

# CHRISTMAS HILLS

Primary School

Newsletter



4th December - Term 4 - Week 9



## Circus Incursion

We had our special incursion last week, Mr Marvel, for our students and playgroup families. The morning was filled with entertainment, smiles and laughter. Mr Marvel performed his circus and magic show that thrilled the audience and left them buzzing with excitement long after the performance ended.

## Principal's Message

It has been wonderful to see the sun out this week and we are all hoping Summer is here to stay. We do continue to have students away due to a range of illnesses. If your child/children are not coming to school, we remind families to ensure they update Sentral to advise the school of the absence.

We had our emergency fire drill to our Shelter in Place (SIP) which is the Art room last Wednesday with fire crews from Christmas Hills, Panton Hill and Yarra Glen attending. It was an extremely valuable drill with all the crews on site working through management procedures in the event of a bushfire. Debriefing took place afterwards and plans were reviewed to ensure we are well-prepared for bushfire season ahead.

I would like to thank all our families who attended the presentation afterwards. I wanted to remind families that if our school needs to enact our pre-emptive action plan to either relocate on an Extreme fire danger day or close on a Catastrophic fire danger day, we will attempt to provide you with as much advance notice as possible via Sentral.

Again, for your information:

*Maria Pantes*  
Principal



## Important Dates Term 4

- 10<sup>th</sup> November - School Council meeting
- 11<sup>th</sup> November - Remembrance Day excursion
- 14<sup>th</sup> November - Prep transition session - 9:30 - 11:00
- 18<sup>th</sup> November - Swimming
- 18<sup>th</sup> November - Glasses for kids
- 21<sup>st</sup> November - Prep Transition session
- 24<sup>th</sup> November - Circus incursion
- 25<sup>th</sup> November - Swimming
- 26<sup>th</sup> November - CFA information session for families
- 28<sup>th</sup> November - Prep transition session - 9:30 - 11:00
- 8<sup>th</sup> December - School Council meeting
- **11<sup>th</sup> December - End of year concert - 1:00pm**
- 16<sup>th</sup> December - Last swimming session
- 17<sup>th</sup> December - End of year fun day - Bundoora Farm

# CLASSROOM NEWS

QUIP QUIP  
&  
BUNJIL NEWS



## WHAT WE'RE LEARNING

Over the past three weeks we have had the absolute pleasure of welcoming our wonderful Prep students into the classroom. They enjoyed a little taste of what Christmas Hills PS has to offer, listening to stories, exploring the garden, creating beautiful nature inspired art, and even baking Christmas cookies. Their enthusiasm and curiosity brought so much joy to our room.

As the school year draws to a close, our class has been working hard to strengthen their maths fluency. We focused on confidently recalling number bonds to 20 and put extra effort into the trickier areas, such as subtracting two and three digit numbers using a range of strategies. The students have shown terrific persistence and growth. In Literacy, we directed our energy towards building reading fluency and comprehension. Our daily fluency pairs continued, with students reading to each other and to the adults in the room, followed by targeted grammar practice.

Preparing for our Christmas concert in Music has added an extra layer of excitement to our days. We have choreographed and practised our school dance, and our Christmas play is now fully rehearsed and coming together beautifully. It's shaping up to be our best Christmas concert yet!

We can't wait to see you all there and celebrate the end of a wonderful year together

Warm regards, Svetlana



## REMINDERS



- Lunch orders are due Tuesday.
- School hats must be worn at every break time this term.
- Library books and homework are due each Friday.
- Last day of term for students 18<sup>th</sup> December - 2:00pm finish

## WHAT'S COMING UP THIS MONTH

December 5

3:15pm Assembly & Cindy McLeish visit

December 9-11

State Library book bash

December 11<sup>th</sup>

End of year concert  
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Christmas On The Reef

December 16<sup>th</sup>

Last swimming of the term

December 17<sup>th</sup>

End of year fun day - Bundoora Farm



# UPCOMING DATES TERM 4



## TERM 4

- 6 October - First day of Term 4 th
- 7<sup>th</sup> October - Swimming
- 21<sup>st</sup> October - Swimming
- 27<sup>th</sup> October - School Council meeting
- 3<sup>rd</sup> November - Report writing day - no students at school
- 4<sup>th</sup> November - Melbourne Cup public holiday
- 5<sup>th</sup> November - Dental Van
- 10<sup>th</sup> November - School Council meeting
- 11<sup>th</sup> November - Remembrance Day excursion
- 14<sup>th</sup> November - Prep transition session - 9:30 - 11:00
- 18<sup>th</sup> November - Swimming
- 18<sup>th</sup> November - Glasses for kids visit
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- 26<sup>th</sup> November - CFA information session for families
- 28<sup>th</sup> November - Prep transition session - 9:30 - 11:00
- 8<sup>th</sup> December - School Council meeting
- **11<sup>th</sup> December - End of year concert - 1pm start**
- 16<sup>th</sup> December - Last swimming session for the year
- 17<sup>th</sup> December - End of year fun day - Bundoora Farm
- 18<sup>th</sup> December - Last day of school for students - 2:00pm finish.



