ISSUE

8th February

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Red Hill C.S.



WHAT'S ON Dates to Note

Friday 17th February
Badges presented to School
Captains – 2.40pm

Wednesday 22nd Feb
Building Learning Partnerships
Afternoon & picnic

Tuesday 7th March School Photos

Friday 10th March
Curriculum Day

Monday 13th March Labour Day

<u>Friday 24th March</u> Harmony Day – Wear it Orange

Tuesday 4th April
Courage to Care Incursion
Years 5 & 6

Thursday 6th April Last Day Term 1

School Council Dates

Tuesday 21st February

Tuesday 21st March - AGM

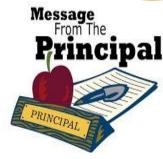
Term Dates

<u>Term 1, 2023</u> 30th January – 6th April

Term 2, 2023 24th April – 23rd June

Term 3, 2023 10th July – 15th Sept

Term 4, 2023 2nd October – 20th December



From the Principal

Dear families and friends,

Welcome to the very first edition of the Red Hill Consolidated School newsletter for 2023. I encourage all families to read the newsletter together each fortnight to keep up to date with all of the exciting things happening at school.

I trust that you all enjoyed the summer holidays with your little ones at home. From all reports, our students had a great time over the break, with many taking the opportunity to get away. Like many of you, my family stayed local over summer and enjoyed the beautiful Mornington Peninsula.

I would to start this fortnight's newsletter by welcoming everyone back and welcoming our new families to Red Hill. The year has started off incredibly smoothly and our students have already settled back in to the school routine. I am so impressed by our Prep students, who are nearing the end of their second week of primary school. Parents of these children can be very proud of how well they have transitioned to "big school". If your children are anything like mine, the start of the year is always more tiring and they require lots of additional rest while they get back in to the swing of things.

this issue

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I know it's often hard to avoid filling up the afternoons and weekends with extracurricular activities and catch ups with friends and family, but please do your best to schedule in down time and establish early bed times. Our students really need this time to recharge, especially at the beginning (and end) of terms.

I would like to officially introduce and welcome our new staff members for 2023, although most students would know both Ms. Lily Nelson and Mr Matthew Mitchell from working in our school last year. Ms. Nelson will be teaching Grade 4 this year, while Mr Mitchell is teaching Grade 3. I am certain that both of these teachers will do an amazing job building relationships and teaching their students in 2023.



We also warmly welcome back Mrs Alissa Morrison (formerly Ms Worboys) and Mrs Lauren Smart, who both return this year from family leave. Mrs Morrison will be teaching all students throughout the year in a new specialist subject looking at how we can better care for our planet and develop more sustainable practices at home and school. And Mrs Smart is returning to Grade 2 on Fridays.

The next important people I'd like to introduce is our 2023 school captains, who have already been put to work running tours and hosting our first school assembly last week. This year our school captains are Charlotte, Cleo, Nayte and Tully. These students have developed and demonstrated exceptional leadership skills throughout their years at Red Hill and will be amazing role models and leaders this year. All Grade 6 leaders will be introduced and badges presented by our local member, Sam Groth at our assembly on Friday the



17th of February. All parents are very welcome to attend this special assembly and all other fortnightly assemblies. Our assemblies begin promptly at 2:40pm every second Friday.



A big congratulations to Milla and Jaxon, who were awarded the Ewan McDonald scholarship at our final assembly last year. This very special award goes to two Grade 4 students who display exceptional citizenship, leadership and empathy. A big thankyou to the McDonald family for providing this recognition and scholarship each year.

