

# MEPS Newsletter

PE OOS

www.mtelizaps.vic.edu.au

#### Term 4, Week 10, 2023

DIARY		
Term 4		
<u>December</u>		
Tue	12	UP Day (Transition Day Whole School)
Wed	13	Prep End of Year Celebration
Thurs	14	Year 6 Graduation Dinner
Fri	15	Year 5 Enchanted Maze
		Year 3 Movie and games day
		4.30pm Steph Born's Instrumental Concert for families in Old School Hall
Mon	18	Year 6 Graduation Assembly @ 9.15am
		Year 4 Cinema excursion
Tues	19	Year 6 Gumbuya World
		Year 1 Proactivity (BER)
		Year 2 Silent Disco
Wed	20	End of Year Assembly @ 8.50am
		Last Day of School – finish @ 1.15pm

#### MEPS 2nd Hand Uniform Shop



#### **Uniform Shop**

REMINDER – HATS ARE COMPULSORY IN TERM 4
Please make sure your child has a hat to commence the term. Note opening hours below.

Opening Hours Monday – 8.30am – 11:30am Wednesday – 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Uniforms may be purchased online - see below

https://fcw.com.au/online-shop/mt-eliza-primary-school-online/

Processed orders will be delivered to your child's classroom.

<u>Disclaimer:</u> FCW School Uniform Shop will not be accepting CASH PAYMENTS from the 1 December 2023.

Joanne Patterson
Uniform Shop Co-ordinator

#### Camp Australia

Before and After School Care is available in the Old School House. To register your child please phone Camp Australia on 1300 105 343. Registration is available online at www.campaustralia.com.au

#### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - MS KIM WHEELER

Dear Parents and Carers,



Last Sunday December 3rd marked International Day of People with Disability. To learn more about the importance of this day please take a look at this short clip:

#### https://www.youtube.com/embed/8tlcV1syitM

At MEPS we look forward to continuing the conversation and building on our inclusive practices. This includes building awareness and understanding of the unique experiences of our school community members with disability, as well as the ways in which individual strengths help to make MEPS a great place to be.

Please stay tuned for future newsletters featuring some of the inclusive approaches used at MEPS.

Michelle Polley, Head of Inclusion & Intervention

#### **EVENTS @ MEPS**

Events at primary schools play a vital role in a child's overall development. Many of these events promote social development, allowing our students to interact with peers, teachers and sometimes even the wider community. They learn social skills like teamwork, cooperation, and communication.

Experiences such as the Year 5 Asian Expo and our End of Year Concert have enabled us to celebrate different cultures, traditions and historical events. This exposure fosters an appreciation for diversity and promotes cultural understanding. Participation in events, whether in performances, sports like our House Swimming Carnival or presentations, also helps to build confidence. Standing in front of an audience or performing fosters self-assurance, which is what we saw in abundance at our End of Year Concert last Friday afternoon.

Events involving parents or the local community create a strong bond between the school and the community. This involvement encourages support for education and the school itself.

#### **House Swimming Carnival**

Our MEPS House Swimming Carnival was a fantastic day.





Besides offering an opportunity for students to showcase their skills and talents in the pool, our House Swimming Carnival in Week 8 added an element of fun and excitement to the school calendar. Bringing everyone together in multi-age Houses created a memorable experience for our MEPS students. We had some extremely impressive performances in the pool, and I also want to acknowledge the children who have different strokes a go, surprising themselves in doing so.

A big thanks to Mrs McLaughlin, staff, parent volunteers and all those who took part in our fun relays at the end of the day.

Our Year 6 Sport Leaders did a great job assisting on the day and congratulations to Manyung for taking out the House Trophy as the winning House.

2



#### Working in the Garden

The Year 3 students finished off their OzHarvest program with a hands-on session in the garden with Vic and Bec. Some of your younger students also enjoyed getting in on the fun in the garden, harvesting, pruning, planting seeds and insect spotting.



A huge thanks also to the PTA for purchasing sets of child-safe knives for the kitchen - they work a treat!



#### Year 5 Asian Expo

Last Thursday, our incredible Year 5 students presented their Asian Expo for the school community. Supporting their Inquiry unit, students shared information about their chosen Asian country; geographical landmarks, important traditions, food and culture. It was wonderful to see how engaged the Year 5 students were to demonstrate their learning and to display their ability to be Leaders of Today and Tomorrow. Thanks to Year 5 students and staff for all their hard work and to MEPS students and families for taking the time out to learn all about Asia.





Last Monday, all Early Years students from Prep to Year 2 joined together to celebrate the culmination of our MEPS Meeting Place project. I have mentioned this project a number of times throughout the Newsletters this term. I have been impressed by how the 'spark of an idea' has taken flight, with contributions by so many people and businesses, which has seen this project come to life, and now - fruition!

On Monday, students brought the two pieces of artwork that they had created with Kim Schroeder (from Wild Kindling) during their Nature Play sessions. They each placed their woven stick to form our version of Bundjil's Nest and then placed their painted rock along the pathway as part of the MEPS Meeting Place precinct.

