CHRISTMAS HILLS

Primary School

Newsletter

22nd October 2026 - Term 4 - Week 3

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Week 3 of Term 4!

It has been wonderful to see our students return each day with enthusiasm and a commitment to their learning. Thank you to parents who have been supporting their child/children at home by completing some revision as part of homework. Time management and organisation are important skills which need to be developed particularly as students move into the higher grades. Developing resilience in the classroom has also been a big focus this term. We have been encouraging students to stay focussed, building on their learning stamina, to complete tasks and take pride in their achievements.

We recognise that student wellbeing is essential to successful learning. We continue to encourage kindness, respect, inclusion and responsibility in all that we do. Thank you to our families for supporting these important values at home and working in partnership with us to ensure every student feels safe, connected and supported.

Looking ahead, term 4 is always a busy and exciting time. Please keep an eye on school communications for upcoming events, important dates and end-of-year activities.

Maria Parks

Principal



Important Dates for Term 4

- 23rd October - Grandparents/Special Persons Day
- 2nd November- Curriculum Day
- 3rd November - Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
- 6th November - Swimming Lessons - Eltham Leisure Centre
- 13th November - Swimming Lessons - Eltham Leisure Centre
- 18th November - Prep Transition - 9:30 - 11:00am
- 26th November - Swimming Lessons - Eltham Leisure Centre
- 25th November - Prep Transition - 9:30 - 11:00am
- 2nd December - Prep Transition - 9:30 - 11:00am
- 8th December - End of year concert - 3:00pm
- 9th December - Bounce - End of year fun day
- 15th December - Swimming Lessons - Eltham Leisure Centre
- 16th December - Swimming Lessons - Eltham Leisure Centre
- 18th December - Last day of school 1:00pm finish

Email - Christmas.hills.ps@education.vic.gov.au
https://www.christmashillsps.vic.edu.au/
9730 1238 / 0499 205 083

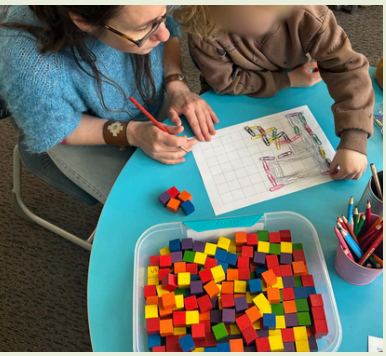
Christmas Hills Primary School
1409 Eltham - Yarra Glen Road
Christmas Hills

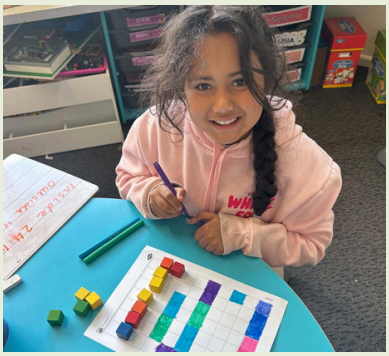
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Welcome to Sharee

We are delighted to welcome Sharee to our team this term as our new Education Support Staff member! We look forward to the positive contribution she will make in supporting our students' learning and wellbeing. We know Sharee will be a wonderful addition to our team.

Curriculum Day and Melbourne Cup Holiday

A reminder to all families that our upcoming Curriculum Day (Monday 2nd November) and Melbourne Cup public holiday (Tuesday 3rd November) are just around the corner.

Our Curriculum Day on the Monday will provide staff with valuable time to plan and review data in preparation for Semester 2 reports. There will be no classes for students on this day.

This will be followed by the Melbourne Cup public holiday on the Tuesday, giving everyone an opportunity to enjoy a well-deserved break.

Students return to school on Wednesday 4th November.

School Swimming Commences

Our School Swimming Program is starting soon. Our first session will be on Friday 6th November. We will be travelling by bus to Eltham Leisure Centre, leaving school at approximately 9.30 am. These sessions run for an hour and are taken by qualified swim coaches.

The program provides students with the chance to develop their swimming skills, build water confidence and learn important water safety skills in a supportive environment. Swimming is an essential life skill, and these sessions will help students develop their abilities while having fun and staying active.

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Families are reminded to ensure students come prepared with swimming gear on under their school uniform. If your child requires goggles, please ensure they are packed as well as including any other required items such as underwear, spare plastic bag for wet items and towel.

Parenting Support for Families

There are a range of parenting services to support families in building confidence, strengthening relationships and promoting children's wellbeing. Health Ability and Tuning in to Kids provide practical strategies and support to help parents and carers navigate the challenges of parenting, strengthen emotional connections and support children's healthy development. These programs empower families with skills and tools to help children thrive.
Please see links below for more information.
https://healthability.org.au/services/parenting-well
Tuning in to Kids for Parents | Parents

S.T.E.M

Week 1, we're back with force, specifically life force. The focus of this term is living things and we're getting into the nitty gritty of all things alive. What is more nitty gritty than soil? This week we explored the science of soil and what types of things are found in it. We learned that soil is incredibly complex with a handful of soil holding more life than the numbers of humans on earth. In the junior grades we learned about what makes something living and we classified living and non-living things. In the senior grades we learned about how to improve our soils and use our biological understanding of it to make it better.

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Grandparents' & SpecialPersons Morning



We are excited to invite our grandparents and special people to join us for a special morning tea at school! It will be a wonderful opportunity for our students to share some time with the special people in their lives and celebrate the important role they play in our community.

Date:Friday 23rd October

Time: 9.30–11.00

Location:Quip Quip

Please save the date — we look forward to welcoming you all for a lovely morning together!

CHRISTMAS HILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

UV AHEAD

SunSmart®



Slap! on your hat and Slop! on su nscreen, when theUV is 3 or above.

Even on cool and cloudy days.

In Victoria, UV is 3 and above generally from mid-August to the end of April.

sunsmart.com.au
Use all five forms of sun protection

Slip Slop Slap Seek Slide

A partnership between:

VicHealth Cancer Council Victoria

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 familiesand 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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THE DARK HORSE

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