After visiting all classrooms last week, it was clear that most children are looking forward to two things this year; the new playground opening and our older students are looking

forward to camps. Although the playground itself is complete, drainage, soft-fall matting and landscaping will all take place over the next few weeks. Our new playground is scheduled to be completed and open for use on the 28th of February. I'm sure this will be a very exciting day! Our school camps are all locked in for 2023, with our Grade 3 students trialling a brand new camp this year. If you have a child or children in Grades 3 to 6, please pop the following dates in your diaries and calendars:

Year Level	Camp	Dates
3	Golden Valley – Flinders	11 th -12 th September
4	Camp Manyung – Mt Eliza	29 th -31 st May
5	Sovereign Hill – Ballarat	18 th -20 th October
6	Surf Camp – Waratah Beach Camp	2 nd -4 th October

As always, please keep an eye on the Important Dates tab in our newsletters and the Events page on our ClassDojo School Story.

In other facilities news, a big thank you to the team from Bunnings who installed a brand new sandpit under our Grade 2 buildings. This is already a very popular space during recess and lunch times. Well done Mr Merhtens for arranging this new addition to our playground.



You may be scratching your head at home if your child/ren have started saying "dis" and pointing to seemingly random things. If this is taking place and you are confused I can explain. This is all part of The Resilience Project, and in particular a way we are encouraging our students to practice gratitude. "Dis" is actually this, and we are asking our students to simply point to things that they are grateful for and say "Dis". Gratitude, along with Empathy and Mindfulness are the key pillars to The Resilience Project as well as habits of happy people. Please talk to your children about their weekly Resilience Project lessons and we would love it if parents and siblings could get involved as well. We will send home more information in our Newsletters and on ClassDojo, but for now please visit https://theresilienceproject.com.au/

And finally this week, thank you to all parents who nominated for the parent membership of the Red Hill Consolidated School Council. I will be in touch with all families in the very near future with the next step in the school council election process.

Stay well and kind regards,

Gus Wettenhall

Principal

Red Hill Consolidated School



Contemporary Learning Experience Update

At the start of the school year classroom teachers are re-establishing reading routines with their students and rely on the help of parents to develop strong home reading routines. Reading has always been an important skill but in our modern world it is more important than ever. Parents and carers play a very important role as children learn about the importance of reading as they watch family members use reading and writing for everyday purposes. Your children see you reading

and writing in everyday life – reading for pleasure, sharing a story with your child, using a recipe, making a shopping list, writing a birthday card or reading street signs. This teaches them that reading and writing are useful skills in today's world.

What you can do at home to help

- Be yourself. Involve children in everyday conversations.
- Read aloud to children. It helps them to learn the language of books and will encourage them to enjoy books and reading.
- Talk about books, read together and make reading an enjoyable, shared activity.
- Make sure there is a wide range of reading material for your child at home, both fiction and non-fiction.
- Try not to let television intrude on reading time. Make a special time for reading with your child, away from interruption.
- Listen to your child read every day, even for a short time and no matter what age they are. Learners of all ages benefit from reading aloud.
- Give books as treats and presents.

Hints for listening to your child read

- Before reading, talk about the cover, the title, the pictures, and discuss what the book may be about.
- During reading, discuss what has been read up to that point, and imagine what will happen next time.
- After reading is finished, talk and ask questions about the story and the pictures.
- When reading a harder book together, take turns. Beginning readers can read the repetitive parts and more experienced readers can read a paragraph or a page.
- On finding an unknown word: Pause to give your child time to work out the word



Prompt – go back to the beginning of the sentence or read past the difficult word to the end of the sentence. – look for a clue in the picture or the words – look at the first letter and think about what the words could be – ask "Does this make sense?" – try to sound out the word – if necessary, tell your child the word. Praise your child for trying even if mistakes are made.

What to read and do

- Tell and re-tell stories of all kinds including favourite stories, fairy tales, movie plots, local news items and family history. •
- Play games such as "I spy... something beginning with d".
- Ask your child to read out simple recipes while you cook together.
- Read comics, magazines, short stories, poems and rhymes, including nursery rhymes.
- Do crosswords & other word puzzles together.
- Read the description of a show before watching a program.
- Look at letterbox leaflets together.
- Read directions and signs when driving and shopping.
- Read and write notes and letters to family members.
- Play board games together and read the rules.
- Provide plastic letters, crayons, pencils, pens and writing paper.