Bundjil is a significant figure, particularly among the Kulin nation in southeastern Australia. Bundjil is often depicted as an eagle and is revered as a creator and a protector. The nest symbolises protection, guidance and the nurturing aspect of Bundjil's role. It's a representation of a safe haven, a place where communities gather, learn and share stories. Placing our very own Bundjil's nest at the front of the school is a

clear indication that Mt Eliza Primary School is a centre for learning, connecting and developing relationships.

During our celebration, we were honoured by the contributions of Josh Sinclair, who played the didgeridoo and shared his knowledge of the land with the children. It was a very special day!























#### **End of Year Concert**

On Friday we celebrated a long and event-filled year at MEPS. It was wonderful to see our students performing with confidence in front of such a big crowd. We thank our performing Arts specialists, Mrs Donna Taggart and Mrs Lynne Congiusta for preparing and leading such a fabulous showcase of MEPS talent. All of the specialist team lent a hand in the preparations and our staff assisted with rehearsals of each musical number.

A big thanks also to our supportive audience in very humid conditions.























#### STUDENT ACHIEVERS

#### Years 3/4 HoopTime

Congratulations to our Years 3 and 4 HoopTime Team, who came 4th in the state in last week's State Championships. There were over 300 All Star Boys Teams in Victoria. Our students played eight gruelling games in extremely hot conditions during the State Finals. The boys were amazing, and we couldn't be more proud of them. A massive thanks to their coach, Lee W, and to Mrs McLaughlin and parents for all their support.











#### Years 5/6 HoopTime

A huge congratulations to our Years 5/6 Hoop Time Boys Team who played in the State Finals last week. All students displayed our school values consistently and we are beyond proud of them all. They played five awesome games but missed out by 3% for the finals but did get the chance to play in the Consolation Finals. A big thank you to their coach, Jodie P, Mrs McLaughlin and all parents who have supported the team throughout this long season.















#### Student Voices to Parliament

In Term 3, Emma G and Samuel G entered the 'Raise our Voice in Parliament' program, where they addressed an issue facing our country. Last week, Zoe McKenzie, Member for Flinders read out Emma's and Samuel's speeches in the Federation Chamber.





#### R. N. Knight Award - Lucas Zang

At the Year 6 Graduation each year, selected students receive awards for demonstrating the exceptional qualities of a MEPS student. One of these awards is the RN Knight Award. Richard Knight was Principal of Mt Eliza Primary School during the early 1970s, at a time when there were over 1000 students attending the school. He was one of the main initiators of a new primary school (Mount Eliza North) being built in Mt Eliza. When Richard Knight retired, he was very proud of the fact that he knew the names of every child in the school (over 1000 students). He requested that no gift was presented to him but that an award be made annually to two students who had shown the following outstanding qualities:

Aptitude, Initiative, Reliability, Endeavour, Thoughtfulness, Responsibility, Consideration and Care

These qualities are what Mr Knight believed were the makings of True Citizenship.

We awarded one of the recipients at last week's assembly, as this student will not be present at our Graduation ceremony. Congratulations go to Lucas Zang as one of the recipients of the RN Knight Award for 2023.







#### Lucas Zang

Lucas is a student who constantly strives for greatness in a quiet unassuming way. He embodies the qualities of this award and displays these in all he does. When presented with challenges, Lucas works hard to overcome these and usually exceeds all expectations. He is a valued, liked and respected member of the school community. Well done Lucas on a magnificent 7 years at Mt Eliza Primary School.

#### **TRANSITIONS**

Movin' on Up at MEPS - Middle School

Last week we introduced our 'Movin' on Up at MEPS' series, sharing highlights from Prep, Year 1 and Year 2. This week, I am proud to introduce the amazing things that students can look forward to as they head into Years 3 and 4, our Middle School, where much of the learning is centred around the key theme of students being 'Future Focused'. Thanks to Mrs Hille and students from the Middle School who presented these highlights at our Week 9 assembly.





### Welcome to YEAR 3



# of the off of the off

Things to look forward to as shared by our current Year 3 students...

"I loved starting Oz Harvest. You really get to experience those different types of flavours and creating recipes with foods you didn't think you could use any more like stale bread or old tomatoes." - Evie

"In Inquiry we learnt a lot about how farms work. We got to visit Peninsula Honey and learn a lot about Bees. We also went to a working dairy farm and saw how they milk cows - we even got fresh milk and a cookie!" - Harrison





"We loved our camp activities at Golden Valley and here at school, the Minute to Win it games were heaps of fun!" - Ryan & Frazier



# movin on up at meps





## Welcome to YEAR 4



# कों औं कों कों कों

Things to look forward to as shared by our current Year 4 students...

"House Athletics Day was amazing because we got to try every athletic event like shot put and hurdles. You get to dress up in house colours and even though you might be nervous at the start, you have a go and feel confident." - Kiera

"I loved going on camp because we got to spend one night away from home, and it was heaps of fun. I was nervous about the giant swing, but it was awesome to hang out with my friends in our cabins". - Hugh





"I loved being able to cook hot dishes this year. We got to use the oven and a hot pan, and made lots of new recipes in Oz Harvest".

- Makayla



I would also like to introduce the amazing things that students can look forward to as they head into Years 5 and 6, our Senior School, where much of the learning is centred around the key theme of students being 'Leaders of Today and Tomorrow'. Thanks to Mrs Wheatley and students from the Senior School who presented these highlights at our Week 10 assembly in preparation for next week's Up Day.

