



Dear Families,  
Quite a busy few weeks as we head towards the end of term.

Thank you to everyone who came with us as a cheer squad for the cross country on Friday. We were proud of the way the student supported each other in the run to the finish line, the smiles on the faces of our prep and grade one runners was lovely to see. Thank you to all the staff who marshalled, who were support runners and to those who kept a close eye on students to ensure safety.

We are also grateful for the careful driving of the bus drivers who managed a 'no vomit' journey!! The next division of cross country, where the top 6 runners from the 10, 11 and 12 year old groups will represent the cluster, is to be held at Nagle College on Tuesday 5th May. Keep an eye on the next newsletter to see the results.

Don't forget our School Council Easter raffle is drawn on the last day of term. If you need more tickets please give Julie or Nichole a call. We always welcome more donations for the prizes so if you can help we'd love to see Easter themed items for the tubs at the front of the office. Tickets are due back by Monday the 30th of March.

The school Council AGM was held last week and office bearers were elected for the coming year. This year our council members are:

Parent Reps  
Heather Wilkins (President), Dale Stephenson (Vice -President), Jess Kenny (Secretary), & Bridget Bence (Treasurer).

Employee Reps  
Marcia Mason, Holli Wendlandt, Hayley Morris, Principal  
Congratulations and thank you to all our School Council members.

As mentioned in the announcement on uEducateUs the Australian Education Union has called on members to stopwork to express concern in regard to working conditions. If you have not yet responded to the message could you please reply to [debra.nicholls@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:debra.nicholls@education.vic.gov.au) soon as possible.

Have a great week.



*Debbie Nicholls Acting Principal*

## TERM 1 2026

*Diary Dates to Remember*

### March

- Teachers Strike Action - 24th
- Peer Connect Group - 23rd
- Naplan Complete - 23rd

### April

- Shire Library Bus - 2nd
- Last day of Term - 2nd
- Good Friday Public Holiday - 3rd
- Student Free Day - 20th
- Students Return to School - 21st
- Shire Library Bus - 30th

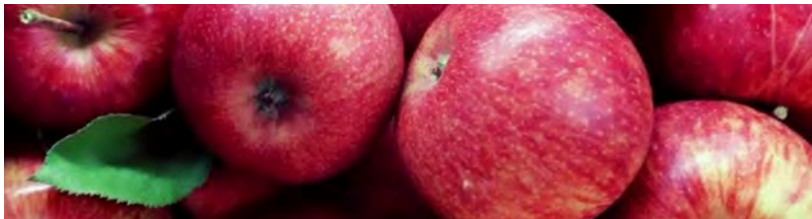


## Student of the Week Awards



### Monday 16th

Chelsea who has demonstrated a continued & consistent effort in all areas of learning.  
Max for some fantastic ideas in English.  
& Alessio who has been doing some great great maths work.



**Swan Reach**  
Primary School



Swan Reach Primary School are proud to partner with the Picnic Point Farm to make their delicious and fresh produce available to you on a weekly basis. Orders are due Monday evening, and produce will be available for collection on Thursday afternoon and Friday Morning.

Use the website <https://shop.picnicpointfarm.com.au/category/fundraising> or the below barcode, or return the slip with cash to the office red box by Monday afternoon.

All monies raised will go towards supporting the Cooking Program.

Dates for Term 1 are as follows:

Order date:

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March (Labour day public holiday, please order online)

**No orders week of 16<sup>th</sup> March**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March



Please contact [heather.wilkins@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:heather.wilkins@education.vic.gov.au) if you have any questions

## Things to Remember



Thank you so much for the donations we have received, we have a little more time left to fill those tubs. Raffle tickets due back on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March. Who will win? It could be you.

**School Assembly will be held every Monday at 9am families welcome.**

### Is your child's photo's in the Newsletter?

We are only able to display photo's in the newsletter of students where parents or carers have given us permission to do so. If you would like to withdraw or change your consent at any time please notify the school & fill out any required paper work. Forms are available at the front office.



**uEducateus**  
Parental app



**Facebook**  
Follow us on facebook

## SCHOOL BANKING DETAILS

Account Name: Swan Reach Primary School  
National Australia Bank :BSB 083-001 ACC No 241 565 854  
Please include surname & description of payment



# This Week from the Prep/1 Room

Featuring Mrs Lewis & Blake



Our Prep/One students have been enthusiastically exploring STEM through their investigation of simple machines. They began by developing an understanding of weight and how it affects the effort needed to move objects. Building on this, students experimented with pulley systems, comparing how much force was required when using one, two, and three pulleys. Through hands-on learning and problem-solving, they discovered how pulleys can make lifting objects easier by reducing the effort needed. It has been wonderful to see their curiosity, teamwork, and critical thinking skills in action throughout this engaging learning experience.





