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.

Purpose

Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1: Wednesday 27th January - Thursday 24th March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 6</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 7</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 7th – Fri 11th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 10th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 8</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 14th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 15th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 9</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 21st March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 21st March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 23rd March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 24th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term 2: Monday 11th April - Friday 24th June</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 10</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 13th April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 18th April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 18th April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 18th April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 11</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 25th April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 26th April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 30th April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 12</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 6th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 20th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 22nd May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 30th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 3rd June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 4th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 9th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 10th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 13th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 17th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 21st June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term 3: Monday 12th July - Friday 16th September</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term 4: Monday 3rd October – Wednesday 20th December</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Principal’s News

Labour Day Public Holiday: School Closed
Monday, 14th March is the Labour Day public holiday. The school will be closed on this day.

Pupil Free Day: Tuesday, 15th March
Teachers will be undertaking a professional development day on Tuesday, 15th March. Students do not attend school on this day. This is the day after the Labour Day long weekend.

Crossing the Road: Children & Parents Use the Crossings
For your child’s safety we ask that all children use the crossing at the back of the school (Bosquet St) and wait for the duty teacher to assist them across the road. Parents should come and collect their child and take them across the road but no child should cross the road without an adult. Similarly, we ask that at the front of the school (Plumridge St) ALL CHILDREN and accompanying parents use the designated school crossing to cross the road. DO NOT CROSS AT THE BRIDGE – this is not a controlled pedestrian crossing.

Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF): Apply Now
Information and an application form for the CSEF were sent home a fortnight ago.

How do I apply?
A parent/guardian must complete the CSEF form and return it to the school office with a copy of their valid Health Care or Pension Card. The school will photocopy your card for you if you bring it to the office.

Applications must be submitted to the school by the end of Term 1 – Thursday, 24th March, 2016.
Contact the office on 54430799 for further information. Student Health Care Cards not accepted.

Naming Clothing
Each year we have a large amount of lost property at school. Please clearly name all clothing, including hats, so that it can be quickly returned to its owner.

School Council
The next meeting will be held on Monday, 21st March 7.00pm. Would all school councillors please attend.
Process for Late Arrival or Early Departure: It's a Safety Issue

If a student arrives late to school, or departs early (for a valid reason), they must be signed in or out by an approved adult at the school office in the Sign In/Out book. Parents must NOT collect a child directly from the school yard or classroom. This is a parental duty of care and child safety issue. A tear off slip from the Sign In/Out book must be provided to the class teacher for a late arrival or early departure. Latecomers are NOT to go directly to their classroom. Your support with this process is appreciated.

Crossing the Road: Children & Parents Use the Crossings

For your child’s safety we ask that all children use the crossing at the back of the school (Bosquet St) and wait for the duty teacher to assist them across the road. Parents should come and collect their child and take them across the road but no child should cross the road without an adult. Similarly, we ask that at the front of the school (Plumridge St) ALL CHILDREN and accompanying parents use the designated school crossing to cross the road. DO NOT CROSS AT THE BRIDGE – this is not a controlled pedestrian crossing.

QKR Smartphone Payment App

Our QKR smartphone payment app (pronounced ‘quicker’) enables you to make online payments from your smartphone for items such as Special Events (swimming, gym, performances), excursions, camps, canteen and uniform shop orders.

A guide to setting up the app on your Apple or Android phone is available on the school website via this pathway - ‘School Info’ tab > ‘Information for Parents’ > New QKR Payment System Help Guides.

Take a shortcut by clicking on this link: http://whitehillsps.vic.edu.au/uploaded_files/media/qkr_set_up_guide.pdf

Please note the following:

- QKR canteen orders close at 9.30am on canteen days (Wed/Fri)
- There are no over-the-counter canteen sales available via QKR
- QKR payments close at 4.00pm every school day
- Final payments for excursions, camps and Special Events close on QKR at 4.00pm on the due date. This is consistent with the school’s camp and excursions policies and late payments will not be accepted.

Giving Kids Freedom

A selection from “Too Safe for Their Own Good” by Professor Michael Ungar, Canada’s Dalhousie University.

Times have changed and the planet feels like a far bigger and scarier place today than when we were growing up. Australia is fairly safe, yet our vigilance has gone way over the top because events that occur are reported constantly in the media. Today, few kids under 10 go alone to the playground. They’re escorted to school and have so many supervised play dates and scheduled sports, their lives are dubbed a curriculum rather than a childhood. We vaccinate more, and sanitise their play spaces, says Professor Ungar. We plasticise every sharp edge and try to make sure the world is as safe as home and that our kids are “bubble-wrapped” - a term Ungar coined to describe the unsettling trend experts say is creating a generation of kids so overprotected, it’s stunting their growth.

At some point we have to let children manage risks themselves. Deciding when and how much risk to allow your children to take can be tricky. The key is to start small and early. For pre-schoolers and young children, set safe within sight boundaries, teach your child about strangers and road safety, let your five year old cycle to the corner whilst you watch from a distance. “Ask yourself what you did as a child and be guided by that,” says Ungar. Still uncertain your nine or 10 year old should go anywhere alone? Depending on where you live, parents can offer substitutes like taking your child into town on the bus with you at first, and then with a friend. Or walk them to school for a few weeks, before gradually letting them go further by themselves until they’re on their own or with a friend.

Teens can take risks too, by taking responsibility for younger siblings, doing some family groceries, etc. Yet even the best raised kids sometimes lash out with tattoos, piercings and wild hair. Don’t panic if this happens as it’s normal for teens to experiment with independence. If you have a healthy relationship with your child and trust them to have listened to your lessons early in their lives, they’re much more likely to turn out okay. Trust is important. Our children need to know we will always be there to support them.

