

15th February 2024



Issue 2

Assistant Principals Report

Ben Ridge



I would like to congratulate all of the students for transitioning into 2024 in such a positive way. We are proud of the support that has been provided within each of the classrooms. Students are accessing their schedules, Zones and Regulation toolboxes and have been engaging actively in the yard.

Child Safety Training

Each year all school staff including teachers, education support staff and school council members completed a Child Safe training. This training covers all of the Child Safe standards.

Junior Park Rangers

Last Friday a group of students from the 7/9 pod travelled to Kyabram to attend the Junior Park Rangers Program. The students will complete a program that will run for ten weeks, the program will introduce the students to a range of animals, their habitats and the range of roles that are present at the Kyabram Fauna Park.

Student Support Group Meetings (pupil free)

Please remember that Friday the 23rd of February is the whole school Student Support Group meeting day. Please book an appointment through SENTRAL. If you need support please contact the classroom teacher regarding this.

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

At school we have implemented a new positive reward system. When a student exhibits an expected behaviour staff will present the student with a card. The card has the school value of Respect, Responsibility and Inclusion. Students take the card to their class and this is recorded.

Cohuna Swimming Carnival

We are holding a swimming carnival at the Cohuna Pool. The students will travel by bus to Cohuna and will participate in a range of activities, students will have an opportunity to go on the slide as well. The Grade 3/6 students will go on Monday 4th of March and the Year 7/12 students will go on Tuesday 5th of March.



FEBRUARY

- 22nd School Council
- 23rd SSG—Student Free

MARCH

- 4th & 5th Swimming Cohuna
- 21st Year 7 Immunisation
- 21st School Council
- 28th End of Term 1
- 29th Good Friday

APRIL

- 15th Term 2 starts
- 18th Yr10 Immunisations
- 19th School Photos



Echuca Twin Rivers
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.



****MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER****

Mental Health Practitioner Initiative in Secondary Schools

Since the beginning of the year, Shayna Davis has been employed in the MHP role 2 days per week. Shayna's role has been supporting the wellbeing of our Secondary students. For more information on the Mental Health Practitioners in Specialist Schools initiative see the Department website.

[Mental health practitioners in secondary and specialist schools | Victorian Government \(www.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.vic.gov.au/mental-health-practitioners-in-secondary-and-specialist-schools)

Please note, referral and parental/carer consent will be required for the MHP service. There will be an activity put on Sentral under "Mental Health Practitioner Initiative" for you to fill in if you are happy for Shayna to see your child.

If you would like to speak to Shayna to learn more about the MHP service, please contact her on 5410 7700 or via email: shayna.davis@education.vic.gov.au

****NDIS NAVIGATOR****

New National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Navigator service to support parents and carers

Our school is excited to be part of the NDIS Navigators initiative. NDIS navigators will be in all Victorian government schools by 2025 to help you navigate and understand the NDIS and get the most out of the supports available for your child.

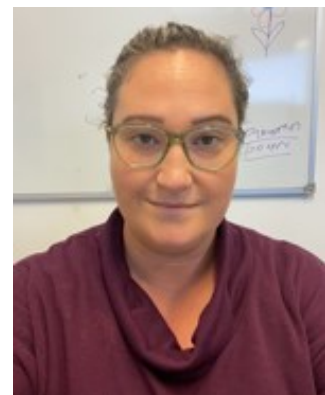
Shayna Davis will be taking on the NDIS Navigator role for 2 days per week in addition to her Mental Health Practitioner role.

Shayna can assist with:

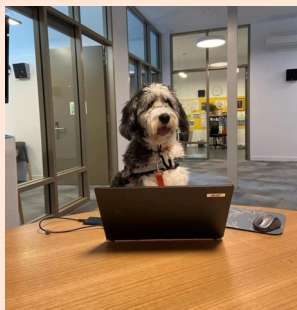
- Providing information and advice on the NDIS and available supports, including guidance on where to look for services and supports. NDIS navigators will not recommend specific providers but may provide advice for parents/carers on how to make the best selection for their child.
- Provide guidance to parents/carers on how to apply to the NDIS and what they need to consider, including any documented evidence to support the application.
- Promoting the review processes available to parents/carers if their child's NDIS plan is not meeting their needs.
- Assisting parents/carers to access NDIS Local area coordination partners for advice and support.
- Support parents/carers to understand the structure of the NDIS and how to navigate and engage with the system, of Advice on how to raise questions or concerns with the NDIA or NDIS funded organisations.

