



20th February, 2020
Issue 3

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.



Our Vision:

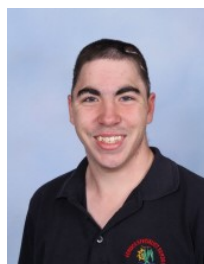
To provide inclusive and engaging learning that empowers all students for life



Principals message:

Sad news

Sadly one of our students, Jacob Symmons, passed away Wednesday morning. Jacob was a very popular student at school. He was always polite, greeted people with a smile and handshake and helped students throughout the school. Jacob will be missed by all staff and students, but especially by the VCAL team. Counsellors attended school on Thursday and Friday to assist staff and students with the tragic loss. Your children may come home with questions and/or be upset. Talk to them and answer their questions as honestly as you can. Please contact the school if you need support with this.



Beacon Leaders Day

Congratulations to our new Beacon leaders for 2020, Toby and Jack. A number of students nominated themselves to be leaders and then the 2019 leaders interviewed them. The leaders from last year then decided who would be responsible this year.

The first Beacon Leader's training day was held on Monday. The leaders from all the schools met each other and learnt about what being a Beacon leader consisted of. The group planned the events for the year and practised their public speaking.



Dates to remember:

February

21st—Student Free Day
- All staff Professional Development

26th—SSG Meeting—Student Free Day

March

9th—Labor Day
- Public Holiday

11th—Year 7 Immunisation

27th—Term of Term 1

April

14th—Start of Term 2

16th—Year 10 Immunisation

CONT ASSIST PRINCIPAL REPORT

Cultural understanding training

A reminder that tomorrow, Friday 21st February, is a pupil free day. Staff will be participating in cultural training with the focus on understanding Koorie culture. The training will provide staff with knowledge of Aboriginal culture, as well as culturally respectful ways of working with, and walking alongside, Aboriginal people, families and communities. We are excited to be able to learn more about our proud Australian indigenous culture.

SSG

A reminder that SSG's will be taking place next Wednesday 26th February. Staff are currently organising booking times. If you haven't received information yet, make contact with the school. Students are welcome to attend the meetings but there won't be school on the day. SSG meetings are a vital way of setting up goals for students and establishing positive communication between families and school.

SWPBS

Last week we launched our School Wide Positive Behaviour Supports for the year. Thank you to the parents that visited classrooms to watch a PBS lesson. We received positive feedback from the Facebook videos of students discussing the school values of Respect, Inclusion and Knowledge.

School Council meeting with Twin Rivers

Tonight we are conducting a joint meeting with the Twin Rivers Primary School Council. We will be inspecting the new school build and discussing ways of successfully co-locating the school. It is a very exciting time for both schools.

FUNDRAISING NEWS



Today we will be sending home raffle tickets for our Easter Raffle.

1st prize—Signed 2019 team Geelong jumper

2nd prize—Signed 2019 Essendon team poster

3rd—Kids hamper



Respectful Always

I keep my hands and feet to myself



I use my manners



ICAN Network

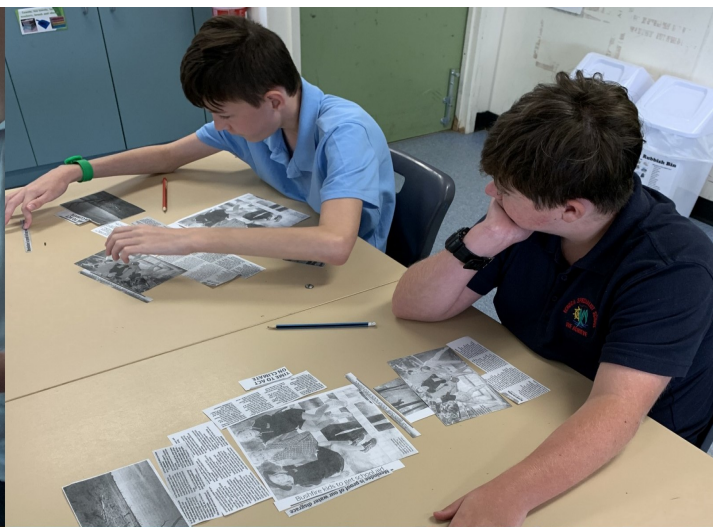
ICAN NETWORK PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

