



13/11/2025

BUCHAN PRIMARY SCHOOL  
IS A BARR SCHOOL  
(BUSHFIRE AT RISK REGISTER)

# NEWSLETTER

BUCHAN PRIMARY SCHOOL  
IS A BARR SCHOOL (BUSHFIRE AT RISK REGISTER)

This means our school will be closed and unstaffed on Code Red Days as well as other days deemed unsafe. Families will be given as much warning as possible. Safety is our first priority.

2025  
VOLUME.10

## AROUND THE CLASSROOMS

### SENIOR CLASSROOM

Over the past month, our senior students have been exploring The Renaissance, a time of great change and creativity in Europe. Through geography, art, history, and writing tasks, they've learned about key figures like Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, important artworks, inventions, and how new ideas shaped modern thinking and culture during this fascinating period of discovery and growth.

### JUNIOR CLASSROOM

Our junior students have been exploring numeracy through hands-on activities focused on shapes, edges, vertices, and faces. They've also been making great progress in literacy, with our Foundation students beginning Grade 1 systematic synthetic phonics. They are learning different ways to spell the long /a/ sound, such as ai (rain), ay (play), and a\_e (lake). Older students have been delving into morphology, exploring prefixes, bases, and suffixes. For example, the base spir, meaning "to breathe life into something", this allows them to build words like inspired.

☎ 03 5155 9241

🌐 [www.buchanps.vic.edu.au](http://www.buchanps.vic.edu.au)

✉ [buchan.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:buchan.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

We acknowledge the Gunai Kurnai people as the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work, learn and play. We pay our respect to Gunai Kurnai elders past, present and emerging and extend our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and families of Buchan Primary School.



## Visit to Buchan Caves Reserve

It was wonderful for all of our Grade 5/6 students to visit the Buchan Caves Reserve with Bruthen Primary School and take part in a range of enjoyable sporting activities, including dodgeball. These valuable experiences are vital for building strong future friendships and lasting positive relationships as students successfully transition into Secondary School.

## Update on Digital Device Use in Primary Schools

The Victorian Government has announced upcoming changes to the use of digital devices for students from Prep to Grade 6, beginning in 2027.

Under the new guidelines:

- Schools will no longer invite families to purchase or bring their own digital devices for use at school.
- There will be recommended limits on device time, with minimal use for Prep to Grade 2, and a maximum of 90 minutes per day for students in Grades 3 to 6.

These changes aim to support families by reducing cost-of-living pressures, while also promoting student wellbeing through reduced screen time. Less time on devices can help prevent eye strain, sedentary behaviour, and encourage greater peer interaction. The reforms complement Victoria's nation-leading mobile phone restrictions, creating a more balanced and focused learning environment.

At Buchan Primary School, we are proud to share that our current Digital Device Policy already aligns with these new recommendations. All student learning is supported using school-owned devices, and our existing practice ensures very limited device use:

- Junior students currently have very minimal device time.
- Senior students use devices well below the 90-minute daily maximum.

These practices reflect our ongoing commitment to providing a balanced and engaging learning experience, where technology is used purposefully to enhance, not dominate, classroom learning and ensuring digital literacy is still developed.

Best regards,  
Aidan Johnston  
Principal

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# POLICIES

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## Buchan Primary School Policies

We have been reviewing and strengthening our school's implementation of the Child Safe Standards. As part of this process, several key policies, including those related to student wellbeing, asthma management and child safety have been carefully reviewed and updated to ensure they reflect best practice and our ongoing commitment to student safety and wellbeing.

### Policies can be found here:

[www.buchanps.vic.edu.au/parents/policies](http://www.buchanps.vic.edu.au/parents/policies)

- Administration of Medication Policy
- Anaphylaxis Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Camps and Excursions Policy
- Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
- Child Safety Code of Conduct
- Child Safety Responding and Reporting Obligations Policies and Procedures
- Complaints Policy
- Duty of Care Policy
- Enrolment Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Health Care Needs Policy
- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Visitors Policy
- Volunteers Policy
- Volunteer Induction Pack
- Yard Duty and Supervision Policy

Our students and families are important partners in this process. The updated policies can be viewed on our website, and we welcome your feedback or ideas on how we can continue to strengthen our approach to child safety and wellbeing. The last policy that needs to be refined is our Statement of Values and School Philosophy, which will be tabled at School Council on the 9/12/25. If you would like to share your thoughts or suggestions on any of our policies, please contact Buchan Primary School on 03 5155 9241 or email [buchan.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:buchan.ps@education.vic.gov.au)



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## Buchan Primary School

### BULLYING PREVENTION POLICY



#### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Buchan Primary School on 03 5155 9241 or [buchan.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:buchan.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

#### Purpose

Buchan Primary School is committed to providing a safe and respectful learning environment where bullying will not be tolerated.

