

NEWSLETTER

August 20th

2026
VOLUME.13

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.

AROUND THE CLASSROOMS

JUNIOR SCHOOL:

Junior students have been busy exploring our integrated unit of work, learning about the wonderful world we live in. They have been investigating the features of Earth, including continents, oceans, mountains, rivers, forests and deserts, while discovering how different environments support plants, animals and people. Students are also learning how maps and globes help us understand where places are and the different features that make each part of our world unique.

SENIOR SCHOOL:

Senior students have enjoyed so many wonderful opportunities over the past couple of weeks! From showcasing their skills at the TUBBS athletics day and building resilience through their Outward Bound adventure, to developing their creativity and writing skills during our Author's Workshop, it has certainly been a busy and rewarding few weeks.



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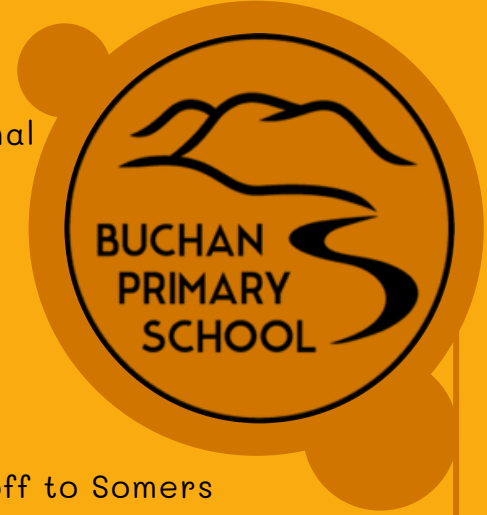


REMINDERS:

- Somer's Camp for Grade 5/6 students is next week and will go from Tuesday the 25/8 to Wednesday 2/9.
- We will be celebrating Book Week on Thursday the 10/9 with the EYLC. There will be a dress up parade from 9:30 - 10:00. **All parents, families and friends are welcome to attend.**

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.



Grade 5/6 Somer's Camp:

Next week, a group of our Grade 5/6 students will head off to Somers Camp, a Victorian Department of Education outdoor education school. The camp provides a valuable hands-on opportunity for students to develop many of the personal and social skills we foster at school. Through outdoor activities, shared responsibilities and living and learning alongside students from other schools, children are encouraged to make decisions, solve problems, communicate, cooperate and take increasing responsibility for themselves. Somers specifically aims to foster independence, including by encouraging students to form new friendships and develop as independent learners.

These experiences help students build confidence, resilience, independence and teamwork by putting these skills into practice in authentic situations.

I will be heading off to Somer's Camp for nine days (seven school days) with the Grade 5/6 students who are attending. During this time, Mr Wes Vague, a former Tambo Upper Primary School Principal, will be holding down the fort in the senior room. He will teach the Grade 3/4s and remaining 5/6s for four days in Week 7 (Tuesday–Friday). Mrs Z will then take the seniors for the first three days of Week 8 (Monday–Wednesday). I will be back to onsite on Thursday 3/9.

Father's Day Stall:

Our annual Father's Day Stall will be held on Thursday the 3rd of September. Students will have the opportunity to purchase a special gift for \$5. A big thank you to Julie, who will be running the stall and helping students choose something special for their dads or another important person in their life.

Free Resources for Foundation/Grade 1 Parents:

We have attached a flyer with free Sounds-Write resources for parents and carers who would like to build their phonics knowledge. Sounds-Write is the phonics program we use in our junior classroom, making these resources a great way to support learning at home.

Best regards,
Aidan Johnston,
Principal



Sounds-Write
FIRST RATE PHONICS

Free Phonics Resources for Parents and Carers



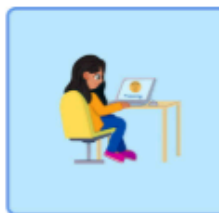
Start exploring your resources!

