



# NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the new school year! It has been such a pleasure seeing all of the students settling in to their classroom routines and having fun with their friends. A special congratulations to our Prep students and their families for a very positive start to the year!



We'd love to see as many parents and guardians as possible at this Tuesday's **Meet and Greet** session (10<sup>th</sup> Feb)! Mr Whippy will also be in attendance for those who'd like to purchase an ice-cream. Come along to your child's classroom, chat to their teacher and find out about the exciting things happening this term!

Congratulations again to our **Student Leadership Team** for 2026! The **School Voice Representatives** (Year 1-6 students during Semester 1) will be announced to the community shortly. We expect to present all badges at our next assembly.

The beginning of the year is an opportune time to reinforce wearing the appropriate **school uniform** with our students. Most of our students do a terrific job with this every day. One particular focus of our staff early this year is to ensure that students have an appropriate sun-smart hat to wear at school each day. Students are often disappointed if they are required to play in designated shaded areas when they have forgotten their hat, so keeping one at school is advisable. Unfortunately, some students have not treated their school hats very well towards the end of last year and these will be sent home by classroom teachers- there are some that have writing or graffiti over them, which does not reflect student pride in themselves and their uniform. With other uniform items, our staff understand that not all of our students have a Moolap uniform with the Moolap logo on the shirt, but they should still be in school colours. Fortunately, black items can often be found readily at a reasonable price.

The beginning of the year is also the perfect time to work on positive attitudes towards school and **attendance**. For our students to get the most out of their learning, attending school on time, every day, is vital. This year every class will begin their English work at 9am following the marking of their role and a check in activity. Year P-6 classes will be working with peers from their year level on either their phonics lesson (P-2) or Spelling Mastery (3-6). When students are regularly late or not at school they can miss key learning concepts and they can be hard to recover over time. Our school staff understand that students will be absent from school when they are ill and this is expected and unavoidable. If you notice that your child's attendance is becoming a concern at any time of the year, please contact your child's teacher as there are a range of supports that we can put in place in response. We kindly ask that family holidays are kept to a minimum where possible during each term- whilst we understand the different reasons why they take place, as a school we must encourage regular attendance.

Introducing Moolap's 2026  
**LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**SCHOOL LEADERS**

Layla Emma

**STUDENT VOICE** **ART LEADERS**

Cooper Imogen Kellie

**HOUSE LEADERS**

Lelon Perridak Barnong Kuwarrk

Zali Winter Jax Mia

## Meet our new staff member!

Shaun Trenorden



Hi Moolap Community, my name is Shaun Trenorden (Mr T) and I am a grade 5/6 teacher this year. I am excited to have an influence on the senior students and meet lots of other students across the school. I have been teaching for a long time, and I still love coming to school to have an impact on all students. Outside of school, I love to go away on day trips with my family and daughter Marley. We like to go to the beach or out for lunch to eat anything Vietnamese. On Saturdays during summer, I play cricket and am a keen batsman. Something I have been very lucky to do was go to Disneyland many years ago and it was amazing! I would go back in a heartbeat!

## School Wide Positive Behaviours

Our school values (Respect, Responsibility, Integrity and Safety) are reinforced every day in our classrooms and around the school. During this term each of our classrooms is running a Starting Right Core Knowledge Unit, which is where we teach and reinforce our values, our procedures and classroom expectations. It has been a pleasure to see our classrooms in action, to notice how settled our students are and the great work they are already producing!

## School Council- Positions Vacant

Each year, we seek a few parents who are interested in joining our School Council. The Council meets 8 times per year, so roughly once per month on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening (5:30pm-approximately 7pm). We'd love to see a few new faces and share with you information about the overall governance of the school- from finance to curriculum. It's a great place to have your say and influence decision making. If you are interested or would like more information, please make contact with the office. Nomination information is posted to all parents/guardians via Compass.

## Student Devices

At the end of 2025 our School Council changed our approach to the use of 1 to 1 devices at school, beginning with this year's Year 3 students. New Department of Education guidelines state that new Bring Your Own Device programs will not be offered from next year. The school has jumped ahead of this expectation by beginning a new approach from this year. Year 3 students will have access to school-purchased Chromebooks, which have arrived and are currently being set up for use. We believe that moving to Chromebooks will also allow students to practise keyboard and typing skills. These devices will be kept and stored at school and students will use them when required. Year 4-6 students will still be asked to bring their iPad to school until the program is totally phased out at the end of 2028 (or when they finish Year 6).