#### The purpose of this policy is to:

- Explain the definition of bullying so that there is shared understanding amongst all members of the Buchan Primary School community
- Make clear that no form of bullying at Buchan Primary School will be tolerated
- Outline the strategies and programs in place at Buchan Primary School to build a positive school culture and prevent bullying behaviour
- Ask that everyone in our school community be alert to signs and evidence of bullying behaviour, and understands the importance of reporting bullying behaviour to school staff
- Ensure that all reported incidents of bullying are appropriately investigated and addressed
- Ensure that support is provided to students who may be affected by bullying behaviour (including targets, bystanders, witnesses and students engaging in bullying behaviour)
- Seek parental and peer group support in addressing and preventing bullying behaviour at Buchan Primary School.

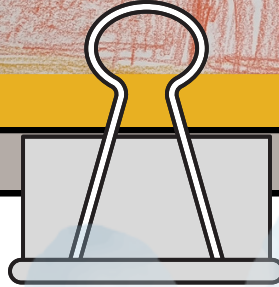
#### When responding to bullying behaviour, Buchan Primary School aims to:

- Be proportionate, consistent and responsive
- Find a constructive solution for everyone
- Stop the bullying from happening again
- Restore the relationships between the students involved.

Buchan Primary School acknowledges that school staff owe a duty of care to students to take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of reasonably foreseeable harm, which can include harm that may be caused by bullying behaviour.

#### Scope

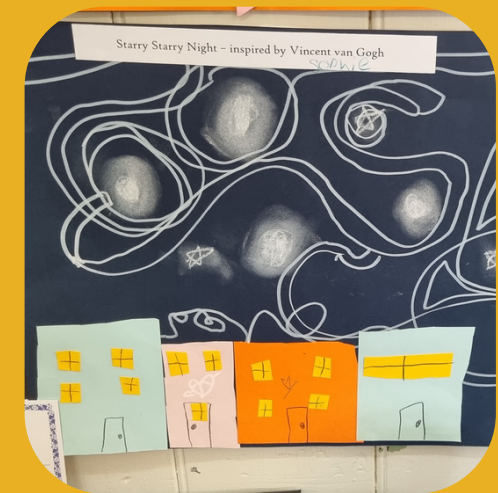
This policy addresses how Buchan Primary School aims to prevent, address and respond to student bullying behaviour. Buchan Primary School recognises that there are many other types of inappropriate student behaviours that do not meet the definition of bullying which are also



## Buchan Flower and Arts n Craft Show

The Buchan Flower and Arts n Crafts Show was held on Saturday and Sunday, November 1st and 2nd, and it looked to be a wonderful success. I made my way down on the Sunday and it was very busy, with a great community atmosphere. A huge congratulations to everyone involved, each display looked fantastic. Well done to all the students who entered their artwork; there were some truly magnificent pieces on show and it was great to see so many artworks entered from all of the kids, showcasing their talent and enthusiasm.

A special thank you goes to Lisa Whykes-Zelenko (Mrs Z) for leading the art program this year, and to Deb Nicholls for her excellent art sessions throughout Term 4. With the art room now fully restored to its former glory and fully functional, I'm excited to see what creativity next year will bring and how students continue to build on this year's efforts.



# TRASH PUPPETS

We joined forces with Tambo Upper Primary School for two inspiring days of Trash Puppet workshops and performances. Students learned sustainable puppet-making using 100% recycled materials and explored creatively without limits. They also enjoyed "Trash with a Porpoise," a fun, curriculum-aligned show sparking conversations about caring for our environment. Thanks to Mark and his team at Tambo for hosting us over the two days.



# BIKE EDUCATION

We enjoyed a fantastic Bike Education session with Sarah from Venture Out who is based in Lakes Entrance. Students learned key bike-safety skills, including road awareness, signalling, braking, balance and equipment checks. Through fun, hands-on activities, Sarah helped students build confidence and responsible riding habits. It was a valuable, engaging day that supported our learners to stay safe, active and capable on their bikes. We look forward to having Sarah back out on November 19<sup>th</sup> for Workshop 2!





## MARC Van

It was fantastic having Mr. Robbo back yesterday, he was the most popular person at school! The juniors read *Invisible Things*, created amazing themed glasses, and used LEGO to explore their creativity, imagination, and teamwork through fun, hands on activities inspired by the story's themes. In the afternoon, the whole school got together and did some team building activities.



