

18th December 2023



Issue 20

# Assistant Principals Report



I would like to thank all members of the school community for the ongoing commitment to Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School. We have enjoyed the many community activities that we have facilitated across the year and have loved celebrating these with you. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year.

## Bus

Thank you to Leonard and his staff for supporting the staff and students on the bus. It has been fantastic working together. We look forward to 2024. Leonard and I will meet to discuss the bus routes for 2024, any changes will be communicated throughout January. If your situation has changed can you please let both the school and the bus know.

## Farewell

It is that time of the year that we farewell some staff. I would like to thank Johnny Ray, Katie Devlin, Katie Murdoch, Jacinta Coyle, Jo Stockman, Brook Ward, Olivia McInnes, Shaun Hon and Joan Heywood for the dedication and commitment to Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School. Good luck for the future.



## DECEMBER

14TH—STUDENT FREE DAY

20TH—LAST DAY OF TERM 4 DISMISSAL AT 12:30

## JANUARY

29TH —STAFF RETURN

30TH—YARNING DAY

31ST—STUDENTS RETURN



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.



**COLLECTING DEC 1 - UNTIL DECEMBER 21 2023**

**Drop off points:** Echuca Moama Uniting Church, Riveline Herald, EMWAC (pool), Bendigo Bank, Apex Echuca, Echuca Moama Family Medical Practice \* Both Echuca and Moama Surgeries, Moama Village and Meninya St Pharmacies, Echuca Library and Echuca Regional Health.

**Distribution dates:** December 11, 14, 18 and 21st from Echuca Moama Uniting Church Hall 10am-1pm

Please bring carry / shopping bag. COVID Guidelines will apply



**DON'T SPEND XMAS ALONE.**

"Spend Christmas with us"



Will you or someone you know be spending

Christmas Day alone this year?

We would like to invite single parents with kids, individuals or lone couples who would otherwise be dining alone Christmas day, to come along and join others for a FREE Traditional Christmas Lunch

**Echuca Moama Community Xmas Lunch 2023**

**Where:** UNITING CHURCH HALL ECHUCA

**When:** MONDAY 25th December 2022

**Time:** 11.00 am -3.30 pm

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL .**

To reserve a seat - phone Julie 0475 707 412

Proudly coordinated by

Echuca Moama Community Projects



In early term 4, Sarah (the school Speech Pathologist) completed a 2 day PODD Introductory Workshop at the Cerebral Palsy Education Centre (CPEC) in Melbourne.

PODD stands for **P**ragmatic **O**rganisation **D**ynamic **D**isplay. Originally PODD was a hard copy communication book and now they also have PODD software programs (apps and subscriptions). PODD communication systems, by Gayle Porter (Speech Pathologist), are described as "a way of organising vocabulary for communication at any time". The intervention used with PODD is aided language stimulation.

Sarah came back with a greater understanding of the PODD systems and with a confidence in using the programs and being able to support students, staff and families that have PODD books or apps.

## **\*\*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](mailto: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:

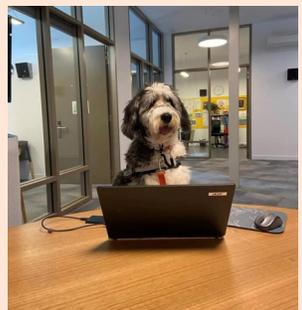
- Providing information and advice on the NDIS and available supports, including guidance on where to look for services and supports. NDIS navigators will not recommend specific providers but may provide advice for parents/carers on how to make the best selection for their child.
- Provide guidance to 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](mailto:shayna.davis@education.vic.gov.au)

## Willow the Wellbeing Dog



# SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION WITH 12 MONTHS FREE INTERNET AT HOME



The Australian Government has established the School Student Broadband Initiative to provide free home internet for one year for up to 30,000 eligible families with school-aged students. The initiative aims to boost education opportunities. NBN Co is leading the rollout of this initiative across the country. How the School Student Broadband Initiative can help your child. Children who can access online learning at home as part of their education are more likely to engage in classroom activities. Access to fast internet at home can also support children to build their digital skills, learn how to safely use the internet and take part in a world that is more reliant on digital technology.

### Eligibility

To be eligible, families must:

- \* have a child living at home enrolled in an Australian school in 2023
  - \* not have an active National Broadband Network internet service at their home\* (having a mobile internet service does not affect eligibility)
  - \* live in a premises that can access the National Broadband Network through a standard connection. NBN Co will check this for you after you apply
  - \* register interest with your school and complete a consent form to be assessed for eligibility.
- \*If an address has been disconnected within 14 days prior to an eligibility check – the address will be classified as ineligible. There may be cases where exceptions can be made, please contact the School Student Broadband Initiative team at [SSBI@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:SSBI@education.vic.gov.au) to discuss further.

### How the School Student Broadband Initiative works

If you are eligible, your home internet service will be provided at no cost for one year with a participating internet provider over the National Broadband Network. Each internet provider has its own step-by-step process to get you connected, which may involve you providing identification.

Once you sign up, the internet provider will help you set up your connection. The initiative does not include devices such as a computer or tablet. Other members of your household can use the internet service provided through this initiative.

The one-year period will start from the day your service is activated with your chosen provider. At the end of the one-year period, you will not be placed onto a paid service by your internet provider without your consent. The Australian Government is considering options beyond the one-year free period.