And do remember...

- Discuss the meaning of stories and words.
- Encourage your child to read anywhere and at any time.
- Let your child see you enjoy reading.
- Visit and use a library near you. Borrow books for yourself as well as your child.
- Talk to your child's classroom teacher for further help and advice.
- Enjoy reading it should be fun.

RHCS is participating in Scholastic Book Club again this year and this is a great way to get children excited about reading. Twice a term your child will bring home a Club catalogue with a different selection of books offered for all ages. The first catalogue was sent home last week, and I know that many students have enjoyed looking through them already! You'll find award-winning books and bestsellers, as well as old and new favourites. I recommend them because the books span a wide range of children's reading levels and interests and because they are inexpensive (some books cost as little as \$2).



It is easy to order. The Book Club LOOP platform for parents allows you to pay by credit card. Your child's order is submitted and the books will be delivered to class. You can place your child's order at scholastic.com.au/LOOP or using the LOOP app, which can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play.



Home readers have already started to come home. We are missing a large number of our home reading books and would love if families could look through their bookshelves and toy boxes and send back any home readers you find.

Happy reading!

Jo Barnes



Wellbeing Newsletter February 2023



Welcome back to school for 2023! What a fantastic year we are going to have.



We are so pleased to be working with The Resilience Project- the response from the children and teachers has been incredibly positive, hearing "DIS" being shared in our playground is bringing a a big smile to many faces!

Our Wellbeing Captains, Zoe and Aisha, have written our very first update- stay tuned for more information and news in each newsletter.

We are lucky enough to be the wellbeing leaders this year! What a year to be leaders with the Resilience Project being a huge focus in our school. This year we will be encouraging all students to be grateful, mindful and empathetic.

We look forward to sharing more in the coming weeks, but for now we encourage students to bring in images, photos or drawings of things they are grateful for to share with their class.

Thanks!

Asha and Zoe

Mission Respect

Mission Respect is an educational program for parents/guardians of primary school children which aims to promote respectful relationships and reduce violence. The Mission Respect program has been designed to supplement the Respectful Relationships curriculum taught to children at Primary School, by educating and supporting parents within the home environment. Our Mission Respect workshops are non-for-profit and run by trained facilitators who guide participants through interactive learning scenarios, encouraging discussion around gender equality in an open and welcoming environment. We hope to see you in our upcoming zoom session for the Red Hill Consolidated School on 16th February at 7pm. Free registration is required at: shorturl.at/cIOU7



Our Student Voice Team Our Student Voice Team will begin very soon, with student representatives nominations open from Grade 3 – 6. Students involved with the SVT meet to discuss how we can work together to make the school a better place for all and I always look forward to their suggestions and ideas!

Starting the school day with a GREAT START

With the start of school year there is a great amount of excitement about the new class, the new teacher and the friends they will make. Mixed in with this, there can also be some anxiety or worry about their new schooling year. Following are a few suggestions that may help settle and reassure your child as they take this next brave step:

- Make sure your child knows the school drop-off arrangement and pick up/bus arrangements. This is also really important at our school to avoid bus issues at the end of the day. If your child needs to complete a bus note, they must do this during recess or lunch.
- Help/Ask you child to organise their clothes, hat, shoes and socks the night before- this may also include their lunch for the next day.
- During Terms 1 and 4, please ensure your child is wearing sunscreen and has their hat for school.
- Have a copy of their timetabled activities handy for swimming days and library borrowing times.
- Talk to your child's classroom teacher should you have any concerns.

There is a more detailed sheet regarding separation anxiety and other ideas that might help with morning transition, please contact your classroom teacher if your child needs a little extra support with beginning the school day.

Kindest regards,

Louise Kusel - Wellbeing Coordinator.







