

CHRISTMAS HILLS

Primary School

Newsletter



17th October, 2024 - Term 4 - Week 2



150th Anniversary Celebration Fete Saturday, 26th October.

We will be having a meeting next Monday 21st October at 3.45pm to run through everything and cross-check our "to-do" lists. Our staff have been phenomenal assisting and preparing, and I would like to extend a very BIG thank you! We are a small team but a great team! Thank you also to our families who have offered to assist on the day with supervising the jumping castle and helping with the BBQ. I am sure it is going to be a wonderful and successful day!

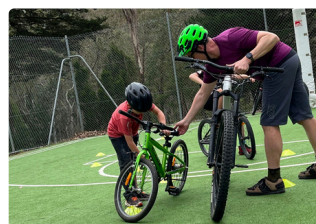
Principal's Message

Welcome back everyone to term 4! The children have all settled well back into the routine of learning and are enjoying being back with their friends.

It is going to be a very busy term with a few more swimming sessions as well as bike ed, ultimate frisbee throwing and bush/garden school which will be run by Debbie.

During term 4 students need to wear hats as part of our Sun Smart Policy. We are very fortunate here at CHPS as we do have a lot of shade for the students however on those expected hot days, applying sunscreen in the morning is also suggested.

Our garden is looking wonderful at the moment due to all the hard work Debbie, Sue and Donna have put in! They have all contributed and worked together and I have never seen it look more spectacular! Donna's beautiful mosaic has really set it apart! Thank you Donna for all the time and effort you have put into this mosaic which captures all the things that make CHPS special!!



Important Dates Term 3

- [Swimming Session Dates](#)
- [11th October](#)
- [18th October](#)
- [1st November](#)
- [Sugarloaf Reservoir - Sailing](#)
- [13th November](#)
- [20th November](#)
- [27th November](#)
- [Christmas Concert](#)
- [11th December](#)
- [End of year fun day](#)
- [17th December](#)

Term Dates

Term 4 - October 7th - 20th December

Curriculum Days - 7th October, 4th November, 20th December

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School Readiness Program

Our School Readiness Program has commenced, and we welcomed some new families to our school last week. This will run every Friday from 9.30am-11.00am and will be offered to children who are 3-4 years of age. Children do not need to be enrolled at CHPS to attend as we are wanting to provide a program to support all children with their transition to school. It has been fabulous to have so much interest in our wonderful little school!



Curriculum Day Feedback

We all attended professional learning on the first Monday of the term with other small schools in our network. We participated in our last session of the Berry Street training which had a focus on strengths and values, and recognising the importance of spotting strengths in others. It was a very valuable day and a great opportunity to discuss, reflect and share our current practices and how we can further implement this model at CHPS to ensure we are supporting all students in their learning journey.

Christmas Hills CFA

It is that time of year when families need to review their fire plans to ensure they are prepared for the upcoming summer and bushfire season. Peter Mildenhall (CFA – Christmas Hills) visited us last week to discuss our term 4 fire drill and presentation to our community which will occur later this term. Please see flyer attached with some online webinars on offer to assist families with reducing their bushfire risk. Also, the Christmas Hills CFA will be attending our fete and bringing some of their trucks which is just great.

Maria Parks
Principal

Just a reminder, to **SELL YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS AND BRING THE MONEY BACK TO SCHOOL!!!!**

The prizes are absolutely **AMAZING!!!** The book of tickets that went home is \$15 and all money raised will go back to the school and will be used to support student learning and wellbeing.



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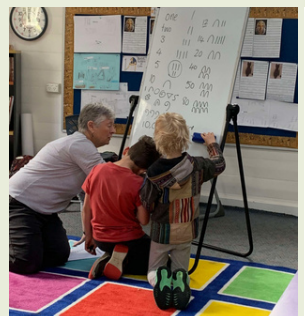
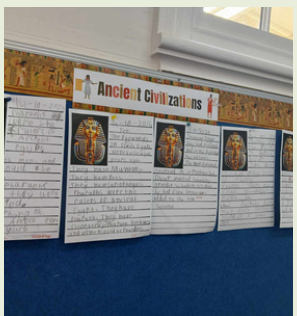
Community Art Work - Art Room