## School Timetable

Our students and staff have been adjusting to our new timetable, which sees our lunch break later than it was last year. Whilst it can take a while to re-program ourselves, teachers have placed additional fruit breaks in where they can see the students need a little more time to adjust. The change to our timetable has allowed the school to have two lots of two hours to focus on key literacy and numeracy skills when students are more receptive earlier in the day. The trickiest time in all classes was when students had a session after recess, then lunch, then another session, which meant additional transitions and sometimes a long time settling back in to work. The additional five minutes of eating time before morning recess has been a most worthwhile adjustment too.

## School Colour Run

Our school's major fundraiser for the year takes place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March from 2:30-3:20pm. Information about the fundraising element of the event has been posted on Compass and the school Facebook page. Students and families are encouraged to seek donations, with prizes to awarded for reaching fundraising targets following the event. Previous fundraising efforts have gone towards resurfacing the basketball courts and for purchasing art racks and smocks, outdoor furniture, soccer goals and play equipment. Other than the fundraising element, the afternoon is a whole lot of fun for everyone, where we all get wet, slimy and full of colour! All students are encouraged to take part and we have lots of ways to include students who may find the event a little tricky, so please chat to your child's teacher if you are concerned about how they might take part. We'll post more information about the afternoon closer to the event.



## Year 6 tops have arrived!

Our Year 6 students are proudly wearing their distinctive new uniforms that arrived earlier this week.



## Communication with the school

Our school is committed to ensuring the parents and guardians have access to relevant information and communication tools to assist with supporting students and their learning and wellbeing. We use a range of tools to assist this:

1. **Compass** will continue to be our main avenue for school information sharing. Parents each have a log-in and can use Compass to receive announcements, newsletters and to view student attendance, student reports and even book in parent-teacher interviews. Compass is our first point of contact with the community in the case of an emergency that impacts the school and it's students and staff. When your child is absent from school for any reason, please record their absence on Compass and the reason for their absence. Absences that are not recorded with a valid reason are left unapproved and stay on your child's permanent record. Laura in the office can assist you with any element of Compass. Parents are encouraged to take a copy of student reports before their child leaves the school or at the end of Year 6.
2. **Class Dojo**
  - Classroom teachers have each set up their Class Dojo so that they can share classroom information and message you. You will also be able to message them. Dojo can be a really positive communication tool that keeps you in the loop and allows convenient access to the teacher. As Principal, I monitor the use of Dojo by staff and they share some messages with me. I am always mindful that staff use platforms like Dojo carefully, making sure that they read and respond to messages during work hours as much as possible, rather than during their personal time. It is important for our school to place parameters around any electronic platform. Class Dojo data is not owned by the school and any third party platform has its benefits and risks. Here are some guidelines that will work to ensure that Dojo is an effective communication tool:
    - Some teachers use Dojo more than others to reflect their own communication style. When parents send a message, it may not be read immediately, especially during class time. It might also be missed in the morning rush. If it is important to inform a teacher about something that you are concerned about and it is urgent, please contact the school office.
    - Matters of concern are often best dealt with face to face or via phone as written messages do not always convey emotions accurately. You might consider sending a message on Dojo for the teacher to contact you when they can if it is not urgent.
    - Please be brief and to the point. Messages that are more than a few sentences are best communicated via phone or face to face.
    - Please be respectful at all times
    - Parents are encouraged to keep a record of their own Dojo messages- messages are not archived automatically when students change teachers or the teacher leaves the school
    - Parents can refer to Class Dojo's Privacy Policy for further information, which can be found on your individual profile page (under 'Account settings')

## 3. School Facebook Page

Moolap PS has two pages on this platform. One of them is an 'official' page where we place information to advertise and celebrate our school to the wider community ('Moolap Primary School Official'). The other page, 'Moolap Primary School Community', is a closed page for parents of students who attend Moolap PS. This page is used by our Moolap Community Group to share information and provide updates to parents about fundraising and the school canteen. It is also used by the school to celebrate our students, with Star of the Week recipients posted proudly each fortnight. Parents sometimes ask questions on this page, though there can be a delay before a parent or staff moderator sees and approves the message for posting, so you are best to call the office if you need an answer quickly.

#### 4. Meetings with staff

Often the most effective way to communicate with teaching staff is in person or via phone. Teachers make themselves available to parents for a quick chat during times when they are not teaching their class. They have scheduled meetings after school on a Tuesday and Wednesday that they must attend. If you would like to meet with your child's teacher and think the discussion will take longer than a minute or two, please either send them a Dojo message or contact the office to arrange a call back.

Please do not disrupt the classroom when teaching is taking place.

