

The

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Bunyip

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022

\$2.00

Immanuel foundation student William Gogoll is ready to start school today, while older sister Olivia, year 3, prepares to learn from home. PHOTO: Brendan Simpkins

FACE TIME

Schooling split with staggered start

BRENDAN SIMPKINS

SOME local students are heading back to school today – but not in the traditional manner.

South Australia has taken a “staggered approach” to the return of schooling for the start of term1 as

the Omicron variant of Covid-19 remains in the state.

As a result, only students in reception and years 1, 7, 8 and 12 will today return to face-to-face learning in the classroom.

Continued Page 2



Australia Day awards and citizenship ceremonies

PAGES 13-15, 18-19, 24-25



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INSIDE

YOUR COMMUNITY – Lifelong musician Darren McCrae has always been an artist. When confronted with an age-old problem when he opened his own art gallery in Inanunda, he decided to be part of the solution. **PAGE 17**

REAL ESTATE – A two-bedroom unit at South Gawler is affordable and in a great location. **PAGE 27**

SPORT – After its first Barossa, Light & Gawler Football Association A-grade premiership since the early 1990s, South Gawler Football Club is looking to go from strength to strength in 2022 with a focus on its women's program. **PAGE 43**

WEDNESDAY PARTY COUNTRY	23°	THURSDAY PARTY COUNTRY	26°
FRIDAY MUSIC COUNTRY	29°	SATURDAY COUNTRY COUNTRY	32°
SUNDAY MUSIC COUNTRY	33°	MONDAY PARTY COUNTRY	34°

LITTLE PARA: Current level: 8.7 GL | This time last year: 7.6 GL

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NEWS

Letters.....	6
Police News.....	8
Playford.....	20
Sudoku.....	23
Out & About.....	24-25
Kids' Zone.....	26
Television.....	32

CLASSIFIEDS

Barossa Gawler Directory.....	28-29
Employment & Training.....	31
Public Notices.....	31
Cash Columns.....	33
Personal Notices.....	33

FEATURES

Tanunda.....	21
Australia Day 2022.....	13-15
Playford Australia Day Awards.....	18-19

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Four of Immanuel's new foundation students, Thomas Hinderwell, Pippa McGee, Ollie Hueppauff and William Gogoli, are eager to start the new school year. PHOTO: Brendan Simpkins

Continued from front page

Remaining year levels will learn remotely for the first two weeks of term before a full transition back to the classrooms, hoped for February 14.

Teachers on Monday and Tuesday this week were preparing for the start of the school year, with some students of essential workers supervised on site.

Immanuel Gawler principal Daryl Trigg said it was not the start to the year that was hoped for at the end of 2021, but everyone was well prepared.

"I think after a couple of years of putting things in place, I don't think anybody from the staff level is too anxious," Mr Trigg said.

"...the things we have put in place over the last couple of years makes it a little bit easier.

"The platforms are all in place and, because we are a one-to-one iPad school and pretty much every kid in the school has their own device, we are well set up for utilising technology.

"Teachers are in the mode, students are in the mode. "We feel sorry for our students who are just starting new here but I think that's where in some ways it is tricky, but it will be nice that at least our foundations and year 1s will be on-site."

Immanuel primary school has

about a 50/50 split of students who will undertake learning online and who will learn on-site.

Mr Trigg said the school had made a couple of changes by moving its year 1 cohort to different classrooms with better ventilation as well as outside learning where weather permits.

Premier Steven Marshall, announcing the staggered return on January 13, said it was about "balancing" the learning needs of children but also ensuring their safety.

"While we understand there will be disruptions to the start of 2022 and it's going to be challenging for a lot of families, we have put our kids first with this schools plan - they learn better face to face and that is what we've worked hard to achieve," Mr Marshall said.

Accompanying the return school plan was also a change in definition, with the addition of "classroom contacts". This referred to a child who was in the same room as a teacher, worker or another child who tests positive for Covid-19.

Liberal's coy on Light candidate as election looms

BRENDAN SIMPKINS

GAWLER is no closer to knowing who will contest for the Light electorate as the Liberal Party's candidate despite being less than 50 days out from the state election.

South Australians will head to the polling booths on the third Saturday of March, with the state ticking past the 50-day milestone

last Friday. But despite the Liberals opening nominations for preselection in October, a candidate has still not emerged.

Last week, *The Buryip* was told by a source that a candidate had been preselected.

But Liberal state director Sascha Meldrum denied this was the case, though she noted nominations for the seat were now closed.

"...we are now working through the

A child will be encouraged to still attend school unless they develop symptoms, where it is recommended that they get tested immediately.

Teachers will be required to undertake daily testing at home if they teach in an affected classroom, with the State Government to provide free rapid antigen tests.

The state branch of the Australian Education Union last week postponed stopwork action, which was tipped to take place today.

George cartoon, PAGE 6

candidate review committee process," Ms Meldrum told *The Buryip*.

Labor's incumbent Member for Light Tony Piccolo launched his re-election campaign in March.

As revealed by *The Buryip* in 2020, controversial Gawler real estate agent Hayley Martley-Duncan is expected to contest for Light as a candidate for Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party.

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