At White Hills Primary School we provide students with skills to be lifelong learners. We are a community which caters for academic, physical, social and emotional needs, preparing our students to contribute productively to an increasingly globalised world.

**Calendar of Events**

**Term 4 Monday 6th October - Friday 19th December**

**Week 41**

**Thurs 18th December**

- Grade 6 Graduation Night
  - 5.30pm Students to arrive
  - 7.00pm Parents & Families

**Friday 19th December**

- Out of Uniform Day – Gold Coin Donation
- No Canteen/Uniform Shop Today
- Last Day Term 4 – 1.30pm Dismissal

**2015**

- **Thursday 22nd January**
  - Bookpack Collection Day
- **Friday 23rd January**
  - Bookpack Collection Day
- **Term 1 Thursday 29th January - Friday 27th March** (Friday 3rd April Good Friday)
  - Teachers Commence
  - Students Grades P-6 Commence
  - Parent Club Meeting 9.15am staffroom
  - Staff Professional Development Day (Pupil Free)
- **Term 2 Monday 13th April – Friday 26th June**
  - Student Led Conferences (students attend with parents at designated time)
- **Term 3 Monday 13th July - Friday 18th September**
  - Staff Professional Development Day (Pupil Free)
- **Term 4 Monday 5th October - Friday 18th December**

**Farewell to Staff**

Tomorrow is the final day for Ms Anne Serjeant, Mr Ben Dyett, Mrs Brooke Bickerdike and Mr Vern Wall. On behalf of the staff, parents and students, we wish them all the best for their future and thank them for their dedication and commitment to White Hills PS. Vern Wall is retiring after nine years as music/drama specialist teacher.

**Principal’s News**

**Thanks to our Helpers in 2014**

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 - Leigh, Julie and Kim, Student Banking - Michelle, 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 to our school is outstanding and greatly appreciated by us all. A safe and happy Christmas and New Year to everyone.

**End of Term Dismissal: Early Finish at 1:30pm Tomorrow**

All students will be dismissed at 1:30pm tomorrow Friday, 19th December. Children will have their normal morning recess break at 11:00am and then have lunch at home after dismissal at 1:30pm. School resumes for students in 2015 on Thursday, 29th January.

**Out of Uniform Day: Gold Coin Donation**

Our last Social Service ‘Out of Uniform’ day for the year is TOMORROW. **The theme is Christmas! Please be sun smart (no singlet tops) and DON’T FORGET YOUR HAT and GOLD COIN. All money raised will be forwarded to State Schools Relief. Your support of this worthy cause is greatly appreciated.**

**Grade 6 Graduation Evening: Tonight**

The Grade 6 Graduation Evening will be held at the Bendigo Baptist Church, 757 McIvor Hwy, Junortoun tonight Thursday, 18th 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.
2014 Student Awards:
Congratulations to our award recipients for 2014:
B. J Winzar Citizenship Award – Jacob C
Academic Award – Boy: Eddie W, Girl: Zoe C
Sports Award – Girl: Latiesha B, Boy: Ethan A
Masonic Scholarship Fund – Hayley S
Chaplaincy Community Service Award – Boy: Andrew H, Girl: Rachel M
Noel O’Brien ‘Friendship Stop’ Award for Grade 4 – Montana B
French Award – Girl: Elaina W, Boy: Kody A
Music Award – Brad V
Art Award – Lily B

Whole School Carols Night: Thank You
Our school Carols Night was held last night. Thank you to the parents and friends who attended the event, the children for their performance and the teachers who helped prepare their items. Thanks to Mr Vern Wall for his organisation of the White Hills Idol competition during the day and for the Carols Night in the evening.

Canteen Closed for Renovations
The school canteen is closed. Renovations to the school canteen have commenced and works will be completed over the school holidays.

Ground Works Have Begun
Earthworks have begun between the main school building and Peter Davey building. We will be beautifying this section with trees, seating and artificial turf to create a passive area. This is part of stage one of the school’s grounds master plan. In the term 3 holidays a covered walkway and additional roofing structures were installed in this area. The school is funding these improvements through our local fundraising and School Council budget allocation.
For student safety, temporary fencing will be installed while works are being undertaken.

2015 Book Pack Collection Days
Parents choosing to pre-pay Part A in 2014 will be able to collect Book Packs from a ‘Pre-Paid’ area on our Book Pack Collection Days in January 2015.
*Your family’s allocated day & time for Book Pack collection was included in your package of materials.

Total due for Part A - Book Pack, school charges & Netbook computer charge (Grade 5&6 only) - are outlined in the table below.

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<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Book Pack</th>
<th>Student Photocopying Charge</th>
<th>Student Printing Charge</th>
<th>Netbook Computer</th>
<th>Total (Part A)</th>
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<td>Prep</td>
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<td>$10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
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<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 6</td>
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<td>$10</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$199</td>
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Special Events (Part B) Credit: Funded by WHPS School Council
As previously advised, the state government’s Educational Maintenance Allowance will cease this year.
For 2015 White Hills Primary School Council has decided to continue supporting families who are the holders of a current and valid Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card with the introduction of our own Special Events (Part B) Credit.
This support will involve covering the cost of Special Events for 2015 – swimming program, Life Education Van, school visiting performers and the Jets Gymnastics program.
School Council WILL NOT cover the cost of major excursions or school camps. This is consistent with what we have done in previous years.
To claim credit towards 2015 Special Events (Part B) you must present your valid Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card for photocopying at the office now or on your allocated Book Pack pick up date/time. The card must be valid as of 29th January 2015 and validity must extend beyond 1st March 2015. The card must also list the primary school aged children for which you are claiming the credit.
You will not receive this credit if you do not present your valid card.
Please note that this credit cannot be claimed if you have enrolled your children at White Hills PS on or after 1st March 2015.
Other terms and conditions apply. Click on this hotlink to view the School Council Special Events Credit policy.
School Council is working hard to minimise the financial burden of educational costs for our families.
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.
Should you require further information, please contact the school or a school councillor.

