



Wednesday February 14th 2024

601 Chisholm St. Ballarat

Telephone: 03 5332 4544

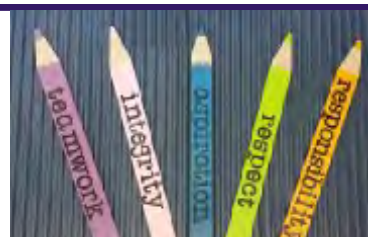
Email: black.hill.ps@education.vic.gov.au

www.blackhillps.vic.edu.au

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 8:30-4:15pm

Friday: 8:30—4:00pm

School Hours: 8:50am—3:30pm



Dates for the family diary

Principal's Column

Mondays 19/2—18/3	3-6 Swimming
Tuesday 27/2	Athletic Sports Whole School Llanberis
Monday 4/3	Preps start full time
Friday 8/3	Curriculum Day Student Free
Monday 11/3	Labour Day Public Holiday
Wednesday 13/3	School Council AGM
Tuesday 26/3	School Photo Day
Thursday 28/3	End of Term 1 2:30pm dismissal

Forward Notice :

- Monday 15th April Curriculum Day
- Wed 17th April—3-6 Swimming

Term 1 Assembly Roster

Friday 23/2	Years 3-6 Assembly 2:40pm Student Leadership badges will be awarded.
Friday 15/3	Years P-2 Assembly 2:40pm
Thursday 28/3	Whole School Assembly 1:40pm

Electronic permissions due on Compass:

- Athletic Sports—Whole School

Anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generations

February 13th each year marks the anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations, who suffered trauma because of past government policies of forced child removal. This Wednesday is the anniversary of the apology to Indigenous Australians. At 9:30 am on 13 February 2008, former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd presented the apology to Indigenous Australians as a motion to be voted on by the house. The speech included the lines of, "We apologise for the laws and policies of successive Parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians."

A national apology was issued, especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, their communities, and their country. This apology extended to the pain, suffering, and hurt of these Stolen Generations, their descendants, and for their families left behind.

You can watch Kevin Rudd present the apology to Indigenous Australians at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDvome0bCXs>. This is an historical speech worth discussing with your children.

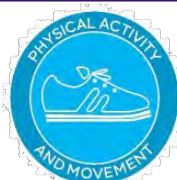
National Sorry Day is observed on May 26th. Across the school the teachers will be sharing the stories and meaning behind National Sorry Day. We will be sharing information on this in the newsletter closer to the date.

Welcome Picnic

Thank you to all the families who attended the Family Picnic last week. We had wonderful weather for what turned out to be an excellent community event. Kelly Sports ran activities and there was ice cream available (this was very popular). It was a fun and successful evening.

Student Absences

We really appreciate the phone calls and messages regarding absences. While it is helpful to let your child's teacher know it is really important to **inform the staff in our office** of any student absences. We will pass the information on to teachers. Please select the Absence



What do you call a cat
with eight legs?

An octo-puss.



Line when ringing the school and remember to include your child's name, dates and reason for the absence so that we can enter accurate information on our system. It assists us to ensure our data is accurate.

Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating days

Black Hill Primary School is listed as Category 4 for Bushfire Risk and as such schools and early childhood services that are on the Category 4 list regardless of risk category, **must close** and cancel their buses on days forecasted by the Bureau of Meteorology as Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating (FDR) in their fire weather district. All other buses which travel through the Catastrophic FDR fire weather district will also be cancelled.

Catastrophic FDR is the highest level of fire danger. These are the most dangerous conditions for a fire and if a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost. Catastrophic FDR days will be forecast for the whole of a fire weather district.

The department will be advised of the potential for Catastrophic FDR conditions through the Bureau of Meteorology forecasts. The region will:

- wherever possible, provide schools and early childhood services with 4 to 7 days' notice of a possible Catastrophic FDR day closure to enable schools to forewarn their school and parent/carer community.
- confirm the final decision to close a school by 1 pm the day before the Catastrophic FDR day closure.

