGI have not yet provided approvals or recommendations around booster doses for children aged 5-11. The Victorian Government will inform the community of any future updates regarding this.

### Where can I book an appointment for my child?

Follow Northern District Community Health (NDCH) on Facebook and Instagram as all information on vaccination sessions for children will be made available there.

For more information please visit:  
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-children-and-teenagers#information-and-resources>

**Music**



**Italian:**

**Students of the Week:**