

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.



Important Dates

February

25th—SSG Meetings

Student Free Day

March

**10th—Year 7 Imm.
HPV & Dip –Tetanus &
Whooping cough**

April

8th—End of Term 1

Principal Reports

Welcome back

Welcome back to school for 2022. I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable break. Even though we have only been back a few days, the staff and students have already settled in to their new routines. The students seemed very excited to be at school, mixing with friends and back in to learning.



School dog

We are excited to announce that the school will shortly have its own wellbeing dog. The pup was born on the 17th of January this year and will come to us in late term 1. The dog is a cross between an Old English sheep dog and a Poodle; it is called a Sheepadoodle. The dog will be black and white and have a gentle temperament with low allergenic fur. There is specific training that staff are completing at the moment and there will be lessons for the school community too. The organisation that is supporting us to train the dog is 'Dog's Connect'. The Dogs Connect program will support us in implementing this very gradually, thoroughly, and considerately. At this stage we encourage anyone who would like to know more about this program to look through the website link below:

<https://dogsconnect.net.au>

We will have a naming competition over the next few weeks that the entire school community can be a part of. We want a name that reflects the vision and values of our school. The dog will be a female. Below is a photo of the pups and also what they will grow up to look like.



Our Vision

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



Key Word Sign

Last Monday the whole staff spent the day learning key word sign. Basically it is a simple form of signing to support communication. You may have seen some of the videos on Facebook. We will be promoting the use of key word sign during the year. We want all of our students to learn key word sign, not only to help improve communication, but also for inclusion. We want all of our students to be able to communicate and support each other. Keep an eye out for further information in each newsletter and Facebook page.

Starting time

A reminder that staff are not on duty until 8:45am each morning. Students are not to arrive before this time.

New staff

We have several new staff at school. They are:-



Johnny- Teacher in the 7-9 area



Casey- Teacher in the VCAL area.



Clarke- ES in the VCAL area.



Kiara- ES in the 3-6 area.



Ebony- ES in the 3-6 area.



Courtney- Teacher in the 3-6 area.

Cont. Principals report

School Council

Shortly we will be asking for nominations for our vacant school council positions. If you are interested, please contact Paul for more information.

SSG meetings

SSG meetings are a vital way for parents to communicate with staff and pass on important information to improve student learning. This year we will be conducting our first SSG meetings on Friday 25th February. You will be receiving booking times shortly. All parents and carers must be fully vaccinated to enter the school. Contact your child's teacher if you require an alternative meeting option such as phone or via computer.

Covid-19

Obviously Covid continues to throw up some challenges for school. By now you should've received two packs of five rapid antigen tests. The government recommends (but is not mandatory) that all staff and students are tested daily. This is specific to specialist schools. I understand the difficulty this would cause some families. If staff or students receive a positive test result at any time, they must report this through the Department of Health online system or via the coronavirus hotline at 1800 675 398. I ask that families contact the school if their child contracts Covid. We can then warn staff and students from the room to monitor for symptoms. Masks are recommended for all students, but they are not mandatory in specialist settings. All staff will be wearing masks when inside. (Unless teaching)

High quality cleaning continues to be used across the school. Staff and students regularly use hand sanitiser and are encouraged to wash their hands. Staff continue to socially distance and parents are required to sign in at the office whenever they visit the school. We are required to keep a record of all people that are on site. For this reason we are encouraging parents to only visit the school for specific reasons such as meetings.

Sunsmart

A reminder that all students are required to follow our Sunsmart policy. Students are required to wear hats and sunscreen when outside. Please name hats (as well as all clothing) so they don't become lost.

School's Privacy policy

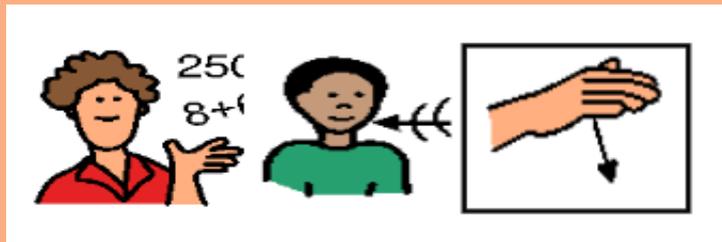
I have included the school's privacy policy for the information of the entire school community. Please contact me if you have any questions related to this.



