

# CHRISTMAS HILLS

Primary School



Newsletter



13th February 2026 - Term 1 - Week 3



## Principal's Message

We have had a busy start to the term, and it has been wonderful to see the children so excited for their learning and enjoying the company of their friends. Teachers have been working with the children to establish good routines in the classroom, ensuring they are ready to learn and engaged.

We have begun catching up with families to discuss learning goals for the term. These meetings also provide an opportunity for new and existing families at the school to meet teaching staff and discuss any concerns. Working together to build strong partnerships with our families is fundamental to supporting students' academic and social development.

We have now had a couple of days where we have had to enact our relocation plan and work at Kangaroo Ground Primary School due to the EXTREME fire danger rating in the Nillumbik LGA. These days have gone extremely smoothly, and I would like to thank families for their support and flexibility. Our learning programmes continued to be delivered with minimal disruptions, and staff did an amazing job supporting our students on the day. Also, I would like to thank KGPS for hosting us and supporting with the relocation.



## Important Dates for Term 1

- 28<sup>th</sup> January - First day of school for students
- 4<sup>th</sup> February - First Playgroup for the year
- 5<sup>th</sup> February - School welcome BBQ - 2:00pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> February - Sailing excursion
- 18<sup>th</sup> February - Andrew Ross Museum incursion
- 13<sup>th</sup> February - Responsible pet incursion
- 4<sup>th</sup> March - Small schools swimming carnival
- 5<sup>th</sup> March - Gulf Station excursion
- **9<sup>th</sup> March - Labour day public holiday**
- **10<sup>th</sup> March - Curriculum Day**
- 11<sup>th</sup> March Hockey Incursion
- 11<sup>th</sup> March - 23<sup>rd</sup> March - NAPLAN
- 30<sup>th</sup> March - Quantum Victoria Excursion
- 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Last day of school - 1:30 pm Assembly, 2:00pm finish.

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It was great to see all our families at our "Welcome BBQ" last Thursday. It was a joyous afternoon with lots of smiles, laughter and not to mention our impromptu singing performance from Poppy and Lusia. A special thank you to Bert (butcher) from Yarra Valley Poultry & Produce for his very generous donation of organic sausages. The sausages were AMAZING and I highly recommend paying a Bert a visit and don't forget to mention that you are from CHPS.

As part of setting up for the start of the year, we have been working to revisit our CHIRPS Classroom Expectations aligning with our school values. We will be unpacking our matrix with the students over the term to assist with providing clear and consistent expectations. Having clarity for students ensures that they know what respectful, safe and responsible behaviour in learning spaces is and outside in the yard. Please take the opportunity to discuss with your child/children.



### Christmas Hills Primary School Behaviour Expectations Matrix

CHIRPS Values	Learning Spaces	Transitions	Outside	Toilets
 CARING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use kind words and actions</li> <li>Help classmates when appropriate</li> <li>Look after classroom materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walk safely and look out for others</li> <li>Stay with your class/group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include others in games</li> <li>Look after equipment and the environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leave the toilet clean for the next person</li> <li>Report problems to an adult</li> </ul>
 HONESTY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tell the truth and own your choices</li> <li>Ask for help when needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow teacher instructions</li> <li>Go directly where you are meant to go</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play by the rules</li> <li>Be fair and truthful in games</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the toilet for its purpose only</li> </ul>
 INQUIRITIVENESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask questions</li> <li>Try new learning activities</li> <li>Have a go even when learning is tricky</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listen for instructions</li> <li>Be curious about new routines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore play safely</li> <li>Try new activities and games</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn and follow correct hygiene routines</li> </ul>
 RESPECT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listen when others are speaking</li> <li>Use indoor voices</li> <li>Follow class rules and move safely</li> <li>Respect personal space and boundaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walk calmly and quietly</li> <li>Respect shared spaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use friendly language and calm voices</li> <li>Respect personal space</li> <li>Play within the school boundaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respect privacy</li> <li>Use facilities appropriately</li> </ul>
 PERSISTENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stay on task</li> <li>Try again when work is challenging</li> <li>Finish learning tasks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move promptly and safely</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep trying in games</li> <li>Accept setbacks calmly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wash hands properly even when in a hurry</li> </ul>
 SHARING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take turns</li> <li>Share resources and learning spaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share space and time fairly</li> <li>Line up cooperatively</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take turns in games and with equipment</li> <li>Include others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share facilities fairly and efficiently</li> </ul>

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## Upcoming Events:

Small School Swimming Carnival (Upper Yarra Primary Schools) Wednesday 4th March

Our students will be taking part in the Small School Swimming Carnival held at Healesville Outdoor Pool which is always a great day out for students and parents. The events are organised by age/year levels and include a range of “water” activities that students compete in which are fun based. We invite parents to come along on the day so stay tuned for more information to follow.