School Netball in 2015
Students from White Hills PS will play their netball with the new Bendigo Northern Flames Netball Club in 2015. Please note that this club has been formed by schools in the northern growth corridor of Bendigo and our students will play in the Bendigo Strathdale Netball Association. There will be no school-based teams and training for all Bendigo Northern Flames teams will take place at the Epsom-Huntly Recreation Reserve. These arrangements have been endorsed by School Council. For further information please see Miss Kaitlyn Gedye.

Children’s Medication Reminder: Please Pick Up TOMORROW
Parents are reminded to pick up your child’s medication TOMORROW. Over the holidays, parents are advised to obtain a new Anaphylaxis plan (signed by your child’s doctor) as it is a requirement that this be done every 12 months. Allergy and asthma plans should also be updated. Please return updated medication at the beginning of 2015, if your child needs to use it during school hours.

Lost Property
There are many items in the lost property box. Any unclaimed items will be donated to goodwill at the end of term.

2015 Curriculum Days: Add to Your Calendar or Diary
The dates below are the school’s curriculum or pupil-free days for 2015, as approved by School Council.
- Tuesday, 10th March – Professional Development Day (pupil-free)
- Tuesday, 23rd June – Student Led Conferences (students attend at designated time with parents)
- Monday, 31st August – Professional Development Day (pupil-free)

Wishing everyone a safe, relaxing and happy holiday
Mr Damien Jenkyn
Principal

Christmas Toy Collection Thank You
Dear All,
This is just a short note to thank everyone who donated presents for our recent Christmas Collection. These donated toys will provide much needed joy to many families this Christmas, who would otherwise have missed out.
I hope and pray you all have a very merry and safe Christmas and New Year.
Michael Monaghan.
School Chaplain


**Music Drama News**

**Bands/Choir**

Last night the bands and choir performed wonderfully and I congratulate them on their efforts and how they have worked hard all year. The multi instrumental bands provided some music while people were arriving and eating their dinner and the choir performed two songs that were well received.

**White Hills Idol**

Congratulations to the finalists from yesterday’s final - Breanna M in the solo section, Isabella Mc and Jaclyn C in the duet section.

Well done girls and a big thank you to all the finalists for another great final.

**Farewell**

Today is my final day at White Hills Primary as I am retiring at the end of this year. A huge thank you to all the school community for your help and assistance throughout the nine years I have been at this school. It is a great school and I have enjoyed the experience of teaching Music and Drama to your children. I hope that they have also gained some skills and knowledge and more importantly a love for music and the performing arts.

*May I also wish everyone a joyful and happy Christmas and wonderful New Year.*

Mr Wall
Music/Drama teacher

**Parent Club/Fundraising News**

**Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 4 February.

**Annual General Meeting**

Our AGM will be held Wednesday, 4 March where our new committee will be elected for the coming year. We welcome new members.

*Thank you for your support throughout the year. Wishing you a safe and happy holiday.*

Parent Club/Fundraising Committee

**Junior School News**

**Prep News**

**Pupils 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.*

**Thank You**

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.

**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 parents for your assistance in classes throughout the year. Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday.*

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**Upper School News**

**Grade 5 News**

**Camp**
Here we are at the end of the school year with our last newsletter item for 2014. By now you will have heard all about the fun activities that we experienced at the Grade 5 camp. The kids were certainly kept active for most of the day. It was great to see so many of the students try an activity that they were a bit unsure of, such as the giant swing, which seemed higher when you were actually up there (so I am told!) The cute penguins are always popular and we didn’t wait too long for them to finally decide to walk up the beach and not change their mind and waddle back to the water. Amaz’n Things was amazing and we didn’t have anyone who couldn’t find their way out eventually, though it did seem easy when you are standing at the top looking down at the maze!

Hopefully all library books and Lit. Circle novels have been returned. The last lot of work samples and the end of year reports have gone home in the Learning Portfolios.

We wish Mr T. ‘happy singing’ as he takes on the role of Music Teacher in 2015.

*Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and holiday break.*

*Merry Christmas from*  
*The Grade 5 Team*

**Grade 6 News**

**Graduation Night Tonight 18th December: 5.30pm for students, 7.00pm for Parents/Family**

We are looking forward to celebrating the end of primary school with the grade 6 students on Thursday night. Please remember the dress code is smart casual for this primary school event. Pack your tissues. We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Baptist Church in Junortoun.

*Upper School Teachers*

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**CANTEN ROSTER**

*Canteen closed for the rest of the year for renovations*

We will be revamped ready to open on the 2nd week of Term 1, 2015.

*Wishing everyone an enjoyable holiday*

*Thank you*

*Mrs Helen Williams, Canteen Manager*

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**UNIFORM SHOP**

Friday 19 December  
Closed

*We will be open Book Pack Days:*

Thursday 22 January 2015  
Friday 23 January 2015

**New 2015 Opening Times**

Tuesday 3:30pm – 4pm and Friday 3:30pm-4pm

*Wishing everyone a happy holiday*

*Julie Sens, Leigh Taylor and Kim Engebretsen*

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**SICK BAY ROSTER**

Friday 19 December  
Tarra Monro

*Please collect linen from the office*