

NEWSLETTER

PO Box 66 NORTH BENDIGO 3550

2023 WELCOME!

A very warm welcome to all new and existing families to the LRPS community for the 2023 school year. I hope everyone has had a restful break. It was fantastic to see our Foundation students attend for the first time on Tuesday, while our Year 1 -6 students have been very settled, both in classrooms and the playground, ensuring all students are feeling connected and engaged.

I would like to especially welcome new students and families to our school and I hope that your partnership with us at Lightning Reef will be an enjoyable and positive experience.

COMMUNICATION WITH STAFF AT LRPS

We take great pride in providing many options for communication between parents and staff. We will continue to use staff work emails and Class Dojo for communication between home and school. A letter will be sent home with all students next week that has your child's teacher's email address, all specialist staff, along with their timetable. We have policies to support our communication processes and they can be found on the school's website. We strongly encourage all families to read these documents so that everyone understands how we expect these communication options to be used. The key message that we want all families to understand is that both Class Dojo and staff email addresses are not Instant messaging options.

From time to time parents will need to meet personally with classroom teachers. The teachers and I will endeavour to meet and discuss any range of school issues, please be aware staff meetings occur on Tuesday and Wednesday. It is anticipated all teachers will attend meetings on time. No teacher will dismiss your question or concerns but calling to organise a time to meet will ensure the question or issue can be discussed at the earliest time and without interruption.

If you need to contact the school or your child's teacher about urgent matters, please phone the school on 54432501.

CHILDREN'S MEDICATION

If your child requires medication administered during school hours, please bring it to the main office. This includes Epipens and Ventolin which have been taken home over the holidays. All medication must be in-date and clearly labelled in their correct box. All medication will be kept at the office. New up-to-date Asthma Management Plans should also be completed and returned to the school office.

DROP OFF AND PICK-UP - IMPORTANT REMINDER

It is a busy time each morning for staff as they prepare for the day. We ask that you respect the request to not drop children off prior to 8.30am. From 8.30am children can enter via the back gate off the carpark or via the gate next to the blue shade sails at the front of the school.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Notes were sent home yesterday with instructions for enrolling at Before School Care (7 am-8.30 am) and After School Care (3.15-6.00 pm). Please call Denni if you need help enrolling on 0428 516 192.

CROSSING THE ROAD/CAR PARK SAFETY

For your child's safety we ask that all children use the crossing and wait for Doug, he is there to assist them across the road. Similarly, we ask that parents are vigilant in the car park. We know that young children are not yet aware of traffic and may put themselves at risk in their eagerness to reunite with their family each day! We ask that adults get out of their car and come to collect their children from the gate– this ensures that all drivers can see those walking across the car park.

SUNSMART POLICY

Hats On All students are required to wear their broad brimmed hats, even when playing or participating in activities under our outside shelters. Our SunSmart Policy is based upon the Cancer Council guidelines that hats should be worn when UV levels are above 3 on the index (usually around the beginning of September in each year). We source this information from the following website: www.bom.gov.au/products/UV/Bendigo_VIC.shtml Hats off occurs when UV levels fall below 3 on the index (usually around the beginning of May in each year). Please remember that only bucket or broad brimmed hats may be worn. Our Sunsmart mantra is “No hat, no playing in the sun.” (you may either play under the shade sails in the Court Yard or inside the Library during Second break).

NAMING CLOTHING

Each year we have a large amount of lost property at school. Please clearly name all clothing (including hats) so that it can be quickly returned to its owner. We have white material markers in the Office and we will happily record student's names on hats and clothing if needed. Just send your child to ask for help.

UPDATE ON LEADERSHIP TEAM

Julie Hommelhoff continues in the role of Acting Principal at Echuca Twin Rivers PS this term. As a result, my role of Acting Principal has been extended.

Katrina Johnstone will take on the Acting Assistant Principal role for Semester 1 while I'm holding my position. Katrina will continue to lead Teaching and Learning and teach EMU and tutoring.

Mr Keller (Paul) will continue leading Inclusion, Ms G (Amy) will lead student Wellbeing and Kristie as Business Manager make up our Leadership Team.

Starting next week, Mrs Johnstone and Mr Keller will join Ms G in having a regular item in the weekly newsletter to keep you informed.

Joanne Ryan Acting Principal

Getting to Know You Interviews– Student Free Day

Getting To Know You Interviews will be held between 10am and 6pm on Monday 20th February 2023.

Students are required to attend in full school uniform with their parents/carers during the selected interview time. This process will include Koorie, Out of Home Care and Students with Disabilities Student Support Group Meetings for Term 1.

These interviews are designed to allow teachers, students, and parents/carers to meet and discuss the needs of students for the year ahead. They are important in creating a positive school/home partnership. If you do not make a time a time will be allocated to you.

An interview time request form was sent home today. Please check your child's bag and return to school by Monday 13th February 2023. You will be notified of your interview time by Thursday February 16th 2023.