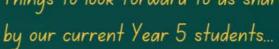




## Welcome to YEAR 5

Leadens of Today and Tomorrow







In Year 5 we learnt about leadership. We studied The Kokoda War and researched how the soldiers worked as a team to get success. It was a challenge for us to work as a team and help each other even if we were not best friends. To develop leadership skills some students participated in the Mt. Eliza Secondary College Aspiring Leaders Day. -Aden

Sovereign Hill camp is amazing! You go back to school life in the 1850s. You learn all about the Gold Rush, have some interesting tours, pan for gold in this epic journey with your friends. At school, we played the gold game which was lots of fun being a gold miner with your very own Commissioner.
-Emmy





Phoenix Soar is a program where we learnt about the qualities of leadership and building resilience. We had people from the team come to school and we did basketball drills and even played a game against some players. This is a great way to built up our teamwork skills and it was lots of fun. -Elijah



# movin on up at meps



# Welcome to YEAR 6

# Leaders of Today and Tomorrow



Things to look forward to as shared

by our current Year 6 students...



While all Year 6 students are school leaders, at the beginning of the year you have opportunity to apply for many new leadership opportunities such as sports leader, communication leader, SRC and MEET representative. If you're lucky enough to be selected in one of these roles you will be asked to complete a number of special jobs, events and tasks around the school and the community. It is a really proud achievement to become a leader at MEPS. -Eloise

Year 6 offers many new sporting opportunities such as Summer and Winter Lightening Premiership. We compete in teams for summer and winter sport such as tennis, cricket, football, soccer and netball. This is a great opportunity to play your favourite sports with your best friends while representing MEPS against other schools. If you do well enough you can even make it to the next round or to Regional and State events. Something definitely to look forward to. -Lachlan





In Year 6 we went to the Urban Camp. We completed lots of activities all over Melbourne such as a tour of the MCG, Old Melbourne Goal and we even had a game of bowls. We went on lots of public transport and stayed in cabins near the city. We did lots of walking and had the best time ever! I would highly recommend this camp again. -Elizabeth.





As we near 'Up Day' on Tuesday 12 December, students are starting to wonder who their teacher will be next year and who will be in their class. There is often a lot of anxiety and pressure put on grade selection, however, I think it timely to remind families that our year levels work very collaboratively together, so class placements do not mean that the students only work with the children in that grade. There are many opportunities throughout the week/term for students to work in multiple groups regardless of the classes they are in.

It is also important to note that friendship groups are often fluid in primary school and that providing opportunities for children to develop a wide range of relationships is healthy. Sometimes that means being in a different class than those for whom you have become accustomed, but that brings its own resilience and opportunity. In fact, being in a class with close friends can sometimes be counterproductive to developing socially and progressing academically. Having said that, our Policy states that we do ensure that students have at least 1

**learning friend** from their list. Classroom placements are a balancing act, requiring a great deal of work and consideration of multiple factors. As a result, parent requests are taken into consideration but are not guaranteed. Students in Years 1 - 5 will find out their class placement on the morning of Up Day. 2024 Preps will receive an email from their 2024 teacher the evening before Up Day.

#### **Up Day Times and Tips**

- Prep 2024 9.15am to 11.15am
- 2024 Years 1 to 6 9.00am 12.30pm

Up Day and the thought of transitioning into a new year can encourage a wide variety of emotions, ranging from nervousness to excitement. Below you will find some tips to help make these experiences as positive and successful as possible.

#### Keep conversations positive

If your child is feeling nervous or worried, help them understand that this is a normal reaction to something new. Let them know their teachers will be there to help and support them. Please be mindful that children can be very quick to pick up on the attitudes of the adults around them. Speak positively about school and specific aspects of it, such as their friends and teachers, or the new and exciting things they will have a chance to learn and do.

#### Let children share their own news

While it can be tempting to contact other parents to share news about new grades, teachers and friends, children love to share this information themselves. At the end of a big day, please let children experience the excitement of sharing their news with their nearest and dearest.

#### Contact with new teachers

Between Up Day and the end of the school year you might like to say hi and introduce yourself to your child's 2023 teacher. If you don't have this opportunity, there will be many at the beginning of next year, including a whole school Information Night early in the year. Please be assured that there is a comprehensive 'handover' between 2023 and 2024 teachers and specialists. This enables teachers to share your child's academic and social needs.

#### Make positive contact with any concerns

If you do have any concerns, please contact your child's teacher in a positive and timely manner. As always, staff at MEPS are here to help.

Wishing all of our MEPS families a wonderful finish to the school year. This is the perfect time to reflect on just how much your children have achieved and grown in 2023.



#### STAFFING NEWS

We congratulate **Mrs Cassie Humphreys** who will be taking on the 0.4 Prep Specialist role next year. She is looking forward to working with the Prep children, staff and families.



I am delighted to officially be joining the Prep team in 2024, where I will be responsible for delivering weekly Performing Arts (Music, Dance, and Drama), PMP (Perceptual Motor Program), and PE (Physical Education) lessons to our wonderful new Preps!

