

18th May 2023



Issue 7

## Principals Report



### Education week

Education Week will be celebrated in Victoria from Sunday 14 May to Saturday 20 May 2023.



It's an annual celebration of education, a chance for students to take part in some free and fun activities and an opportunity to share what makes your school great.

This year's theme 'Active Learners: Move, Make, Motivate' focuses on some of the amazing ways students learn inside and outside of the classroom through physical activity, hands-on-learning and student voice in education.

We celebrate our students and staff, especially the way our students learn through physical activity, hands on learning and student voice in their own learning.

### Sorry day

Every year on 26 May, National Sorry Day remembers and acknowledges the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were forcibly removed from their families and communities, which we now know as 'The Stolen Generations'.

National Sorry Day is a day to acknowledge the strength of Stolen Generations Survivors and reflect on how we can all play a part in the healing process for our people and nation. While this date carries great significance for the Stolen Generations and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, it is also commemorated by Australians right around the country.

As a school, there will be activities undertaken in classrooms to acknowledge Sorry day, including a flag raising ceremony with leaders from our school and the primary school.



### JUNE

9TH—STUDENT FREE—  
WHOLE STAFF PART  
TRAINING

12TH—PUBLIC HOLIDAY—  
KING'S BIRTHDAY

21ST JUNE—SSG  
MEETINGS STUDENT  
FREE

23RD JUNE—LAST DAY  
OF TERM 2—DISMISSAL  
AT 2PM

### JULY

10TH - FIRST DAY OF  
TERM 3



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.



## PRINCIPAL REPORT CON'T

### Reconciliation week

National Reconciliation Week – **27 May to 3 June** – is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

Again, the school will be participating in activities to acknowledge the week, including a small group of students attending the Community Reconciliation Walk from Alton Reserve to Hopwood Gardens and a smoking ceremony conducted by Uncle Rick Ronan in conjunction with the primary school.

### Education support day

May 16 was Education Support day. Thanks to all our amazing ES that support staff, students and families. We really appreciate everything you do to make our school so amazing.

### Volunteer week

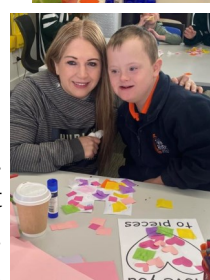
This week we also celebrated our amazing volunteers that support our programs. Peter, Lyndell and Julie help in our Café, art and library programs. We thank them for their time and effort so that our students can have better learning outcomes.

### Curriculum day- pupil free

A reminder that we have a pupil free curriculum day on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June. Staff will be at school completing professional learning.

### Special person's day

Thanks to all of the mums and special people that visited our school on Special person's day. We loved having you all in the classrooms. Thanks to everyone for being so understanding with the change of name for the day. The families that this affected really appreciated the gesture. The students did too.



### Bus pick up/drop off times

A reminder to families to be on time for bus pick up/drop off. We have a number of buses that are on a tight schedule and can't afford to wait too long. The procedure is for the bus to wait for a maximum of 3 minutes before leaving. Communicate with the bus, because there might be times when they can wait longer.

We also need to show our school values of respect, inclusion and responsibility. This means speaking respectfully to all staff, students and families. This goes both ways. We acknowledge the stress that is on both families and bus staff.



## 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



*School Beanie's \$16 each  
available at the front office.*

### **PBS TARGETED BEHAVIOUR**

#### **BE RESPONSIBLE WHEN MOVING**

**We go directly to our destination**

**We go directly to our destination.**



Our second hand uniform supplies are getting very low. If you have any uniforms that your child has grown out of we would appreciate any uniform donations.



WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO ALL THE  
FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF OUR F-6 STUDENTS TO ATTEND  
THEIR WEEKLY ASSEMBLY EVERY

**FRIDAY AT 2PM IN THE 3-6 POD.**



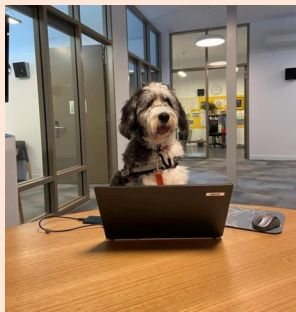
Room 2 have been 'out and about', connecting with country,  
connecting with community.