TRANSITION TO THE SCHOOL DAY - Separation Anxiety

Beginning the school day is a big transition and there is a different level of adjustment for our students. Some students (and parents) feel a sense of **separation anxiety**. Separation anxiety is often caused by fear of the unknown when it comes to a new situation or it can relate to something that is happening at home or to something that the child has just experienced before arriving at school. No matter what the cause, it is heart-wrenching to everyone involved, and as teachers, we need to be able to nurture the child who is upset, provide support to the parents who feel like they are abandoning their child and also, help the other children feel at ease as they may start feeling anxious with seeing one of their classmates so distressed.

Remember, separation anxiety can be supported and in most cases we can work together to help it pass. Here are some strategies to help, and they outline the importance of a quick drop-off and early arrival:

- Make the goodbye prompt and positive. This sounds easy, but can often be one of the most difficult things to do. Giving your child "one more minute" or staying to work on a puzzle together simply prolongs the inevitable. As a parent, the best thing you can do is give your child a hug and kiss, say, "I love you" and reassure him/her that you will be back at the end of the school day.
- Establish a goodbye routine. Children crave routine and parents who establish a consistent goodbye routine usually have better luck with successful goodbyes. Some parents use a secret handshake with their child or a secret hand gesture. Other parents kiss their child on the forehead or offer a reassuring thumbs-up or rub noses with their child. And other parents and their children have a friendship bracelet that matches. By giving your child something they can count on, they are likely to go to school much more willingly and that special moment between the two of you is a great way to start the day and provide that sense of reassurance. There are some lovely picture story books that can help, such as *The Invisible String* by Patrice Karst. Practising and rehearsing this at home or in an empty school ground can also be incredibly beneficial and allowing your child to have a say in how this looks (within reason) can also help them feel they have some control over their transition.
- Trust your child's teacher. This may be difficult to do when you do not yet know your child's teacher that well, but keep in mind that teachers have chosen this profession because they love children and they have a wealth of ideas and strategies to help settle a child who is feeling upset. The strategies might involve anything from a warm welcome, redirection, pairing them up with another student, or simply keeping the child close until they are ready to engage with an activity. Ask your child's teacher to step in to help with goodbyes when you give the sign that you are ready to go- but as stated in point one, this should be kept as brief as possible.
- Acknowledge how your child is feeling. It is important to accept and respect your child's temporary unhappiness as it is very real and very normal. Say things like "I know you feel sad when I/we leave, but you will have a good time, and you will be met or picked up at the end of the day (designated place)." Avoid the temptation to pressure your child not to cry or to offer bribes- but please let them know you understand how brave they are being. Star or Reward charts can be a wonderful thing for some children to help reinforce this idea. Learning to cope with the challenge of saying goodbye and transitioning is an important learning process for your child and as they develop these skills, it is great when the rewards relate to something positive at school, so the child can make those great connections that school is a happy and safe place. It might be a special job, a choice of music in the class or something else that interests your individual child. We can work together to

- make this as supported as we can, with the final goal of a positive transition to the school day that requires no external reward.
- Never sneak out on your child. As tempting as it is, sneaking out the door can make matters worse. Although you do not have to stay to witness a meltdown, it may be very upsetting for the child when they realise that you has disappeared without saying goodbye and it can make the next day even more difficult. The best thing a parent can do is deal directly with the situation and before you know it, the tearful goodbyes will be no more. Besides, you want your child to know unequivocally that he/she can trust you.
- Ask for help. Sometimes stepping back from the drop-off routine can make a huge difference in how your child reacts. Often, a child who experiences separation anxiety with one parent is absolutely fine if the other parent does the drop-off. You could also try having another relative, close friend or grandparent give it a try for a few days. The bus service can also be incredibly helpful.
- Do not linger. We know how reassuring it can be to stay to peek at your child through the window. However, for the child, it can be pure torture. As a child, seeing your parent when you are upset, but not being able to be with your parent is not a good feeling. My suggestion to parents is to leave quickly and if you are feeling uneasy, call the school in 15-20 minutes to ask how your child is doing. Chances are, they have settled within a few minutes.
- Stay calm and be enthusiastic. Modelling the appropriate behaviour is key to a smooth transition from home to the classroom, so try very hard to ensure your child does not sense your anxiety. Talk about how much fun school will be, talk about her friends and classmates. Discuss the different works they might want to choose and reinforce how lucky they are to have such a special school and that you cannot wait to hear about her day when you pick them up. We encourage all the students and parents to focus on WHAT WENT WELL- a great dinner table discussion!
- Always be on time. Arriving late can often spark separation anxiety. Arriving late can be upsetting to some children as the class has already started. Give yourselves plenty of time in the morning. Children often get anxious when rushed, so do your best to give your child extra time in the morning to get ready and to arrive at school on time with the group. Additionally, it is important to be punctual when picking up your child. We know how easy it is to lose track of time, but no matter who is picking your child up, whether it is you or someone else, make sure you are there on time. If you are late, it can cause your child even more anxiety and make dropping off the next time that much harder.
- Encourage friendships. Make a point to set up 'playdates' for your child. Invite children from the class over, so your child can make friendships that will in turn make the transition to the school environment easier. Sometimes, meeting them before school can be a huge help.

