**Calendar of Events**

**Term 4 Monday 5th October - Friday 18th December**

**Week 41**

- Thursday 17th December: Gr 6 Graduation
- Friday 18th December: Out of Uniform Day – Gold Coin Donation
- Friday 18th December: Canteen & Uniform Shop Closed
- Friday 18th December: Last Day of Term 4 – 1.30pm dismissal

**2016**

- Thursday 21st January: Book Pack Collection Day
- Friday 22nd January: Book Pack Collection Day

**Term 1: Wednesday 27th January - Friday 24th March**

**Week 1**

- Wednesday 27th January: Teachers begin
- Thursday 28th January: All students begin
- Friday 19th February: School Photos
- Tuesday 15th March: Pupil Free Day

**Term 2: Monday 11th April - Friday 24th June**

- Saturday 30th April: Aerobics Prelims
- Saturday 4th June: Aerobics State Finals
- Tuesday 21st June: Student Led Conferences

**Term 3: Monday 11th July - Friday 16th September**

**Term 4: Monday 3rd October – Friday 20th December**

- Thursday 20th October: Pupil Free Day

**Whole School Carols Night**

Our school Carols Night was held on Tuesday night. Thank you to parents, relatives and friends who attended the event, the children for their performances and the teachers who helped prepare their items. Thanks to Mr Trevor Trewartha for his organisation of the White Hills Idol competition during the day and for the Carols Night in the evening.

Congratulations to Matthew on winning the Noel O’Brien ‘Friendship Stop’ Award

**Principal’s News**

**Thanks to our Helpers in 2015**

On behalf of the staff I would like to thank the following people for their assistance and dedication to the school throughout the year: our hardworking Parents’ Club; Canteen - Helen and Jacinta; Uniform Shop Coordinators – Kim, Deb and Terri; Student Banking – Sam; library helpers; parents who assisted with reading, sport and P.M.P; parents who assisted with sick bay washing, canteen, the newsletter, camps, excursions, head lice program; members of the Curriculum, Environment and Finance subcommittees, School Council members and all others who contributed in any way this year. Your support of our school is outstanding and greatly appreciated by us all. Have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

**Grade 6 Graduation Evening TONIGHT:**

Thursday, 17th December

The Grade 6 Graduation Evening will be held at the Bendigo Baptist Church, 757 McIvor Hwy, Junortoun TONIGHT Thursday, 17th December, commencing at 5.30pm for the Grade 6 students.

Parents are to arrive at the Baptist Church auditorium at 7.00pm for the formal part of the evening.

**Out of Uniform Day TOMORROW:**

**Gold Coin Donation**

TOMORROW, Friday, 18th December, we will be holding an Out of Uniform Day - (Remember to wear sunsmart clothing and appropriate shoes, no thongs) All money raised will go towards Bendigo Health.

**End of Term Dismissal TOMORROW:**

Early Finish at 1:30pm

All students will be dismissed at 1.30pm on Friday, 18th December. Children will have their normal morning recess break at 11.00am and then have lunch at home after dismissal at 1.30pm.

**Canteen & Uniform Shop:**

Closed Last Day of Term

The Canteen and Uniform Shop will be closed TOMORROW, Friday 18th December.

**2016 School Commencement**

School begins for students on Thursday, 28th January 2016 at 9.00am.
**First Aid**

A reminder that all medications, including Epipens and Ventolin, need to be picked up from the office before the end of the year. Please ensure that medication brought in next year is in date and clearly labelled. New Asthma Management Plans should be completed over the holidays ready for the new year.

**2015 Student Awards:**

Congratulations to our award recipients for 2015:

- B. J Winzar Award – Jemma C
- Academic Award – Boy: Sam L, Girl: Hope M
- Sports Award – Girl: Breanna S, Boy: Fletcher W
- Masonic Scholarship Fund – Eva B
- Chaplaincy Community Service Award – Boy: Sebastian C, Girl: Maddisyn L
- Noel O’Brien ‘Friendship Stop’ Award for Grade 4 – Matthew S
- French Award – Girl: Jacinta C, Boy: Alex C
- Music Award – Boy: Conan C, Girl: Hayley-Jade J
- Art Award – Boy: Conner P, Girl: Jessica K

**2016 Book Pack Collection**

Parents who have pre-paid Book Packs & school charges in 2015 should go to the ‘Pre-Paid’ area on our Book Pack Collection Days on Thursday 21st & Friday 22nd January 2016 in the school hall.

