

CHRISTMAS HILLS

Primary School

Newsletter



16th September 2026 - Term 3 - Week 10

From the Principal

As Term 3 comes to an end, I would like to congratulate our students on their wonderful efforts and achievements throughout the term. It has been fantastic to see them demonstrate our CHIRPS values and grow in confidence, independence and resilience.

We have enjoyed a busy term of learning, activities and opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. Our students have continued to embrace learning and support one another across our multi-age classrooms.

Thank you to our dedicated staff and wonderful families for your continued support and contribution to our school community.

I wish everyone a safe, happy and relaxing holiday break and look forward to welcoming everyone back for Term 4 on Monday 5th October.

Parent/Carer Opinion Survey

Thank you to all the parents and carers who took the time to complete our Parent/Carer Opinion Survey. We really appreciate your feedback and the time taken to share your thoughts about our school.

Your feedback is valuable in helping us celebrate our strengths and identify areas where we can continue to improve. We will use the feedback to inform our ongoing planning and improvement.

Maria Parks



Important Dates for Term 3

- 5th August 0 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
- 11th September - Reptile Encounter Incursion
- 16th September - Tiger Paw Incursion
- 17th September - Street Hockey Session
- **18th September - Last day of Term 3 - 2:00pm finish**

Term 3

- **5th October - First day of Term 4**

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School Review

Our School Review will take place on Tuesday 10 November. The review is an important opportunity for us to reflect on our school's achievements, celebrate our strengths and identify priorities for continued improvement over the next four years.

We look forward to sharing the great work happening at Christmas Hills Primary School and showcasing the learning and experiences of our students.

Holiday Garden/Chicken Roster

We are looking for families to put their names down on our Garden and Chicken Roster. This is a wonderful way to support our school and help keep our garden and chickens cared for over the holidays and weekends.

The jobs are simple and only take a little time, including feeding the chickens, collecting eggs, checking their water and giving the garden a little TLC.

If you can help, please add your name to the roster.

Thank you for supporting our school community!

School Holiday Chicken Roster and Garden Watering Schedule



Week 1		
Monday	21 st Sept	
Wednesday	23 rd Sept	
Friday	25 th Sept	

Week 2		
Monday	28 th Sept	
Wednesday	30 th Sept	
Friday	2 nd Oct	



Join us for **PREP** TRANSITION DAYS



Come and discover the magic of Prep at
Christmas Hills Primary School!



We invite our future Prep students to join us for three fun-filled transition mornings as they get to know our school, meet their teachers and make new friends.



STORY TIME

Enjoy engaging stories and spark wonder and imagination.



ART & CRAFT

Get creative with fun, hands-on art and craft activities.



EXCITING STEM

Explore, experiment and discover through exciting STEM activities.



FUN & FRIENDS

Play, learn and make new friends in a safe and welcoming space.



We can't wait to meet you!



SAVE THE DATES!



....Wednesday - 18th November....



....Wednesday - 25th November....



....Wednesday - 2nd December....



9:30am – 10:30am



Small School



Big Heart



Bright Future

COLLINGWOOD



SAT 19 SEP | 12:35PM
VICTORIA PARK

Juniors 14 & under are **FREE**,
plus adults can redeem 2 for 1
tickets with this special offer



REDEEM NOW

Tickets subject to availability

PARENTING ANXIOUS CHILDREN: Fear Less Group

A FREE online 6-session parenting group for parents and carers of children aged 5- 12 years old experiencing anxiety. Open to carers residing in the Cities of Yarra, Darebin, Nillumbik, Whittlesea and Banyule.

Dates: weekly for 6 weeks from 09/11/26

Location: Online via Zoom

Time: 10:30am-12:00pm

Fear-Less Triple P supports parents to learn new strategies for managing their child's anxiety, including:

- Understanding how anxiety works
- Strategies to support children to manage their anxiety with support from others
- Strategies to support children to manage anxiety independently based on age and stage

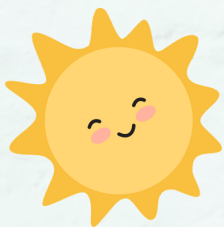
**BERRY
STREET**



How to Enquire:

Email the team with your full name and best contact number at triplep@berrystreet.org.au for information on the enrolment process. We ask that enquiries are made no later than 26/10/26.

Please note that enquiries do not guarantee enrolment and that capacity may be reached prior to this date. As such, we encourage carers to reach out ASAP to avoid disappointment.



St Andrews Primary School



OSHC HOLIDAY PROGRAM

September Holidays 2026

Tues 22nd Sept



Dance, Dance, Dance!
including a special dance session led by Kinect

Full Fee: \$95

Thurs 24th Sept



Seed Bombs and Green Thumbs - gardening and more...

Full Fee: \$80

Tues 29th Sept



Make, Shape, Create, with Clay!

Full Fee: \$95

Thurs 1st Oct



Blanket Fort and Games Day

Full Fee: \$80

STAPS OSHC Vacation Care is available to all STAPS students as well as primary school-age students from other schools.

ALL students MUST have completed a 2026 STAPS OSHC enrolment form, and supplied any relevant medical plans.

Please note: we have a maximum number of 15 bookings for each day.

Costs: Flat rate per student per day applies - special activities vary the price - see above *Child Care subsidies apply to eligible families if registered*

Times: Our program is open from **8:30 am to 5:30 pm.**

Note: Part day attendance will incur the full day fee

Activities: Each day includes outside games, relaxing "downtime activities" (possibly including games/watching a short show), some crafting time and ***Special Activities (as listed above)***

Food: **BYO LUNCH** with Fruit, and Snacks offered on the day

What else: Students **MUST** bring a hat and water bottle each day, and wear closed-toe shoes and suitable sunsmart/wet weather clothing.

OSHC Teacher/Educators: Chanaka Ruwandeniya, supported by other staff as required

Book in via the
Xplor App or

email : st.andrews.ps@education.vic.gov.au

text : the OSHC mobile on: 0427 245 921

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 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