Be prepared for challenging times....just when you think your child has conquered his/her feelings of separation anxiety, along comes a weekend or an illness that keeps your child home for a few days and you are right back to square one. As frustrating and upsetting as this can be, it is perfectly normal. Stick to the above strategies and you should notice a significant difference in a couple of days.

Welcome to The Resilience Project

PARENTS & CARERS

This year, we are excited to bring The Resilience Project (TRP) into our school community!

WHY?

Current research tells us...



Source: National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare,

Australia's Youth: Mental Illness

EVIDENCE-BASED

The Resilience Project's School Partnership Program has been independently evaluated by both The <u>University of Adelaide</u> and <u>The University of Melbourne</u>. Click the links or

scan the QR code to find out more about the impact the program has on emotional wellbeing and behavioral changes.



The Resilience Project is committed to teaching positive mental health strategies to prevent mental ill-health and build young people's capacity to deal with adversity.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

We will be implementing their evidence-based **Teaching and Learning Program** throughout our classrooms, staffroom and school community.

Teachers and students will engage in weekly lessons and activities around the key principles of **Gratitude**, **Empathy**, **Mindfulness** (**GEM**) and **Emotional Literacy** to build resilience.

WHAT CAN BE DONE AT HOME?



To learn more about The Resilience Project and get involved from home, you can start exploring the ideas, activities and resources which bring Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness (GEM) to life on TRP@HOME.

The Imperfects podcast, led by Hugh van Cuylenburg, Ryan Shelton and Josh van Cuylenburg, is all about how perfectly imperfect we all are. Hugh, Josh and Ryan chat to a variety of interesting people who



bravely share their struggles and imperfections, and we all learn some valuable take-aways we can apply to our own imperfect lives.





INVITING ALL RED HILL CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL PARENTS

Mission Respect - A free education program for parents

Informing parents on promoting respectful relationships and preventing violence

Designed to supplement the Respectful Relationships
Program taught to your children

THURSDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2023 7PM-8:30PM

LOCATION: ONLINE EVENT ON ZOOM

Free registration is required. Register at: shorturl.at/cIOU7













2023 CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND

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. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist 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. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. 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
- \$225 for secondary school students

CSEF ELIGIBILITY

Below is the criteria used to determine a student's eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 - Eligibility

To be eligible* for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one, or;
- on the first day of Term two.
- a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
- b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
- c) Submit an application to the school by Friday 24th February.

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and 17 years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and 18 years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

Eligibility Date

For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (27 January 2023) or term two (24 April 2023).

HOW TO APPLY

Today your youngest child will receive an application form. If you applied for the CSEF at Red Hill Consolidated School in 2022, you do not need to complete an application form in 2023 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments**; your child has started or changed schools in 2023 or you did not apply in 2022.
- **changed family circumstances**; such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2023.

Check with the school office if you are unsure 5989 2321.

