



WHAT'S ON Dates to Note

Friday, 11th March
Curriculum Day (student free)

Wednesday, 17th March
Divisional Swimming

Wednesday, 23rd March
Year 3 excursion – Mock Orchards

27th-29th April
Grade 6 Camp

School Council Dates

Tuesday, 22nd March
AGM

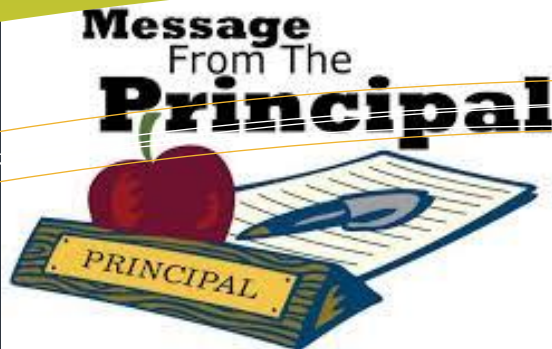
Term Dates

Term 1
1st February – 8th April

Term 2
26th April – 24th June

Term 3
11th July – 16th September

Term 4
3rd October – 20th December



From the Principal

Dear families and friends,

This week marks the half way point of Term 1, and I'm hoping that the second half runs just as smoothly as the first. I hope you are all well and were not impacted by the weekend's severe weather. We experienced some minor flooding up here at school, and unfortunately our swimming pool was affected, meaning this program was cancelled on Monday. The good news for us all is that our rain water tanks are full to the brim.

The highlight last week had to be the District Swimming Trials held at YAWA on Wednesday. I was fortunate enough to attend and I couldn't have been prouder of our students. Not only did they perform brilliantly in the pool, but our students showed beautiful manners, support for their friends and amazing sportsmanship all day long.

A big well done to all swimmers and of course Mr Milenkovic and Billee for organising and training our swimming team. Many of our swimmers qualified for the Regional event later this term. Congratulations and good luck to the students taking part in the next level of competition. Thank you also to all parents and carers who transported their children, especially to those who stayed to cheer on our team.

this issue

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CLE update **P.4**

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With restrictions slowly easing in most community settings, I did want to remind all families that many of the COVIDSafe measures remain in place in all Victorian schools. The rationale for these restrictions remaining is that school populations are predominately unvaccinated. I know that this can be frustrating and confusing, given that many of our remaining measures are no longer required outside of school.

The Department of Education's Operations Guide provides schools with the measures that we must follow to create a safe environment for students, staff and visitors. Face masks still remain compulsorily for all adults and students from Grade 3 to 6 unless an exemption applies when in a school building. The advice is for students to stay home if they are unwell and carry out twice weekly Rapid Antigen Tests, even if your child is not displaying any symptoms. We are also doing our best to avoid children from different year levels mixing, which means allocating play spaces. This measure is in place to limit transmissions across the school. Cases at Red Hill Consolidated School are very low and we are hopeful that many of these restrictions will ease in the very near future.

Like all industries, one of the most pressing challenges schools face this year is staffing. As you may know, we have had a number of staff required to isolate due to being a household contact. Finding replacement teachers is also a challenge at this time. We will always do our best with the available staff and replacement teachers, but there may be times where grades are split across their particular year level. With class sizes this year being very low, this approach should not impact your child's learning. We recognise that this is less than ideal, but a necessary strategy for us as a last resort.

A big thankyou to all families who attended our Building Learning Partnerships information sessions last week. I was fortunate enough to attend most year level presentations and the Specialist session. I hope those of you who attended found these sessions valuable. The aim of these sessions was for parents and carers to develop a clear picture of what is happening in our classrooms, best methods of communication, how to help your child/ren at home and the highlight events for the year, as well as a chance to meet all members of the year level team. Please understand that this is not intended to replace our parent teacher interviews. These will be scheduled for early Term 2, when we will be better placed to share your child's learning, next steps and set academic and social/emotional goals. Thank you also to the parents who took the time to complete the online survey telling us all about your child.

Our Traffic and Parking Sub Committee continues to meet regularly, with a recent meeting taking place with Councillor Gill and the Mornington Peninsula Shire. In collaboration with the Shire, we have developed a high-level plan that we believe will address some of the issues we face in terms of traffic flow, safety and available parking. We are now in the process of securing funds for these works. To assist us with our proposal, we need your help. We are after short and impactful testimonials that highlight the need for improved conditions around our school. If you have a "near miss" story or comment to support our proposal, please email it through to the school account: red.hill.cs@education.vic.gov.au Thanks in advance.

