



18th June, 2020
Issue 12

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.



Principals message:



New school special report

I have decided to dedicate my entire article in this week's newsletter to the new school. After 30 years of waiting, Echuca Specialist School finally gets the school it rightfully deserves. So much time has gone in to battling for funding, planning and finally the build. It is an exciting time to be part of the school.

Buildings

The buildings are progressing well and are on track to be completed by week 3 or 4 of next term. The buildings have been architecturally designed to promote learning in an environment specifically for our students. The rooms are very open, bright and inviting. However, they are also designed to best meet the sensory needs of our students with much thought gone into the acoustic qualities of each room. Each room will also have access to a nearby sensory room to allow students to have a 'brain break' or explore sensory options to help keep calm.

Our side of the school is completely fenced and gated, to ensure the safety of our students. We have automatic locks on doors and gates that open with a swipe of a fob.



Move in date

Originally we were going to wait until the start of term 4 to move into the new building. However, feedback from staff, students and the school community has changed this. We will be moving in once the buildings have been completed. This will be about week 5 of term 3. School council has approved the use of a curriculum day to support the move.

We will be requesting support from various groups to help us move. We will also employ a removalist to support us.

Our Vision:

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



Dates to Remember:

JUNE

26th—Last day of Term 2

JULY

13th—First day of Term 3

AUGUST

13th—School Council

31st—School Photos

SEPTEMBER

18th—Last day of Term 3

CON'T PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

School name

As mentioned a number of times, we will be changing our name to Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School. This is to align ourselves with Echuca Twin Rivers Primary School. The entire site will be the Echuca Twin Rivers School. The schools will still operate with two separate school councils and two separate principals.

Signs on buses, uniform and logo

Through feedback and consultation, our school buses and uniform logo will have 'Twin Rivers Specialist School' on it. We have been able to fundraise and find grants to support the cost of a start-up uniform. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 we haven't been able to raise as much money as we had hoped. This means we will have some uniforms supplied to students, but not everything. There have also been delays with the supplies of the uniform due to the virus. We hope to have the uniform ready soon after the move.

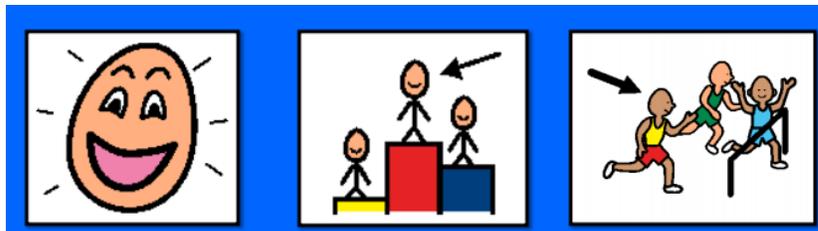
Farewell to the High Street site

We are organising a farewell to the High Street site in term 3. Given the unknown in regards to restrictions with Covid-19, this will be somewhat smaller than originally planned. We will have an afternoon tea for past staff, students and families. The farewell will be held on Thursday 10th September. There will be more details to come.

PBS TARGETED BEHAVIOUR—WEEK 10

Knowledge in the Classroom

I am happy for others when they win and I support others when they lose



I do my best



SOW & PB—WEEK 8 & 9

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

Room	Name	PBS	Name	PBS
1	Nicholas	Positive attitude in the classroom		
7	Connor	Always washing his hands and covering his coughs and sneezes	Mondy	Working hard & completing all his work activities
13	Mkye	Always helping others to stay in the classroom, library and yard.	Kyron & Elijah	Moving safely from one program to another
14	Xavier	Fantastic effort during independent reading	Codee	Fantastic learning in the classroom
Room	Name	SOW	Name	PBS
11	Will Caitlin	Finding the distance and time to travel to various locations Having the confidence and maturity to discuss issues with staff at appropriate times	Josh Liam	Washing his hands or using sanitizer when required. Staying at home when sick.
15	Tamlye	Trying new things and working well in groups	Natilie	Moving safely from one program to another and using an appropriate voice
16	Hunter Michael	Amazing work representing school while out on his electives Great communication with staff	Chaz & Bailey Ben O	Using an appropriate voice and moving safely while transitioning on programs Sharing equipment and helping others feel safe
18	Bindhi Luke	Completing all her work His excellent work in creating persuasive posters this week	Bennett Aaron	Always moving safely between programs Always including others
20	Toby Oliver	Persisting when making his pallet chair Excellent work at the goat farm with a shovel	Tyler G Jack	Always walking safely from one program to another Always sharing equipment

