



Red Hill Consolidated School



SCHOOL VISION

Through the Contemporary Learning Experience framework we will provide a rich learning environment that is student centred, technology enriched, question driven, skills based and contextually relevant. We will promote creativity and provide every opportunity for students to develop the essential skills to be active participants in a global community.



Term 1, 2019

Monday, February 11

House Swimming Carnival Year 4-6
School Council—Call for Nominations

Tuesday, February 12

Prep Information Evening 6.30pm
Year 6 Circus Skills Program
Commences

Monday, February 18

2B Casey Safety Village Excursion

Wednesday, February 20

2D & 2ES Casey Safety Village
Excursion

Wednesday, February 27

District Swimming Carnival

Wednesday, March 6

District Tennis

Friday, March 8

Curriculum Day

Monday, March 11

Labour Day Holiday

Wednesday, March 13

Divisional Swimming

School Council Meetings

Tuesday, February 26 at 6.30 pm
In the Staff Room

Tuesday, March 26 AGM at 6.30pm
in the staffroom

Term Dates

Term 1

January 29 to April 5

Term 2

April 22 to June 28

Term 3

July 15 to September 20

Term 4

October 7 to December 20

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

WELCOME TO ALL OUR 2019 PREPS AND NEW FAMILIES ACROSS THE SCHOOL!

Dear Red Hill Families,

I hope you will embed the habit of reading our comprehensive newsletter each fortnight. Included in each addition will be a Principal's Update, Wellbeing News and a Teaching and Learning component. All well worth reading!

For our new families in particular, I have included important information relating to parental involvement, traffic safety protocols, an overview of the School Council's role within schools and how to report your child's absence from school. I hope this week's edition further supports your transition to Red Hill Consolidated School.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO BECOME A HIGHLY VALUED PARENT HELPER

There are so many ways parents can be involved in school life. Please read on and see how easy it is for you to make strong connections with our school community.

ART RED HILL

The first meeting for Art Red Hill was held on Tuesday, seeing many parents, new to the school, joining the team. This is terrific! If you were unable to attend the 'kick off' meeting, you are more than welcome to join the team. More information is available at arhrhcs@gmail.com ARH is a major fundraiser and social event for our school and the broader community. Marlo Reyneke and Chelsea Murray will head up the ARH team again this year and I encourage all members of our school community to offer the ARH committee support. Many parents think you might need to be 'artistically gifted' to be a part of the exhibit. This is not the case! The exhibition essentially requires a range of diverse skills, which we most definitely have within our current school community. It is just a matter of finding a task or an area that you would be keen to support and away you go! I urge you to come along to the next meeting and see how you might be able to help. Perhaps you might also like to bring a friend! Being connected to your child's school and for your child/ren to see you interested and enthusiastic to support school events is critically important in building strong home school partnerships. ARH is the perfect forum to build lasting connections and it is truly rewarding to be a part of.

CALLING FOR 2018 CLASS PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

Are you interested in being a parent representative for your child's class? A significant part of the class parent representative's role is to act as conduit to all the families in the class by keeping them updated around coming events, social activities and fundraising activities throughout the year. Please find attached to this week's newsletter, an outline of the role. Please contact your child's teacher directly, if you are interested in pursuing this invitation further.

CANTEEN HELPERS

The school canteen operates on a Monday and Friday each week and we rely on parent volunteers to support Tamara Cleine, employed by the school, to oversee the facility. Please refer to the attached roster to see when your child's class is rostered for canteen duty. I am sure your child would be very excited to know you are on the canteen duty roster!

TRAFFIC SAFETY



A reminder to all community members that the speed limit during school hours is 40 km on Arthurs Seat Rd. In this week's newsletter, I have included an outline of our traffic management strategy. For the benefit and safety of all members of our school community, it is extremely important that you strictly adhere to the following safeguards we have in place.

Please carefully read through each statement below and strictly adhere to our traffic safety strategy.

- ◆ **The teachers car park at the front of the school (where the buses park) is not a pickup or drop off zone.** Children being dropped off by the buses in this area and the staff are not expecting cars to be travelling in and out at this time!
- ◆ **The car park outside the school stadium is not to be used as a pickup or drop off zone.** Again we have children playing in the playground who are not expecting cars to be driving up and down the side driveway or into their playing space.
- ◆ **The car park outside the school stadium can however be used** by the after school and before school patrons for drop off and pickup only or for special after school hours events.
- ◆ The **driving speed for vehicles** using the stadium driveway, the stadium car park and the lower sandy car park, is **walking pace** at all times.
- ◆ **No cars** are to enter the school grounds during **school hours**.
- ◆ In the interest of public relations, please ensure the neighbouring driveways are clear at all times.
- ◆ An adult must escort all students being picked up at the lower sandy car park to their car. **No child is to enter the lower sandy car park unsupervised.**
- ◆ The drive through is not to be used as a carpark and all users must be patient and stay in one line when entering the drop off lane. No cutting in is permitted and double parking is not acceptable.
- ◆ Children and adults must use the school crossing at all times.