## Activity Club

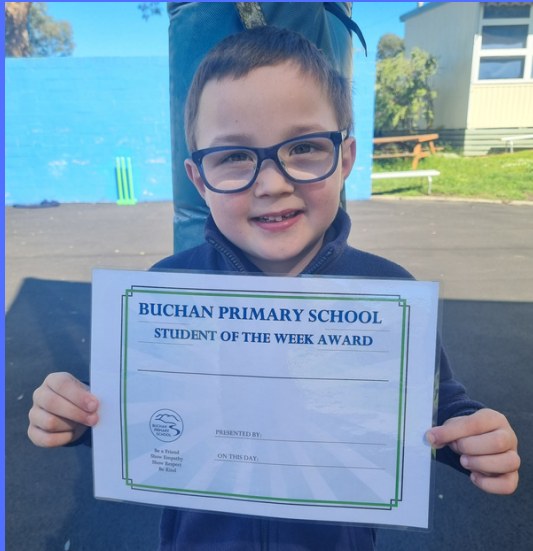
Activity Club has been charging ahead full steam, with students enthusiastically taking part in a range of different activities. One of the favourites has been "Nanna Knitting." This relaxing activity teaches basic knitting techniques while helping kids develop patience, focus, and fine motor skills as they create cozy, colorful pieces together.



## EYLC Visit

Next year's buddies visited the kindergarten yesterday to join the 2026 Foundation students for fun, engaging activities. It was a wonderful chance to build connections, share smiles, and support the smooth transition into school life for our future learners. We look forward to welcoming the kinder kids for their first transition on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> of November.

# STUDENT OF THE WEEK



## HUGHIE

For always doing your best and bringing a big smile to everything you do! Keep up the positivity and enthusiasm for your learning.

## JACKSON

Last week, your respect towards your peers stood out. Numerous teachers noticed your kindness and leadership. We appreciate you.



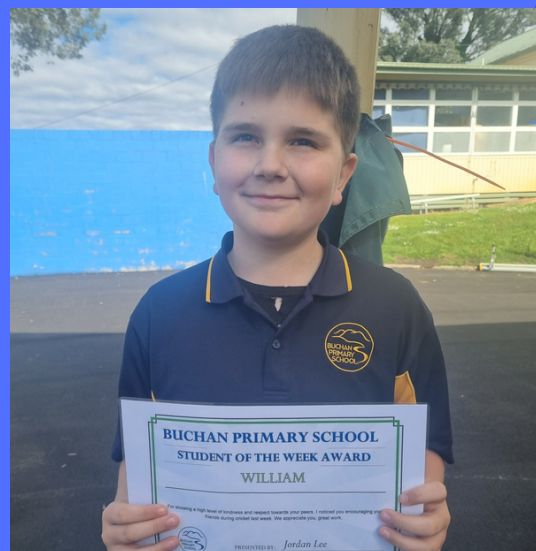
## JAMES

James is our student of the week for working hard to "make it neat, make it count". He showed fantastic focus on improving his handwriting and putting great effort into every piece of work.



## WILL

For showing a high level of kindness and respect towards your peers. I noticed you encouraging your friends during cricket last week. We appreciate you, great work.



# Buchan Primary School

## School preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, we undertake a range of activities to ensure the safety of our school and to prepare for bushfires and grassfires.

An important part of this process is communicating to parents what will happen when certain fire danger ratings are issued to help ensure the safety of students and staff.

**Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a Category 3 school.**



Our school will **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in the **East Gippsland fire district**.

Closure of the school due to a Catastrophic fire danger rating will be enacted when the Bureau of Meteorology forecast and related public safety messaging are confirmed. Due to uncertainties in the forecast, the timing of this confirmation may vary. Information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by School Stream.

It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and completed bushfire preparedness activities.

## ***What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?***

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by checking School Stream regularly, reading the school newsletter, checking our website and talking to any member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements if our school is closed due to Catastrophic fire danger. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#).
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are actioning your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to [them about bushfires](#) and your family's bushfire survival plan.

Families are encouraged to action their [Bushfire Survival Plan](#) on Catastrophic fire danger rating days in their district. The safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day. **On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

You can find more information on emergencies, warnings and preparedness actions here:

- VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***What is the department's policy?***

The Department of Education annually assesses the fire risk of all schools and early childhood services with the support of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 6). Schools and services that are Categories 0-3 are published on the [Bushfire At-Risk Register \(BARR\)](#). Schools at some risk of bushfire and grassfire are published on the [Category 4 List](#).