Speaking of traffic, please make sure you accompany young children when walking through our Lower Sandy Carpark. This is a busy and dangerous car park and many of our students are difficult to spot, especially if you are driving a larger vehicle. We ask parents and carers to take children to the gate in the morning and collect in the afternoon.

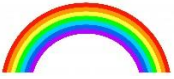
And finally, this week, I would like to congratulate two of our wonderful teachers who both tied the knot this weekend gone. Both Pru Freeth and Jacob Mehrtens were married on the weekend after a number of cancellations due to COVID19. I know that both ceremonies were perfect and the weekend's rain held off just long enough. Congratulations!

Please remember that this Friday is a student free day. I know Joanne Barnes will be sharing our learning in future newsletters. Please have a wonderful and safe long weekend.

Warm regards,

Gus Wettenhall

Principal



18th March is National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence



What is Bullying?

It's more than just a fight or disliking someone it's being mean to someone over and over again. Bullying is an ongoing or repeated misuse of power in relationships with the intention to cause deliberate psychological harm.

There are many different types of bullying.

Verbal: name calling, teasing, putting someone down, threatening to cause someone harm

Physical: Pushing, punching, kicking, spitting, tripping or pushing someone, breaking someone's things, pulling faces or making rude hand signals

Social: lying, spreading rumours, playing horrible jokes, leaving someone out on purpose, embarrassing someone in public

Cyberbullying: using technology to hurt someone else by sending hurtful messages pictures or comments

Why do people bully others?

There are lots of reasons why someone might bully, whatever the reason, bullying is never ok. Someone who bullies another person might feel jealous, want others to like them, want to feel better about themselves, or fit in with their friends, they may feel angry, like to be in control or have power over others. They may have also been bullied themselves or not know what they're doing is wrong.

What to do if your child feels they are being bullied?

Please remind your child, if they do experience bullying they are not alone, and there are people you can talk to and things you can do to stop the bullying. Over the next few weeks and on the 18th March, we will be doing whole school responses to what to do if you are bullied and making sure the children know if they are behaving in this way it is hurtful, cruel and unacceptable at our school.



Our focus at school will concentrate on what bullying is, how it can make you feel, how to seek help and respond if you are being bullied and finally how as a school community we will manage the bullying behaviour with the goal of ensuring the school environment is positive and safe for all of our students. Using and applying restorative practices and conversation to assist this is a powerful and positive tool.

We will also continue to grow our kindness culture and social-emotional learning. Our learning and growing children can sometimes be very hurtful with their comments and actions and understanding this impact on others, together with having consequences as a school is a way of educating and ensuring the message is clear that bullying behaviours will not be tolerated. *“Approaches which focus on social-emotional learning and equipping students with skills to deal with problems, conflict and other adversity show considerable promise in terms of countering bullying.”* As a lead school with the Rights, Resilience and Respectful Relationship program and our other social emotional learning platforms we have the capacity to ensure positive change in this area.

Should you wish to further investigate this area, www.bullyingnoway.gov.au has an incredible amount of information and resources for use at school and at home.



March 21st - 27th, Australia celebrates Harmony Week, Everyone Belongs.

Classes will be investigating cultures and experiences from around the world during this week and sharing their own culture. There will also be a whole school approach to our social and emotional learning and understanding what it means for everyone to belong.

Student Voice Team

Congratulations to our current Student Voice Team representatives. At our next whole school assembly on the 18th March, we will be presenting students in Grades 3 - 6 with their badges, please feel free to tune in and watch. A link will be sent out prior through Class Dojo.

Playleaders

Our amazing playleaders in Grade 5 and 6 have skilled up and are ready to go and will begin by working with teachers at lunchtimes to help run group games and activities. At our next whole school assembly on the 18th March, it will be a privilege to present all our Play Leaders with their certificates of achievement. A link will be sent out prior through Class Dojo.

Lunchtime Clubs

Our Lunchtime Clubs are already up and running! Please encourage your child to seek out the lunchtime activities should they be needing a quieter space to play or need some support with friendship issues or just want to try something new! The lunchtime clubs are now running in year levels and include board games and cards, art hubs and garden and as mentioned games with our Playleaders.

If you or your family are experiencing difficult circumstances or hardship and you would like to discuss how the school can help to support your children, please do not hesitate your classroom teacher or myself at louise.kusel@education.vic.gov.au

Take great care of yourself and your loved ones and in a world where you can anything, be kind!

Louise Kusel – Wellbeing Coordinator.

