

**Silvan Primary School**

School No. 1801

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**NEWSLETTER NO. 02 February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**2026**

<b>Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>Grade Information Booklets will be sent home</b>
<b>Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>Curriculum Day – Pupil Free</b>
<b>Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>School Council – 7.00 pm online (Postponed – rescheduled for Wed 4<sup>th</sup> March)</b>
<b>Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Feb &amp; Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>Grade P-2 Phonics &amp; Maths Online Assessment – Ms Girschik assessing students</b>
<b>Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>Grade 4-6 Kayaking at the Lake</b>
<b>Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>Parent/Teacher Discussions 3.30 pm onwards</b>
<b>Wed 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Small School’s Swimming Carnival at Healesville Swimming Pool</b> <b>School Council – 7.00 pm online</b>
<b>Mon 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Labour Day – Public Holiday</b>
<b>Wed 11<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Canteen Day changed to House Sports Day Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Grade 4-6 Kayaking on the River: 9.00 am – 2.30 pm (Invitation Only)</b>
<b>Tues 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Whole School – House Sports 9.00 am 11.00 am + Canteen</b>
<b>Wed 25<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Whole School – House Sports 11.30 am 1.30 pm – Changed to Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>GRIP leadership Excursion to the City: 4-6</b>
<b>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>Grade 4-6 Leadership Speeches 9.15 am</b>
<b>Wed 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>Grade 3-6 District Athletics at Upper Yarra Secondary College</b>
<b>Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	<b>Last day of term - 2.30 pm dismissal</b>

**SCHOOL CANTEEN**

School canteen day has been changed to the House Sports Day. It is now on the new day of Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March. After a demanding time out on the track and field, students can complete the morning by enjoying a hot meal from the canteen for lunch.

**Student Medical Alerts - ASTHMA PLANS**

We are in the process of updating every child’s details on our system. Part of this involves updating medical information for children that have an asthma diagnosis. If your child does have asthma, we need their current treatment plan, signed by their doctor. All children who are asthmatic will be sent home an Asthma Care Plan. Please return these as soon as possible so we can update your child’s details.

**SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**

Our first school council meeting has been moved to Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.00 pm via Webex.

Any new parents who would like to join school council, there are positions available this year. Interested parents should fill in the attached nomination form and return it to school ASAP.

**Grade P-2 Phonics/Numeracy Online Assessments**

Ms. Girschik will be conducting important Online Assessments for Grade P-2 during weeks 4 & 5 for the month of February. The assessments will include an update with parents to discuss and inform you about your child’s performance. This will be part of our parent/teacher discussions meetings on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

## **Whole School – House Sports – Changed to Tuesday 24th March**

The school has changed the House Sports to Tuesday, so our prep students do not miss the event. The new event will commence from 9.00 am so stick around, after school drop off, to cheer your child on.

## **SCHOOL CHARGES 2026**

Parent contributions for 2026 are due by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March. Fees are \$ 485 per student. Families with multiple children to please contact the principal to discuss financial help arrangements and support programs.

Please pay your contributions by the due date.

## **SMALL SCHOOL'S SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March we have a whole school excursion to the Healesville Outdoor Swimming Pool to compete against other schools in a swimming carnival. We are bringing our prep students off the bench to boost our chances of success. So, preppies, your mid-weekday off is cancelled and you are required for duty. Bring your bathers, towel, sunscreen, and hat.

## **GRADE INFORMATION BOOKLETS**

As a lead into the Parent/Teacher Discussions Ms. Girschik and Mrs. Hughes will forward a 'Grade Information Book' on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February, which will outline classroom expectations for students, list important dates throughout the year (events calendar), outline curriculum foci and provide general information for your convenience regarding school operations for the year.

## **PARENT/TEACHER DISCUSSIONS**

Parent/Teacher Discussions are scheduled for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February commencing at 3.30 pm.

Their purpose is to provide an early opportunity for teachers and parents to exchange any details, concerns, changes in circumstances and/or any other information to ensure all students are settled at school- learning and focused for the year.

They are not an interview but rather an opportunity to ensure everything is lined up and to ensure students have the necessary opportunities to succeed.

A note will come home with your child over the next week outlining available times for Discussions.

## **BUSH FIRE SEASON & EXTREME WEATHER DAYS**

The current state of play is that on 'Catastrophic' days the school will close. On 'Extreme' weather days the school will be vigilant in monitoring weather conditions & alerts but will remain open.

Parents are expected to monitor their own smartphones Vic Emergency & the ABC 774 radio and keep an eye out for alerts particularly on total fire band days this term. Please see Cathy in the office asap if you need to update your contact details if we need to contact you if we enact our Emergency Management Plan.

The school has a generator and satellite phone to enhance our ability to communicate with parents in the event of a bushfire occurring during bushfire season.

The incoming phone number for the school's satellite phone is **0485 898 399**

So, create a new contact in your phone and assign as something like, 'Silvan Primary Satellite Phone'.

### **SCHOOL CANTEEN WINDOW SALES**

Parents are welcome to send in \$ 5.00 or \$10.00 to create a tab at the canteen for window sales. Window sales are open every day. See Mrs. T, Ms Jones or Mrs. Wallace. This way they can purchase icy-poles and cookies if they forget their money on the day.

Don't forget there are several food items including fruit cups, popcorn, tinned spaghetti and toast that are available for free, if you don't fancy icy-poles or cookies.

