

NEWSLETTER

The **Moolap Community Group (MCG)** met on Monday this week and discussed upcoming events and activities. The main event this term will be the Colour Splat-tacular, which is the school's major fundraiser for the year and lots of fun for all involved. It is due to take place on Friday 7th March. Students and families are encouraged to seek donations and to come along and enjoy the afternoon- raising at least \$10 earns children a prize. Information booklets were sent home with children recently, please see the office if you need one. There was also a call-out recently via Facebook for volunteers to assist with the running of the afternoon. It's great to see the canteen up and running again this year, staffed by parent volunteers. We are very grateful to each of our volunteers, as without this assistance, it would not be able to operate. Year 5-6 students also take turns to assist in the canteen and pick up valuable skills in serving and taking money. In line with Child Safe procedures, all volunteers at school need a current Working with Children Check.

Other news from the MCG includes:

- The group are in the process of purchasing sports tops for students to wear when representing the school
- New volunteers for the canteen are most welcome (need WWCC). Please contact Bernie (Ollie and Hunter's mum) via the MCG Facebook group or leave a message at the office
- The school will be updating its 'wish list' of items for fundraising. We will begin by asking students in the Student Voice group.

Congratulations to all students who have been selected by their peers to perform the role of **Student Voice Representative (SVR)** this semester. Representatives will work with Miss Wiffen and our Student Voice Leaders on various projects to assist the school. This ensures that we have a very strong student voice in our work and encourages further pride in learning. Student Voice Leaders will be running a 'guess how many' competition in conjunction with the parents from the MCG. There is a large jar of mixed Easter Eggs on offer for the student with the correct guess. A gold coin donation will receive a guess.

Parent Engagement

Thank you to all parents and families who were able to attend last week's Meet and Greet session in classrooms. Early connection is extremely important so that we can all work together to support your child's learning development. It was also really positive to hear the many stories from parents about their child's start to the year so far. If you find that you need to chat further about matters involving your child, please contact your child's teacher.

On Tuesday we held a **parent session on reading** to provide parents with information about the approach used at Moolap and also to provide some guidance with supporting reading at home. Thank you to the parents who were able to attend.

Some of the key information from the session included:

- The why and how of Moolap's Reading approach- how it is based on research into how the brain learns and retains key information that is key to early reading success
- What you can do at home to assist: It would be most beneficial for students to have a home reading routine in place where they can use the books that are sent home to practise. The types of materials that you might see at home from P-2 classrooms are what we call 'decodable books' (where they practise the sounds in words) and shared reading books (designed so you can share reading with your child to build their comprehension). In the Year 3-6 area, you may see decodable books, books at your child's reading level and passages (or paragraphs) that are linked to the sounds that are being worked on in class. Year 3-4 students may also see shared reading books to build their comprehension skills. Daily practise of reading skills at home can have a very positive impact on children's reading skills and confidence.

To assist parents with information about our reading and writing, our literacy blocks across the school are being adjusted to suit:

Year P-2 Classrooms	Year 3-6 Classrooms
<p>1st Hour: <i>Phonics:</i> 20 minutes per day, based on the Little Learners Love Literacy approach <i>Fluency:</i> 10-15 minutes per day <i>Handwriting:</i> 10-15 minutes per day <i>Reading Comprehension:</i> choral reading, echo reading, cloze reading</p> <p>2nd Hour: Reading, discussing, vocabulary building and writing focus Linked in with Integrated Unit where possible</p>	<p>1st Hour: <i>Spelling:</i> 20-30 minutes, 3-5 days per week (classes will be implementing 'Spelling Mastery' approach) <i>Fluency:</i> 10-15 minutes per day <i>Handwriting:</i> 10-15 minutes per day (up to Grade 4), including typing <i>Reading Comprehension:</i> choral reading, echo reading, cloze reading</p> <p>2nd Hour: Reading, discussing, vocabulary building and writing focus Linked with Novel Studies and Integrated Unit where possible</p>

Strategies to assist 'reading comprehension' above include:

- Choral Reading: reading a passage aloud together as a small group or class
- Echo Reading: teacher reads aloud, modelling fluency, then students read the same passage aloud
- Close Reading: teacher reads a passage, students complete the next word or sentence. This is a more in-depth strategy involving analysis of text

Mrs Bayly recently advertised a **parent program, 'Children Who Worry'**, which is offered at the school by Step-Thru Care. Three, one-hour sessions are planned, with a focus on practical day-to-day strategies to support parents of children who experience anxiety. It also offers caregivers an opportunity to ask questions and form connections with others in a similar position. Rachel Ward, the presenter, is an experienced educator as well as a Child and Family practitioner with STC, with a special interest in working with children with anxiety. The program is free and you can sign up by messaging Lauren Bayly on Dojo (she is connected to each class) or by leaving your name at the office. The dates are on Mondays: 17, 21 and 31 March.

Information regarding **School Council nominations** was sent out recently. Becoming a member of Council is a great way to get involved in the school and contribute to its overall governance. You do not need any experience or particular background, you just need to take an interest in the school to be involved. If you have any questions, please visit the office. We'd love to see a few new members this year, along with some returning members.