#### Upcoming dates:

- Meet and Greet Afternoon: Tuesday 10 February, 3:30pm
- Assembly: Friday 20 February

#### Annual privacy reminder for our school community

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy and the Schools' Privacy Collection Notice. Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy [[Schools' privacy policy | vic.gov.au](#)], describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education] safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using [Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education], please contact the school.

For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools' privacy policy: information for parents. This information is also available in ten community languages, please contact us for more information.



**Breakfast Club has begun for the year in the STEM space.** Students and families are welcome to attend on Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week. There are a range of items on offer, many of them are provided in partnership with FoodBank Victoria. Students can eat anything from cereal to toast, with oranges, juices, milk and seasonal fruits also available. All items are free! It is hosted by our ES staff who open the doors at 8:20am and serve their last items at 8:40am. Parents/guardians are most welcome to pop in too, there is plenty of food for everyone!

**School arrival time.** I would like to remind parents to work with the school in ensuring that students are not on the school site too early each morning. Those arriving before 8:40am to enable parents to attend work need to access Before School Care, **the yard is supervised from 8:40am.** However, with Breakfast Club operating from 8:20am three times per week, this should also provide an appropriate space for students on those days.

**Allergies, Asthma and Anaphylaxis** At the beginning of the year it is important to update our community with information about allergies, asthma and anaphylaxis. Allergies: There are a number of students at school who have particular allergies to different things, such as bees, mosquito bites and a range of foods. If your child has a particular allergy that may require first aid treatment, it is important to contact the office in order to provide the school with the most up-to-date information to assist with prevention or treatment. Where food allergies and anaphylaxis exist, we do ask particular classes to be mindful of different foods that may arrive to school in student lunchboxes. This information will generally be sent home by classroom teachers. Asthma: We have many students who experience a range of a mild to serious asthma condition. It is very immediate intervention. We have several students who are anaphylactic to certain triggers, such as foods like peanut butter and vegemite. Students with anaphylaxis have a plan that is developed in conjunction with their GP. This plan and the child's medication (usually an EpiPen or AnaPen) is kept in our First Aid Room so it is readily available where required and our staff are trained in administering this medication.

**Peter Knight**  
Principal



Join us  
to create  
connections  
and make a  
difference

 The Country Women's  
Association of Victoria Inc.  
care empower contribute

#### JOIN CWA

*We are more than just scones and tea! Our members engage in a variety of activities that foster friendship, learning, and personal growth while raising funds for important community needs. Whether it's crafting, cooking, or organizing events, there's something for everyone to enjoy!*

*Our branch meets on Wednesday evenings at the CWA Hall in Boundary Road, Thomson. If you're interested in making meaningful connections and being part of something special, we'd love to invite you to attend one of our meetings as a trial!*

*For more information or to learn how to get involved, please reach out –*

*[cwacentralnights@gmail.com](mailto:cwacentralnights@gmail.com)*

*We can't wait to hear from you and welcome you into our wonderful community!*

Deborah Ninnies  
President

# Social Saturday <sup>2026</sup>

## TERM ONE SCHEDULE



Social Saturday is a supported group program for children with NDIS funding to build friendships, confidence, and social skills through fun activities.

FEB  
07

### VISIT TO BANNOCKBURN WATERPARK

No Additional Costs  
Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm

FEB  
14

### VALENTINES DAY CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES AT THE HUB

\$10 Additional Cost  
Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm

FEB  
21

### DAY AT ADVENTURE PARK

\$78 for non-season pass holders  
\$15 for 2025/2026 pass holders  
Time: 10:00am - 4:00pm

FEB  
28

### COOGOORAH PARK PLAYGROUND & JUMPZ ANGLESEA

\$22 Additional Cost  
Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm

### Who is this program for

- Children aged 5-13 with NDIS funding
- Children who benefit from extra support in social settings
- Children who enjoy small groups and structured activities

### How to Contact Us

- Email us at [geelongprograms@abilitydn.com](mailto:geelongprograms@abilitydn.com)
- Visit us at 32/282 Thompson Road North Geelong VIC 3215, Australia
- Call us at 0435 912 137

MAR  
07

### LEGO CHALLENGE DAY AT THE HUB

\$5 Additional Cost  
Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm

MAR  
14

### RIVERWALK VILLAGE PARK & SPLASHPARK WERRIBEE

No Additional Costs  
Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm

MAR  
21

### POOL DAY AT NORLANE ARC

\$22 Additional Cost (includes unlimited waterslides)  
Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm

MAR  
28

### CHOCOLATE LOLLIPOP DECORATING AT THE HUB

\$10 Additional Cost  
Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm



Scan to Join our Programs



**G E E L O N G**  
**H I G H S C H O O L**

Join us to experience all that **Geelong High School** has to offer our prospective Year 7 students.

