

CHRISTMAS HILLS

Primary School



Newsletter



27th February 2026 - Term 1 - Week 5



Small School Swimming Carnival (Upper Yarra Primary Schools) Wednesday 4th March

Our students will be taking part in the Small School Swimming Carnival held at Healesville Outdoor Pool which is always a great day out for students and parents. The events are organised by age/year levels and include a range of “water” activities that students compete in which are fun based. We invite parents to come along on the day so stay tuned for more information to follow.

From the Principal

We have had another busy couple of weeks with a range of whole school events taking place as well as catching up with families for Parent/Teacher Interviews.

Thank you to our families for making the time after school to catch up with teachers. These meetings are always very valuable and help us to start the year off smoothly and provide an opportunity for sharing any updates or changes that may be taking place at home.

Unfortunately, our sailing has been pushed back again due to inclement weather. We will advise families when this will be taking place as I know the children are super excited.

We are continuing to work on our CHPS Behaviour Matrix. This week we have been focusing on our value of Persistence, working and staying on task and trying again when work is challenging.



Important Dates for Term 1

- 28th January - First day of school for students
- 4th February - First Playgroup for the year
- 5th February - School welcome BBQ - 2:00pm
- 11th February - Sailing excursion
- 18th February - Andrew Ross Museum incursion
- 13th February - Responsible pet incursion
- 4th March - Small schools swimming carnival
- **9th March - Labour day public holiday**
- **10th March - Curriculum Day**
- 11th March - Hockey Incursion
- 11th March - 23rd March - NAPLAN
- 30th March - Quantum Victoria Excursion
- 2nd April - Last day of school - 1:30 pm Assembly, 2:00pm finish.

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We have also been discussing how we show Persistence out in the yard including accepting setback calmly and trying our best in games.

Thank you to those families who were able to attend our Open Morning on Wednesday. Your support is always appreciated, and we had some families come to visit our beautiful school to see what we offer. We had a tremendous turnout in playgroup and again thank you to Georgette who has taken this on.



Christmas Hills Primary School Behaviour Expectations Matrix

CHIRPS Values	Learning Spaces	Transitions	Outside	Toilets
 CARING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use kind words and actions Help classmates when appropriate Look after classroom materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk safely and look out for others Stay with your class/group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include others in games Look after equipment and the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave the toilet clean for the next person Report problems to an adult
 HONESTY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell the truth and own your choices Ask for help when needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow teacher instructions Go directly where you are meant to go 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play by the rules Be fair and truthful in games 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the toilet for its purpose only
 INQUISITIVENESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask questions Try new learning activities Have a go even when learning is tricky 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen for instructions Be curious about new routines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore play safely Try new activities and games 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn and follow correct hygiene routines
 RESPECT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen when others are speaking Use indoor voices Follow class rules and move safely Respect personal space and boundaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk calmly and quietly Respect shared spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use friendly language and calm voices Respect personal space Play within the school boundaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect privacy Use facilities appropriately
 PERSISTENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay on task Try again when work is challenging Finish learning tasks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move promptly and safely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep trying in games Accept setbacks calmly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash hands properly even when in a hurry
 SHARING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take turns Share resources and learning spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share space and time fairly Line up cooperatively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take turns in games and with equipment Include others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share facilities fairly and efficiently

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We celebrated Chinese New Year, the Year of the Fire Horse this week. Sue brought in her dancing dragon and Jesmine taught the students the traditional dragon dance that is performed during festivals and celebrations. Throughout the week students made dragons, Chinese chatterboxes, lanterns and masks. A big THANK YOU to both Sue and Jesmine who shared their knowledge and experiences.

Lastly, a reminder that we do have the Labour Day holiday on Monday 9th March followed by our NESST Curriculum Day on Tuesday 10th March. Students return to school on Wednesday 11th March.

Maria Parks
Principal



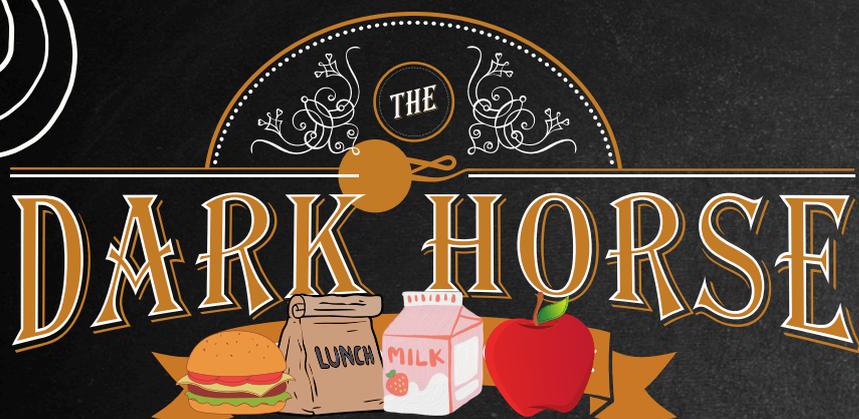
This week we learned about how to set up an experiment cleanly so that we can find a clear result. In the junior grades we practiced making accurate predictions using our knowledge of milk and detergent. In the senior grades we back tracked and had to develop questions and hypotheses to match. We then tested our theories and discussed the science behind the experiment!

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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



Child Name _____

Child Name _____



Menu

Menu

- Nuggets & Chips \$7
- Burger & Chips \$7
- Napolitana Pasta \$7
- Chips \$4
- Party Sausage Roll \$2
- Party Pie \$2

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- Burger & Chips \$7
- Napolitana Pasta \$7
- Chips \$4
- Party Sausage Roll \$2
- Party Pie \$2

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- Strawberry Milk \$3
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- Apple Juice \$2.5

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- Strawberry Milk \$3
- Orange Juice \$2.5
- Apple Juice \$2.5

- Zooper Dooper \$2

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Please Enclose Correct Money

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Total \$ _____

Total \$ _____



Child Name _____

Child Name _____

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Please Enclose Correct Money

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Total \$ _____

Total \$ _____

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.



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- Experienced & nurturing staff
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Phone: 9712 0297

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Play leader present - preschool age children welcome
Guest speakers and activities to support you in your caring journey
Welcoming atmosphere with **MORNING TEA PROVIDED**

FRIDAYS, FORTNIGHTLY DURING SCHOOL TERMS

9.45 - 11.45AM

WARRANTYTE COMMUNITY CHURCH

57 YARRA ST, WARRANTYTE

PLEASE PARK AND ENTER AT REAR OF BUILDING NEAR CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

Register your attendance to:

Sarah Lacy - Facilitator

Ph: 0413 655 659

Email: sarahl@mytimevic.com.au