FRIDAY ELECTIVES



Friday afternoon
electives Sphero
maze challenge

ROOM 13 LITERACY



SECONDARY WOODWORK





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Office of the Secretary

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Dear parents and carers,

Term 2 in 2020 has been like no other school term in Victoria's history, and so I am writing to thank you for your support.

As you know, this week Grade 3 to Year 10 students joined Prep to Grade 2, VCE and specialist school students in face to face learning. It is great to see our school communities come together again.

In responding to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic over the past few months, the Department of Education and Training has asked a lot of our teachers and schools, and we have also required your support as parents and carers.

I want to acknowledge the extraordinary effort you have all made in working in partnership with your teachers and schools to support your children while they have been learning from home.

When I wrote to you a few months ago as we transitioned to remote and flexible learning, I acknowledged that it would be a challenging time for everyone, but that it was important to work closely together to provide the best possible support for students.

Many of you have since told me that there have been difficult, rewarding and challenging experiences during this unique and uncertain time that we have been through together. I thank you for your support, commitment, patience and perseverance.

But despite difficulties, I've been impressed to hear inspiring stories of education innovation. The innovative and creative approaches adopted during remote and flexible learning have been outstanding, and many schools will bring new approaches with them to on-site schooling.

Many school communities have forged even stronger relationships and partnerships — with families and teachers gaining a greater mutual appreciation of their shared contributions to school education.

Our schools now have a range of precautionary measures to protect the health and safety of your children, your family, teachers and staff, and your local community.

I hope these measures, along with the knowledge that the Victorian Chief Health Officer and Victorian Government have approached the return to on-site schooling with the utmost precaution and careful planning, have helped ease any anxiety about the return to on-site schooling.

The changes at your school are consistent with health advice, including enhanced cleaning in schools and frequent handwashing. Your school has also asked you to practice physical distancing during drop-off and pick-up times.

Your children may be feeling anxious about returning to school. Reassure your child that it's safe for them to go back to school and reinforce what they've been practicing at home around hand hygiene and coughing and sneezing. Reassure them that extensive cleaning is being carried out in schools and public transport to keep them safe.

Please remember the health advice: if you or your child is unwell, please stay at home. This is vital to ensuring the effective management of the pandemic.

Information about how to speak to your child about coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found here: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/Pages/talkingtoyourchildaboutcoronavirus.aspx>

Visit the Department's website for the latest information about coronavirus (COVID-19) at: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Thank you once again for working with your schools to support your children while they were learning at home and for your patience during the staged return to on-site schooling.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Atta
Secretary
Department of Education and Training



ECHUCA MOAMA COMMUNITY PROJECTS

BLANKET DRIVE

Have a blanket, doona, sheets or sleeping bag you don't need?
 Help those who need some warmth this winter by donating any clean, unwanted blankets, doonas, sheets or sleeping bags.

Drop-off and collection:
 Echuca Neighbourhood House, 261 High Street
 From June 1, Monday to Thursday, 10am to 2 pm.
 *Due to COVID-19 we are unable to take coats this year

Echuca Moama Community Projects
 Proudly coordinated by the Echuca Moama Community Projects Team
 All queries to Julie on 0418 120 133 or julie@emprojects.org
 Supported by **Riverine Herald** Spot on Dry Cleaners




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