

CHRISTMAS HILLS

Primary School

Newsletter



21st August 2026 - Term 3 - Week 6

Introducing Annie

Hello!

I'm Annie, and I'll be here at Christmas Hills Primary School for the next few weeks completing my final teaching placement. I'm currently in my last semester of Primary Teaching at RMIT and am stoked to be spending my final placement in such a beautiful bush setting! It's already been a wonderful week getting to know the fantastic students and school community. We're all getting very excited for Book Week next week, and I'm looking forward to all the adventures ahead!

From the Team

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we have already reached the end of Week 6 of Term 3. The weeks seem to be flying by, and what a fantastic term it has been so far at Christmas Hills Primary School!

This week has been another wonderful mix of learning, growth and fun. Across the school, students have continued to challenge themselves, build new skills and demonstrate a positive attitude towards their learning. Whether in the classroom, on the playground or during specialist programs, it has been great to see students engaging enthusiastically and supporting one another.

We are incredibly proud of the effort and persistence our students show each day. Their willingness to try new things, work collaboratively and strive to do their best is something to celebrate. It is these qualities that help make our school such a positive and welcoming place to learn.

Thank you to our families for your ongoing support.

Kind regards,

Dani Angeli



Important Dates for Term 3

- 16th July - Grade 3 - 5 Snow Excursion
- 20th July - School Council Meeting
- 22nd July - Street Hockey Session 1
- 28th July - State Library Webiner
- 29th July - Street Hockey Session 2
- 5th August - Street Hockey Session 3
- 10th August - 100 Days of Prep
- 12th August - Street Hockey Session 4
- 17th August - 21st August - Science Week
- 19th August - Street Hockey Session 5
- 24th August - 28th August - Book Week
- 25th August - **Book Week Dress Up Day**
- 26th August - Street Hockey Session 6
- 16th September - Tiger Paw Incursion
- 18th September - Last day of Term 3 - 2:30pm finish

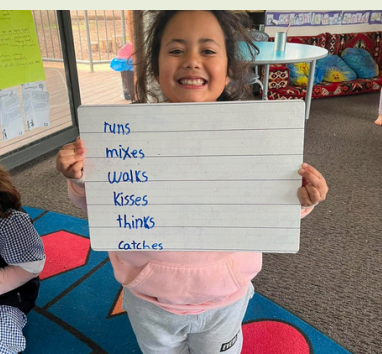
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From the Classroom

Learning Update

It has been wonderful to see the growing enthusiasm and consistency across our school as students continue to develop their learning habits.

Literacy

We are seeing some great progress with home reading. More children are remembering to bring their home reading records to school and regularly recording the books they have read. Establishing a regular home reading routine is a fantastic habit to develop, helping children build reading stamina, fluency and confidence over time.

In P-2, daily reading practice continues to be an important part of our literacy program. Students have been working with levelled readers, with a particular focus on reading smoothly, accurately and with expression. We have already noticed a marked improvement in students' fluency and expression when reading aloud. In 3-6, we are immersed in our novel study of Storm Boy and are very much enjoying the descriptive language and have become very fond of the characters, especially Mr Percival.

In Quip Quip, we are also incorporating daily spelling practice, with a focus on Little Learners Love Literacy heart words and common spelling patterns. Regular practice is helping students become more confident in recognising, reading and spelling these words. In Bunjil, we have been exploring homophones, where the words sound the same but have different spelling and a different meaning. Students are becoming more familiar with the digital platform Reading Eggs/Reading Eggspress and have been completing tasks on these. Families are encouraged to utilise this learning tool at home too if your students enjoy using this program to consolidate their literacy learning.

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Across the school, we are continuing to work on building writing stamina. Students are being encouraged to write for longer periods, develop their ideas and take greater ownership of their writing. We are beginning to see this increased stamina and confidence showing in students' work. We are noticing more students are thinking about the weekly writing prompt that is being sent home and even jotting down some of their ideas that they have been considering or discussing so they are well prepared to write about it when they get to school.

Maths

In Maths, students have been exploring money, including adding and subtracting amounts and working out how much change is needed. We have also continued to develop fluency with multiplication tables, building speed and accuracy through regular practice.

Another focus has been exploring different ways to solve mathematical problems. Students have been encouraged to explain their thinking, try different strategies and discuss which methods work best. There have been some wonderfully creative approaches to our problem-solving challenges! We have been exploring Mathletics more in the classroom, and families are welcome to access this at home for some extra practise anytime.

Inquiry

Our tropical rainforest Inquiry continues to generate plenty of curiosity. Recently, our learning about food chains led to some excellent discussion, with students thinking about how plants and animals depend on one another within a rainforest ecosystem. There was plenty of excitement as students discovered what happens when one part of a food chain is changed or removed.