Kind Regards,

Katrina Johnstone– Teaching & Learning Leader

Our amazing staff 2023



Amy



Mrs Wells



Tim



Ro Dy



Nay Thway



Gai



Elise



Ms Russell



Sue



Fran



Jennie



Mr Millar



Mrs Parsons



Mrs Drum



Ms Aghan



Kim G



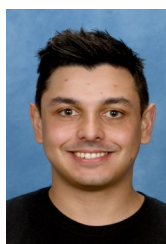
Kym R



Ms Baird



Mrs Tonzing



Mr West



Matt



Mel



Kristie



Ms G



Mr Keller



Mrs Johnstone



Ms Ryan

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS INFORMATION FOR PARENTS 2023

A) Notice of election and call for nominations	Monday 13th February 2023
B) Closing date for nominations	Monday 27th February 2023
C) Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed (if required)	Thursday 2nd March 2023
D) Close of ballot	Friday 10th March 2023
E) March School Council Meeting (First council meeting to elect office bearers)	Thursday 16th March 2023

What is a school council and what does it do? All school councils in Victoria operate under the Education and Training Reform Act 2006. The school council has particular functions in setting and monitoring the school's direction. School councils have three main responsibilities:

Finance – overseeing the development of the school's annual budget and ensuring proper records are kept of the school's financial operation.

Strategic Planning – participating in the development and monitoring of the school's strategic plan.

Policy Development and Review – developing, reviewing and updating policies that reflect the school's values and support the school's broad direction outlined in its strategic plan.

What is a school council and what does it do? All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council? There are three possible categories of membership:

- ♦ A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category.
- ♦ Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not employed at the school.
- ♦ A mandated elected DET employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- ♦ An optional Community member category. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members. The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important? Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved? The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council? No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

What do you need to do to stand for election? The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March. If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election.

We are now using



To login, you will require your unique family username and password. These details have been emailed to you, however if you are yet to receive them, please contact the school office.

You will initially be provided with a temporary password that you will be prompted to update to one of your choosing when you login for the first time.

To login, go to your school's Compass site. Type in your username and password and click 'Sign in'.

A screenshot of the Magic P-12 College login page. It features the school's crest on the left, which is a shield with a red and blue design. To the right of the crest are two input fields: "Username" and "Password". Below these fields is a "Sign in" button, followed by Google and Facebook social media icons. At the bottom, there is a "Remember me" checkbox and a link that says "Can't access your account?".

If it is the first time you are logging in, you will be required to confirm your email address and mobile number. These details may be used by the school for SMS/email communications and also, password recovery.

A screenshot of the "Welcome to the Magic P-12 College Parent Portal" page. It includes a heading, a paragraph of text explaining the purpose of the portal, and a section for "Mrs Sable BROOKS". Below this, there are input fields for "Mobile" and "Email" numbers.

Also when logging in for the first time, once you have confirmed your details, you will be required to change your temporary password to one of your choosing. When you have entered your new password, click 'Save'.

A screenshot of a password change form. It starts with the heading "Next, you will need to change your password". Below this is a section titled "Your new password must:" followed by a list of requirements: "Not contain your username", "Not be a password recently used by this account", "Be at least eight (8) characters in length", "Contain at least one (1) UPPERCASE letter", "Contain at least one (1) lowercase letter", and "Contain at least one (1) number". At the bottom, there are input fields for "New Password:" and "Confirm New Password:", and a "Save" button.

HAVE YOU LOGGED IN YET?
DOWNLOAD THE APP NOW
and search for Lightning Reef
Primary School!

We're excited to welcome your child back into the classroom.

Being at school is critical for your child's learning and their mental, physical, and social wellbeing.

Every day of attending school counts.

We want to support your child to have a positive start to the year. We will do this by:

- helping your child to re-establish positive school attendance routines
- working with you with respect to your child's wellbeing and learning needs
ensuring we understand where your child is up to with their learning and social-emotional development, where required
providing targeted support to help them progress

If your child is absent, please mark on Compass and provide a reason. If you don't, we will call to see if everything is okay.

If you have any concerns, please contact your classroom teacher who may refer to leadership when needed □

Amy Gillett- Wellbeing & Attendance Leader

**Happy Birthday to Hel Eh Poyh,
Jonas D, Isabella P, Seth J, Declan
K and Can L P.**

We hope you had an amazing day.



Calendar of events:

Monday February 13th - Nth
Melbourne FC visit Grade 3-6

Monday February 20th - Start
up interviews

Monday March 13th - Labour
Day - no school

Wednesday March 15th -
Naplan testing begins

Tuesday March 21st - School
photos

Thursday April 6th - Fun run
and last day of Term 1

Monday April 24th - Term 2
begins

CONTACT US:

5443 2501

Acting Principal:

Jo Ryan

Business Manager:

Kristie Coates

Leader- Student Wellbeing:

Amy Gillett

Leader- Disability & Inclusion:

Paul Keller

Leader- Teaching & Learning

Katrina Johnstone

Social Worker:

Gai Maddams

School Council President

Daria Turnbull

Parents and Friends

Sonia Valli & Jodie Madon

**Please
remember
smoking is
banned
within four
metres of an
entrance to
all Victorian
Schools and
within the
school
grounds, this
includes our
shared
entrance and
the bus stop**



If you are missing any clothing items
please check our lost property.

It is located in the office area just inside the
front door.



BE YOUR BEST



BE RESPECTFUL



BE CO-OPERATIVE



BE RESPONSIBLE



School procedures for the bushfire season

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools and children's services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and those at risk of grassfire (Category 4) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district. Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire or grassfire risk.



Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00 pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
- **Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days**
- School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.
- **All bus routes that travel through the Code Red area will be cancelled.**
- **Depending on which Bureau of Meteorology district is impacted bus route cancellations may affect our school.**

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – on such days children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan.

What can parents do?

- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you're planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.
- You can access more information about children's services closures on the Department of Education and Training website – see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

Multiple sources that offer information on emergencies are listed below:

- VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters