



Newsletter Date: Autumn/Winter 2021
Volume 26 Number 42

Glen Park Primary School
Providing quality state education since 1871
(160 years serving our community)

EVERY
SCHOOL
EVERY
CHILD

Glen Park Primary School

Contact information:

Phone: 53345360

Web:

<http://glenparkps.vic.edu.au/> Also refer
FACEBOOK

By T. Shaw principal 1997-2021



Glen Park Gazette

A big thank you to the staff of Glen Park Primary: Heather Angow, Ryan Uren-Kirrily Urquhart, Kari O'Gorman, Alison Middleton, and our supportive school community

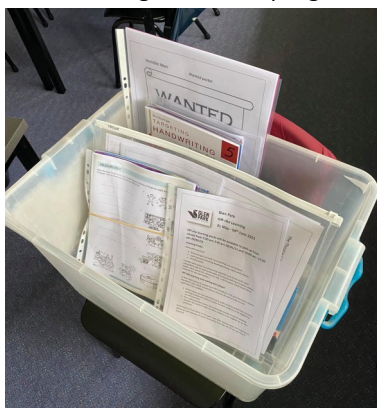
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2021.....ANOTHER CHALLENGING YEAR

This semester we have had two short lock-downs to control outbreaks of COVID in the state. DET was again well organised and supported schools right from the start and for the duration of the crisis (Thanks to my SEIL, Paul Nolan for his assistance.)

The two closures were both relatively sudden but our experience last year enabled state schools to react quickly and professionally to off-site learning.

At Glen Park we decided to replicate our normal program as much as possible rather than delivering our entire program online. 'Learning Packs' were quickly created in Literacy, Maths and Art including student iPads. These packs were self-contained (They included **everything** students needed. Most students still had learning tools left over from last year.) Literacy packs contained books to read and tasks



to complete while and after reading. There was also handwriting, spelling, phonics, creative writing and grammar activities provided. Maths packs featured number and measurement tasks. This time around I rostered on families to come to school for at least one day of instruction during the lock downs and all families took up that invitation.

As 'veterans' of these essential snap lock-downs we all managed to survive and all students returned each time having completed their learning packs.

It was certainly a very challenging time and hopefully we won't need to repeat it but if necessary, Glen Park is ready.

On the left is a photo of one of our learning packs ready to be picked up and our Victorian flag flying proudly.



2021 UPDATE



We have 3 new enrolments to replace the older students we lost last year and a big influx on the way in 2023. We have a few space for new students in 2021. Students of all year levels are welcome but we are always keen to have preps start with us every year.

Our Zone is quite large covering Cooabin and Hillview Estates and stretching out through Pootilla, up to Kirks Reservoir, Wattle Flat towards Dean and Creswick. We do accept children sometimes from outside our zone in special circumstances.

In 2021 we had big plans (Unfortunately we had to cancel our excursion to the NGV and the Aquarium) and we still have a lot to do. We have more work to do on our grounds including some decking (outdoor learning space) and work on our gutters and water tanks. We resumed LOTE this year and we get MARC Van visits. This year we will be starting on our new 4-year Strategic Plan and hopefully in second semester we will be back to 'normal'. Check us out online to see what we are up to. **We post on Facebook, every day.**

Glen Park is taking enrolments NOW for 2022

(We would also like to hear from those of you who are considering enrolling at Glen Park in 2023)



We expect the children who enrol at Glen Park to be enthusiastic, self-motivated learners who can take the first steps towards becoming life-long learners in an environment that rewards high expectations, imagination, creativity and hard work.

Our school values are:

- ⇒ **ACHIEVING PERSONAL BEST**
- ⇒ **EMPATHY**
- ⇒ **INDIVIDUALITY & PERSISTENCE**

SOME OF WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOUR CHILD

- A better than one to one computer and iPad ratio.
- Children are treated as individuals.
- Co-operation is always valued over competition



Children are encouraged to mentor each other.



Experienced teaching staff (Tutoring, LOTE and MARC van) Children are learning Japanese in LOTE this year

Children studying Japanese with Kirrily.



- We have an innovative literature based thinking curriculum using the F-10 Victorian Curriculum.
- Free swimming / Gym and excursion program.

- A **library second to none** Our library includes novels, readers, big books, graphic novels, non-fiction, DVDs, software, teacher resources and a teen and parent library. We even have a popular Street Library
- Children can borrow books at any time, read as many as they like and keep them to read as long as they need too. All of our students met their Premier's Reading Challenge goals for 2021.





- Children are not sent outside in the freezing cold or the heat of summer. (We will have warm, clean and inviting classrooms this winter.)
- Plenty of fresh open air and space to play and have fun.
- We have plenty of space in our clean, well-ordered, spacious classrooms.