Inquiry - Ancient Civilizations



Writing



Maths



P.E

Christmas Hills P.S

RAFFLE



DRAWN AT OUR 150 YEAR
CELEBRATION FETE 26TH
OCTOBER, 2024



1ST PRIZE

Worth
over
\$400



2ND PRIZE

Worth
over
\$250



3RD PRIZE

Worth
over
\$200

MANY OTHER PRIZES INCLUDING A FAMILY PASS TO LUNA PARK, YARROWOOD ESTATE WINE
PACK, RUBY TUESDAY JEWELLERY, FAMILY PASS TO SKATERZ ELTHAM, KELLYBROOK WINE,
FAMILY PASS TO ICE SKATING,

CHRISTMAS HILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL
1409 ELTHAM YARRA GLEN ROAD, CHRISTMAS HILLS



Fridays 9:30 -
11:00
beginning 11th of
October
Designed for 3-5
yr olds



CHRISTMAS HILLS PS

SCHOOL READY PROGRAM



Get your little one ready for school with our fun-filled school readiness program.

Friday mornings 9:30 till 11:00 at Christmas Hills Primary School

OUR ACTIVITIES

- Story time
- Art and craft
- Cooking
- Sensory play
- Class room skills
- Fine moter activities
- Outdoor fun
- Social skills

OUR FEATURES

- Run by experienced primary teacher
- Child lead learning
- Hands on learning and fun
- Beautiful bush setting incorporated into learning
- Confidence building



9730 1238



www.christmashillps.vic.edu.au



1409 Eltham-Yarra Glen rd
Christmas Hills

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO BE ENROLLED AT CHRISTMAS HILLS PS TO ATTEND?

No, all children aged 3-5 years are welcome to attend our Pre-Prep Program at Christmas Hills PS. We provide a nurturing and very personalised program for our students here at Christmas Hills PS however, we appreciate that families need to find the best "fit" for their child and their family. So even if your child is enrolled elsewhere, we would still love them to come along.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST AND DO I NEED TO BOOK?

Our program is FREE! At Christmas Hills PS our goal is to support our families in the community and we believe all children should be able to access a rich and engaging program in a beautiful unique rural setting. Therefore, no need to book just come along and join us for some fun.

CAN PARENTS AND YOUNGER SIBLINGS COME ALONG?

Parent/carer supervision is required throughout the sessions but if your child feels confident in their new setting you are more than welcome to make a cuppa and just watch. Younger siblings are welcome too however, this program is specifically designed for 3-5-year-olds.

WHAT DOES A SCHOOL READY SESSION LOOK LIKE?

Each week we will vary the sessions to include both inside and outside hands-on activities. When children first arrive, they will have the opportunity to explore and participate in some developmental playtime. Then, our teachers (Maria or Svetlana) will introduce mat time where they will listen to a story, sing some songs and play a couple of games as well as participate in a craft activity. Before leaving and saying goodbye we will reflect on the morning and have a share time together.

WHEN AND WHERE DOES IT RUN?

Our Pre-Prep Program will commence on Friday 11th of October and will run each Friday throughout term 4. It will start at 9:30am and finish at 11.00am and will be held at Christmas Hills PS in our Quip Quip Room. If you have any questions, please contact Maria (Principal) on 97301238

NEWSLETTER



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

We're excited to inform you that we will be continuing to take lunch orders every Wednesday through Dark Horse Café.

Please ensure all lunch orders are placed in the designated box by 3:30 PM on Tuesday, please include the student's name, lunch order details, and exact change.



SCHOOL VALUES

Every child at Christmas Hills Primary School is supported in their social and emotional development in a caring way. We help students build skills in empathy and positive relationships, in a framework centred around our school values of CHIRPS – Caring, Honesty, Inquisitiveness, Respect, Persistence, Sharing.

These school values are built around our emblem, the blue wren, and they were jointly decided by students, staff and parents.

CHRISTMAS HILLS

Primary School

CHIRPS



Caring

Honesty

Inquisitiveness

Respect

Persistence

Sharing

Yard	Transitions	Classes	Toilets	Excursions
Hear calm, polite and friendly voices	Calm, organised	Be mindful of personal space	Good hygiene	Be good role models
See inclusive play with a variety of activities	Enter learning spaces in an orderly manner	Take responsibility for your own learning	Respect others' privacy	Hear calm, polite and friendly voices
See people caring for each other	Respectful of other students	Respectful listening		Be mindful of the general public
Respect nature				Move in an orderly, calm manner

SCHOOL UNIFORM

School uniforms are available for purchase at any time from the school office. It is important to ensure your child has their school uniform for school excursions.