What excites me the most about this role is the opportunity to bring my passion for fostering strong and meaningful relationships with each and every Prep student. I am also passionate about the benefits of developing strong fine and gross motor skills in the Early Years to lay the foundations for early literacy and plan to create both welcoming and hands-on learning environments for all kids to learn, discover and explore in.

I look forward to a year filled with shared moments of discovery and growth, with plenty of fun and joy thrown in too!

Mrs Cathy O'Toole will also be taking on an Early Years STEM specialist and leadership cover role in 2024, thus reducing her time fraction so that she can also concentrate on her Psychology studies.

Mrs O'Toole will be working with students in Prep and Year 1 on their engagement with hands-on learning using Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics as drivers.

Mrs O'Toole will be working collaboratively with Mrs Humphreys to provide support and cohesion for the Early Years students as well as covering classes for our leadership team.



#### **Farewell**



As **Ms Leah Schmidt** leaves MEPS at the end of this year, we thank her for all her hard work in our Administration team over the past two years.

We acknowledge Leah's attention to detail, dedication to the role and care, and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

#### Welcome

**Mrs Melissa Ross** joins us in Administration in 2024 in a part-time role. Please find a message from Mrs Ross:

Hi, my name is Melissa Ross. I am extremely excited to be joining the team in the front office at Mt Eliza Primary School in 2024. I have worked in administration roles in secondary schools since 2021. Prior to working in schools, I worked as a legal assistant in law firms for over 20 years.

Most of my spare time is spent with my husband, two teenage daughters and two dogs. I love walking my dogs, shopping, gardening, and having friends and family over for meals. I am really looking forward to meeting the MEPS community in 2024.



#### **RIGHT NOW**

1. ORDER student booklist items, including textbooks and stationery. Campion Education portal is now open for orders until 29 December 2023.

#### **NEXT YEAR**

2. **Parent Contributions** (formerly known as school fees) will be sent out in Term 1, 2024 via Compass for payment. Information to come in the new year.

Please note some important FAQs regarding the 2024 Student Booklist:

#### Do we need everything on the list?

- All items indicated on the year level booklist are required for students in 2024 e.g., Textbooks, Diary, Stationery, Special Prep Requirements etc.
- There are additional items to purchase if your child is new to MEPS in 2024. These have the title: ONLY NEW STUDENTS IN 2024 TO PURCHASE. These are items that current students may have purchased in previous years.

#### How to Order?

- Ordering and payment is online through Campion Education ('How to Order' information attached).
   Alternatively go to www.campion.com.au using 9FKB as your code.
- All orders must be prepaid by credit card only (Mastercard and Visa accepted).
- Cut-off date for orders delivered to school Friday 29 December 2023.

#### How does my child get their items? Do we need to pick them up?

- Most items are supplied directly by Campion to the school. A few select items are supplied by the school, such as the Student Diary and Reader Bag.
- Campion Education facilitates the ordering and accepts the payment for ALL the items on your child's
  year level book list. So, please make sure that you tick all the boxes, and these items will be provided to
  your child accordingly.
- All orders placed by the due date will be packed up individually and delivered directly to MEPS on Tuesday 23 January 2024. These will be delivered to your child's classroom. Families will not need to name or cover any items!
- Orders can still be placed after the cut-off date, however, these items will not be delivered to school. It will be the family's responsibility to organise pick up for any items ordered late.

#### Can we get our own stationery?

- Booklist items are selected specifically to ensure consistency across each year level and, unfortunately, items cannot be purchased individually.
- I understand that you may have surplus supplies at home from previous years. If so, please do not
  hesitate to donate these to the school so that we can resource our 2024 lunchtime clubs. Just bag
  them up and bring them to the office; any extra supplies would be greatly appreciated.

Enjoy a wonderful week.

Kind regards,

Kim Wheeler Principal

#### SICKNESSES/ILLNESSES

Recently there have been parent communications alerting MEPS to cases of Headlice, Chicken Pox, Gastro and Covid-19. MEPS reminds our families to please take care, and to keep your children at home if they are unwell/unfit for school.



Parents should examine their child's hair regularly, and look for the following signs:

- Persistent scratching, particularly behind the ears and the nape of the neck sometimes accompanied by a slight redness or rash.
- Tiny silvery white eggs at the base or along the hair shaft.
- Small, pale brown lice. You may wish to use a magnifying glass and a finetooth comb under strong light to help identify the lice.

Head lice can be treated quickly and effectively by simply following these steps:

- Examine all family members' hair and treat everyone found to have head lice at the same time with specialist head lice treatment – make sure you follow the directions.
- Wash out the treatment and use a fine-tooth head lice comb to remove the dead lice and eggs – it is most important that ALL eggs are removed because the treatment WILL NOT KILL ALL THE EGGS – ONLY THE LICE
- 3. Repeat the treatment in 7-10 days.

As a precaution, any items of clothing, bed linen, towels, hats, combs, brushes etc. which may harbor head lice should be washed in hot, soapy water.

To prevent head lice in the future, all family members should have their hair checked regularly and avoid sharing items such as clothing, brushes, hats with each other or with friends.

#### PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU CHECK YOUR CHILD'S HAIR REGULARLY – REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY SHOW THE SIGNS LISTED AT THE TOP OF THIS NOTICE.