New Modular Building Update



Here is a peek at our new modular building currently under construction in a Braeside factory. It looks a lot bigger than the photos indicate. Exciting!

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSION FUND (CSEF) - School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. CSEF provided by the Victorian Government assists **eligible families** to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. The annual CSEF amount per student is: \$125 for primary school students and \$225 for secondary school students. A flyer and application form will be sent home with all students outlining further details for eligible families. Application forms to be returned by Friday 22nd February with a copy of your eligible Concession Card.

2018 SCHOOL COUNCIL ROLES

On Monday, the school community will receive notification in relation to the 2019 School Council election process. All government schools in Victoria have a school council, a legally constituted body given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Being a member on school council does require commitment, time and a hands on approach.

This year there will again have a number of projects earmarked for school councillors to action and oversee.

We would be particularly interested in a school council member who could offer skills and enthusiasm in following areas:

- √ An interest in helping to develop our external and internal environments.
- √ An interest in further building our positive school culture to promote community pride and participation in events. Assist in overseeing school events, and increasing event participation and targeted marketing.

ATTENTION BUS TRAVELLERS

Please read Mr Wettenhall' s Wellbeing News for important updates for bus travellers.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION HOW TO REPORT YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

In the interest of student safety and wellbeing, the Department of Education has mandated **for all enrolled students in a school setting, to be accounted for, by 10am each school day.**

What do you need to do to report an absence?

We ask all parent/caregivers to use the Sentral Parent Portal to report all absences on the day of an absence or for advance absences. This will allow our administration staff to quickly and efficiently track student absences, each morning, and meet the 10 am deadline. **If you are a new family to the school, you will receive your family key code today, via letter.**

On the day of an absence, the parent portal is to be used. The parent portal is also too be used when reporting an absence in advance. Can you please let your child's teacher know of advanced absences in order for them to prepare a home learning plan prior to the absence.

A text will be sent to you if your child's absence is not reported on the Sentral Parent Portal, before 10am, on the day of absence.

When you receive an absence notification, do not respond to the text. Instead, please report the unexplained absence using the Sentral Parent Portal.

Your correct contact details are essential for this system to work.

Please contact the office if your details have changed or if you need any further clarification in relation to reporting a student absence.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR TERM 1 CALENDAR

PREP INFORMATION NIGHT - Tuesday Feb 12 @ 6:30 pm

BUILDING THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS YEAR 1 to 6 - Wednesday Feb 20 - Bookings online

WELCOME TO RED HILL – New Families Picnic – Friday Feb 22 @ 5pm

RHCS WELLBEING NEWS

Dear Parents and friends,

I hope you all had a wonderful break over the summer and enjoyed this time with your children. Welcome back to another exciting year up here at Red Hill Consolidated School and a very special welcome to all of our new families. I've met quite a few of our new families and our new children seem to have settled in well. I'm especially impressed with our 2019 Prep children who have started off the year in great form. I have visited their rooms on most days and they are all very calm, happy and already showing beautiful manners, well done mums and dads.

I have also dropped in to all of our other classes and have noticed how settled they all are and how quickly students have adapted back to the school routine. They seem very well behaved and focused on their learning. There's also a real sense of calm in the playground during our recess and lunch breaks, and of course lots of fun and smiles.

Speaking of lunch breaks, our **Lunchtime Clubs** are ready to kick off next week. I've attached a copy of the Lunchtime Club roster for you to pin up at home and encourage. These clubs provide an alternative to the playground, which can be a daunting place for some students. Lots of our students attend clubs to make new friends, but some just attend because they are lots of fun.