If you have not pre-paid for the Book Pack, it must be paid on collection day.

*See your Book Pack information for your allocated collection date and time.*

**Student Reports**

Student reports and portfolios were distributed yesterday, Wednesday, 16th December.

**What about the ‘School Kids Bonus’?**

At this stage the federal government’s ‘School Kids Bonus’ will come to an end in July 2016. Those families receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A can receive up to $410 per primary-age child (paid in 2 instalments January/July). School Council recommends families put this payment aside to cover expenses at the beginning of the school year such as book packs, uniforms and other requisites.

**2015 Special Events Credit Ends**

The White Hills PS School Council 2015 ‘Special Events Credit’ will not continue into 2016. This was a school-based initiative put in place for 2015 only due to the previous state government ceasing the Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

*In 2016 parents will now need to pay for Special Events – swimming, gym, Footsteps Dance and performances.*

This year the new state government established the Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund (CSEF) which provides $125 credit for each primary-age student whose parent/guardian is the holder of a valid means-tested concession card.

*See the CSEF letter in your book pack information for further details.*

Because the CSEF is paid to the school in term 3, School Council allocates CSEF funds towards:

- school camp for students in grades 3-6
- the overnight stay/party tea, major excursion, other incursions/excursions during terms 3 & 4 for students in grades Prep-2

For further information contact the school on 54430799

**Electronic Excursion Permission Forms Now on QkR**

Parents are now able to complete electronic permission forms for excursions when completing a payment via our QkR smartphone app. This means you will not have to return a hard copy of a parent permission form to the school for your child’s excursion. If you have not yet set up QkR on your smartphone, instructions can be found by clicking on this hotlink: [QkR set up guides](#)

*Everyone enjoyed the carols on Tuesday night!*
Grade 3 in New Buildings in 2016
Due to increasing enrolments, our school will receive new relocatable classrooms. Over the summer holiday period, Department of Education contractors will install two new Mod 5 buildings. Each Mod 5 building contains two classrooms. 2016 Grade 3 students will be located in these four new classrooms. As the contractors are unable to guarantee me that these classrooms will be ready at the beginning of the 2016 school year, we have a ‘Plan B’ in place for locating grade 3 in existing classrooms on a temporary basis. Your patience with this potentially temporary arrangement is appreciated.

2016 Curriculum Days: Add to Your Calendar or Diary
The dates below are the school’s curriculum or pupil-free days for 2016, as approved by School Council.
- Tuesday, 15th March – Professional Development Day (pupil-free)
- Tuesday, 21st June – Student Led Conferences (students attend at designated time with parents)
- Thursday, 20th October – Curriculum Day (pupil-free)

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas, a relaxing and safe holiday break.

Damien Jenkyn,
Principal

Chaplains News
Christmas Hampers
We have received a generous donation of several Christmas hampers again this year from Bendigo Baptist Community Care Inc, an arm of the Bendigo Baptist Church. These hampers have been distributed to several families within the school and again we are extremely grateful to the Bendigo Baptist Community Care organisation for making these available.

Ricky Cawley
School Chaplain

Parent Club News
Christmas Hamper Raffle
Congratulations to our Christmas raffle winners.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy holiday and look forward to seeing you back in 2016 to do it all again.

Parent Club / Fundraising Committee

Junior School News
Prep News
Pupil of The Week
Congratulations to all our Prep pupils for a great year of learning, making friends and fun. Keep working hard in Grade 1

Prep Reading And Writing
The Prep children have brought home their word and spelling lists this week. We ask that parents revise these lists every couple of days and use every opportunity for their child to read and write over the holidays, to help maintain the high standard they have reached this year.

Hint For The Week:
Research shows children who read and write in their holidays retain and improve skills taught in school. Over the holidays spend some time visiting the local Library. Look at and borrow books to read together. Keep reading and writing each day to maintain the great standard our children have reached this year. Just because the school year is ending, doesn’t mean the learning has to stop!

Reader And Library Bags
Reader and Library bags and smocks have been sent home. We ask that parents wash these and store them ready to bring to Grade 1 next year.