### **PREP ATTENDANCE TERM 1 2026**

During term one, all foundation students do not attend school on Wednesdays for the whole term.

This allows them time to transition into the routines and demands of primary school with some down time to adjust and adapt to the workload.

### **SCHOOL REVIEW**

This week we completed our School Review. The Department of Education (DET) conducts reviews of schools every 4-5 years. This rigorous process is conducted by the Victorian Registration & Qualifications Authority (VRQA), and the evaluation is completed with support from a DET appointed external reviewer. The school review supports each school to differentiate its improvement journey by

building on current strengths and assisting it to respond to challenges. It emphasises continuous improvement and affirms that every student, no matter their background or circumstances, has a right to learn in a school committed to improvement. It maintains that every school can improve.

Thank you to Casey Kosterman, Corinne Hughes, Chloe Girschik, Fiona Wallace, Anita Tirchett, Jess Jones, Cathy Gerace, Paula Morrison, Maria Rae, Emma Clark, Lorraine Kennedy, Kerrie Anderson, all students and the parents who attended the 'Parent Forum' on Thursday morning Emily Wheatley, Casey Kosterman, Mia Kitto and Joe Barker.

### **MYKI YOUTH**



The advertisement features a vibrant illustration of three diverse young people. A girl in a purple top and blue skirt sits on the ground, holding a smartphone. A boy in a white shirt and blue shorts sits next to her, also holding a smartphone. A girl in a white shirt and green plaid skirt stands behind them, holding a red object. Above them, the text 'Travel Free' is written in large, colorful, bubbly letters. Below the illustration, a signpost points to 'West Street on Gleney Road'. At the bottom, the text reads 'Under 18s travel free on all public transport with a Youth myki'. A QR code is provided for purchasing a Youth myki. The background is a solid green color.

**Travel Free**

West Street on Gleney Road

Under 18s **travel free** on all public transport with a Youth myki

Buy a Youth myki

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**Transport Victoria**



**EVENT: Behind the Backpack: A Conversation About Foster Care: Free Online Event**

The school year has begun, and for many children it's an exciting fresh start. But some kids in our community face added challenges – and right now, there is an urgent shortage of foster carers to support them with safe, stable homes.

Your school community can help by learning more.

Anglicare Victoria is hosting a free online session, Behind the Backpack: A Conversation About Foster Care where carers, young people and experts share real stories about foster care and the difference a supportive home can make.

In this one-hour session, you'll learn:

- What foster care involves
- How foster carers support children through school transitions
- The support available to new carers

- Simple next steps if you're curious about fostering

**Event Details:**

**When:** Thursday 19 February, 12:30–1:20 PM

**Where:** Online (Zoom)

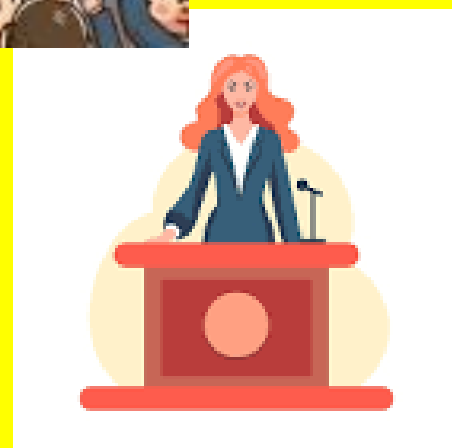
**Register:** Behind the Backpack: A Conversation About Foster Care

Can't make this time?

Head to Anglicare Victoria's website to explore other upcoming foster care information sessions.

**LEADERSHIP SPEECHES**

Our school leadership speeches are being held on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 9.15 am. All parents are welcome to attend. Students will present their speeches and participate in a Q & A session afterwards.



## How can you support phonics learning at home?

Learning to read takes time and **encouragement**, and everyone learns at their own pace.

It's important to **celebrate your child's small wins** and encourage them to **keep trying**, even when it's hard.

When children **enjoy learning**, they stay motivated and build a **strong reading foundation**.

Making **phonics practice fun** is the best way to keep them engaged. Here are some activities you can stick on the fridge and do at home with your child:



### Read together

Choose a favourite book and read it together.

### Phonics bingo

Create cards with letters/words. Call out a sound and ask your child to find the matching card.

### Memory games

Use flashcards with letters and images (like 'Cc' and 'cat') to find matching pairs.

### I spy

Play 'I spy,' focusing on the starting sound (e.g., "... begins with /b/").

### Sand or salt trays

Trace letters in salt or sand while saying the sound aloud.

### Playdough letters

Make letters with playdough, saying the sounds as you make them.

### Hopscotch with sounds

Draw a hopscotch grid with letters. Say the sound as you hop on each letter.

### Phonics songs

Find fun phonics songs online that use repetition and music to remember the sounds.

### Nursery rhymes and poems

Use rhymes to spot sound patterns and shared letters.

### Sound hunt

Find objects around the house that start with a specific sound (e.g., /s/).

### Word hunt

Hide word cards. Have your child find and read them aloud.

### Letter collage

Cut out pictures from magazines that start with a specific sound and make a collage.

### Phonics jump

Write letters on the floor. Call out a sound and jump to it.

### Sound labels

Label objects (e.g., the door with /d/). Sound it out every time you pass.

### Sound of the day/week

Choose one sound (like /a/). Listen for it in conversation, TV, or books.

### Make your own

Have fun making up your own activities using sounds and words!