



6th February, 2020
Issue 1

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



Principals message:

Welcome back

Welcome back to school for 2020. 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.

No more printing newsletters

The next newsletter will be the last to be printed on paper for all families. We have made the decision to save money, time and trees. The cost of printing the newsletter ran into the thousands and we want to spend the money in more productive ways for the students. If you don't have access to a computer, iPad, smart phone or other electronic device, you can still request to have the newsletter printed. Just call the and speak to Jenni. If you would like the Newsletter emailed please send your email address to echuca.ss@edumail.vic.gov.au. There are multiple ways to access the newsletter such as email, Facebook, our website and Flexibuzz (was Tiqbiz).

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

New school update

Works are on track for a July/August completion. At the moment the builders are installing the bus drive through at the front of the school. This is to ensure our students are safely picked up and dropped off.

Dates to remember:

February

18th—Open Water Grade 3-6

19th—School Council

21st—Student Free Day
- All staff PF

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

CON'T PRINCIPAL REPORT

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

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.

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.

Coronavirus

The coronavirus is a worldwide concern and unfortunately, Australia is not immune to the disease. As a school we have measures in place to support the protection of staff and students against disease. This includes hand washing and other sanitary measures. If your child is sick, please keep them home. I have included some information about the coronavirus in the newsletter.

Phone Lockers

Congratulations to all the students for bringing their mobile devices to the office first thing in the morning.



Meet Jenny Weeks—Social Worker

Hi my name is Jenny Weeks and I am working at ESS as a social worker. Prior to coming to ESS I have worked in 2 other schools in the Wellbeing area. I have also worked at Community Living & Respite Services across a wide range of programs. I am really excited to come to ESS and have already met lots of wonderful staff and students. My role at ESS will include assisting with the health and wellbeing needs of the students and their families. I will be working 5 days a week and will be working in classrooms, in small groups and one-on-one with some students. I'm passionate about children's mental health and wellbeing. Please feel free to call me or drop in to say hi.



Knowledge in the Yard

I wear my hat & sunscreen



Information from the Business Manager

2020 Essential Education Item Fees

Primary: \$220

Secondary: \$260

Payment arrangements

To further assist parents with payments, four payment options have been developed:

- Option A** Full amount at the beginning of Term 1
- Option B** Payment at the beginning of each Term
- Option C** Half yearly payment (beginning of T 1 & 3)
- Option D** Other payment arrangements including; Centrelink Centrepay; fortnightly payments can be deducted from any Centrelink payment – please contact the office if you would like to arrange this.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the CSEF visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

If you applied for the CSEF at your child's school in 2019, you do not need to complete an application form in 2020 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools in 2020 or you did not apply in 2019.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2020.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



New staff

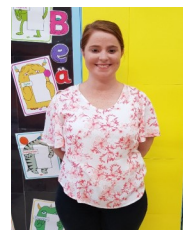


Maddie Fairley- Maddie is the teacher in room 18.

Katie Devlin- Katie is teaching in room 1. Katie returns after being away for a year.



Liana Coyle- Liana is the ES in room 1. Last year Liana completed her traineeship with us.



Nicole Lofthouse- Nicole is sharing a teaching role in room 7.



Lucas Denton- Lucas is teaching in room 17. Lucas returns after being away for a year.

Jenny Weeks- Jenny is our new social worker and will be in the office that Meagan and Prue worked in last year.



Narelle Byrne- Narelle is the new music teacher.

Antoinette Shutt- Ant returns to complete her traineeship. She will work in room 5.



Gabrielle Dayhew- Gabrielle will be the teacher in room 15. Bec Welsh gave us late notice that she was not returning to ESS. We advertised and Gabrielle was successful. Gabrielle will be finishing at her previous work before starting teaching at ESS in the coming weeks.

Deb McLaren- Unfortunately due to Deb's health, she won't be returning for some time. Vicki Mitchell will take her class until she returns. Welcome back Vicki.



Children's reactions to the bushfires

The recent bushfires have impacted many people, whether it's been directly or indirectly. Those indirectly impacted can be harder to spot, including many children. We can be indirectly impacted because we have heard people talking about them, we've seen images on the TV, or maybe know someone who has been affected. We need to be mindful that children have also had their own experience (sometimes despite best efforts to avoid this happening).

Children may feel distressed about the bushfires, and this can affect their mental health in the weeks, months and even years to come. Signs that children may be experiencing distress include the following (outside of what is their usual behaviour):

Behaving developmentally different to they usually do	increase anxiety about sleeping alone
nightmares	Irritability or anger
Tantrums & increased defiance	Unusual fussy eating
More clingy or need to stay close	Decreased concentration/attention span
Fears & worries about safety	Questions about death

It can be hard to know what we can do or say to help, but here are some ideas:

Talk about the events

If children want to, encourage them to talk about how they are feeling and let them know that it's okay to be feeling that way.

Give children the opportunity to express their feelings

Children don't always have the words to express how they're feeling so sometimes making time to play is a good way for them to let you know what is going on in their heads

Reassure children

Let them know that we are working hard to keep them safe and find activities that they find calming. Maintaining routines is also reassuring for children.

Be aware of how you talk when children are around

Children can have incredibly good hearing and can understand a lot more than we give them credit for.

Consider your own reactions

Children will often look to adults for cues as to how to respond to situations and they see and hear a lot more than we think!

Try to limit media exposure

We may be watching replayed footage, but children may not be aware of this. If they do see media stories, sit with them and discuss things from their perspective.

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

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