## EXCITING ACTIVITIES COMING UP

### Prep Transition

- 14<sup>th</sup> November
- 21<sup>st</sup> November
- 28<sup>th</sup> November

### Swimming

- 7<sup>th</sup> October
- 21<sup>st</sup> October
- 18<sup>th</sup> November
- 25<sup>th</sup> November
- 16<sup>th</sup> December
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### Circus incursion

- 24<sup>th</sup> November

### End of Year fun day

17<sup>th</sup> December - Bundoora Farm



## Our fire risk and actions

**Our school is a Category 1 School.**

We will enact our pre-emptive action plan to **relocate to Kangaroo Ground Primary School**, on days forecast as an **Extreme** fire danger rating in our **local government area, Nillumbik LGA.**

We will **close** on a day forecast as a **Catastrophic** fire danger rating in the **Central** fire district.



# *Christmas On The Reef*

Concert

11th December  
1:00pm



Dive into our magical Christmas Reef Adventure, an ocean bright performance filled with fun, friendship, and festive Auslan cheer!

# Schools in Category 0, 1 and 2 on the Bushfire At-Risk Register

## School preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, we undertake a range of activities to ensure the safety of our school and to prepare for bushfires and grassfires.

An important part of this process is communicating to parents what will happen when certain fire danger ratings are issued to help ensure the safety of students and staff.



**Our school has been identified as being in one of the highest fire risk categories - BARR 1 .**

On elevated fire danger days, schools in the highest levels of risk take pre-emptive actions to minimise the risk of being caught in a fire in these conditions.

Our school will action its pre-emptive plan for **relocation** on a day forecasted as **Extreme fire danger rating** in our **local government area (LGA), Nillumbik**.

Our school will also **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in **Central fire district**.

We will let you know when we are enacting our pre-emptive action plan by Sentral.

Please be aware that no one will be on site on days where the school has enacted this plan.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.

## ***What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?***

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by - reading our newsletters, checking our website <https://www.christmashillsps.vic.edu.au/>, by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements if our school is relocated or closed due to elevated fire danger or closed due to a Catastrophic fire danger rating. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#).
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are enacting your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to [them about bushfires](#) and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can find more information on emergencies, and preparedness actions here:



- 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

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***What is the department's policy?***

The Department of Education annually assesses the fire risk of all schools and early childhood services with the support of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 6). Schools and services that are categories 0-3 are published on the [Bushfire At-Risk Register \(BARR\)](#). Schools at some risk of bushfire and grassfire are published on the [Category 4 List](#).

The department's [Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy](#) requires schools at high risk of bushfire to enact pre-emptive action plans based on LGA-level fire danger forecasts. Conditions can vary significantly across the wider weather district, so using local forecasts helps us to respond appropriately to risks in our local area and maintain stability and educational continuity for our students and school community. This policy is consistent for all schools at high levels of risk and this approach is supported by emergency services.

The policy also requires that all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 list close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

### ***Why do we use the LGA forecast?***

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) provides public fire danger rating forecasts, they use fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which include numerous Local Government Areas.

As conditions can vary significantly across a wider weather district, the department uses BoM LGA forecasts for some pre-emptive actions to respond appropriately to risks in the local area and maintain safe educational continuity for students and the school community. LGA forecasts are a subset of the weather district ratings and while not issued publicly, are provided to emergency services and government departments to support planning and operational activities.

This policy is consistent for all schools at high levels of risk and this approach is supported by emergency services, including the Country Fire Authority (CFA).

### ***What do we do when our LGA has a different fire danger rating to the wider fire weather district?***

As we respond to local conditions, there may be days during the fire season when our fire weather district, **Central** is forecast as an Extreme fire danger rating, but our LGA is at a lower level of fire

danger. On these days our school operations will continue as normal; however, we will be taking action in line with fire services' advice by:

- checking our Emergency Management Plan and taking any necessary preparedness actions
- actively monitoring our local conditions and warnings
- having plans and procedures in place for if a fire starts to support us to take immediate action.

While our school will continue to operate, we encourage our school community to consider their own [bushfire survival plan](#) and reassess any travel through bushfire risk areas. We encourage you to follow your family bushfire survival plan and the advice of emergency services.

There may also be days where our LGA is forecast as Extreme fire danger, but Central is not. On these days we **will** enact our pre-emptive action plan.

### ***When will our school be closed due to Catastrophic fire danger?***

Our school will also **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in **Central fire district**.

Closure of the school due to a Catastrophic fire danger rating will be enacted when the BOM forecast and related public safety messaging is confirmed. Due to uncertainties in the forecast, the timing of this confirmation may vary. Information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by Sentral and a letter home.

It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

Families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. **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 Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.