Shayna will start making connect with families in 2024 to offer NDIS support.

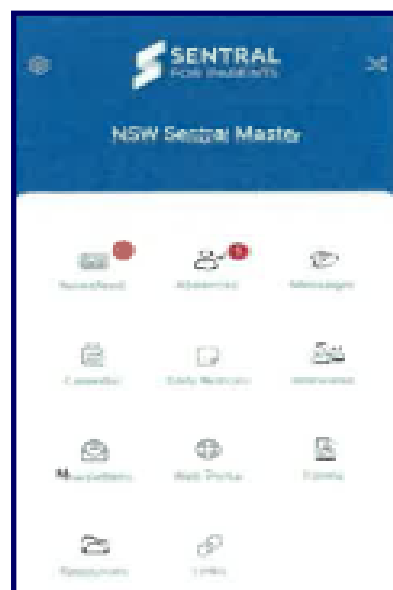
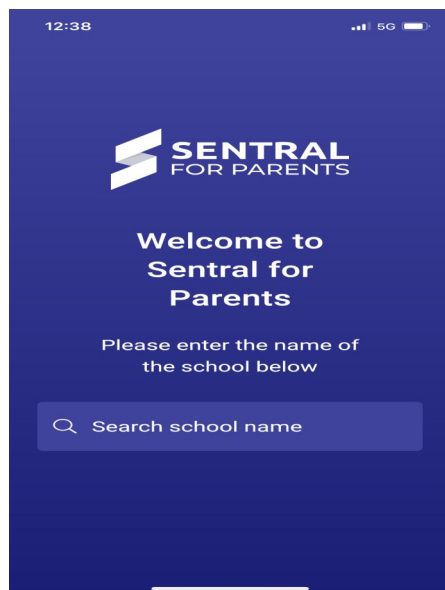
Please contact Shayna on 5410 7700 or via email: shayna.davis@education.vic.gov.au



Willow the Wellbeing Dog



SENTRAL—PARENT PORTAL



We would like to encourage all our families/carers to use the Sentral Parent Portal. It is a free app that can be downloaded on your phone, iPad or computer. This app allows you to enter future and current absences, contact the school and your child's teacher, access the school calendar, student reports, book parent teacher interviews, view school documents and receive notification and messages from the school. New families and families that have not accessed this portal will receive information regarding this today. If you require any help at all with this please do not hesitate to contact Jenni in the office on 5410 7700 or in person.

PBS Targeted Behaviour

We support each other to learn



We support each other to learn

2024 BUS STAFF

Rushworth:
0418 322 861
Neil, Anne & Sharon

Cohuna:
0418 847 627
Alan & Jess

Elmore:
0427 685 124
**Bill, Kevin, Jan,
Sandra & Mirinda**

Kyabram:
0448 981 278
Peter & Megan



MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE



Tracey



Jenni

The CSE Funding application is only for families who circumstances have changed or haven't previously filled in an applications. Currently CSEF families to do need to reapply.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a 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:

- \$150 for primary school students
- \$250 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year 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 this year.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



Conveyance Allowance Applications

Eligibility

An application on behalf of a student may be submitted if the student is:

- a Victorian resident;
- school aged and enrolled three or more days per week at a school; and
- attends a specialist school

A student who meets the above requirements may be eligible if they:

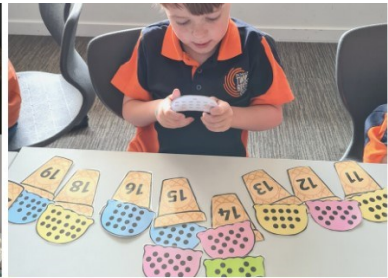
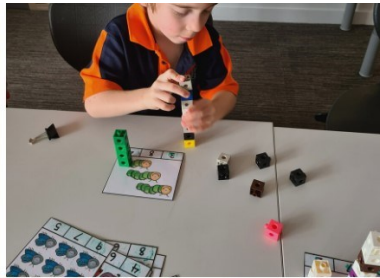
- reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from the school attended

by private car from home to nearest bus stop or to school

If you reside 4.8km from your nearest bus stop & you think you may be eligible for Conveyance Allowance please contact Tracey or Jenni for an application form.

Application forms need to be in no later than 1st March 2024

Room 3



Room 8



Our Vision

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



Our Values

Be Respectful
Be Inclusive
Be Responsible



SCHOOLS' PRIVACY POLICY

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Schools' Privacy Policy informs the school community that information about students can be shared to fulfil the schools' core functions of educating and supporting our students.

The Schools' Privacy Policy establishes a clarified 'need to know' framework, where school staff share information about students with other staff who need to know as part of their role. This is consistent with Victorian privacy law.

Who does the policy apply to?

The policy applies to all central, regional and school staff including principals, teachers, visiting teachers, administration staff, social workers, wellbeing staff, youth workers, nurses, Student Support Service officers (SSSOs) and all other allied health practitioners. This means the 'need to know' framework below also applies to all school staff, whether employees, service providers (contractors) and agents (whether paid or unpaid) of the Department.

Need to know

All school staff can, and must, share information about a student with other staff who 'need to know' that information to enable the school to:

- **educate** the student (including to plan for individual needs or address barriers to learning)
- **support** the student's social and emotional wellbeing and health
- fulfil legal obligations, including to:
 - take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of **reasonably foreseeable harm** to the

student, other students, staff or visitors (duty of care)

- make **reasonable adjustments** for a student's disability (anti-discrimination law)
- provide a **safe and secure workplace** (occupational health and safety law).

Please note: the Child and Family Violence Information Sharing Schemes allow prescribed organisations to share confidential information with each other to promote the wellbeing or safety of children, or to assess or manage family violence risk. Victorian schools and a range of other Victorian services fall under these schemes. For more information, refer to:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/information-sharing-schemes-and-the-maram-framework>.

Who decides who 'needs to know'?

Subject to the principal's direction, each staff member decides who needs to know specific, relevant information about a student, based on the 'need to know' framework.

Sharing relevant information with other staff who 'need to know' is very different from idle conversation or gossip.

School staff are entrusted with a large amount of important information about students. Staff must treat all such personal and health information sensitively and respectfully, and not share it other than on this 'need to know' basis.

What information and records can be transferred to a student's next school?

When a student has been accepted at, and is transferring to or from, another school (Victorian government, non-government and/or interstate), the current school transfers information about the student to the new school. This information may include copies of the student's school records, including any health, wellbeing or safety related information.

Parental consent is not required to transfer this information between Victorian government schools but must be obtained when the student is transferring to or from Victorian non-government schools, including Catholic schools or interstate schools.

Principals (or authorised representatives) determine what information to provide to the next school based on the 'need to know' framework:

What information does the next school 'need to know' to properly educate or support the student, and fulfil the school's legal obligations?

'NEED TO KNOW' framework

Duty of care

A school's duty of care to students means that a principal or other member of the leadership team needs to know about any **reasonably foreseeable risk of harm to anyone** because of the student's behaviour, disability, family circumstances or any other relevant circumstances related to the student.

So, for example, if there is a reasonably foreseeable risk to anyone because the student:

- displays violent behaviours
- is a victim or perpetrator of bullying, assault or age-inappropriate sexualised behaviours
- has emotional, wellbeing or self-harm issues

then staff must **tell the principal** (or other member of the school leadership team).

The principal will then share relevant information with any other staff member that needs to know because they work with, or supervise, the student. Staff must provide the principal with enough relevant information required to adequately fulfil their own duty of care – so that the principal can fulfil their duty of care too.