Head lice are an ongoing, time-consuming problem in all schools but with your continued diligence, perseverance and cooperation, we will endeavor to keep this problem under control.



One of the most important things we can do to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in our community is to stay at home when we are unwell, even when we have the mildest of symptoms.

#### What you need to know:

- 1. If a child is unwell, even with the mildest of symptoms, they should stay at home as is the same for any other illness or medical condition. If a child becomes unwell during the day, they must be collected from school as soon as possible.
- 2. If a child has any of the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) outlined below, however mild, they should get tested and they should remain at home until they receive their results.
- Fever
- Chills or sweats
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath
- Runny nose
- Loss of sense of smell or taste

18

- 3. A child should stay at home until they are symptom free, even if their COVID-19 test is negative.
- 4. Children do not need a medical certificate before returning to school.

In certain circumstances headache, muscle soreness, stuffy nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea may also be considered symptoms. For further advice call the 24-hour coronavirus (COVID-19) hotline 1800 675 398

#### **Enrolments 2024**



#### IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ENROL YOUR CHILD

Should you have any questions regarding your enrolment application please contact the school office - 9787 1385.

If you have missed the cut off date, please also contact the office immediately.

New families moving to the area may still contact the office for a tour and information about enrolment in 2024.

#### PREP 2024 TRANSITION SCHEDULE



**SCHOLASTIC** 

#### BOOK CLUB CO-ORDINATOR REQUEST

Dear Parents,

My name is Carina and I have been the Scholastic Book Club coordinator at MEPS for the past 4 years.

We are now looking for a new coordinator to take over in 2025. If there is someone who would be interested in this opportunity, I will be happy to show you the process over the coming year.

Every Scholastic Book Club order earns 15% in Scholastic Rewards to help purchase additional resources for our school. It not only enables us to boost our home and school libraries, but also to help improve our children's reading skills and hopefully encourage a life-long love of reading!

At MEPS we do 3 issues a year in terms 1, 2 and 4. When the catalogues arrive at school, the coordinator distributes the catalogues and advises of the due date. Orders are placed online, and the coordinator completes the order. When the books arrive at school they need to be sorted and delivered to each class.

If you are interested in taking on this role, please speak to the ladies in the office and I will be in touch.

Many thanks, Carina Thomas

#### STUDENT ABSENCES

Coming into the final term of 2023, we do ask parents to read the below information regarding Attendance at Mt Eliza Primary School:

#### **Primary School Attendance**

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day.

#### Why Attendance is Important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses school, it puts them behind what is happening in the classroom from an academic and social perspective. It is vital that students go to school every day – especially in the early years of primary school. *In Victoria, school is compulsory for children and young people aged 6-17 years.* 

#### Student Absences

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness - There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and developing good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

Family holidays - It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term. If you are planning to go on holiday during term time, make sure that you contact the Principal in advance, and work with the school to develop a plan to ensure that learning is not significantly impacted.

'Day off' - If you are letting your child have a 'day off' for a variety of reasons, please liaise with the school.

*Truancy* - This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

School refusal – School-refusing children will experience significant emotional distress not only when going to school but also at the thought of going to school. School refusal differs from truancy as children generally stay home with the knowledge of the parents and despite their best efforts to encourage their child to go to school.

#### STUDENT ABSENCES - COMPASS EDUCATION

PLEASE READ THIS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION

It is important to note that if your child/ren will be absent, you must notify the school via Compass Education.

Compass Education provides a Parent Portal which includes the ability to mark your child/ren absent if you know your child/ren will be absent from school. Parents will need to download the Compass Education app to access this service (which is available on both Apple and Android devices).

Once on the Home Screen, please click on the "Add Attendance Note" banner button at the top of the page. From here parents can key in all information required for the absence, including dates, times, and most importantly, the reason for the absence.

Please note if you do not complete this you will receive a text message letting you know that your child is absent unexplained, with a link to provide an Attendance Note on the Compass Education app.

If you do not respond to the Compass Notifications, you will receive an Absence Letter asking you to provide a reason for your child's absence.

For any questions regarding Compass or attendance, please contact barbara.rogers@education.vic.gov.au

#### **Music Lessons**



Looking for music lessons for your child?





Applications for guitar and keyboard lessons are now being accepted. Find out more information and application forms by clicking on the link below: https://forms.gle/f5R2hgwUhgKnNDic8

For any further inquires please contact Steph Born on 0418 140 742



Please note that Term 4 instrumental music concert will be on Friday 15 December at 4.30pm in the Old School Hall.



#### **HATS**

Don't forget.....during Term 4, it is compulsory to wear a hat, and it is recommended that all students apply their sunscreen before going outdoors.

#### **CSEF YEAR 7 UNIFORM PACK**

## STATE SCHOOLS' RELIEF

#### 2024 Year 7 CSEF Uniform Package



#### INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

Applications for the 2024 Year 7 CSEF uniform package will open from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 (beginning of Term 4, 2023).

#### What you need to know.

#### Who is SSR?

State Schools' Relief is a not-for-profit organisation that works closely with all state government schools in Victoria. Each year, State Schools' Relief provides assistance to thousands of students experiencing financial disadvantage with school uniforms, footwear and a host of other essential educational resources.