HELP YOUR CHILD TO
READ AND WRITE



57000

Parents and carers have
enrolled in our **free course**



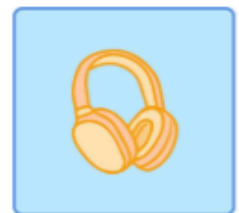
Help Your Child to
Read and Write
Course

Watch Now



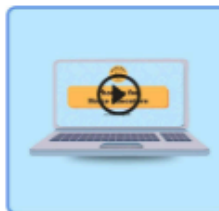
e-Books for the Initial
and Extended Code

Download



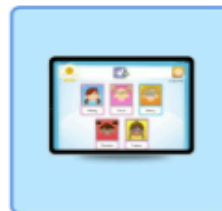
Podcast: Phonics for
Parents and Carers

Listen In



Phonics for
Home Educators
Webinar

Watch Now



Initial Code
App: Available on
iPad

Install



Article: Decodable
Readers vs Levelled
Readers

Read Now

Sounds-Write - Free Resources (Foundation & Grade 1 Parents only)

Over the past four years, Buchan Primary School has been using Sounds-Write as our Systematic Synthetic Phonics Program (SSP). All F-1 students participate in a 25-minute session 5 times per week as part of their 2 hour literacy block. All staff, including Education Support staff, have completed a minimum six-week (38-hour) professional learning course to deliver the program to a high standard. In addition, Moira has completed the Sounds-Write Intervention (tutoring) course and published decodable readers for the company, while Aidan has completed the Phonics Masterclass & Coaching course. We are proud to share that this approach has delivered excellent results for our students. Sounds-Write has now developed practical strategies for supporting early reading and writing at home, using a structured, easy-to-follow approach. No prior training required: just short, accessible sessions that fit around everyday home routines. **This is aimed at Foundation/Grade 1 parents only.**



Download the Parent Phonics Resource Pack here → <https://zurl.co/789X5>



Outward Bound

On Friday the 7th of August, our senior students had the opportunity to attend Outward Bound's Bete Bolong Camp. Students enjoyed a fantastic day of team-building and outdoor activities, including group challenges, water play, fire making and damper cooking. We sincerely thank Outward Bound for providing this fantastic experience at no cost to the school or parents.



Victorian High Ability Program (VHAP)

Congratulations to Tom and Lachie on successfully completing the Victorian High Ability Program (VHAP). This program provides extension opportunities for a select group of high-achieving students from across Victoria. Both students showed great commitment throughout the program, particularly as their sessions fell at a challenging time of the day!



TUBBS Athletics Day

On Thursday the 6th of August, our senior students travelled to Howitt Park to compete in a range of track and field events. Well done to all students who participated, gave their best and represented our school with pride. Congratulations to those who qualified for the next level of competition on Thursday 20 August. We wish you all the very best!