Ahead of the fire danger period, schools and early childhood services on the BARR and Category 4 list such as Black Hill Primary School will:

- advise their school and parent/carer community and all site users of the arrangements for the summer
- advise that the school or early childhood facility will be closed on any Catastrophic FDR day in their fire weather district, and nobody is to be on site that day

- include pre-emptive closure procedures in our Emergency Management Plan.

School Council

Nominations for School Council close at the end of business today. Nomination forms are available at the school office. The timeline and notice for School Council elections and call for nominations can be found on **page 6** of this Newsletter.

Swimming Program

Our Year 3 - 6 students are continuing their intensive swimming program at the Black Hill Pool, followed by weekly lessons at the Ballarat Aquatic Centre. This week it has been the year 3/4 classes up at the Black Hill Pool and they have had much better weather for their week at the pool. It has been wonderful to see the students participating with a positive attitude. Next week they will begin their weekly lesson at the Aquatic Centre on Mondays.

Birthdays

I would like to acknowledge all those students who have had birthdays this week.

Happy birthday to:

Pearl	56C
Will	56D
Hugh	56A
Jed	56C
Rory	12C
Rory	34C
Tyler	34E
Lily	12C
Hamish	0PB
Everleigh	12B
Alexander	12E
Zara	12B

Donna Bishop
Principal



***** Parents—please ensure that all items of clothing, personal belongings and food containers are named. This will ensure that items are returned to your child in the event of them being misplaced.**



Team News

Prep/1/2 Team

The Prep students have settled in beautifully. They have been learning all the classroom and school routines to set them up for a successful year. James, Erin and Lisa have been so impressed by how quickly they have adapted to school.

The Prep-Two teachers ask that parents keep an eye on Seesaw for important updates from teachers.

This week the Preps listened to 'Pig the Pug' and made pig on a paper plate using taught cutting, gluing and colouring skills. Check them out!



We are now accepting applications for Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF) 2024

Eligible families will receive \$150 per student, paid into their family account at Black Hill Primary School commencing from March 2024. These funds can then be allocated to school excursion and camp charges, according to the policy and parent preferences.

Parents/students holding a means-tested concession card valid on 29th January 2024 or 14th April 2024 may be eligible. Foster parents, Veterans Affairs Gold Card holders and students with a Youth Allowance card, may also be eligible.

The BHPS CSEF Application Form 2024 is available from the Office or from the link below. Completed forms, with a copy of your Centrelink Card, should be submitted to the Office. Please submit a new application if you have a child commencing in Prep this year, or your circumstances have changed and you are eligible to apply for students in all year levels.

For further online information, please visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx

We encourage parents/students to take advantage of this funding opportunity.

Applications close Friday 14th June, 2024

*Lindy Currie
Business Manager*

Team News

3/4 Team

It's been a great start to the year in the 3/4 building. We have continued to focus on getting to know each other and setting up classroom routines.

This week the 3/4 students have also been walking up to the Black Hill Pool for swimming lessons. We've had a mixture of weather so far and are looking forward to the rest of the week.

A reminder that next Monday our swimming program will begin at the Aquatic Centre.



5/6 Team

The 5/6 team have been beginning to learn about our new History topic – Colonisation to Federation. Throughout this unit of work, we will be looking at the first fleet, colonisation of Australia and Federation. We have been learning about the reasons for sending the first fleet to Australia, discussing the impacts on the indigenous Australians that were already inhabiting the land and investigating the hardships of the early penal colonies.

Just a reminder that the 5/6 students begin their weekly swimming program at the Ballarat Aquatic Centre on Monday the 19th of February so please ensure students pack their bathers and towel.