#### Introduction to Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

Through government funding the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) was established to provide payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports days and excursions. To find out more, or to apply for assistance, please refer to the Department of Education and Training website.

#### SSR provides a uniform package each year to all Year 7 families/carers eligible for CSEF funding.

#### 2024 Year 7 Uniform Package for CSEF recipients

Year 7 students for 2024 that are recipients of the Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) automatically qualify for the uniform package and/or vouchers.

#### What's in the package?

The 2024 package contains the following items:

- 1 x Polo Top or Shirt
- 1 x Trousers / Pants or Shorts or Summer Dress
- 1 x Pair of Shoes (Lace Ups or T-Bars or Sneakers)

#### Please note:

- PE items are not included as part of this package
- Shoes must be requested in UK sizes. The SSR shoe size conversion chart is available on our website.

#### Cost to families

Where State Schools' Relief cannot supply uniform items directly, you will receive a voucher that subsidises the cost of the uniform items. The voucher can be redeemed at your child's school uniform shop, or independent uniform retailer, which will be listed on the voucher.

Families/carers receiving vouchers will be required to make a co-contribution payment towards the cost of the uniform items. The amount required to cover the gap will depend on the retail price and the State Schools' Relief subsidy.

The voucher provided by State Schools' Relief lists each approved item, and the maximum purchase value, that State Schools' Relief will cover. Check your school's uniform price list to work out how much extra you may need to contribute towards the uniform item. Please note vouchers do have an expiry date and must be redeemed before the expiry date.

#### How do I apply for the CSEF Uniform Package?

Applications are made through your child's school. Please refrain from contacting State Schools' Relief directly as staff are unable to accept applications from parents/families or carers. Should you have any questions, or wish to apply for assistance, please speak with your child's 2024 school.

#### How do I receive the uniform package?

- All items and/or vouchers provided by SSR will be delivered directly to your child's school. The school will then contact
  you to arrange handover of these items and/or vouchers.
- The voucher will advise whether you collect items from the school uniform shop or a retailer. If it's a retailer, please check with your school to find out the nearest store.
- If a uniform item costs more than the maximum subsidised amount, State Schools' Relief is unable to cover any further cost.
- If a uniform item costs less than the maximum subsidised amount, the difference cannot be redeemed or transferred to an alternate uniform item.

Please note vouchers are not transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash; they cannot be used to purchase extra items and only the uniform item listed can be purchased with the voucher. State Schools' Relief does not make cash payments to schools or families/carers.

#### Terms and Conditions

- Only Year 7 students for 2024 that qualify for CSEF are automatically entitled to a uniform pack.
- Each student is eligible for one CSEF uniform pack.
- All vouchers have an expiry date, which is listed on the voucher. Vouchers must be redeemed within the time frame specified (90 days from issue date).
- · If uniform items cost less than the stated subsidised amount on the voucher, any unused subsidy cannot:
- be transferred to a different uniform item
- be used to purchase an extra item; or
- provided as cash to the school or the family/carer.

#### What you need to do.

Your child's school will be in contact with you to order the 2024 uniform package.

Please note that your child's 2024 secondary school will contact you with information about CSEF Uniform Package, not your child's primary school.

For any information regarding Year 7 CSEF please contact your child's secondary school.

# Camp Australia Newsletter







350+ UNIQUE EXPERIENCES



250+ CONVENIENT



A NEW ADVENTURE **EVERY DAY!** 

Child Care Subsidy (CCS) available for eligible families.



## **MISSION XII** PROGRAM

Mount Eliza Primary School

Address: Wooralla Drive MOUNT ELIZA VIC 3930

Phone: 0411 104 889 Program Times: 07:00 am - 06:00 pm

21 Dec

Mission Takeoff XII: Urban Playground

Let's unleash your creativity with Makedol Join us in constructing your very own town from collected cardboard pieces. Name your city and use our awesome Makedo tools to create an architechtural masterpiece!

Full Fee \$97.40 | After Max. CCS+ \$9.74



22 Dec

Operation: Worldwide Wonders

Calling all junior globetrotters! Grab your 'passport for play' and let's explore the different countries and cultures around the world through cooking, paying games and craft activities. What worldly wonders will you experience today?

Full Fee \$85.40 | After Max. CCS\* \$8.54



Extraordinary Holiday Adventures

Base Camp Day

#### 02 Jan

#### Operation: Artists in Action

Let's explore various forms of art from painting and sculpture to music and theatre! It's time to express yourself and unleash your creativity today. Make your move and be inspired to go beyond your imagination and create your very own masterpiece.

Full Fee \$85.40 | After Max. CCS\* \$8.54



e Camp Day

03 Jan

#### Adventure: Pin-Smash! at Zone Bowling

Roll on in as we head to tenpin bowling. Leave nothing to spare, as you aim for as many strikes as possible! How will your pins fall?

Full Fee \$123.80 | After Max. CCS\* \$12.38



04 Jan

#### Project: Gift Fiesta!

Tis the season for gift-giving! Let's get busy making multiple handcrafted gifts, including a DIY beeswax candle, a clay pinch pot or bookmark, and many more, as we wrap the day with fun and festivities.