Room 2 have a secret tree- can you find it?





## Willow the Wellbeing Dog



This week is National Volunteer Week . We would like to thank our amazing volunteers for there work and the time they give to our school.

NATIONAL 15-21 MAY 2023  
**VOLUNTEER**  
THE CHANGE MAKERS WEEK



Peter and Lyndell volunteer at our school on a Tuesday. Lyndell in the Library and Peter in the Café. Peter said they grew their connection after visiting the Café as regular customers and wanted to increase the connection with our school.



Julie worked in Early childhood Intervention throughout her career and after retiring and moving to Echuca thought our school environment would benefit from her skill set. We are so lucky to have Julie volunteering in the Art Department 2 days per week.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2023

27 MAY — 3 JUNE

**BE A VOICE  
FOR  
GENERATIONS**

NRW.RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU

#NRW2023



## PARENT / CAREGIVER / GUARDIAN INFORMATION AND CONSENT LETTER

### 2023 Student Attitudes to School Survey

Dear Parent / Caregiver / Guardian,

This letter is to inform you about the 2023 Student Attitudes to School Survey (AtoSS), that your child is invited to participate in.

#### About the survey

We value student voice as a means to improving student engagement, wellbeing and quality instruction and are conducting a survey to find out what your child thinks of their school.

The AtoSS is an annual student survey offered by the Department of Education to assist schools to gain an understanding of students' perceptions and experience of school. Students will be asked about their thoughts and feelings in relation to their school, their learning, peer relationships, resilience, bullying, health and wellbeing, physical activity, and life in general.

This year, the AtoSS will be conducted at your school from 11<sup>th</sup> May.

#### What are the benefits?

Young people enjoy having a say! This survey has been running for nearly 20 years and is invaluable in helping schools understand student views to plan programs and activities to improve your child's schooling experience. The survey responses also help the Department of Education understand how student's learning experiences can be improved.

#### What are the risks?

While we do not anticipate many risks of participation, some students may find some of the survey questions personal and sensitive in nature. Should you agree for your child to participate, they are still free to skip questions or to withdraw at any stage if the survey makes them upset or uncomfortable. A teacher will be present during the survey to support students.

The questions are selected from validated survey instruments used in Australia and around the world, are strength-based, and tailored for each year level group.

#### What will my child be asked to do?

Your child will be invited to complete the survey **online during class time** using a purpose built secure online survey tool. It is important to note that we are not in any way "testing" your child. Please note:

- Student participation in the survey is voluntary and students may withdraw at any time.
- The survey will take around 20-45 minutes to complete.

#### How is my child's confidentiality protected?

Your child will be provided with a unique login to complete the survey from their teacher. The student login is an assigned identifier that may be used to link data for statistical and research purposes only. Personally identifiable data will not be recorded in the survey response file to ensure the confidentiality of your child's responses is protected at all times.



### How will results be reported?

The survey results will be reported back to the school in aggregate form throughout the survey period. All survey data that is made available in reports are for groups of students only so that no individual student can be identified. Data suppression rules are used for schools with low student numbers per year level.

Your school may share the results of the survey with parents, in documents such as the School Annual Report.

### Options for participation

Participation in this survey is **voluntary**. If you **do not** wish for your child to do the survey, please opt out via email to your school: [Echuca.twin.rivers.ss@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Echuca.twin.rivers.ss@education.vic.gov.au). Please do so before 11<sup>th</sup> May stating that you wish to opt out of your child's participation, along with their name and year level.

If your school does not receive a Refusal of Consent email from yourself before the survey commencement date mentioned within this letter, it means that you give your consent for your child to participate in the 2023 Attitudes to School Survey.

A copy of the survey that we are asking your child to complete is available from your child's school. Please contact the administration office if you would like to see the survey before making your decision about whether you would like your child to participate.