Health Promoting Schools Starting Early: Building the foundations for positive relationships at Black Hill Primary School



Under the guidance of the Ballarat Community Health Promoting Schools team, Black Hill Primary School was supported to develop and implement a Healthy Relationships school policy, which underpins the whole-of-school approach to comprehensive Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE). This also included a gender inclusive school uniform policy.

The entrance to the main school building displays the school values of Aspiration, Respect, Integrity, Responsibility and Teamwork. These values underpin all actions within the school, whilst, promoting and modelling respectful attitudes and behaviours within the school.

The whole-of-school approach to RSE ensures an understanding of the partnerships between the student, the home, the school, and the community. For Black Hill, this included professional development for educators and school staff to develop knowledge, skills and confidence in teaching RSE and the Respectful Relationships curriculum.

Further, this ensured the RSE included information about bodies, identity, sexuality and relationships, using inclusive, respectful and appropriate language. As a result, EVERYBODY in the room can, and is, included in the conversation.

As a result of implementing the whole-of-school approach, Black Hill Primary School has successfully achieved recognition for the Sexual Health and Wellbeing health area of the Health Promoting Schools Framework.

School Council Elections

Name of the School: **Black Hill Primary School**

Event	Date
Notice of election and call for nominations	Wednesday 7 th February 2024
Closing date for nominations	Wednesday 14 th February 2024
Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted	Friday 16 th February 2024
Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed	On or before Monday 19 th February 2024
Close of ballot	Monday 26 th February 2024
Vote count	Tuesday 27 th February 2024
Declaration of poll	Wednesday 28 th February 2024
Special council meeting to co-opt Community members (the principal will preside)	Wednesday 13 th March 2024
First council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside)	Wednesday 13 th March 2024

Notice of election and call for nominations.

An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of *(school name below)*

BLACK HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00pm on **Wednesday 14th February 2024**

The ballot will close at 4.00pm on **Monday 26th February**

Following the closing of nominations, a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

Membership category

Parent member

Term of office

From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2024

to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2026

Number of positions:

4

Following the closing of nominations, a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Principal signature



Schools in Category 3 on the Bushfire At-Risk Register and the Category 4 list.

School preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, to prepare for bushfires and grassfires, schools and early childhood services complete a range of activities.

The Department of Education runs an annual fire risk assessment of schools and early childhood services. They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 4) and are published on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR).

All schools and early childhood services listed on the BARR and Category 4 list will also close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. When the Bureau of Meteorology provides public fire danger rating forecasts or fire weather warnings, they use fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries. Our school is in the Central, fire weather district.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan as well as prioritising maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire.

What does this mean for our school?

Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a Category 4 school.

Our school will close on a day forecasted as Catastrophic fire danger rating in the Central, fire district.

What is the department's policy?

The department's [Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy](#) requires all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 list to close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

When will our school be closed due to Catastrophic fire danger?

Our school will close on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating in the Central fire district.**

Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day. Any information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by Compass and Facebook.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, even if the weather forecast changes. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

Families are encouraged to action their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. **On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, checking all Compass posts, checking our website <https://www.blackhillps.vic.edu.au/>
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed due to elevated fire danger or closed due to a Catastrophic fire danger. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#).
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are actioning your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to [them about bushfires](#) and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can find more information on emergencies, warnings and preparedness actions here:

VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices

VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)

Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>

Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)

Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)

ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters



Ballarat Outdoor Playgroup!

Come together once a week with other families to explore nature in child-led sensory and art activities, sing songs, hear stories and bush walking in a beautiful outside setting.

Wadawurrung Country Meet up in all weather Term OR casual rates

Friday mornings 9:30 -11:30

Wednesday mornings (dependent on numbers)



For more info email Janet!
Janet is a qualified Kindergarten
Teacher with backgrounds in music
and sustainability.

ballaratoutdoorplaygroup@fastmail.com

A restorative time to connect with nature
and form lifelong friendships.

Back to school is a lot.* Let's get ready.

*A lot of feelings, a lot of expenses, a lot of stress.

Saver Plus can help.