Importantly, when there is a reasonably foreseeable risk of harm, staff should act on that information and share the information with other staff who 'need to know', even if the student or parent asks that information not be shared.

Anti-discrimination law

A school's obligation to provide **reasonable adjustments** for students with disabilities (regardless of whether they are eligible under the Program for Students with Disabilities) means that relevant information about a student's disability

and their needs must be shared with all staff who work with or supervise that student.

This is required to enable the school to make properly informed decisions about what adjustments are reasonable, and then to implement those adjustments.

This may also be required to meet the duty of care to that student (for example, a student with a medical condition who may require treatment).

This means that relevant information must be shared with all staff who work with or supervise that student, to enable them to:

- understand the student's disability and how it affects their learning and social or emotional wellbeing
- implement reasonable adjustments at school, including understanding all recommendations made by the student's treating practitioners.

The relevant school policies are followed by school staff when engaging with parents, such as wellbeing and behaviour policies. Go to your school's website for relevant policies.

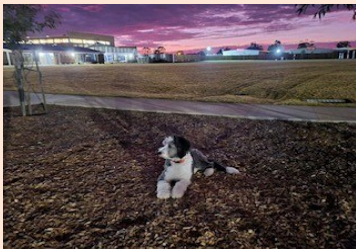
School staff are available to provide further information about school policies and handling of personal information or contact the DET Privacy Officer at privacy@education.vic.gov.au.

COMMUNITY NEWS

OUR SCHOOL

Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School provides education for children ages 5-18 years with intellectual and associated disabilities. It services the Campaspe and Murray Shire area.

The school prides itself on having an open and welcoming environment that encourages parent and community participation.



CARERS MORNING TEA AT OAK DENE

KYABRAM HERITAGE HOUSE & GARDEN

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A LOVELY MORNING TEA & A CHANCE TO CHAT TO OTHER CARERS AT OAK DENE

KYABRAM
ON
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 21ST, 2024
AT 10AM TO 12PM
NO COST

RSVP 19th of February
Claire @ KCLC PH:58520000
Candy & KDHS: 0434 363 167

ARE YOU A CAREGIVER?

Numerous individuals may not identify themselves as caregivers. Caregivers are those who offer unpaid assistance and care to family members and friends who have disabilities, mental health challenges, chronic conditions, substance abuse issues, terminal illnesses, or are aging. If this is you, please, join us.



\$5 DONATED
BACK TO
YOUR SCHOOL?

Ask one of our FIT EXPERTS in-store

PEOPLE OUTDOORS

CAMPS FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITY

Adventure for All!

PEOPLE OUTDOORS

- Overnight Camps
- Weekend Camps
- School Holiday Camps

All meals, activities, transport and accommodation included. Central pick up point.

We are a Registered NDIS Service Provider.

Kids, teens and adults welcome.

Camps supported by professional staff.

30 years experience!

Call today to find out more:
Head Office - 03 9863 6824

Scan to complete Referral Form to join us on camp!

