



18th March, 2020
Issue 7

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:

Covid-19

The situation with Covid-19 is changing on a daily basis. At the moment schools will remain open. The following is the latest information supplied to schools by the education department.

CAMPS AND EXCURSIONS

All camps scheduled to commence from and including Tuesday 17 March must be postponed and rescheduled, or, if there is no other option, cancelled. If you have a camp scheduled to commence tomorrow and are able to cancel it, it is recommended that you do so. Otherwise, no camps can commence from Tuesday 17 March.

All excursions outside the school for purposes such as visits to cultural institutions, art galleries, theatres and sporting events or facilities (other than those local facilities regularly used by the school) planned from and including Tuesday 17 March must also be postponed or cancelled. Like camps, if excursions planned for Monday 16 March can be cancelled, it is recommended that you do so.

This does not include student and staff travel between campuses of the same school. It also does not include travel by individual staff or small groups of staff to professional development events.

INTERNATIONAL ARRIVALS

Everyone arriving into Australia from overseas from midnight 15 March will be required to self-isolate for 14 days. This obviously includes students and staff who may be returning from overseas excursions or other travel.

Importantly, it also includes parents and carers and any other relatives or friends of your students who are returning from overseas travel. As they are required to self-isolate, they must not visit the school to pick up children or for any other reason. Please remind your parents and community members of this.

In addition, in response to the New Zealand Government's travel restrictions announced over the weekend, staff and students can no longer travel to New Zealand. This is effective from today, Sunday 15 March 2020.

SWIMMING LESSONS

We have chosen to suspend all swimming programs.

RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE VISITS

Based on advice from the Commonwealth Government to protect vulnerable Australians, schools should not visit residential aged care facilities.



Our Vision:

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



Dates to remember:

March

26th—School Council

27th—End of Term 1

Dismissal will be at 2:00pm

April

14th—Start of Term 2

16th—Year 10 Immunisation



Twin Rivers Café open

Mon—Thurs 8:30—2:00

SPECIALIST SCHOOL LEARNING BUILDING:
AXONOMETRIC (CENTRAL)



CONT PRINCIPAL REPORT

SCHOOL CLOSURES

No government school is currently closed or in the process of being closed. You will be informed directly if there is any prospect that your school will be closed, either as a stand-alone school closure or as part of a local or area-based closure. You will then be provided with detailed advice, a step-by-step guide and communication resources to support you through that process.

GOOD HYGIENE PRACTICES

Again, all the above steps are part of our efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19. Can I again ask you to pay extra attention to the health and hygiene measures employed across your school, in particular the provision of soap in school toilets, changing rooms and bathrooms.

Some families have chosen to keep their children home from school due to pre-existing health concerns. This is totally understandable and fine.

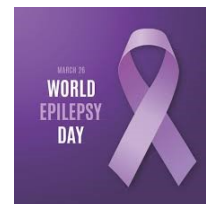
Beacon Leaders Business Breakfast

Last week our Beacon leaders, Jack and Toby, represented the school at the Beacon Leaders Business Breakfast. Jack welcomed the guests and Toby gave a speech thanking the guest speakers. The students did an amazing job and should be proud of their efforts.



Purple day

We are acknowledging International Day to bring awareness to Epilepsy on the last day of term. Students and staff are invited to wear "A touch of purple". This could be a purple shirt, ribbon, socks or tie. We will have purple ribbons available as well. We have staff and students that have been impacted by epilepsy. We wish to acknowledge the day and support those affected.



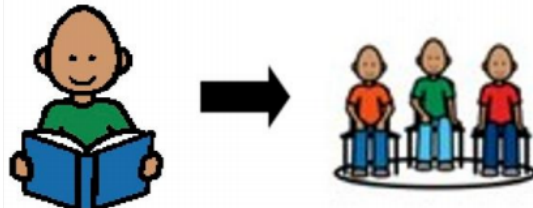
Life Ed Van

The students enjoyed another visit by the Life Ed Van last week. Of course, Harold was the highlight of the visit. Students learnt about ways to maintain a healthy life. Below is a photo of Jacksen and I wearing our giraffe ears with Harold standing behind us.