## Parent/Teacher Interviews

Dani and Svetlana will be contacting families over the next few weeks to discuss to gather information to ensure we are supporting students’ wellbeing and academic learning needs. They will run for 15 minutes and will generally be held after school or at a time that is convenient. We will endeavour to do our best to accommodate requests.

## Life Rocks Program

This semester we have engaged the services of Diana Gentu from Life Rocks to work with our students as part of our Bush School Program every fortnight. Diana is a geologist and archaeologist and is passionate about learning in nature and all the benefits it brings. The program teaches children about the natural world and develops a connection with nature and the Earth sciences. Our students had a wonderful first session with Diana and are keen to explore nature play in our unique learning environment.

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## Introducing New Staff Members:

Hello everyone,  
My name is Danielle Angeli, and I am very excited to start at this beautiful school. It has been so nice to meet the students, and I am looking forward to working with everyone this year.

I will be teaching literacy and numeracy across the year levels and working with Svetlana team teaching in some sessions too. I will also be the Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader, which is a new role that has been introduced to all schools in our local area this year. In this role I will have the opportunity to work with staff, students and families, sharing knowledge, resources, networking, connecting, and collaborating in this space throughout the year. I have been teaching for about 13 years and am currently studying psychology part-time at Swinburne Online so will be able to combine these two passions.

I have two primary school aged children (Flynn and Paige) and they are both very sporty which keeps me extra busy. I also have a cheeky one year old rescue puppy called Autumn who keeps us on our toes. In any rare spare time that I have I enjoy reading, cooking, gardening and exercising.

Thank you for taking the time to read a little bit about me and I look forward to getting to know you all too.

-Dani J



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## Fire Danger Ratings for School Closures and Relocation Procedures

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We have been experiencing some very hot weather of late including heatwave conditions. Please be assured that our school is always prepared and takes all the necessary precautions to minimise any risks. Every day I receive advice from the Department of Education Emergency Management team of the weekly forecast ahead and expected fire danger ratings.

Just a reminder to families that the school uses the Fire Danger Ratings for the NILLUMBIK Local Government Area. On days that are predicted to be EXTREME the school relocates to Kangaroo Ground Primary School and on days predicted to be CATOSTROPHIC the school is closed. We are always guided by the Department of Education and the CFA regarding Fire-Danger Ratings and advise our parents/carers immediately once we receive any communication from NWVR Emergency Management Regional Division.

We do, however, always encourage our families to take appropriate personal fire and hot weather safety precautions and to follow their own fire safety plans.

Again, I thank you all for your continued support and I am looking forward to another exciting and memorable year with our students, staff and families.

*Maria Parks*

*Principal*



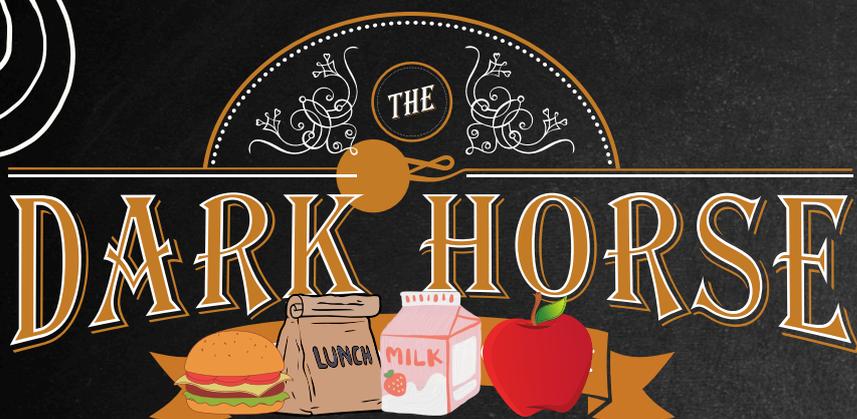
This week, we launched into our own scientific inquiries. In the senior years, this meant designing and conducting our own experiments. In the junior years, we focused on how to make a good prediction and learned about what they are. We had a bunch of fun mixing various compounds to see what happened, with messy but interesting results!

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## CHPS LUNCH ORDER MENU

Nuggets & Chips \$7

Burger & Chips \$7

Napolitana Pasta \$7

Chips \$4

Party Sausage Roll \$2

Party Pie \$2

Chocolate Milk \$3

Strawberry Milk \$3

Orange Juice \$2.5

Apple Juice \$2.5

Zooper Dooper \$2



**LUNCH ORDERS ARE EVERY WEDNESDAY PLEASE WRITE YOUR ORDER AND CHILD'S NAME ON A BROWN PAPER BAG OR ENVELOPE AND ENCLOSE CORRECT MONEY.**

**LUNCH ORDERS ARE DUE TO THE OFFICE NO LATER THAN 3:30PM TUESDAYS**



Child Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child Name \_\_\_\_\_



### Menu

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- Nuggets & Chips \$7
- Burger & Chips \$7
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- Chips \$4
- Party Sausage Roll \$2
- Party Pie \$2

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**Please Enclose Correct Money**

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Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Child Name \_\_\_\_\_

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