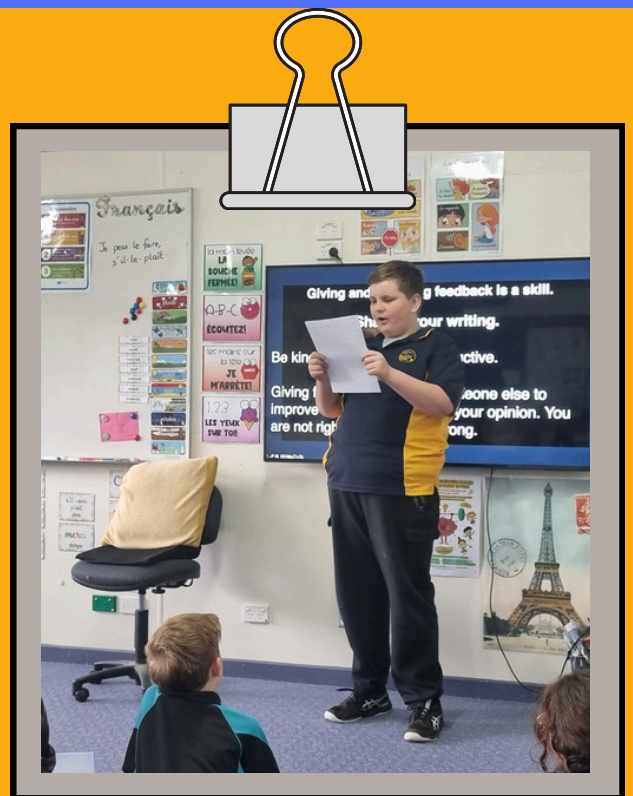
Spelling Bee

On Friday the 14th of August, Buchan Primary School held its first Spelling Bee in many years. It was wonderful to see so many students stand up, challenge themselves and give it a go. The event also provided valuable practice for our Grade 5/6 students who were preparing to participate in VicSpell. A big thank you to all the parents and families who came along to support and encourage our students. We look forward to building on the event next year, refining the format and hopefully including a morning tea afterwards.



Author's Workshop

Over two days, selected Grade 3–6 students participated in an Authors' Workshop at Nungurner Primary School, alongside students from across our cluster. We were fortunate to work with Ingrid Laguna, a multi-award-winning author and educator with extensive experience inspiring young writers. Students participated in engaging activities designed to challenge and extend their writing skills, creativity and confidence. Our Grade 3/4 and 5/6 students produced some fantastic pieces of writing and thoroughly enjoyed this valuable opportunity to develop their skills as young authors.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK

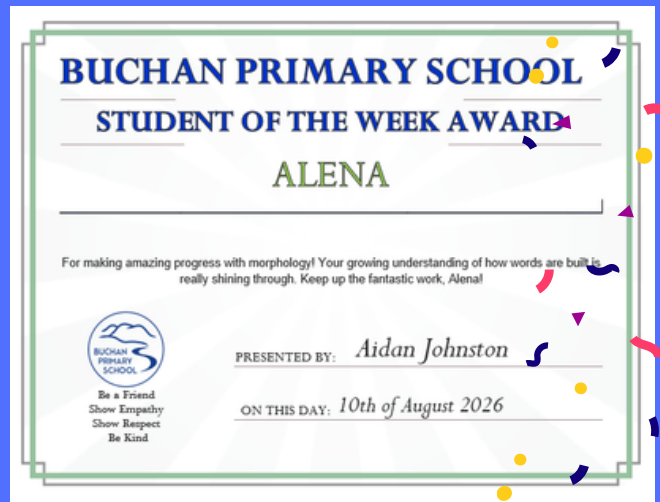


ELI

Last week, you were very kind and helpful. You often went out of your way to look out for others. Great job

ALENA

For making amazing progress with morphology! Your growing understanding of how words are built is really shining through. Keep up the fantastic work, Alena!



JESSIE

For consistently being kind towards your peers and trying your best in the classroom. Last week, you did an amazing job at the Spelling Bee and should feel proud of your amazing effort. Great work!

WILLIAM

For putting his best foot forward, showing a positive attitude towards his learning, and doing a wonderful job of making good choices when faced with challenges.



Parent-opinion Survey

WE WANT OUR PARENTS / CARERS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!

Our school is conducting the annual Parent / Carer Opinion Survey offered by the Department of Education and is seeking your feedback. The survey is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of school climate, student behavior, and student engagement. The survey is optional, but we encourage and appreciate your participation.

Our school will use the survey results to assist in identifying areas for improvement and professional development needs in the school, to target school planning and improvement strategies.

The survey will be conducted online, only takes 15 minutes to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones. A survey link will go out next week.

The online survey will be available in English and 10 other languages including Arabic, Greek, Hakha Chin, Hindi, Japanese, Punjabi, Simplified Chinese, Somali, Turkish, and Vietnamese. Resources are also available in additional languages to assist parents / carers who speak a language other than English at home. Please reach out to your child's teacher, or the school directly for survey guides in your language.