BYOD Program and World Safer Internet Day

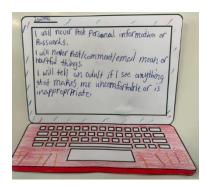
The Grade 4 voluntary BYOD program has kicked into action this term. It is an exciting initiative that will greatly assist students and teachers with their teaching and learning. A big thank you to our technician Grant who has helped connect all our devices and upskill the teachers involved. Combined with our school devices the program allows us to have a one-to-one ratio of devices across the year level. This enables teachers and students to utilise our learning tools much more efficiently during Mathematics and Literacy lessons, student-led inquiry, assessment and student reflections. An important part of the program has involved establishing clear expectations with students regarding the usage of personal devices at school. Please have a chat with your child about responsible ICT use at home and their device.

On Tuesday 7th February, Grade 4 students celebrated **World Safer Internet Day** for 2023. This involved unpacking the theme of Connect, Reflect, Protect and the importance of being safe online. Students brainstormed their favourite moments online and discussed how to appropriately respond to incidents. Each student created a pledge to internet safety, showing their strong understanding of the concept.

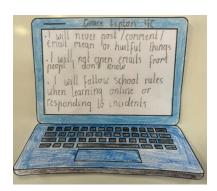












ATTENTION CLASS OF 1982!



A 40 year reunion is being held on Sunday 5th March at 10am.

If you were in Grade 6 at Red Hill Consolidated School in 1982, dust of the memory bank and come along.

For more information, contact Vanessa – 0425 823 529





HELP MAKE THIS A SUSTAINABLE EVENT AND BRING YOUR OWN WATER BOTTLE

HAVE FUN - COME ALONG DRESSED IN 1920'S STYLE!

Free children's art activities with Michael Leeworthy
 Live music with Soul Rangers and wildlife encounters



JOIN THE FUN!

Tuerong & Surrounds: All Girls Auskick Centre

RM Hopper Reserve 20th February - 20th March 4:30pm - 5:30pm



For more details, contact chloe.beck@afl.com.au



- ▶ Training: Tuesday & Wednesday Nights (Starts 7th March)
- ▶ Matches: U14 & U16 Friday Nights, U12 Saturday Mornings
- ► Season Starts Friday 5th May 2023



- visit mphc.org.au
- visit facebook.com/mphcofficial
- ► call (03) 8774 4784



GIRLS & BOYS WELCOME - ALL AGES & ABILITIES

5-8 year olds

NetSetGo Starts Thursday 16th February 8 - 17 year olds

Saturday morning MPNA competition

Register at redhilljuniornetball.org

new players welcome!

PLAYER REGISTRATION & INFORMATION DAY

Sunday 12th February @ 10.30am

Games, shooting competition & BBQ. Come & try netball! Bring a friend and have a go.

Red Hill Recreation Reserve Netball Courts



HOCKEY HOOKINZ

8 week hockey program

Starts with Free Come & Try Clinic Wednesday 22nd Feb 2023 Wed 1/3 | Wed 8/3 | Wed 15/3 | Wed 22/3 | Wed 29/3 | Wed 5/4 | Wed 19/4 | Wed 26/4

5:15PM - 6:15PM Peninsula Hockey Centre

Monash University Frankston (parking end of Bloom Street)

How to participate in this program:

Children must be registered with Hockey Victoria
 Visit http://www.hookin2hockey.com.au and select 'Find A Program'
 Enter postcode 3199 and select 'Mornington Peninsula Hockey Club'
 4. Register for the Term 2 clinic and pay \$65

COME AND HAVE FUN LEARNING HOCKEY

MAKE NEW FRIENDS LEARN NEW SKILS

SUITABLE AGES 5 - 13 YEARS

BEGINNERS WELCOME

BYO LONG SOCKS BYO MOUTHGUARD BYO DRINK

SHINGUARDS AND STICKS SUPPLIED

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Call Cheryle Bishop (03) 8774 4784

hookin2hockey@mphc.org.au