Date: Tuesday 25th February

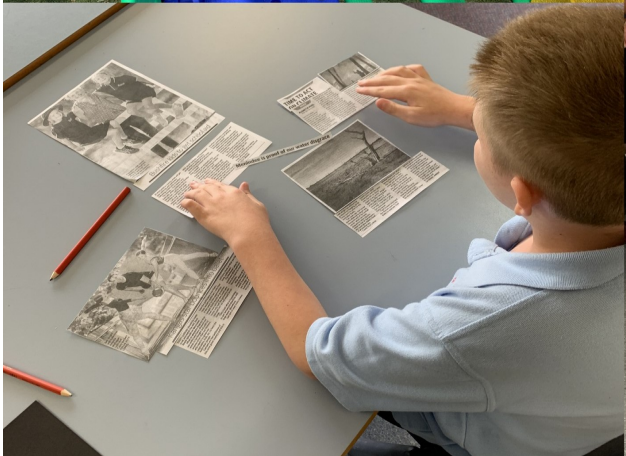
Time: 5.30-6.30pm

Location: Bendigo TAFE, Echuca Campus
Crn Hare &, Darling St, Echuca





Room 18



Supporting A Child Through Grief and Loss

How children understand and express loss will depend on their age, developmental stage, past experiences and connection with what they've lost.

- Sadness
- Relief
- Disbelief
- Guilt
- Frustration
- Fear
- Anger
- Panic
- Shock
- Confusion
- Anxiety
- Numbness
- Longing
- Lack of emotions



Strong feelings can be overwhelming for children. Some might get quiet and withdrawn, while others might express their feelings through challenging behaviours. Some will be confused by what they are feeling.

Talking to children about grief and loss

Breaking the news about a death to a child is never easy, but it's important they know and feel heard and supported by you in the process. Here are some tips to help:

- Try to be as honest and open as possible about what has happened
- Use age-appropriate language so it's easier for them to understand
- Use concrete words – for example, say 'died' or 'death'
- Avoid using euphemisms like 'gone to sleep' or 'passed away'
- Listen to them - it's ok not to have all the answers right now
- Answer the questions you can in a calm and consistent manner
- Be patient – they may need to hear the answers several times to process it
- Use storybooks, toys and play to help explain what has happened
- Let them know that they can talk to you at any time
- Ask another trusted adult to talk to your child if you feel too distressed

Encourage them to express their feelings by sharing your own feelings

COMMUNITY NEWS



The Echuca Moama Rockets Inc. Football Club is a Club that offers football participation for players of all abilities within the Echuca Moama Region. We promote: INCLUSION / BELONGING / CHALLENGE / FRIENDSHIP / RESPECT / ENJOYMENT / OPPORTUNITY / GROWTH. We strive to offer inclusion for players of all abilities to enjoy an environment that promotes fitness, fun and a sense of belonging. We offer participation to all aiming to enhance life skills, develop self-esteem and improve overall health and wellbeing for all.

The Rockets have been given an amazing opportunity through the receipt of a **VicHealth Active Club Grant** to run a **FREE** five week **Soccer Skills Program** in Term 1, 2020.

Week 1: Wednesday 12th February 5.00pm - 6.00pm Soccer Skills

Week 2: Wednesday 19th February 5.00pm - 6.00pm Soccer Skills

Week 3: Wednesday 26th February 5.00pm - 6.00pm Soccer Skills

Week 4: Wednesday 4th March 5.00pm - 6.00pm Soccer Skills

Week 5: Wednesday 11th March 4.30pm - 6.30pm Soccer Skills and Soccer Game

Echuca South Recreation Reserve (South Oval next to Basketball Stadium)

**SO COME AND TRY THE ROUND BALL
WITH THE ROCKETS.**

For more information please contact: Prue O'Dea (M):0421 060 440

Hi all,

I hope you've all had a smooth start to the 2020 school year!

Biomix, located near Stanhope, is the commercial composting facility in our shire that composts all the material from our kerbside Food and Garden Waste (green bins) to the Australian Standard to produce a high quality compost. Biomix would like to invite our local schools to access this compost at an upcoming open day.

Vanessa, the CEO of Biomix Compost has proposed the date of **Saturday 22 February from 10am to 12pm**

Teachers and parents from your school are invited to purchase compost direct from Biomix, which is located at 980 Two Tree Road, Carag Carag – near Stanhope - <https://www.biomix.com.au/>.

Trailer loads purchased on the day are \$40 (equal to 1m³ – trailer load, ute tray load). For each trailer load purchased (by teachers/parents from your school), **\$30 will be donated back to your school!**

If you have any questions on the above, please contact myself or Vanessa Lenihan – vanessa@biomix.com.au.

Sheri



Echuca Specialist School
High Street South
(P.O. Box 780)
ECHUCA VIC 3564
Phone: (03) 5482 2769
Fax: (03) 5480 2077

echuca.ss@edumail.vic.gov.au
www.echucass.vic.edu.au