

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 Reports



Welcome back

Welcome back to school for 2021. I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable break. Even though we have only been back a week, 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.

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 26th February. You will be receiving booking times shortly.

Positive Behaviour Strategy

This year the school continues to use Positive Behaviour Strategies to teach students positive ways to behave. Students might come home with stars or smiley faces stamped on their hands. They might come home with certificates showing when they have displayed positive behaviours ten times.

A smiley face means they have shown general great behaviour. A star means that the student has displayed the targeted behaviour for the week.

Each week we have a targeted behaviour that is taught explicitly to students.

These behaviours are linked to our school values.

Our school values are:-

Respect

Knowledge

Inclusion



February

5th—School Tour

26th—SSG Meetings—
Student Free Day

March

10th—Year 7 Immunisation

April

1st—Last day of Term 1

19th—First day of Term 2

Our Vision

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



New staff

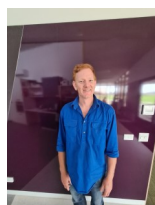
Maggie Ellis is a teacher in the years 7-9 area.



Hannah Foster is a teacher in the years 7-9 area.



Gus Gillman is a trainee in the VCAL department.



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.

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy.

Please take time to remind yourself of the school's collection statement, found on our website. For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents. This information is also available in nine community languages:

- Amharic
- Arabic
- Dari
- Mandarin
- Somali
- Sudanese
- Turkish
- Urdu
- Vietnamese.

Starting time

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

Covid-19

Although restrictions have eased, we are still required to follow good hygiene practises. 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.

Guided school tours

On Friday 5th February we will be conducting guided tours in small groups. We realise parents are keen to check out the new facilities. Call the school to book your place.

Swimming sports

We are again competing in the special schools swimming sports in Shepparton. This competition is held for students in the secondary department. We travel to Shepparton and compete against several other specialist schools.

Welcome BBQ

We will be holding a welcome BBQ on Thursday 4th March from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. This will be a welcome BBQ for both the Twin Rivers primary and specialist school. More information is to come.

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 Council

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



PRIVACY COLLECTION STATEMENT – Primary Schools

Information for parents and carer

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.



PRIVACY COLLECTION STATEMENT – Secondary Schools 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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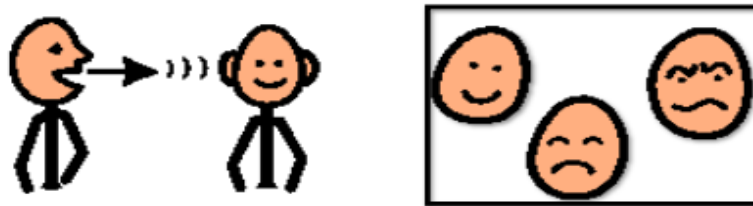
PBS Targeted Behaviour

Knowledge Always

I follow directions from staff



I communicate how I am feeling



Jenny Weeks
Social Worker



Helping Your Child Settle Back into the School Year

After a long break (and a slightly crazy 2020) it can take time for your child to readjust to the routine and rhythm of school life. Some things you can do to help with this may include:

Establish a consistent routine -

- get up at the same time,
- do your morning routine of breakfast, cleaning teeth, making lunch, packing school bag in the same way each morning,
- arrive at the same time each day

Prepare your child for the day -

- Explain who their staff are
- Explain who will be picking them up and from where
- Include them with some responsibilities, for example
- Helping make their breakfast or lunch
- Let them pack their bag

If your child is feeling anxious about coming to school, there are lots of things to try:

- Acknowledge your child's fears or concerns, **but work on things to overcome them;**

make a plan

- Give them something to hold that reminds them of you throughout the day, for example
- A small rock they can have in their pocket to hold when they are feeling anxious
- A love-heart drawn on their hand that they can press when they are feeling anxious
- A special toy kept in their bag that reminds them of you when they need reassurance
- These ideas often work well if you also have an item that matches theirs

Acknowledge their feelings but also focus on previous successes, for example "You did such a great job at school yesterday, tell me what your favourite thing to do was".

- Try not to talk too much about what your day will look like without them
- Make a plan for what happens if things don't go as planned and offer reassurance that this will be okay too. For example, if mum can't pick you up from school, this is what will happen, or if the bus breaks down this is what they do. Often anxiety can arise from the uncertainty of not know what will happen if things go wrong
- Speak with your child's staff and keep them informed on how your child is coping

It is important that you take care of yourself too! It is extremely stressful seeing your child upset, so take some time for yourself and acknowledge that it is not easy.

Office News

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 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.

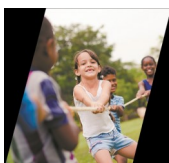
If you would like to apply for the first time, please contact the school office on 5410 7700 and ask for an application form.

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/Paghttpses/csef.aspx>



Business Manager

**Reception
Administration**



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 Monday 8th March

Community News

Echuca Library Afterschool Club

Term 1 Travel Bugs



Lets travel the world and have
some fun in different countries.
Each session will focus on a different
country to explore.

Recommended for primary school aged participants.

Where

Echuca Library

When

3.30 - 4.30pm

Every second Thursday

4 & 18 Feb, 4 & 18 Mar

Cost

Free!

Bookings essential

Campaspe Library | 03 5481 2400 | www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/library



**IT TAKES A COMMUNITY
TO RAISE A CHILD,
ARE YOU
OUR NEXT
FOSTER CARER?**

**TO FIND OUT MORE, COME AND HAVE
A CHAT WITH US AT NJERND.**



**EMAIL THE FOSTER CARE TEAM
fostering@njernda.com.au**



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<https://www.echucass.vic.edu.au>