Respect in the Classroom

I move safely from one activity to another

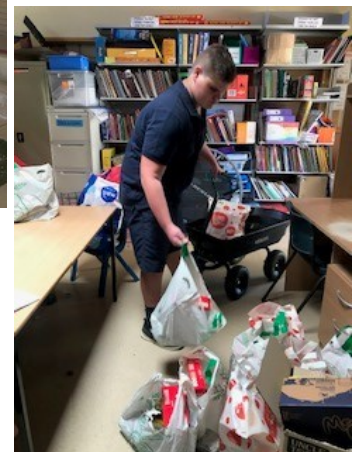


I use all equipment for its purpose



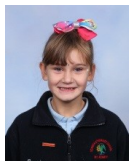
FOOD CARE PACKAGES

Yesterday Nicole and Noah made up 81 food care packages for our students to take home. Each package had cereal, tin food and vegemite. The food was donated from Foodbank. Thank you to Noah for delivering the packages to the rooms he did an amazing job.



Week 8

Student of the Week—Primary



Room 1—Angela

For trying her best during learning tasks and asking for help when needed.



Room 2—Whole class

Always trying their best



Room 5—Jet

For trying his best with all his school work especially when he visited the Life Ed van.



Room 7—Riley

For trying his best during learning



Room 13—Lenny

Always moving safely on & off the bus



Room 13—Conrad

Always wearing his seatbelt on the bus



Room 13—Kyron

Always doing his best in all activities



Room 14m—Codee

For settling into your new class and for always trying your best.

Student of the Week—Secondary

Week 7



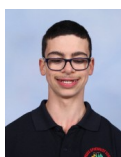
Room 11—VCAL—Tyler

For brilliant work to follow a recipe and use her initiative for jobs on a Tues & Thurs at Twin Rivers Cafe



Room 15—Jade

Participating in classroom activities and following directions from staff



Room 16—Bailey

For always coming to school with a positive attitude, happy and ready for his learning.



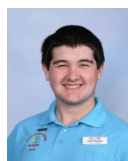
Room 17—Mitch

Excellent participation in the classroom



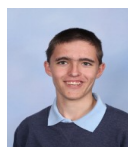
Room 18—Bindhi

Being positive in the classroom



Room 19—Zach

For working hard at the farm and asking some great questions



Room 20—Toby

Persevering on a difficult task

Talking to children about coronavirus (COVID-19)

Your child is probably seeing and hearing a lot about coronavirus (COVID-19) on TV, radio, and social media, as well as from other people. Talking with your child about coronavirus (COVID-19) can **help your child understand and cope** with what's going on.

Make time to talk

Find the right time to talk with your child. This might be when your child gets home from school, at bedtime or in the car. When your child is ready to talk, give your child your full attention.

Find out what your child knows

It's a good idea to start by asking your child what she knows about the virus and whether she has any questions. For example, 'On the news today, they were talking about coronavirus. Were people at school talking about that? What were they saying?'

Explain coronavirus (COVID-19) in a way your child can understand

- Use a calm, reassuring tone and stick to the facts.
- For younger children, keep it simple and brief. For example, 'That's right, some people are getting sick with a germ. It makes them cough and sneeze. The sick people are being looked after well by doctors and hospitals'.

For older children, offer more detail. For example, 'I heard you talking with your friends about how you catch coronavirus. The virus spreads through things like sneezing, coughing and touching infected things. That's why good hygiene and hand-washing are really important. They help to protect everyone.'

Tune into your child's feelings

Some children might not be worried about coronavirus (COVID-19). But some might be frightened, upset or worried. They might be worried about the virus itself or about how it might affect their lives.

Ask your child how he's feeling and listen to what he says. You can also ask him what he needs to feel better. It might reassure your child if you share your own feelings and let him know what you're doing to cope with them. For example:

- 'I can see that you're worried about grandpa getting really sick. I love how caring you are. If anyone we know gets sick, the hospital will take good care of them. Right now, I could really do with a cuddle from you.'
- 'It can be scary not knowing what's going to happen with the virus. Scientists all over the world are working hard to find a vaccine and treatment. In Australia, we have good hospitals, doctors and nurses who can look after us.'
- 'It's OK to be worried about catching coronavirus. I sometimes worry too. Some people are only getting minor symptoms like what you get when you have a cold. If I need some good information, I look at the health department website.'

'It's disappointing we can't go to the footy on the weekend. But the doctors say that this will help stop the spread of coronavirus, so this is how we can help. Let's watch the footy on TV together.'

Taken from the Australian Raising Children Network



**\$2 PER
TICKET**

- 1st prize—Signed 2019 team Geelong jumper
2nd prize—Signed 2019 Essendon team poster
3rd—Kids hamper



Drawn Thursday 26th March. Get you tickets NOW

A photograph of a school playground with green artificial grass, a blue tire swing, and a wooden play structure. A sign in the foreground says 'Like us on Facebook'. In the background, there is a building and a water tower.

**Like us on
Facebook**

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