If you would like more information, please speak to your child's teacher, or contact the department at [schoolsurveys@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:schoolsurveys@education.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

Department of Education, Victoria

## Our Vision

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



## Our Values

Be Respectful  
Be Inclusive  
Be Responsible



# FLOOD RECOVERY ART THERAPY

## BEYOND THE FLOODS

Beyond the Floods Art Therapy Group sessions are designed to provide a safe and secure environment for women and children impacted by the recent flood event, to process experiences and celebrate individual strengths and resilience. The groups will be facilitated by a Registered Art Therapist with the support of Flood Recovery support workers from Echuca Regional Health and Centre for Non-Violence.

## WOMEN'S GROUP



- Creating art in a supportive, non-judgemental environment provides safety and space to explore and process lived experiences.
- Prompts provided and a variety of art materials available for participants to use and explore.
- Participants may attend the whole session or part of.
- Open studio – 2 hours

## CHILDREN'S GROUP

- Play based approach to enhance creative expression and explore body sensations and emotions. Builds rapport, increases capacity to cope, emotional regulation, sense of safety, community, and positive sense of self.
- Parent/caregiver must remain on premises during the group.
- Participants may attend the whole session or part of.
- Open studio – 2 hours



## LOCATION

SESSIONS WILL BE HELD IN CENTRAL ROCHESTER, LOCATION TBC

## DATES

EVERY WEDNESDAY, STARTING 7 JUNE 2023

## TIMES

CHILDREN'S GROUP 9-11AM

WOMEN'S GROUP 12-2PM.

COME FOR THE WHOLE SESSION OR DROP IN FOR A PORTION OF IT

**COST  
FREE**



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 5430 3000 AND ASK TO SPEAK WITH SOMEONE IN THE FLOOD RECOVERY TEAM

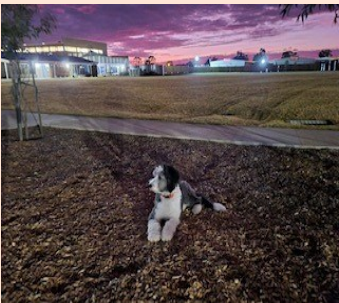


# COMMUNITY NEWS

## 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.



### GRANDPARENTS SUPPORTING GRANDCHILDREN

This is an invitation to come for a cuppa and to meet other grandparents :

At Fuzion Café on Wednesday, 31st May at 10 am.

RSVP : Friday, 26th May to Julie & Yvonne

Phone 03 54821430 (leave a message)

Auspiced by EM Uniting Church.

**PLAYGROUP**

9am - 10:30am

Every 2nd Wednesday Morning  
66 Wilkinson Drive Echuca

Starts Term 2  
26th of April 2023

Phone: 03 54 107 700

Anglicare Victoria

Drinks & food provided by ETRSS Cafe

**FREE**

the Y

I ♥ ndis REGISTERED NDIS PROVIDER

**Under 18 School Holiday Camp**  
Billabong Ranch Echuca

Monday 25th - Thursday 28th September 2023

Activities include horse riding, feeding the animals, mini golf, bouldering, pedal boats, beach volleyball, playground, low ropes course and more!

Visit [inclusion.ymca.org.au](http://inclusion.ymca.org.au)

FIND OUT MORE

saverplus

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Your child's sports fees are an eligible savings goal?

[saverplus.org.au](http://saverplus.org.au) 1300 610 355

#### Saver Plus - Because the best thing money can buy is financial freedom

The Saver Plus community program has helped over 55,000 Australians take the stress out of school costs. It's free for eligible people to join.

At Saver Plus, we pair you with a savings coach while you budget and save over the next 10 months. You attend online workshops to learn tips, tricks and information to grow your budgeting and savings skills. Once you reach your agreed savings goal, ANZ matches your savings dollar-for-dollar, up to \$500. You can use that money towards education costs such as uniforms, text books, laptops or extra-curricular activities such as sport or music.

You could be eligible to join Saver Plus if you:

- have a Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card
- are at least 18 years old
- have some regular income from work (you or your partner) including casual, part-time, full-time or seasonal (we also accept child support and carer's payment as income)
- have a child at school or attend vocational education yourself.

To find out more, or to apply, go to [www.saverplus.org.au](http://www.saverplus.org.au) or call 1300 610 355



**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>**