**SWAN REACH  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**NEWSLETTER**

# Buchan X-Country



**RESPECT & EMPATHY  
FOR ALL**

21 School Road, Swan Reach  
[swan.reach.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:swan.reach.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

 [swanreachps.vic.edu.au](http://swanreachps.vic.edu.au)

03 5156 4287



## AEU STOPWORK 24 MARCH

20<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

AEU members at Swan Reach Primary School will be stopping work for 24 hours on Tuesday 24 March 2026. It is important that you know exactly why we have reluctantly decided to take this action.

We understand our action presents difficulties for some parents and carers. However, the fact is that when it comes to investing in education, Victoria is bottom of the class. We are very concerned about the impact of this on your child's education.

Victorian public schools are the lowest funded in Australia and teachers are the lowest paid. This means that principals and education support staff are also undervalued.

By October 2026:

- an experienced Victorian teacher will be earning as much as \$15,359 a year less than a similar teacher in New South Wales
- a classroom-based education support employee starting out will be 10.5% behind their NSW counterpart
- and a Victorian school principal new to the role would start at \$27,841 or 18% behind for performing the same roles and responsibilities as a similar principal in NSW.

On top of that, Victorian public school staff work on average 12 hours of unpaid overtime each week.

Australian Education Union members in every public school across Victoria are trying to get the state government to fix these and other problems through a new pay and conditions agreement. We have been negotiating for over eight months without success – the government has made no offer to improve pay and conditions at all.

The state government refuses to invest the money that would allow us to recruit and retain the staff we need in our schools – this is especially important for the learning and wellbeing of our students at a time of significant staffing shortages.

We are left with no alternative but to take action on 24 March 2026, and principals, teachers and education support staff would like to count on your support in this campaign.

Please let the state government know that you want Victorian public school staff to have increased salaries and improved conditions. One supportive action that you can take would be to write to your state Labor member of the Victorian Parliament to tell them that you expect your school to be fully

funded and that school staff receive decent pay and conditions to retain the existing workforce and attract the next generation to the profession.



Please use this QR code to find the contact details of your local Labor member of parliament.

AEU members at [insert school name] thank you for your support.





# Buchan X-Country



## We had 30 runners come in the top 8 places of their races!!!!

Preps  
1st Lottie Morris

Grade 1 boys  
7th Henry Bransden  
8th Anderson Liddell

Grade 1 girls  
2nd Ava Bence  
6th Isla Robinson  
7th Ameya Counsell  
8th Lexi McClusky

Grade 2 boys  
1st Wren Kenny  
3rd Patrick James  
6th Dylan Erickson

Grade 2 girls  
3rd Frankie Kutek

Grade 3/9year old boys  
Tied 2nd Max Bayard  
8th Tyler Stanyer

For the grade 4-6 students who placed in the top 6, they will go through to the next round! If they placed 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>, they are the reserve/standby runners if someone cannot attend.

10year old boys  
1st Eddie Kutek  
4th Harry Stephenson  
6th Joshua Salisbury

10year old girls  
3rd Sadie Veldhuzen  
7th Charlotte Dingwall  
8th Evie Ellison

11year old boys  
5th Hudson Liddell

11year old girls  
2nd Imlay Kenny  
4th Athera Stephenson  
8th Autumn Evans

12year old boys  
5th Zayn Gorringer

12year old girls  
1st Rachel Salisbury  
2nd Thea Bayard  
3rd Emerson Wren  
5th Rhiannan Anderson  
6th India Ellison  
7th Ava Voight  
8th Emma Mowat

Super proud of everyone's achievements! Especially those who finished when every muscle was aching to say stop!



# Special Feature



## Lawn Mower Races

On the weekend the Convoy for Kids arrived at the Lakes Airfield. One of events showcased on the day was lawn mower racing! Would you believe it, one of our students was racing! We line up like a car race, but with mowers. We make a track out of hay bales, and we race like normal cars do. If we bump anyone, we have to move in behind them.

We use padded pants and body armour with a shirt over the body armour, and wear a motor bike helmet with goggles, and we can wear any type of boots.

I sometimes feel nervous but very excited. I really like doing it, it is really fun. I only started doing it this year but my brother Chase has done it for a few years and usually wins every time, but he is in a different category than me.

By Summer Carpenter

You can find Summer racing at the upcoming Johnsonville Mower Races.  
Saturday 28th March, gates open at 9am but action starts at 10am.

Gold coin donation for entry.

Run by Johnsonville Fire Brigade.

Family friendly event.





**SWAN REACH  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**NEWSLETTER**

# This Week Around the Playground



**RESPECT & EMPATHY  
FOR ALL**

21 School Road, Swan Reach  
[swan.reach.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:swan.reach.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

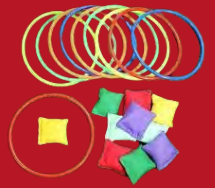
 [swanreachps.vic.edu.au](http://swanreachps.vic.edu.au)

03 5156 4287



## This Weeks PE news

Featuring Mrs Erickson



Some of our recent PE sessions...