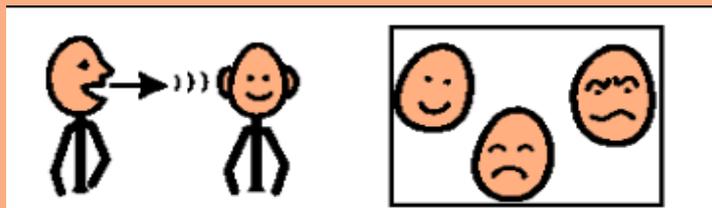
We would like thank Kiwanis Echuca/Moama for the donation which allowed our school to purchase a new swing for the VCAL area and to Moama Apex Club for installing and supplying soft fall. Your generosity and on-going support of our school is greatly appreciated.

PBS Targeted Behaviour

Knowledge Always



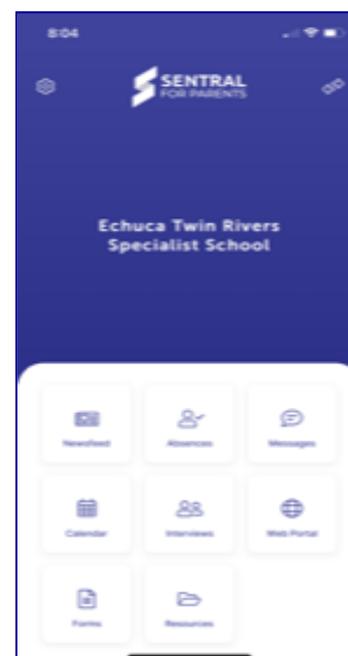
I follow directions from staff



I communicate how I am feeling

Parent Portal

We would like to encourage all our families/carers to download the Sentral Parent Portal on their phones. It is absolutely free. This app allows you to enter future and current absences, contact the school and your child's teacher, access the school calendar, student reports, book parent teacher interviews, view school documents and receive notification and messages from the school. Each family has received an access code. If you have not received this or have misplaced please contact the office and we can reissue.



2022 Parent Payment Policy. The full policy can be viewed on our website. www.echucass.vic.edu.au

PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY

ONE PAGE OVERVIEW



FREE INSTRUCTION

- Schools provide students with free instruction and ensure students have free access to all items, activities and services that are used by the school to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements in Victorian Curriculum F-10, VCE and VCAL.
- Schools may invite parents to make a financial contribution to support the school.



PARENT PAYMENT REQUESTS

Schools can request contributions from parents under three categories:

Curriculum Contributions	Other Contributions	Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.	Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.	Items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides for free to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

- Schools may also invite parents to supply or purchase educational items to use and own (e.g. textbooks, stationery, digital devices).



SCHOOL PROCESSES

- Schools must obtain school council approval for their parent payment arrangements and publish all requests and communications for each year level on their school website for transparency.

Primary School Privacy Policy

PRIMARY SCHOOL

PRIVACY INFORMATION for parents and carers

During the ordinary course of your child's attendance at our school, school staff will collect your child's personal and health information when necessary to educate your child, or to support your child's social and emotional wellbeing or health in the school context. Such information will also be collected when required to fulfil a legal obligation, including duty of care, anti-discrimination law and occupational health and safety law. If that information is not collected, the school may be unable to provide optimal education or support to your child, or fulfil those legal obligations.

For example, health information may be collected through the school nurse, primary welfare officer or wellbeing staff member. If your child is referred to a specific health service at school, such as a Student Support Services officer, the required consent will be obtained. Our school also collects information provided by parents and carers through the School Entrance Health Questionnaire (SEHQ) and the Early Childhood Intervention Service (ECIS) Transition Form.

Our school may use online tools, such as apps and other software, to effectively collect and manage information about your child for teaching and learning purposes, parent communication and engagement; student administration; and school management purposes. When our school uses these online tools, we take steps to ensure that your child's information is secure. If you have any concerns about the use of these online tools, please contact us.

School staff will only share your child's personal or health information with other staff who need to know to enable the school to educate or support your child, or fulfil a legal obligation.

When our students transfer to another Victorian government school, personal and health information about that student will be transferred to that next school. Transferring this information is in the best interests of our students and assists that next school to provide optimal education and support to students.

In some limited circumstances, information may be disclosed outside of the school (and outside of the Department of Education and Training). The school will seek your consent for such disclosures unless the disclosure is allowed or mandated by law.

Our school values the privacy of every person. When collecting and managing personal and health information, all school staff must comply with Victorian privacy law. For more information about privacy including about how to access personal and health information held by the school about you or your child, see our school's privacy policy: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/schoolsprivacypolicy.aspx>

Throughout this notice, 'staff' includes principals, teachers, Student Support Service officers, youth workers, social workers, nurses and any other allied health practitioners and all other staff at our school. This includes employees, agents and service providers (contractors) of the Department, whether paid or unpaid.