Full Fee \$104.40 | After Max. CCS\* \$10.44



05 Jan

#### Operation: Bring Your Joy

We're celebrating all things that bring us JOY! From Show & Tell to fun activities and games that make us laugh, bring your joy today for a delightful day that's full of smiles.

Full Fee \$85.40 | After Max. CCS\* \$8.54



Mon 08 Jan

#### Film Fest: LEGO Create

Build with LEGO® bricks and enter the Film Fest! Today is all about crafting captivating stories and sets for your movie. Next stop? Film

Full Fee \$103.90 | After Max. CCS\* \$10.39



09 Jan

#### Film Fest: LEGO Film Day

Get ready for our 3rd annual Rocketeers Film Fest! Following your "LEGO Create Day," it's time to film your LEGO stories and craft your stop-motion entry for a chance to shine!

Full Fee \$112.40 | After Max. CCS\* \$11.24



Wed 10 Jan

#### Operation: Enchanted Realms

Immerse yourself in a world of magic, spells, and mythical creatures as we explore a spellbinding day right here in Base Camp! Get ready for an adventure in our enchanted realms, discovering wizards and other whimsical wonders.

Full Fee \$85.40 | After Max. CCS\* \$8.54



11 Jan

#### Adventure: Hole Lotta Fun at Dingley Village Adventre Golf

Get ready to kick putt and make your way around 18 holes of fun! With uniquely themed holes to challenge yourself, you'll be excited to tee off with friends today.

Full Fee \$125.40 | After Max. CCS\* \$12.54



Visit campaustralia.com.au/rocketeers to join our next mission



## MISSION XII PROGRAM

Mount Eliza Primary School

Address: Wooralla Drive MOUNT ELIZA VIC 3930

Phone: 0411 104 889 Program Times: 07:00 am - 06:00 pm

Fri 12 Jan

Project: Bubble Tea Cafe

Our Bubble Tea Café is open for business! Make your own bubble tea with tapioca pearls, and some delicious mochi pancakes! We'll also be engaging in role plays as waiters taking orders and as customers buying bubble tea.

Full Fee \$104.40 | After Max. CCS\* \$10.44



Incursion

Mon 15 Jan Operation: Community Heroes

Let's get to know our local legends and learn about what they do to help our community. You may even meet and engage with your local heroes to learn what they do and what you can do to help them!

Full Fee \$85.40 | After Max. CCS\* \$8.54



Extreordinary Holiday Adventures

Tue 16 Jan

Project: Wild Rangers!

Create your own zoo enclosure using different craft materials collected from your nature walk. Then lef's make your own set of binoculars, fit for a ranger, as we use our imagination to explore the wild!

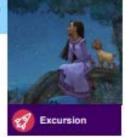
Full Fee \$104.90 | After Max. CCS\* \$10.49



Wed 17 Jan Adventure: Wish at Village Cinemas

Wish is set in the magical kingdom where the people of Rosas are granted their wish by the King. When Asha's wish brings a cosmic energy named Star, they unite to battle foes to save her community, proving the magic of human-star connection.

Full Fee \$123.40 | After Max. CCS\* \$12.34



Thu 18 Jan Experience Takeover: Squeezy Lemonade Stall

Get your fresh lemonade! Create your own market stall in this exciting incursion where you'll make your own lemonade, create your shop logos and flyers, and sip 'n sell through interactive role plays.

Full Fee \$108.40 | After Max. CCS\* \$10.84



Fri 19 Jan

Operation: Splash Mania

Today is all about water play! With a bucket load of awesome activities to let your imagination come to life, let's roll up our sleeves and get ready for a splashtastic day exploring your creativity and senses.

Full Fee \$85.40 | After Max. CCS\* \$8.54



Mon 22 Jan Project: Iconic Trendsetters!

Calling all fashionistas! Create your own tie-dye bucket hat and a leather braided bracelet to finish your look. Then use loose pieces of fabric to knot your own garment and walk the runway to show off your creations!

Full Fee \$105.30 | After Max. CCS\* \$10.53



Tue 23 Jan Adventure: Defy Gravity! at Bounce Inc

Bounce into action at Bounce Inc and defy gravity as you flip, jump and bounce on their huge range of trampolines!

Full Fee \$124.40 | After Max. CCS\* \$12.44



Wed 24 Jan Experience Takeover: Delicious Science

Discover how science can be delicious! Through a fun and interactive workshop, you'll learn how to make your own ice cream, and get to eat it too! Let's experiment and get excited about food science while we cool off with this tasty summer treat.

Full Fee \$110.90 | After Max. CCS\* \$11.09



Incursion

Thu 25 Jan Project: Back to School Bash!

It's almost back-to-school time! Create your own To-Do planner with fun felt stick-on items. You'll get a mini pencil case you can use for school, which will also hold your felt pieces. What's in your schedule for school?

Full Fee \$104.30 | After Max. CCS\* \$10.43



Visit campaustralia.com.au/rocketeers to join our next mission



#### **COMMUNITY NOTICES**



#### Did you know last year 56,594 students participated in Kids Helpline @ School's free virtual learning sessions?

Now's your chance to invite a Kids Helpline counsellor into your classroom to talk all things mental health and wellbeing.