Last year, feedback from the Parent / Carer Opinion Survey helped us identify an important area for improvement. We have made a conscious effort to broaden the opportunities available to our students and provide experiences that cater for different interests, strengths and abilities. This has included extension and high-ability opportunities, additional programs, camps, sporting events, performing arts and other learning experiences beyond the regular classroom program.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
August 17th	August 18th	August 19th	August 20th	August 21st
MARC Van			TUBBS District Athletics Day / VicSpell / Roadhouse Lunchorders	
August 24th	August 25th	August 27th	August 28th	August 29th
	Somers Camp Begins (Grade 5/6)			
August 31st	September 1st	September 2nd	September 3rd	September 4th
MARC Van		Somers Camp Ends (Grade 5/6)	Father's Day Stall	
September 7th	September 8th	September 9th	September 10th	September 11th
			Book Week Dress Up / Roadhouse	

Events Later in Term 3

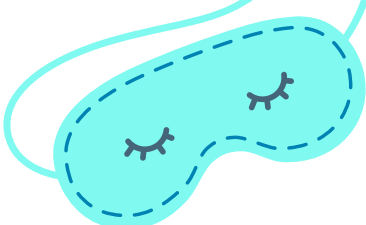
September 10th:

Book Week Dress up Day

September 15th:

School Council at 5pm





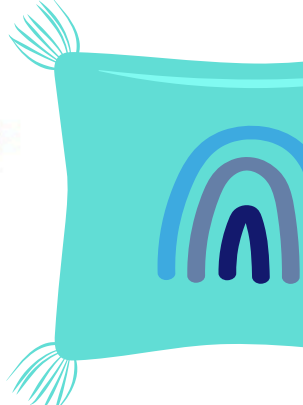
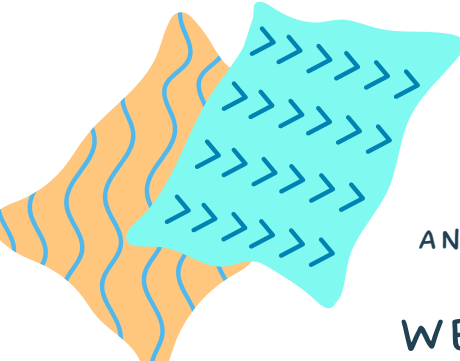
BACK FOR 2026 - SEPTEMBER 11TH

Gippsland's Biggest
P.J. DAY

SUPPORTING A BETTER LIFE
FOR FOSTER KIDS



AN ANNUAL EVENT RAISING FUNDS AND AWARENESS



WEAR YOUR OODIES, ONESIES OR PJS
ON FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER, OR JUST
PUT OUT A TIN FOR DONATIONS

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST ONLINE
[HTTPS://ABETTERLIFEFORFOSTERKIDS.ORG
G.AU/GIPPSLANDS-BIGGEST-PJ/](https://abetterlifeoffosterkids.org.au/gippslands-biggest-pj/)





Baby & Child First Aid Buchan

Buchan Neighbourhood House

8 September 2026 @ 10:00 AM to 1.00 PM

In this session participants will gain knowledge and skills in how to manage common childhood accidents, injuries and illnesses common in children from birth to teens

Following completion of the workshop you will be able to;

- Perform CPR on a baby or child
- Apply and use an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator)
- Identify and distinguish the difference between choking, gagging and coughing
- Perform choking first aid (5 back blows and 5 chest thrusts)
- Identify the red flags for children following head injuries
- Perform burn first aid
- Perform the PIT (Pressure Immobilisation Technique) for snake bites and funnel webs
- Perform first aid for bug bites and stings
- Manage life threatening and non-life threatening bleeding
- Identify the red flags of common childhood illnesses
- Describe common symptoms following childhood vaccinations and identify when to seek help
- Identify signs and symptoms of allergies and anaphylaxis
- Perform administration of an EPI-PEN autoinjector

In addition to the above we cover accident prevention strategies for drowning, choking, burns, head injuries, car accidents farm safety and when to go the GP, versus the hospital or when you can watch and wait at home.

This education is provided free to parents and carers of children in Gippsland by the Sisterhood Project due to the generosity of a grant from the Latrobe Foundation

www.thesisterhoodproject.com.au

Tickets

<https://www.intix.com.au/event/baby-child-first-aid-buchan/information>

The
Latrobe Health Services
Foundation