Secondary School Privacy Policy

SECONDARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT PRIVACY COLLECTION STATEMENT

Privacy information for parents and carers

During the ordinary course of your child's attendance at our school, school staff will collect your child's personal and health information when necessary to educate your child, or to support your child's social and emotional wellbeing or health. Such information will also be collected when required to fulfil a legal obligation, including duty of care, anti-discrimination law and occupational health and safety law. If that information is not collected, the school may be unable to provide optimal education or support to your child, or fulfil those legal obligations.

For example, health information may be collected through the school nurse, primary welfare officer or wellbeing staff member. If your child is referred to a specific health service at school, such as a Student Support Service officer, or school-engaged psychologist, the required consent will be obtained.

Our school may use online tools, such as apps and other software, to effectively collect and manage information about your child for teaching and learning purposes, parent communication and engagement; student administration; and school management purposes. When our school uses these online tools, we takes steps to ensure that your child's information is secure. If you have any concerns about the use of these online tools, please contact us.

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Lunch orders



School lunches are available Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

You can now register at <http://www.schoollunchonline.com.au>, choose from a great list of lunch options and pay online – all without the last minute morning hassle.

Who is supplying the food?

Molloy's Takeway will be providing the food. Please contact Helen on 03 5482 5336 for all food related queries.

When will I have to order?

The Cut Off Time: Orders MUST be placed by 9.00 am on the day of delivery.

How do I place my order?

Visit <http://www.schoollunchonline.com.au/>, register your family and then follow the prompts to choose your lunch selection and place your order. You will need to register before you can view the menu. It only takes a minute or two to register and is very simple.

Parents/Carers will register under Echuca Twin Rivers and when they go to add users they will simply click on Specialist School. By clicking of Specialist School your child's lunch will be delivered at 1:00pm not 1:30pm for Twin Rivers Primary School.

Simply click on the calendar to view the menu.

What if I encounter a problem?

School Lunch Online has conducted extensive testing to ensure the website and system are fully functional from day one. However, if you do encounter a problem, or simply need a little help with getting started, please contact them for help at hello@schoollunchonline.com.au

News from the office

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund applications

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you have a valid means-tested family concession card, such as a Veterans Affairs Gold Card, Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible.

Payment amounts this year are \$125 for eligible primary school students and \$225 for eligible secondary school students. Payments are made direct to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions and sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

If you applied for CSEF through our school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year, unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

If you would like to apply for the first time, please contact the school office on 5410 7700 and ask for an application form.

You can also download the form, and find out more about the program and eligibility, on the Department of Education and Training's Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund web page.

Check with the school office if you are unsure, and please return completed forms to the school office as soon as possible.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Paghtpses/csef.aspx>



**Business Manager
Tracey Paine**

**Reception
Administration
Jenni Candy**



Conveyance Allowance Applications

Eligibility

An application on behalf of a student may be submitted if the student is:

- a Victorian resident;
- school aged and enrolled three or more days per week at a school; and
- attends a specialist school

A student who meets the above requirements may be eligible if they:

- reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from the school attended
- by private car from home to nearest bus stop or to school

If you reside 4.8km from your nearest bus stop & you think you may be eligible for Conveyance Allowance please contact Tracey or Jenni for an application form.

Application forms need to be in no later than Friday 11th March 2022

Social Worker—Jenny Weeks



Instead of saying 'good job', what can I say?

When children do something great we often say "good job." There's nothing wrong with saying this, but it's vague...so what else can you say? At school, we try to be as specific as we can about what the students have done well.



You kept working on it and you got it!



I love hearing you ideas and thought



You didn't get it the first time but I like how you kept trying



Thank-you for getting that done



You worked really hard on that



You remember to do what I asked - thank-you

Community News

Blue Light

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY Bendigo Bank

PROUDLY RUN BY LOCAL POLICE AND VOLUNTEERS

Kyabram Blue Light

POOL PARTY

FEB 11 2022 • 6:00-8:30PM
 KYABRAM OUTDOOR POOL
 \$8 ENTRY - TICKETS AT THE DOOR
 PREP-YR 8'S WELCOME

Pool rules apply • Sorry adults, kids only in the pool!

For more information contact: Mitchell.Bull@police.vic.gov.au

[/kyabrambluelight](#)

KYFIT

ACHIEVE
 CHALLENGE
 RESPONSIBILITY
 ACCOUNTABILITY
 SMASH YOUR GOALS
 ENCOURAGE
 COMMUNITY
 SUCCESS
 ACHIEVE

KYFIT
 WHO? - AGE 11+
 WHEN? - THURS 4PM
 WHERE? - Kyabram

KYABRAM

CONTACT: Mitchell.Bull@police.vic.gov.au

Like us on Facebook

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