Thank you to all the Junior School parents who have assisted in any way this year. Without your support we would not be able to provide the quality programs available at our school.
Grade 1/2 News

Student of the Week - Week 10
2RD – Sky N for always being a kind and considerate member of our class.
2/B – Alexis W for completing all her enquiry assignments.
2/W – Macey B for trying her best to read smoothly during reading time.
2/S – Jimmy W for showing great improvements in all areas of his schooling. Great work Jimmy!
1/P – Violet K for wonderful work in class.
1CK – Axel B for being a fantastic member of 1CK all year and always doing his best!
1/T – Finn M for working really hard all the time.
1/M – Roman R for always being a caring friend and wonderful helper.

Student of the Week - Week 11
To all of the Grade 1 and Grade 2 students! You have all worked very hard this year and have achieved some terrific outcomes. Thank you for being wonderful students!

Grade 1 and Grade 2 End of the Year Class Party
TOMORROW Friday 18th December, the Grade 1 and Grade 2 students will have a joint end of the year class party. Students are asked to bring a small plate of food to share. Please remember no nuts due to allergies.

Grade 2 Sleepover
Well done to the Grade 2 students for their terrific behaviour on the Grade 2 sleep over. Everyone had a fantastic time!

Grade 1/2 Has Talent
The Grade 1 and 2 students will be having their final ‘1/2 Has Talent’ performance for the year. We will begin at 9.54am and will continue after recess if required. Students are required to bring their own music if needed.

Grade 1 Parent Helper Session
Thank you to all of the parents and grandparents who volunteered their time to complete small group activities with the Grade 1 students. Everyone had a terrific time, once again!

Paper Making with Mrs Franklin
Thank you very much to Sam Franklin for making paper with the Grade 1’s. Students enjoyed learning the procedure and loved getting their hands messy!

Have a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year!
Junior School Teachers
Grade 4 News

Congratulations
Congratulations to all the Grade 4 students who participated in White Hills Idol on Tuesday and an extra special mention to Grade 4 student Angeline, who won the solo artist section.

Wishing all of our Grade 4 students and their families a safe and Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing everyone in 2016.

Middle School Teachers

Grade 5 News

Students of the Week
Congratulations to all Grade 5 students for their amazing behaviour, effort, and courage on our camp.

Reports & Learning Portfolios
Student reports and learning portfolios were sent home Wednesday. If your child was absent, reports will be mailed home and portfolios can be collected next year.

Thank you all for your support this year! We all wish you a very Merry Christmas and hope that you all have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Grade 6 News

Grade 6 Graduation Evening TONIGHT: Thursday, 17th December
The Grade 6 Graduation Evening will be held at the Bendigo Baptist Church, 757 McIvor Hwy, Junortoun TONIGHT Thursday, 17th December, commencing at 5.30pm for the Grade 6 students.
Parents are to arrive at the Baptist Church auditorium at 7.00pm for the formal part of the evening.

Upper School Teachers

CArTEN ROSTER
Friday 18 December  Closed Last Day of Term

Helpers Desperately Needed for 2016:
Give your name to the school office if you can help

Helpers to arrive at 12.30pm
Orders are to be written on a large paper lunch bag unless ordered through Qkr. (NO ENVELOPES), one per child.
Lunch bags are available for 10 for 60c or 10c each, with lunch orders and will be sent home.

Urgent Reminder: If you are unable to assist with canteen duty, please arrange a swap or inform the office so that a replacement helper can be arranged.

Mrs Helen Williams, Canteen Manager

UNIFORM SHOP
Friday 18 December  Closed Last Day of Term

Bookpack Days
Thursday 21 January 9.30am – 1.00pm
Friday 22 January 9.30am – 1.00pm

Opening Times 2016
Tuesday 3.30pm – 4.00pm and Friday 3.30pm-4.00pm

Kim Terri and Deb would like to thank everyone for their support throughout the year. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and safe holiday break

Kim Engi, Terri Massese & Deb Button

SICKBAY ROSTER
Friday 19 December  Catherine Hartwell
Please collect from the office at the end of the day

Community News

White Hills Junior Football Club 2016 Season
We welcome all current and new players for 2016 season. Registration night will be held next year in mid-February. We will be registering Teams in Under 9, 10, 12 (2 teams), 14 (2 teams) & 16 grades. Also if enough interest Youth girls (13-18 yrs) and the new Junior girls (8-12 yrs). For further information you can email the club whjfcclub@gmail.com, visit our website www.whitehillsjfc.vcfl.com.au or call Nigel Lewis on 0409022275 or Damian O’Brien on 0418123454