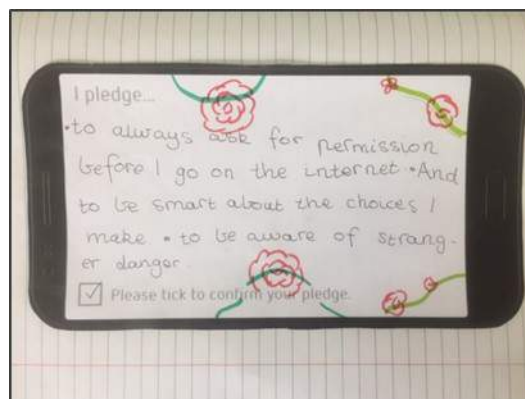
If you're struggling to get your little ones to bed earlier on school nights after such a long break, I'd encourage you to trial the **Smiling Minds** App. This app is full of some great mindful meditations, including an entire section on getting to sleep. Teachers at Red Hill Consolidated School regularly use mindfulness in their classrooms as a way of refocusing and training our kids to catch their wandering thoughts and improve concentration, and then hopefully learning. But regular **mindfulness practices** have many other benefits, and can really help children calm down after a busy day and get settled for bed.....sometimes.



Tuesday this week was Safer Internet Day and the theme this year was **"Together For A Better Internet."** Most classes discussed and took part in activities to develop an understanding of how to be a safe and responsible digital citizen. I spent some time with one of our Grade 2 classes on Tuesday and heard all about their online habits. They could also tell me all about the sort of rules they have at home when using technology. It was so pleasing to hear that in most cases, Internet enabled devices were not allowed in bedrooms and screen time is restricted and monitored. Cybersafety experts stress the importance of keeping technology (including internet capable game consoles) out of bedrooms from an early age. If devices are used in a shared space at home, not only can parents better monitor content and usage, but children are at a decreased risk of online bullying and grooming. I would strongly urge all families to take this opportunity to develop an agreed upon set of rules around using technology at home. Rules should cover when children can use technology, how long they can use it for, where they can use devices and of course what they are allowed to do online.

For more information and guidance on anything to do with cybersafety, please visit the Office of the eSafety Commissioner at www.esafet.gov.au.

Our Grade 5 students will be investigating responsible digital citizenship all term long as part of their Learning Exploration's Big Idea **"Responsible digital citizens understand that actions have consequences."** They kicked things off on Tuesday, developing pledges to be safe, respectful and responsible when online. I'll be sure to share some of their findings in upcoming newsletters.



I am still awaiting a number of families to return their **2019 Bus Applications**. It is a legal requirement to complete these forms annually, and failure to do so may result in your child losing his/her seat. These were distributed last year to all bus travellers, but new forms can be picked up from the office. Can all families please ensure that we have your correct permanent schedule, and any alterations are reported to the office before 2:30pm on the day of the change. Older children can do this by filling out a bus note, or parents can call the office and leave a message on our bus hotline. This process is instrumental in getting our buses off on time in the afternoon.

Finally this week, a big thankyou to Red Hill CFA members Darrell and Sam, who briefed and trained our staff on how best to protect our school if threatened by a fire. We also conducted our very first emergency evacuation drill with the children last Friday.

As we are a **Code Red school**, we conduct these drills regularly to ensure everyone know what to do in the case of an emergency and we can review and improve our procedures. You'll be pleased to know that the students responded perfectly and our evacuation was calm, orderly and efficient.



The next big day on the well-being calendar is **The National Day Of Action Against Bullying and Violence**, which we celebrate on Friday the 15th of March. Watch this space for more details.

Looking forward to a brilliant year. Have a wonderful week.

Be kind, be grateful and be mindful!

Gus Wettenhall

Wettenhall.angus.g@edumail.vic.gov.au

Contemporary Learning Experience Update- 7th February 2019.

Summer holidays are over and here we are again at the beginning of another school year. We would like to start this year by welcoming all of the new families who have joined the Red Hill Consolidated School community. This is a wonderful school community to be a part of and we are certain you will all enjoy your time here.

The school year has started with fantastic energy and outstanding focus in our classrooms. The students have settled quickly into their new classes and we would like to congratulate our entire staff team on the work they put into ensuring this happens. Over the holiday period our teachers were in preparing their classrooms, organising displays and book labels, reading student files and preparing thoroughly for the start of the school year. Their efforts are above those expected in schools and truly contribute to making Red Hill a great learning community.

We have begun the year with some very exciting Learning Explorations; students are looking carefully at their Big Idea's and expanding their understanding of themselves and the world around them through these.

Prep – “People make choices that affect themselves and others.”

Grade 1 – “People’s lifestyles and the places we live have changed over time.”

Grade 2 – “We make decisions each day that affect ourselves and others.”

Grade 3 – “Industries produce needs and wants for consumers.”

Grade 4 – “Effective learners identify personal strengths, collaborate and reflect.”