The department's [Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy](#) requires all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 List to close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

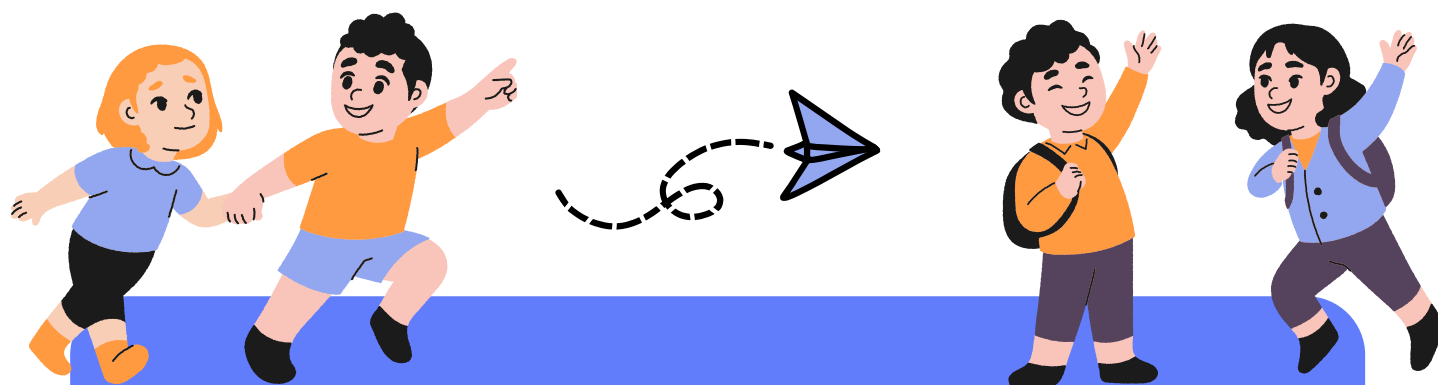
The policy also requires that schools at the highest risk of bushfire (those in Categories 0, 1 and 2 of the Bushfire At-Risk Register) enact pre-emptive action plans based on the fire danger forecast for their Local Government Area (LGA).

### ***Who issues fire danger forecasts?***

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) provides public fire danger rating forecasts each day of the fire danger period using fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries.

The department uses these forecasts when supporting schools to enact their pre-emptive bushfire actions plans.

Pictured below is a schedule of events that will be held over Term 4. Please continue to monitor School Stream and each fortnightly newsletter, as events are always being added!



## Upcoming Events - Term 4

|                                                        |                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| November 13 <sup>th</sup>                              | Gymnastics Excursion Day 1              |
| November 17 <sup>th</sup>                              | Kinder to School Transition Day 1       |
| November 18 <sup>th</sup>                              | Gymnastics Excursion Day 2              |
| November 19 <sup>th</sup>                              | Bike Education Workshop 2               |
| November 21 <sup>st</sup>                              | Curriculum Day - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS |
| November 24 <sup>th</sup>                              | Kinder to School Transition Day 2       |
| November 24 <sup>th</sup> to November 28 <sup>th</sup> | Grade 5/6 Coolamatong Camp              |
| November 26 <sup>th</sup>                              | MARC Van                                |
| December 1 <sup>st</sup>                               | Kinder to School Transition Day 3       |
| December 2 <sup>nd</sup>                               | Buchan to Host Principal Conference     |
| December 9 <sup>th</sup>                               | Kinder to School Transition Day 4       |
| December 9 <sup>th</sup>                               | School Council                          |
| December 10 <sup>th</sup>                              | MARC Van                                |
| December 16 <sup>th</sup>                              | School Council Training                 |
| December 18 <sup>th</sup>                              | School Concert                          |
| December 19 <sup>th</sup>                              | LAST DAY OF SCHOOL                      |



# Clothing Clearance Sale



St Matthews church hall  
Campbell St Bruthen

Next dates-

**Friday Nov 14: 1.30pm - 5pm**

**Saturday Nov 15: 9am - 2.30pm**

Bruthen Op shop has moved lots of surplus donations and unsold stock to the hall. Take advantage of our clothing clearance sale, snap up some bargains and give these lovely items a new life.



Not just clothes, there will be books, games, toys and more.

**Prices start at just 50c (almost nothing over \$2)  
and Free items outside.**



## EGUFC 2026 U15 GIRLS TEAM

### Join us for Team Selections

Dates: 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> November

Venue: Howitt Park, Bairnsdale

Time: 6.15 – 7.30pm

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Age Eligibility:

Born between 1 January 2011 &  
31 December 2014 (11–14 years)

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Contact: [egufcjuniors@outlook.com](mailto:egufcjuniors@outlook.com)  
Find us on Facebook!