But you better be quick - term 4 sessions are booking fast!

#### we thought you might like ---









#### transition to high school sessions

Share and learn normal concerns about starting at high school and get prepared to make the transition.

LEARN MORE





#### **TEXTBOOK VOUCHER SUPPORT UPDATE**



As the cost of living continues to affect families in Victoria, the same can be said for many businesses and organisations alike.

At State Schools' Relief we have had to make some incredibly difficult decisions to ensure that we can continue supporting students in need. One of these decisions is our textbook support. Traditionally, we have provided \$160 vouchers for textbooks in Term 4 and Term 1 of each year. However, that has now changed. From Wednesday 22nd November, SSR will release a **limited number** of textbook vouchers at **\$100 per voucher** until the allocation is exhausted.

#### Key information and/or changes to textbook vouchers:

- 1. Reimbursement is available for <u>up to \$100 in total</u> for multiple textbooks or e-books.
- State Schools' Relief will not reimburse claims for anything other than textbooks. Textbook vouchers cannot be used for stationery or any other school related supplies and any claims for these items will not be honoured.
- 3. Please ensure that you apply for any textbook vouchers in a separate application (i.e., not combined with uniform items, etc.)
- 4. Once allocation of the \$100 textbook vouchers has been exhausted, this option will **no longer** appear in your school profile.
- 5. Vouchers are available for secondary students only.
- 6. The new \$85 vouchers for uniform support are unable to be used for textbooks. These vouchers are for uniform support only and will be rolled out from next Monday, 27th November. They can only be redeemed at uniform suppliers that have opted into our new voucher portal. A comprehensive <u>list</u> of suppliers can be viewed on our website here.

#### 7. IMPORTANT INFORMATION

In order to be reimbursed for textbook vouchers, schools will need to supply SSR with an invoice/receipt detailing each book/e-book purchased and the associated cost/s. Reimbursement will only be processed once, so please submit your reimbursement request for all books at one time.

As always, should you have any queries regarding this change, please contact us via phone 8769 8400, or email, from 8.30am - 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

Thank you for your understanding. the team at State Schools' Relief.

#### **APPLY NOW**



#### Ahhh Summer!

Exhale and relax because summer is almost here and we have plenty of things for you to do during the warmer months. Beat the heat and embark on an **early morning walk** through the Wildlife Sanctuary. Open from 7am to 4.30pm every day of the week in January 2024.

This Summer start your morning with a **tour of the Briars Homestead Garden.** Learn about the family and staff that farmed here for five generations.

On the first Saturday of the month, we are offering free landscaping for bushfire garden tours in our newly created **Bushfire Garden**. We have also started **free garden consultations** at the Shire Nursery to help you plan for autumn planting.

The very popular **snake familiarisation sessions** where we help ease your fear of these magnificent creatures is returning over Summer.

Gain access to the Wildlife Sanctuary in the evening by joining our **Twilight bushwalks and animal encounters**.

We are also opening our marquee for you to help **plan your wedding**. Visit and find out how we can help you find that perfect spot for your ceremony and reception.

Enjoy a family night at **Sunset Cinema** with your little people or bring them for an afternoon of fun searching for the **Briars geocaches**.

Shop for gifts and delicious food at the **Mt Martha Briars Craft Market** on January 14. Bring a picnic and use our free BBQs while playing **Games in the Shade.** 

#### How to book

Visit our Summer collection of programs on Eventbrite. Select your programs, book and pay! We are really looking forward to welcoming you to The Briars

Briars Summer Program – Book Now





## KEEPER CLUB HOLIDAY PROGRAM GO WILD THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS!

If you have some junior wildlife lovers looking for fun over the holidays, check out Moonlit Sanctuary's Keeper Club holiday program.

In a day full of fun hands-on activities, kids get up close to many animals including dingoes, cockatoos and pythons and learn how their keepers work to keep them happy and healthy.

Places are limited so book early and make your junior keeper's day!

For ages 8-14 Cost \$99m 9am-2pm See our website for more info.



moonlitsanctuary.com.au | t. 5978 7935 | e. bookings@moonlit-sanctuary.com 550 Tyabb-Tooradin Rd, Pearcedale

## GO WILD THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AT MOONLIT SANCTUARY KEEPER CLUB

Kids enjoy environmental activities, animal encounters and native animal care. The day includes interactions with dingoes, pythons, feeding animals and food prep, and animal enrichment activities. Learn about our animals, their conservation and the environment.

For ages 8-14 years



#### **Summer 2024 School Holiday Program Dates:**

8:45am sign in - 9:00am start, 2:00pm finish

#### **JANUARY DATES**

Week 1: Monday 8th, Tuesday 9th, Thursday 11th and Friday 12<sup>th</sup>

Week 2: Monday 15th, Tuesday 16th, Wednesday 17th, Thursday 18th and Friday 19th

Week 3: Monday 22nd, Tuesday 23rd, Wednesday 24th, Thursday 25th

Cost: \$99.00 per day | Small groups of 16 | 9:00 am start - 2:00pm finish

Bookings are essential as spaces are limited to 16 per day

550 Tyabb-Tooradin Rd, Pearcedale | Phone 5978 7935 | www.moonlitsanctuary.com.au