### How to apply

- \* **Ask your school for a copy of the School Student Broadband Initiative consent form.**
  - \* **Complete the consent form and return to the school.**
  - \* **NBN Co will use student address details on the consent form to confirm eligibility.**
- \* If you are eligible, NBN Co will issue a voucher for your family to use to sign up with a participating internet provider. This will be provided to you by your school.

Please note: NBN Co will review the home address for eligibility. No personal information other than your main home address will be shared with NBN Co. Please see the consent form for details about how personal information will be used.

Find out more

For more information about the School Student Broadband Initiative, visit <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au>

## 2023 BUS STAFF

Rushworth:

0418 322 861

Peter – Ann/Sharon

Cohuna:

0418 847 627

Alan – Jess

Elmore:

0427 685 124

Kerry – Jan/Sandra

Kyabram:

0448 981 278

Cameron – Megan



## Kiwanis TERRIFIC KIDS

### F-2



### 3-6



### 7-9

### VL





3-6 Camp at Wakiti  
Creek Resort.  
Students had a  
fantastic time.



# Congratulations to our graduating class of 2023

Congratulations to our graduating class of 2023



Ampol All Rounder Award



## Our Vision

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



## Our Values

Be Respectful  
Be Inclusive  
Be Responsible



# School Captains 2024



# School Vice Captains 2024



# Beacon Leaders 2024



# 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.



Campaspe Library Summer School Holidays 2024						
B = Bookings Essential	Echuca	Kyabram	Rochester	Rushworth	Tongala	
Wed 3 Jan	1pm Pendants B 5+		3pm Make a Jigsaw B 5+			
Thu 4 Jan	10.30am Basket Weaving B 5+	1.30pm Make a Jigsaw B 5+			3.30pm NGV Bracelet Beading B 8+	
Fri 5 Jan	1pm Family Movie B					
Mon 8 Jan	10.30am NGV Inspiration Train B 5+					
Tue 9 Jan	2pm Lego & Board Games B					
	10.30am NGV Underwater Drawing B 5+					
	1pm Name Keyrings B 5+	3.30pm NGV Bracelet Beading B 8+				
Wed 10 Jan	2pm Bricks4Kidz B 5+	11am Bricks4Kidz B 5+				
	5.30 - 7pm Pizza & Movie B		2pm NGV Light Lanterns B 5+			
Thu 11 Jan	10.30am NGV Bracelet Beading B 8+			1.30pm Rock Painting B 5+	1.30pm Name Keyrings B 5+	3.30pm Name Keyrings B 5+
	2.30pm Movie Afternoon B					
Fri 12 Jan	2pm NGV Collage B 5+					
Mon 15 Jan	10.30am Cloud Dough B 5+					
	2.30pm Susea Spray B					
Tue 16 Jan	10.30am Make a Jigsaw B 5+		10.30am Susea Spray B			
	2.30pm Rock Painting B 5+	2.30pm Susea Spray B			3pm Make a Jigsaw B 5+	1pm Make a Jigsaw B 5+
Wed 17 Jan	3.30pm Dream Catchers B 5+					
	6pm Evening Storytime B		1.30pm Name Keyrings B 5+			
Thu 18 Jan	10.30am Friends with Honey B 5+	11am Name Keyrings B 5+				
	2pm Friends with Honey B 8+		2pm Coliban Water Storytime B			
Fri 19 Jan	10.30am Coliban Water Storytime B					
	2.30pm Movie afternoon B					
Mon 22 Jan	10.30am Picnic Storytime B					
	2.30pm Movie Afternoon B					
Tue 23 Jan	10.30am Canvas Tape Art B 5+			1.30pm Rock Painting B 5+	3.30pm Rock Painting B 5+	
	2.30pm Decorate a Library Bag B 5+					
Wed 24 Jan	2pm Bunnings Craft B 5+	3.30pm Dream Catchers B 5+	1.30pm Dream Catchers B 5+			
Thu 25 Jan	2.30pm Big Summer Read Party B	2pm Bunnings Craft & Big Summer Read Party B				
Fri 26 Jan	Public Holiday - Australia Day					

NGV Kids on Tour is an initiative of the National Gallery of Victoria. NGV extends sincerest thanks to Event partner, Officeworks, for their generous support of NGV Kids exhibitions and programs.

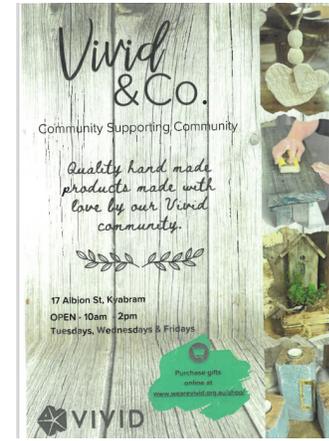


**Sign up now for the Big Summer Read! At Echuca Library**

You will receive -

- Big Summer Read Reading Journal
- Bookmark
- Lucky Spot entry

Read 10 books and return your completed Reading Journal to your library before Tuesday, 23 January to receive an invitation to attend our Big Summer Read party and automatic entry into the draw for some marvelous prizes.



**CLUBTEEN**  
SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

**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 - bcole@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](mailto:echuca.twin.rivers.ss@education.vic.gov.au)  
<https://www.echucass.vic.edu.au>