It has been wonderful to see students' curiosity, confidence and willingness to share their ideas continuing to grow across all areas of learning.

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Social And Emotional Learning (SEL)

This week, students participated in a social and emotional learning activity called Roundabouts and Roads. In this activity, a problem was placed in the centre of a roundabout, with the different roads representing the possible choices and actions that could be taken to solve it.

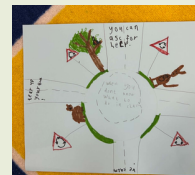
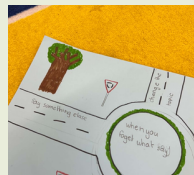
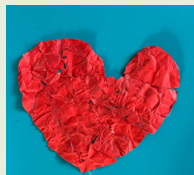
Together, we explored how different decisions can lead to different "destinations" or outcomes. Students discussed the importance of considering the consequences of their actions and thinking carefully about which road is most likely to lead to a positive and desirable result. Through thoughtful conversations and real-life examples, students developed their problem-solving and decision-making skills while learning the value of considering different perspectives.

Students were highly engaged throughout the activity, and the discussions were both positive and insightful. It was wonderful to see students sharing ideas, listening respectfully to one another, and working together to identify effective ways to navigate everyday challenges.

We also continued exploring our value of caring through a meaningful and powerful kindness activity. Students created a beautiful paper heart, representing a person's feelings and wellbeing. We then scrunched, folded, tore and damaged the hearts to symbolise the impact that hurtful words and actions can have on others.

Afterwards, we worked together to carefully smooth out the hearts and repair the damage as best we could. This provided a wonderful opportunity to discuss how saying sorry, taking responsibility and making amends are important when we make mistakes. However, students also recognised that even when we try our best to repair hurt feelings, it can be difficult to return someone's heart completely to its original state. This led to a thoughtful discussion about why it is so important to be caring, considerate and kind in the first place, and to always look after each other's hearts.

It was a helpful activity that encouraged empathy, reflection and understanding. The ideas and contributions shared by students were insightful and heartwarming, and it was wonderful to see everyone supporting one another and genuinely wanting to help repair each other's "broken hearts". To conclude the session, students shared examples of times when someone had shown kindness to them which highlighted the many ways caring actions can make a positive difference in our school community and reinforced the importance of treating everyone with respect, kindness and compassion every day.



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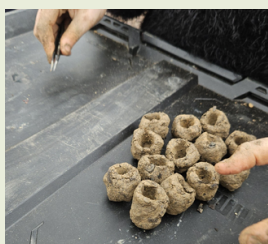
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S.T.E.M - Science Week

This week was science week! As a consequence we dived deep into the theme of Science Week this year - "Seeds of Science: Nurturing knowledge for all." So we made Seed Bombs! In the junior years we learned about how clay holds a lot of water and compost is needed to help the plants grow and that is why seed bombs work well. In the senior grades we explored how seed collection banks worked and learned about the importance of using seed collections to help reduce the risks associated with monoculture type farming. We also thought about the conditions needed for these seed bombs to work, where they can be thrown in order to give them the best chance!



WE WANT OUR PARENTS / CARERS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!

We invite all families to complete the optional Parent / Carer Opinion Survey online from Monday 17 August to Friday 18 September 2026. The 20-minute survey provides valuable feedback to help our school identify areas for improvement and support future planning. The survey link can be accessed via Sentral.

Reminder for Book Week

Come dressed as your favourite book character! *Please ensure costumes are suitable and can be enjoyed by everyone, including our Prep students.*

Symphony of Stories

Enjoy a special Symphony of Stories session with Josh Pyke through the State Library.

Author Visit

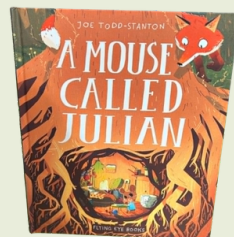
We are excited to welcome local author Penny Harrison for a special author visit.

CBCA Shortlisted Books

Enjoy reading and participating in fun activities inspired by the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) 2026 Shortlisted Books

A Special Thank You

A big thank you to Verso Books for generously donating the book *A Mouse Called Julian* to our school. We greatly appreciate your support of our students and their love of reading!





SYMPHONY OF STORIES

BOOK WEEK DRESS UP DAY –
TUESDAY 25TH AUGUST



Book Week Parade: 9:10am – 9:30am

Come dressed as your favourite book character
and help us celebrate Book Week!

Newsletter and website article: 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 a **Sentral notification**. 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 other relevant preparedness actions – such as 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/about>, 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 a **Sentral** notification.

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.

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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