



13th February, 2020
Issue 2

Newsletter

Echuca Specialist School acknowledges the history, culture, diversity, and value of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and pays respect to their elders past and present, as well as acknowledging future generations.



Our Vision:

To provide inclusive and engaging learning that empowers all students for life



Assist Principals message:

Positive Behaviour Support

This week has been the launch of “Positive Behaviour Support”, PBS is a framework for teaching and reinforcing expected behaviours. At Echuca Specialist School we have developed both staff and student matrix of expected behaviours. These behaviours are taught, modelled and observed during all aspects of the school day. We have been sharing some fantastic examples on the school Facebook page. During the school day the expected behaviours are taught during Circle time and structured lessons within each classroom. Thank you to those who came to the school during the open week and observed PBS in action.

Student Support Group Meetings

On Wednesday 26th of February we will be holding the Students Support Group Meetings. These meetings will be a 30 minute allocated time that members of the learning team including teachers, education support staff, parents, students and other support staff who will meet to discuss the learning of the students. During this meeting the team will set goals that the student will work on during Semester 1.

The goals that will be developed include

Communication
Social Skills
Independence

Classroom teachers will send home further information regarding the agenda and a timetable to make a booking for the day.

Dates to remember:

February

18th—Open Water Grade 3-6
20th—School Council
21st—Student Free Day
- All staff Professional Development
26th—SSG Meeting—Student Free Day

March

9th—Labor Day
- Public Holiday
11th—Year 7 Immunisation
27th—Term of Term 1

April

14th—Start of Term 2
16th—Year 10 Immunisation

CON'T ASSIST PRINCIPAL REPORT

Professional Learning Communities

At Echuca Specialist School we are implementing the Professional Learning Communities framework. The PLC provides a structured way to look at student achievement and implement changes within the classrooms. The aim of the PLC is to improve student outcomes. The teaching staff will be working in PLC teams to plan programs and look at evidence of learning.



Keep in Touch - KIT

Keep In Touch (KIT) Van is a youth mental health promotion and wellbeing initiative co-designed and co-led by young people alongside local government and state government which will travel across the state.

The Van will be at school on our SSG day. Parents and students are welcome to visit before or after their meeting. It will be parked in the bus shelter.



FUNDRAISING NEWS



Next week we will be sending home raffle tickets for our Easter Raffle.

1st prize—Signed 2019 team Geelong jumper

2nd prize—Signed 2019 Essendon team poster

3rd—Kids hamper

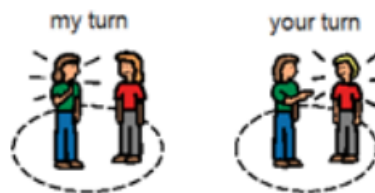


Inclusion in the Classroom

I give everyone the right to listen and learn



I take turns



Business Manager—Tracey Paine

Conveyance Allowance

Families in rural and regional Victoria can get help with the cost of transporting their children to their nearest school or campus. This is known as the conveyance allowance.

The conveyance allowance is available to students travelling by:

- public transport
- private car
- private bus

Who can apply

Students attending a specialist school or special setting must:

- attend their nearest specialist school
- **live 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from that school attended**
- be of school age (5 to 18 years old at time of application) and live in Victoria.

Please contact the office if you are eligible & require an application form.

Positive Behaviour Support



Anxiety in Children

Anxiety in children is normal. Childhood anxieties & worries include separation anxiety, fear of the dark, worries about school & friendship worries. There are different types of anxiety but the main ones we see in school-aged children are social anxiety, separation anxiety & generalised anxiety.

How can I help a child I'm caring for

There are lots of ways we can help children including:

Acknowledge your child's fear – don't dismiss or ignore it. You could try saying

- It sounds like that must be really hard for you;
 - I can see that it is really worrying you. Would you like to talk about it?
 - From what I'm hearing, you sound like this is making you feel pretty worried
- Gently encourage your child to do things they are anxious about, but don't push them too quickly.
- Wait until your child actually gets anxious before you step in to help. As caregivers we want to 'rescue' children from situations that may make them anxious.
- When they do something that they have been anxious about, praise them for their efforts with comments such as:
 - I know how hard that was for you - well done!
 - I'm really proud of you for trying that because I know how worried you were
- Avoid labelling your child as 'shy' or 'anxious' because they may worry more about what this means for them.

Separation anxiety is quite common in children but can be really difficult for you as caregivers. Some things you can do to help include:

- Giving them a small stone/gem or shell or something similar from home that they keep in their pocket throughout the day, & you explain that when they touch it they can feel close to you. This can also work with drawing a small image such as a heart on the palm of their hand
- Let the staff know that your child is having some difficulties separating from you (but try to make sure the child doesn't hear this discussion)
- Tell them when you are leaving & when you will be back. Try not to give too much detail about what your day will look like without them
- Keep your good-bye brief. When you leave try to maintain a happy, relaxed look on your face, because they will pick up on your distress (this can be really hard to do!)

COMMUNITY NEWS



The Echuca Moama Rockets Inc. Football Club is a Club that offers football participation for players of all abilities within the Echuca Moama Region.
We promote: INCLUSION / BELONGING / CHALLENGE / FRIENDSHIP / RESPECT / ENJOYMENT / OPPORTUNITY / GROWTH.
We strive to offer inclusion for players of all abilities to enjoy an environment that promotes fitness, fun and a sense of belonging. We offer participation to all aiming to enhance life skills, develop self-esteem and improve overall health and wellbeing for all.

The Rockets have been given an amazing opportunity through the receipt of a **VicHealth Active Club Grant** to run a **FREE** five week **Soccer Skills Program** in Term 1, 2020.

Week 1: Wednesday 12th February 5.00pm – 6.00pm Soccer Skills

Week 2: Wednesday 19th February 5.00pm – 6.00pm Soccer Skills

Week 3: Wednesday 26th February 5.00pm – 6.00pm Soccer Skills

Week 4: Wednesday 4th March 5.00pm – 6.00pm Soccer Skills

Week 5: Wednesday 11th March 4.30pm – 6.30pm Soccer Skills and Soccer Game

Echuca South Recreation Reserve (South Oval next to Basketball Stadium)

**SO COME AND TRY THE ROUND BALL
WITH THE ROCKETS.**

For more information please contact: Prue O'Dea (M):0421 060 440

Hi all,

I hope you've all had a smooth start to the 2020 school year!

Biomix, located near Stanhope, is the commercial composting facility in our shire that composts all the material from our kerbside Food and Garden Waste (green bins) to the Australian Standard to produce a high quality compost. Biomix would like to invite our local schools to access this compost at an upcoming open day.

Vanessa, the CEO of Biomix Compost has proposed the date of **Saturday 22 February from 10am to 12pm**

Teachers and parents from your school are invited to purchase compost direct from Biomix, which is located at 980 Two Tree Road, Carag Carag – near Stanhope - <https://www.biomix.com.au/>.

Trailer loads purchased on the day are \$40 (equal to 1m³ – trailer load, ute tray load). For each trailer load purchased (by teachers/parents from your school), **\$30 will be donated back to your school!**

If you have any questions on the above, please contact myself or Vanessa Lenihan – vanessa@biomix.com.au.

Sheri



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