Grade 5 – “Responsible digital citizens understand that their actions have consequences.”

Grade 6 – “Throughout history the decisions of Australian governments have had consequences for indigenous people.”

If any parents in our community have knowledge or expertise that would enhance our Learning Explorations we encourage you to contact us. We love to get parents involved in the fantastic learning that is happening at Red Hill Consolidated.

At present, teachers are working to develop relationships with their new classes and set their expectations for the year. Classes are developing their classroom agreements and identifying the behaviours that will be displayed by both the learners and teachers. For the first few weeks, as staff get to know their new students, there will be minimal homework, consisting mainly of regular home reading.

Finally we want to encourage all parents to take advantage of our Building Learning Partnerships meetings. You will receive information about how to book these and if you are having any difficulties registering please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Jo Barnes & Nicky Heffernan



An enormous thank you to the following families who assisted with watering the garden and looking after our birds in the aviary over the summer holidays.

Aylward Family

Cooper Family

Del Ben Family

Redward Family

Speas Family

CANTEEN DUTY

Term 1

Friday, February 8	1HE
Monday, February 11 & Friday, February 15	1L
Monday, February 18 & Friday, February 22	1M
Monday, February 25 & Friday, March 1	1R
Monday, March 4	2B
Friday, March 8 (Closed Pupil Free Day)	
Monday, March 11 & Friday, March 15	2D
Monday, March 18 & Friday, March 22	2ES
Monday, March 25 & Friday, March 29	3D
Monday, April 1, Last day Canteen Term 1	3G
Friday, April 5, Closed	



Please contact Tamara on 0416 171 854 or tcleine@gmail.com

MUSIC NEWS...

We have some wonderful instrumental music teachers here at the school to help develop your child's interest in a particular instrument. If your child would like to learn to play one of the instruments on offer, please contact the instrumental teacher directly and they will be able to provide you with more information. As the term progresses, I am hoping to provide more information for drumming lessons!

- * Chris Commerford- Guitar 0432 649 359
- * Christine Neaves - Flute and Singing Tuition 0407 524 123
- * Berni B - Piano 0415 963 509
- * Natalie - Piano 0419 110 371
- * Sebastian - Saxophone 0468 518 437

Kindest regards,
Louise Kusel, Performing Arts Teacher.



THE ROLE OF THE CLASS PARENT REPRESENTATIVE

At Red Hill Consolidated School, we are very fortunate to have an amazing community of students, parents and teachers coupled with a local community that consistently supports us.

One of the important roles we invite parents to undertake each year is the Class Parent Representative. The role of Class Parent Representative is important and acts as a line of communication between the teachers and the parents. It is not meant to be a big job, however it is an important part of our overall school communication strategy and integral to the development of a strong school community. At Red Hill Consolidated School, it is particularly important to have effective communication, given we have such a large percentage of children coming to and from school each day via buses. We want our parents to be regularly in touch with school life and to be engaged members of the school community. Please see below a detailed overview of the Class Parent Representative's role within the school.

THE ROLE OF THE CLASS PARENT REPRESENTATIVE

The role of the Class Parent Rep is to liaise between parents and the class teacher and to strongly encourage parent participation by regularly communicating school events and highlighting the benefits of being involved for both parents and students.

EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- At the start of the year, Class Parent Reps attend an initial information meeting and catch up. (date to be confirmed)
- Class Contact Lists - The teacher will send out a notice to parents requesting their approval to have their name, email address and phone number on the class contact list. The school will then collate a master list for the parent rep to send out to all class parents.
- Rosters - Check to see if your class teacher would like any assistance with filling helper roles.
- Canteen - If needed, rallying the class parents to ensure your class has enough parents for the canteen to run effectively - Each class is responsible for 2 canteen days a year
- Special Events - Assist in communicating special events during the course of the year and encouraging everyone to take part in these community building opportunities (e.g. Art Red Hill, Cross Country , Working Bees, Disco etc)
- Liaison Role - Make contact and welcome any new families transferring in during the course of the year to your class.
- Social Role - This is not an expectation but again, further strengthening the school community and spirit it would be fabulous if reps were able to arrange a morning or afternoon tea for class parents to meet. This includes Prep up to Grade 6. Often reps have also organised a park play during the holidays for the children to stay in touch. These events are especially important in the younger grades as children are still finding their confidence at school and this can help build friendships groups.

This is a fun role and ensures you really feel part of the school community. Your children will love your involvement and the knowledge you have about 'their' school.