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026

# INFORMATION EVENING

Session 1 - **4:30pm**

Session 2 - **5:30pm**

Session 3 - **6:30pm**

Venue: C. A. Love Hall

*Sessions will be followed  
by tours of the school.*

385 Ryrie Street, East Geelong, Victoria 3219

E [geelong.hs@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:geelong.hs@education.vic.gov.au) P (03) 5225 4100 [geelonghigh.vic.edu.au](http://geelonghigh.vic.edu.au)

• *Prepares us for Life* •



# GEE LONG YOUTH CHOIR

## REGISTER NOW!

### Give your child the gift of music with singing

- Highly qualified conductors & music staff
- All ages welcome from 8-18 years
- Regular concerts and special events
- Welcoming, supportive and inclusive
- Located at Deakin Uni Waurn Ponds



### How to Join

- Sign up for a **FREE** trial session
- Enquiries: Megan Morrison
- E: [geelongyouthchoir@gmail.com](mailto:geelongyouthchoir@gmail.com)
- M: 0402 599 984
- Visit [www.geelongyouthchoir.com](http://www.geelongyouthchoir.com)

### Prelude Choir

Ages 8-10\*

- Junior choir for young singers
- Learn how to read music
- Develop vocal technique
- Musicianship and aural training using renowned Kodály method
- Rehearsals every Wednesday during school term from 5:00-6:30pm

\*Younger singers considered based on ability and maturity

### Cantore Choir

Ages 10-18

- Senior choir for more advanced singers
- Wide range of songs and genres
- Musicianship and aural training using renowned Kodály method
- Rehearsals every Wednesday during school term from 4:30-6:30pm



Incorporating  
Voices of  
Geelong  
Adult Choir

Scan the QR code  
to complete an  
expression of  
interest form





# RAISING GRATEFUL HEARTS FORUM

## PRESENTED BY POSITIVE PARENTING EXPERT ROD SOPER

Discover practical rituals and simple language to help children notice the good, practise thankfulness and turn appreciation into meaningful acts of kindness.



Learn everyday strategies to embed gratitude into mealtimes, school runs, bedtime and family routines.

Explore age-appropriate (birth to 12 years) activities, conversation starters and quick games backed by research, child development principles and real-life practice.

Build empathy, resilience and joy as a family through positive connection and shared appreciation.

Take home a mini gratitude toolkit you can start using immediately to encourage kindness and connection at home and in your community.

THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY

7.00pm-9.00pm

### VENUE

Norlane ARC  
1/9 Cox Rd, Norlane

### BOOKINGS

Scan the QR code  
or visit



[geelong.link/GratefulHearts](https://geelong.link/GratefulHearts)

This is a FREE event but  
bookings are essential.





# Year 7 2027 enrolment applications now open.



Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools



Saint Ignatius  
College Geelong

*International  
Women's Day*

## Community Evening with Abbey Holmes

Tuesday 10th March, 2026

Drinks and nibbles from 5.30pm

Main address 6.30pm



# WELCOME TO TERM 1 WITH EXTEND!

## BELONGING



## BEING



## BECOMING



We hope you and your family had a restful break and are ready for an exciting Term 1 with Extend!

## WELCOME BACK TO OUR FAMILIES FOR TERM 1 WITH EXTEND!

This term's theme for our OSHC services is:

### **Belonging, Being, Becoming**

As we begin Term 1, it's an exciting time for your children to form new friendships, learn new skills and feel comfortable in our OSHC community!

This term, we will support children to feel connected with others, help them engage in the present moment, and encourage them to step out of their comfort zones so they can grow in confidence as they explore new interests and challenges.

Thank you for your continued support. We are excited to begin this new year together, fostering positive relationships, supporting their growth in confidence and learning as they explore!



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TERM 1:

**All About Us:** Children create an 'All About Me' page to share their interests and hobbies, then display them in service so peers can learn about each other, celebrate uniqueness and build connections.

**Sensory Bin:** Children create a sensory bin filled with materials like leaves, sticks, stones and soil to spark curiosity and connection as children explore texture, sound and the outdoors together.

**Multilingual "Hello" Poster:** Children and families contribute greetings in languages spoken at our service, with each written beside its flag to celebrate diversity, support inclusion and help everyone learn how to say "hello" in different languages.

SCAN THE QR CODE OR BOOK ONLINE  
AT [EXTEND.COM.AU](https://www.extend.com.au) FOR TERM 1!