Additionally, we are now selling book satchels that help keep home readers secure and easily accessible.

SCHOOL UNIFORM





UNIFORM PRICES

- Polo shirt size 6,8,12,14- \$15
- Polo shirt - Adult S,M, L - \$25.00
- Wide brim hat - \$15

- Communication satchel - \$15
- Child vest - \$20 Adult 25.00
- Blue gingham dress- \$20
- Grade six top - \$50

CHRISTMAS HILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Wednesday's
9:30 till
11:00am

Messy Play
Painting
Arts & Crafts
Sensory Activities
Games
Toys
Pretend Play
Songs
Outdoor play

BRING YOUR LITTLE ONE ALONG TO
SOCIALISE, EXPLORE, EXPERIMENT &
PLAY AT OUR RELAXED COMMUNITY
PLAYGROUP. SPEND SOME QUALITY
TIME WITH YOUR MINI WHILE YOU FILL
YOUR CUP CHATTING WITH OTHER
GROWN UPS.
ALL WELCOME!

Christmas Hills Primary School
1409 Eltham-Yarra Glen Rd Christmas Hills

For more info contact Megan 0413 174 415



Upcoming Dates Term 4

- 7th October - **First day of Term 4**
- 7th October - **Curriculum Day**
- 11th October - First Pre Prep transition session
- 18th October - Pre Prep transition session
- 18th October - Swimming
- 25th October - Pre Prep transition session
- **26th October - 150 year School celebration**
- 1st November - Pre Prep transition session
- 1st November - Last swimming session
- 4th November - **Curriculum Day**
- 5th November - **Cup Day public holiday**
- 8th November - Pre Prep transition session
- 13th November - Sailing - Sugarloaf Reservoir
- 15th November - Pre Prep transition session
- 20th November - Sailing - Sugarloaf Reservoir
- 22nd November - Pre Prep transition session
- 27th November - Sailing - Sugarloaf Reservoir
- 6th December - Last Pre Prep transition session
- 11th December - Christmas Concert
- 17th December - End of year celebration - Bounce
- 19th December - - **Last day for students - 1:00pm finish**
- 20th December - **Curriculum Day**



Exciting Activities coming up

Swimming Session Dates

- 11th October
- 18th October
- 1st November

Sugarloaf Reservoir - Sailing

- 13th November
- 20th November
- 27th November
-

Christmas Concert

- 11th December

End of year fun day

- 17th December
-

Lunch Orders

Lunch orders from Dark Horse are continuing this term.



Christmas Hills

Primary School

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 and 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 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

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, Nillumbik 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 Nillumbik 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 phone.

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.



GET BUSHFIRE RESILIENT

INFORMATION FOR HOUSEHOLDS IN
RURAL AREAS AND ON THE URBAN FRINGE

**Prepare for bushfires and
hazardous weather.**

BRI's webinars are presented by
eminent subject matter experts.

Learn what your family can do to
reduce your risks.

Register so you can ask questions before
or during the webinar and so we can send
you a link to webinars, recordings and
website updates.

To register visit
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DAVEY

Know about insurance for bushfire, storm or flood events - avoiding the pitfalls

17 October 2024

- Annabelle Butler, Hollard Insurance Australia
- Peter Gartlan, Financial Counselling Australia
- Denis Nelthorpe AM, Consumer Lawyer

Insurance and financial challenges after bushfire, storm or flood - when things go wrong

28 October 2024

- Annabelle Butler, Hollard Insurance Australia
- Peter Gartlan, Financial Counselling Australia
- Denis Nelthorpe AM, Consumer Lawyer
- Sharon Keith, Disaster Legal Help Victoria

Best practice property bushfire risk reduction

12 November 2024

- Justin Leonard, CSIRO
- Kevin Hazell, Town Planner
- Mark Holland, CFA

Understanding our changing bushfire weather

28 November 2024

- Justin Leonard, CSIRO
- Kevin Parkyn, BOM
- Mika Peace, BOM