Throughout term 1 we have focused on various skills and concepts in PE. Most of which have centred around strategy, group work and throwing skills. Given that our cross country is also this term, every lesson has had a lot of running involved to condition ourselves to run longer distances.



P/1/2/3/4 have spent a few weeks practicing both underarm and overarm throws using different sizes and types of balls. Initially learning the helpful cues as to what body part needs to move and when, they then put these skills into practice by aiming at buckets and hoops, bigger balls to move them along and even the teacher in different places on the basketball court!

Grade 5 and 6 have also dabbled with T-ball skills in the lead up to Winter Sports, plus giving the Grade 6 some practice for their weekly inter sport sessions with our cluster schools. To begin with, we worked on the grip, swing and stance when hitting off a tee, then moved on to getting used to throwing and catching a soft ball, given its unusual size (it's bigger than a traditional baseball). In just the first session alone, it was fantastic to see those students who were initially reserved and hesitant, become confident and give the batting a go! It has also been great to see those who already know how to play, become great models for their peers.





*Happy Birthdays*

**MARCH**

Tyler  
Aiden.S  
Mason

## KIDS, COME AND TRY PICKLEBALL

Children between ages 6-12 are invited to come and try pickleball in a fun and supportive environment.

- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> & Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup>
- 43 Palmers Rd, Lakes Ent (Tennis Club)
- 10 am - 12 noon
- Equipment supplied
- Take part in games and activities
- Try new skills
- Be supported by local pickleball players

**GOLD COIN DONATION**

**ALL ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT: JACQUI MALLEN - 0409 709 525**

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.



**nab AFL Auskick**  
4-7 YEAR OLDS\*

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

**AFL Superkick**  
7-12 YEAR OLDS

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)

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM**  
LUCKNOW RECREATION RESERVE  
FRIDAY APRIL 10TH



ALL GIRLS GROUPS AVAILABLE



CONTACT: CAITLIN.WESTON@AFL.COM.AU

## PLAYERS WANTED!

**Lakes Entrance Netball Association**

**Net Set Go**  
Mondays 4-5pm

**Under 13s & Under 11s**  
Mondays 5-6pm

Registrations:  
<https://registration.netballconnect.com/login>



## This Weeks Community News

**MONASH University**

### ARE YOU AN EMERGENCY SERVICE RESPONDER IN RURAL AUSTRALIA?




**SEEKING VOLUNTEERS** willing to share their experiences and perspectives in relation to planning for perinatal women and their families during and after natural disasters.

**Eligibility:**  
- Emergency management responders (in paid or volunteer roles) e.g. CFA, SES, paramedics, Red Cross, health professionals, people working in evacuation centres support, local government planners and so on) who have been involved in natural disaster responses in the past 5 years in rural Australia.

The findings from this research will help to create preparedness, relief and recovery plans that benefit rural communities.


**A \$50 voucher** will be provided to each participant as a contribution for your time and knowledge.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT**

Xiangmin Tan  
PhD Candidate  
Monash Rural Health  
T: +61 493979000  
E: Xiangmin.Tan@monash.edu

**MONASH University**

### HAS YOUR YOUNG FAMILY LIVED THROUGH A NATURAL DISASTER?



**SEEKING VOLUNTEERS** to share their experiences and needs during natural disasters.

**Eligibility: Mothers who have:**  
- experienced mental health challenges before pregnancy.  
- experienced a natural disaster during your pregnancy period or first year after the birth of your child  
- live in rural Australia

**Partners and family members** are also invited.

The findings from this research will help to create preparedness, relief and recovery plans that considers the needs of you and your family.

**A \$50 voucher** will be provided to each participant as a contribution for your time and knowledge.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT**

Xiangmin Tan  
PhD Candidate  
Monash Rural Health  
T: +61 493979000  
E: Xiangmin.Tan@monash.edu

**APRIL 13TH - 17TH**

# APRIL HOLIDAY CLASSES

**GYMNASTICS - NINJA - TRAMPOLINE**

**\$15 FOR 1HR SESSION - \$50 FOR 4HR SESSION**

**BOOK YOUR SPOT NOW**



**FOR MORE INFO EMAIL**  
eastgippslandgymnastics@gmail.com

## SNAAP


**SPECIAL NEEDS AQUATIC AWARENESS PROGRAM**

• 30 E.O. training (on single SNAAP session) & water safety equipment can be provided if you require it.

• Surf Life Saving Lakes Entrance, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 11am-1pm

• Come on down to learn about key water safety messages and get valuable experience in and around the water.

**Sign up now:**



Proudly supported by LSV Gippsland Sporting Hub Project, made possible by the Victorian Government's Strengthening Regional Community Sport Program.

**SURF LIFE SAVING LAKES ENTRANCE** | **Life Saving Victoria**