www.peopleoutdoors.org.au



Community Living & Respite Services

After School & Vacation Program
for children with disability 6 - 18 yrs old

After School Program hours

Monday to Friday from 3pm to 5.30pm

Transport is available from school to Club Teen

Vacation Program hours

Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5pm



Contact us now for 2024 spots

Call Bianca on 03 5480 2388

Email - bcrole@clrs.org.au



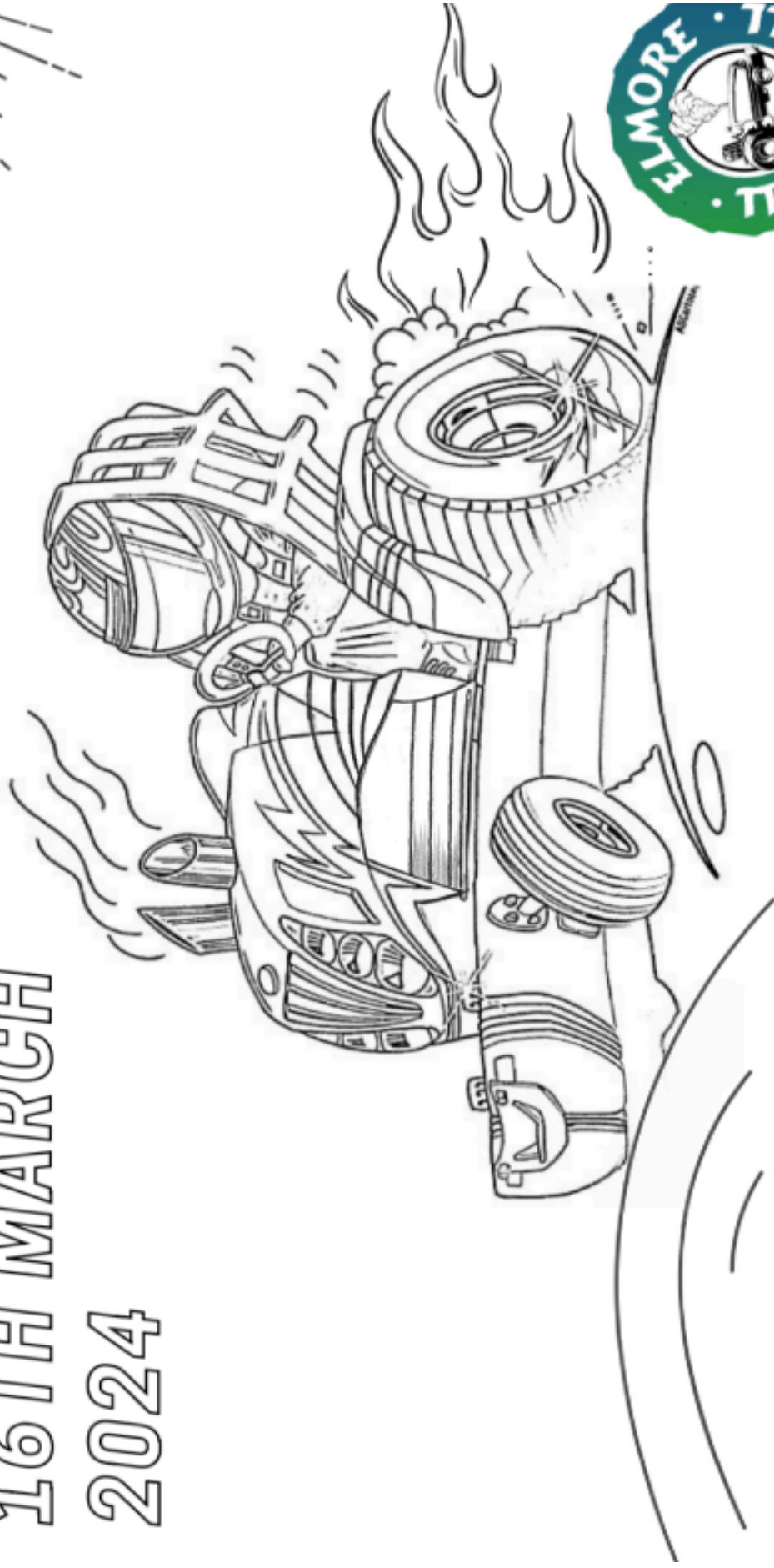
Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School
66 Wilkinson Drive
ECHUCA VIC 3564
Phone: (03) 5410 7700 press 1

echuca.twin.rivers.ss@education.vic.gov.au
<https://www.echucass.vic.edu.au>

ELMORE TRACTOR PULL

16TH MARCH

2024



PRIZES FOR WINNERS: FAMILY PASSES AND CHILDREN'S PASSES!
ENTRIES CLOSE 8TH MARCH 2024.

Name:

Age:

School:

Phone:

Email:

Please post to:

Elmore Events Centre

PO Box 27, Elmore VIC 3558

Or scan to:

info@elmorefielddays.com.au