- Our small size enables **genuine one-to-one teaching opportunities**. We have 'learning discussions' not 'chalk and talk' one size fits all lessons.
- We also have authentic student to student mentoring.
- We don't charge fees or levies, have expensive uniforms or hold endless fund-raising efforts.
- **Students are not forced to 'double-up' in other classes because their teacher is away.**
- We have a relaxed bully-free learning environment
- Healthy rural environment only minutes from Brown Hill, Dean and Creswick
- All student needs (even school bags) provided.



*No 'baby sitting' in front of the DVD
No 'busy work' or constantly lining up, marching around, running errands or doubling up classes etc.*

FREE excursions (Halls Gap Zoo this term and our 10 week gym/swimming program in term 3.



Entrance to the White Swan Reservoir.

Some photos of our school and our beautiful rural surroundings
VISIT GLEN PARK FOR A TOUR OR CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE or FACEBOOK PAGE

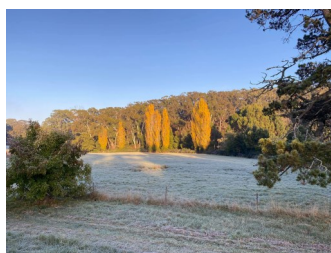
SUPPORT FOR RURAL EDUCATION

The Victorian Government is finally taking action to bridge the divide between regional and metropolitan schools, with a funding boost for new and existing initiatives to support country students.

An Expert Advisory Panel into Rural and Regional Students was commissioned to undertake a review and meet with local communities to identify ways to improve educational outcomes for rural and regional students. The panel's recommendations include considering measures to attract principals and teachers and support staff to regional areas making more resources and subjects available for senior secondary students.

We are yet to see a lot of these initiatives (including a dedicated Rural Education Strategic Plan) in practice.

Hopefully we will see more support for rural education (including Professional Practice Days for teaching principals in the next EBA!) during the course of this year. *(More on this in our next edition.)*



VISITING OUR SCHOOL

Remember when visiting our school (and all state schools for that matter) avoid gathering as a group inside or around the school. If entering the school buildings make sure you log-in using the COVID QR Code. Keep 1.5 m between yourself and other adults. If you have flu like symptoms....stay away!

**COVID 19 INFORMATION
NUMBER
1800675398**

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Wattle Flat - Pootilla Landcare Group

is a committed community group aiming to enhance and protect biodiversity throughout the local area. The group formed in 2002 and now has nearly 100 individual members. The group continues to develop momentum, evolving from its early days in controlling roadside weed invasion to undertaking major projects and tasks like fencing local streams and tributaries, protection of native vegetation, propagation of seeds, wetlands establishment, and road side restoration. Refer to their web page: <https://www.landcarevic.org.au/groups/corangamite/wattle-flat-pootilla/>



STREET LIBRARIES

Glen Park Primary School has its own Street Library (since 2018) Currently we have board books in our library but we change them often. If you are a local, stop by and borrow some books to read.



White Swan Reservoir

White Swan is currently at 84% capacity. The Gong Gong is 45 % and Kirks 90%



Brown Hill News

For all the news about what's going on in Brown Hill (Such as the Brown Hill Market re-starting up this year in the Brown Hill Hall) refer to the excellent Brown Hill Community news Hub: <https://www.brownhill.vic.au/news/2018/04/22/brown-hill-market-coming/> for more information.



EVERY DAY IS AN OPEN DAY AT GLEN PARK!



Don't put up with second or third best, don't just hope it will 'get better next year'. We offer so much and we are just a short distance out of town. Give us a call, or visit our website or Facebook page which is updated daily to see what we do. We are always happy to welcome new local families to our school. We have been doing so since 1870! (160 years)

Dean Hall and Mechanics Institute Inc.

looks set for another fantastic year of special events for their community. The hall looks terrific from the outside and is a credit to all those who've worked on it. The beautifully renovated community hall not only acts as a focal point for the vibrant Dean community who use it for yoga, film nights and community get-togethers but is available for hire for weddings and art shows. Hall membership is \$20 per family per year or \$50 for 3 years. If you are interested in membership or hall hire check them out on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Dean-Hall-Mechanics-Institute-165496563471217/>



The Brown Hill Public Hall is also available for hire (phone: 0455862379)

Mt Prospect District Tennis Association

Inc. is well renowned for its well groomed sixteen grass tennis courts. It's located in the picturesque town of Creswick and is surrounded by the old Creswick Botanical Gardens. Ring James Maher if you are thinking of participating 0422607224