School Wide Positive Behaviours

Our school follows the School Wide Positive Behaviours (SWPB) Framework to teach and reinforce expected behaviours. The framework is used in nearly every school in the state and has been used at Moolap for approximately 8 years. Based on our four values, we have a behaviour matrix that outlines the expected behaviours in the yard, in class and in areas such as toilets and when working online. This matrix was developed with student and parent input and is reviewed regularly. This provides students with very clear boundaries, but also ensures that our classrooms and spaces run smoothly and efficiently. The GOTCHA system is based on these expectations and our house token system encourages students to earn points for their overall house. Our classrooms and play spaces also have a flowchart that is enacted when students are not following expected behaviours. These flowcharts clearly outline the process that is followed.

Sometimes students need a 'reminder' to follow classroom expectations and then further follow up by staff if repeated negative behaviours are shown.

Moolap Primary School Student Behaviour Expectations



	Safety I will...	Respect I will...	Responsibility I will...	Integrity I will...
Classrooms / Learning spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Keep hands and feet to myself -Handle equipment carefully -Always walk inside 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Listen to others -Wait my turn -Use manners -Speak to others calmly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Follow staff instructions -Have a tidy workspace and locker -Work on my personal goals -Keep the area neat and tidy -Use strategies to keep myself in the Green Zone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reflect on my learning -Give honest and helpful feedback to others
Assembly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Keep hands and feet to myself -Sit in the correct areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Face and actively listen to presenters -Listen to the Indigenous greeting & sing the anthem -Clap politely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stay focused and engaged -Arrive at assembly on time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Enter and leave assemblies quietly
Oval and Playground areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stay within boundaries -play without tackling -Use equipment correctly -Wear my hat when required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Share the space with others -Share and return equipment -Include others in my games. -Use kind words -Listen to and accept staff decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Seek the yard duty teacher to help solve problems -Co-operate with others -Care for the environment -Move straight to class when the music plays -Play games in correct areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Be honest with rules in a game -Help others understand the rules of a game -Use strategies to solve problems -Own my actions
Courtyard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Walk in the courtyard and surrounding areas -Get up and down from high surfaces carefully -Use the paths and stairs -Sit on seatings and other surfaces safely -Keep my hands and feet to myself -Remember that this is a quiet area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Be mindful of the garden beds -Walk across the courtyard -Share the space/area with others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Use the assigned cafe games -Choose activities like reading, drawing and boardgames -Sit and have a chat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Follow the rules for the courtyard -Own my actions outside -Enjoy the space/area and use it for its purpose
Toilets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sit on the toilet -Stay in my own cubicle -Keep the toilets a 'food free' area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wait and take turns -Give others privacy. -Flush the toilet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Keep the toilets clean and tidy. -Tell a teacher about damage or poor behaviour -Wash my hands - Use appropriate voice levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Go to the toilet during the breaks -Only use the toilet for going to the toilet
Excursions /Incursions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Follow instructions -Stay in the group -Wear school uniform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Address people by their name -Use manners -Use equipment properly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Get my note back on time -Bring all equipment I need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Show my best behaviour at all times - Represent the school's values
Online 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Keep my personal details private -Keep my passwords secret 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Use kind words - Remember that I am talking to a person who has feelings -Ask permission before sharing information or photos of other people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Follow the rules that I have signed -Use my iPad and computers as instructed -Talk to a trusted adult when I feel uncomfortable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Practice what I have learned to be Cyber Safe -Report people who are breaking the rules

NAPLAN Testing for students in Year 3 and 5 begins on the 12 March. Over a few days, students participate in reading, maths and language/ spelling assessments and complete a writing exercise using a prompt. All tests are conducted online (with the exception of Year 3 writing) and marked externally. They provide parents and the school with a snapshot of learning and results are usually made available to parents next term.

A reminder to car users, please be mindful of the road rules and etiquette around the front of the school when dropping off or picking up students. There are a few guidelines in place to ensure the safety of pedestrians in this busy space, including:

- A speed zone of 40 km/h outside the school
- One-way roads in the carpark
- Reversing in: the main car park is a 'reverse in' area. This is in place to ensure that car drivers can see pedestrians when taking off from a car space.
- Using the designated paths: All children (and parents) are encouraged to use the walkway behind the car spaces and not to cross between cars and the path.

Parents have also asked that we remind students who ride bikes to school about the safety considerations when riding to and from school. We have had reports of students weaving in and out of traffic and riding too fast on paths on surrounding roads and footpaths. If you are a parent of a child who rides to school, please talk to them about general road safety.

Upcoming Dates:

- Final Prep-Free Wednesday: 26 February
- Colour Splat-tacular: 7 March
- Labour Day Public Holiday: 10 March
- NAPLAN Testing begins: 12 March
- Children Who Worry: Parent workshop, session 1 here at school: Monday 17 March, 9am
- Whole-School Cross Country: 20 March
- Harmony Day: 21 March

School assemblies this term (fortnightly): 21 February, 7 March, 21 March

Exciting News: Moolap Primary School Partners with The Resilience Project in 2025!

We are excited to announce that Moolap Primary School is partnering with The Resilience Project (TRP) again in 2025 to enhance the wellbeing of our students, staff, and wider community. TRP is committed to teaching positive mental health strategies that help prevent mental ill health and build resilience in young people. Their evidence-based whole school wellbeing program focuses on strengthening our ability to deal with adversity, and we're proud to be implementing it in our school this year. As part of this initiative, students will engage in weekly lessons that focus on developing and practicing four key principles: Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness, and Emotional Literacy. These valuable skills will be nurtured both inside the classroom and beyond, ensuring that all members of our school community are supported in their mental health journey.

We are also excited to offer regular opportunities for parent/carer involvement. TRP provides an excellent resource through their Inspire Parent/Carer Hub, designed to keep families engaged in the program. The Hub offers helpful information on the principles of Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness, and Emotional Literacy, along with the benefits of regularly practising them. Plus, it includes simple activities that families can practice together at home to support their wellbeing.

Access the Inspire Parent/Carer Hub

You can access the Hub at any time via the secure link below.

No account setup or login is required: [Inspire Parent/Carer Hub - TRP](https://theresilienceproject.com.au/2025-parent-carer-hub-inspire-3/)

<https://theresilienceproject.com.au/2025-parent-carer-hub-inspire-3/>

We look forward to partnering with you in this exciting initiative to support the mental health and wellbeing of our students and families throughout 2025!

Peter Knight
Principal



THE RESILIENCE PROJECT™

Parent & Carer Hub

When supporting your children's mental health, we know the best outcomes happen when we **work together** and **practise**.

Head over to our **Parent & Carer Hub** to learn more about the **evidence-based strategies** being taught in the classroom, so you can enhance their impact at home. You'll find activities you can practice to support your family's wellbeing.



Scan this QR code to learn more about our **Parent & Carer Hub**.



To learn more about The Resilience project, head to:



WELCOME TO THE RESILIENCE PROJECT™

Parents & Carers

Why?



1 in 4
adolescents have a
mental illness.



65%
of adolescents do
not seek help.



1 in 7
primary school children
have a mental illness.



1 in 5
adults will experience
mental illness.



Over 50%
of students are at risk of a **poor learning
mindset** (anxiety + disengagement).

Source: National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Australia's Youth: Mental Illness

About the program

TRP is committed to **teaching positive mental health strategies** to prevent mental ill health and **build young people's capacity to deal with adversity**.

We're proud to be implementing TRP's **evidence-based whole school wellbeing program** to support positive mental health in the classroom, staffroom and wider community.

Students will engage in weekly lessons to understand and strengthen their practice of **Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness** and **Emotional Literacy**, with regular opportunity for parent/carer involvement.



Get involved with TRP@HOME

Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to find **activities and resources** to implement the GEM+EL principles at home.

Evidence-based

TRP's School Partnership Program has been independently evaluated by [The University of Adelaide](#) and [The University of Melbourne](#).



Scan the QR code to learn more about how the program is **significantly lowering the risk of mental illness**.



The imperfects podcast

[The imperfects](#) is hosted by Hugh van Cuylenburg, Ryan Shelton and Josh van Cuylenburg, **celebrates just how imperfectly perfect we all are**. Together, they chat to a variety of people who bravely share their struggles and imperfections alongside valuable learnings we can apply to our own lives and use to support the teachings of TRP in the classroom. Guests include Nathan Buckley, Grace Tame, Jack Steele, Zan Rowe, Michael Klim, Billy Slater, Lael Stone, Pat Cummins, Tim Minchin and many more.



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Year 7 Enrolment Information Evening
 Tuesday 4 March, 2025 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm

Selected Entry Advanced Learning
 Program Information Evening
 Tuesday 1 April, 2025: 6:30pm to 7:30pm

School Tours
 Tuesday Mornings at 9:30am - see website to book

For further information, contact our office on
 (03) 4243 0500 or
matthew.flinders.girls.sc@education.vic.gov.au



MFG
 Matthew Flinders
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DISCOVERY DAY 2025

FRIDAY 28 MARCH
 Book Online Today



GEELONG
HIGH SCHOOL

2026 ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAM

Applications Now Open
 Geelong High School's Accelerated Learning Program is a great opportunity for Grade 6 students who are looking for extra challenge in Years 7-9.

How Do I Apply?
 In 2025, Grade 6 students looking to be accepted into the GHS Accelerated Learning Program should apply either in the 'Round 1' or 'Round 2' cycle of applications. For further information and details on how to apply, please see our website.

School Tours - March & April

School tours will run in addition to our information evening throughout March and April. Available on Wednesdays and Fridays at 11:30am. Please contact the school to book.

Wednesday 12th March 2025 INFORMATION EVENING

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

Venue: C. A. Love Hall
 Session 1 - 4:30pm
 Session 2 - 5:30pm
 Session 3 - 6:30pm

Sessions will be followed by tours of the school.

385 Ryrie Street, East Geelong, Victoria 3219
[E geelong.hs@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:E.geelong.hs@education.vic.gov.au) P (03) 5225 4100 geelonghigh.vic.edu.au

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