School Nurse Visit

Leona Evans, the Primary School Nurse, will be visiting our school at the start of Term 2. All parents or guardians of prep children should have completed a health questionnaire and returned it by last Friday.

We encourage all parents to sign the forms and consent to a nurse check as it often picks up problems with hearing or eye sight or other issues which can affect learning. *(The forms need to be returned even if you do not want your child to see the nurse; just fill in the non-consent section.)* This is a free service.

Parents with children in other grades who would like to have their child checked by the nurse, please see Mrs Ellis for the consent form.

Scott Ross
Acting Principal
**Asthma News**

**Back to School asthma spike**
Every year there is a well-documented rise in asthma flare-ups and hospitalisations when students return to school after the Christmas break. Asthma Australia has information for parents of students with asthma to help them prepare for school. Asthma Australia’s website and social media provide the latest information, including a checklist of what to do to help your child and a survey to complete to determine the impacts for parents/carers. Asthma Australia recommends that you talk to school staff about your child’s asthma and the school’s medication policy, provide an Asthma Plan from the doctor and supply a spare reliever puffer and spacer for your child’s use at school.

**Parent Club News**

**Annual General Meeting**
Our next meeting is our Annual General Meeting and will be held on Monday, 7
th March, after assembly in the staffroom. The $2.00 Annual Membership is to be paid, which enables you to vote.

All newcomers are welcome to attend and find out what Parents Club is all about! You are most welcome to bring along younger siblings to our meetings, so come and enjoy a cuppa with us!

**Easter Raffle**
Easter raffle books have been distributed to families this week. This raffle will be drawn on Monday 21
st March at assembly.

**Hot Cross Bun Day: Wednesday 16
th March**
Forms went home Tuesday. Orders and payment are due Wednesday 9
th March 4.00pm.
You can order 3 types of buns, with fruit/No fruit/Chocolate with margarine/no margarine. $1.50 each. Please order by writing your child’s name, class, how many, type of bun and with or without margarine, on a brown paper bag or lunch order bag. Please enclose money in bag. Please post orders in post box at office.
NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED

Keep an eye out in this spot for future events and fundraisers.

*Parent Club / Fundraising Committee*

**Junior School News**

**Prep News**

**School Nurse Visit**
Leona Evans, the Primary School Nurse, will be visiting our school at the start of Term 2. All parents or guardians of prep children should have completed a Health questionnaire by last Friday.

We encourage all parents to sign the forms and consent to a nurse check as it often picks up problems with hearing or eye sight or other issues which can affect learning. *(The forms need to be returned even if you do not want your child to see the nurse; just fill in the non consent part.)* This is a free service.

Parents with children in other Grades who would like to have their child checked by the nurse, can see Mrs Ellis to get form requesting this.

**Prep Term Planner**
Parents are reminded that, if they want to find out more about what the children are learning during first term, the Prep term planner is on the school website, giving detail of areas taught.
Language Hint For The Week
One of the most effective ways to assist your children in developing listening and communication skills is to talk and read to them. Turn off the television and computer and spend time together talking and listening to each other. This week our sound is p.

Prep Pancake Making
Thank you to the parents who helped the Preps make yummy pancakes on Tuesday and those who sent along toppings for our pancakes.

Assembly
The Preps are now attending assembly on Monday mornings. Assembly starts promptly at 9.00am so we ask that children arrive at school by 8.55am, if possible, on Mondays. Late children sit at the back of the hall with a Prep teacher.

Prep Lunches
The Preps are now having lunch at the normal lunchtime of 1.30 to 2.30. Prep teachers will still supervise the children to ensure they have eaten enough lunch and that they are playing happily in the yard and there will always be at least two adults on duty in the Prep play area. Lunch orders can be purchased on Wednesday and Friday. If you are sending along money for your child to purchase something over the counter at lunchtime, please do not send a large amount of money as it can become lost or shared with friends.

P.M.P. (Perceptual Motor Program)
Our Perceptual Motor Program (P.M.P.) will start on Monday, 18th April 2016. This program will operate in the Physical Education shed on Monday afternoon every week between 2.30pm and 3.30pm. These specialised sessions greatly benefit the Preps’ gross and fine motor coordination and concentration skills. However, parent help is essential on a regular basis to ensure these small group tasks function effectively. Activities are organised by teachers, are explained to parents and are simple to operate. (If you need to bring a preschooler along that is fine as long as they do not distract the Preps from their activities). If we have sufficient parents offering to help, a roster will be made with parents helping every 2 weeks. If you can help (and we would love you to) could you please return the form sent home today, to a Prep teacher by Friday, 11th March 2016.

Grade 1 News

Students of the Week
1P – Mariah for showing everyone how to be an amazing friend.
1CK – Bianca for her wonderful sequencing during guided reading.
1M – Abbygail for always working hard and showing wonderful getting along skills
1D – Samuel for being a very happy and helpful member of our class.

Botanical Gardens
Please keep an eye out for a note coming home outlining an upcoming walk to the White Hills Botanical Gardens in the last week of term. We may need one or two parents to assist. Please see your child’s classroom teacher if you are interested.

Brain Food and Water Bottles
Brain Food must be fruit or vegetables, and should be quick and easy to eat. Please do not send anything that is sticky or runny, or needs to be eaten with a spoon. Many parents are sending oranges or watermelon which makes a real mess and cannot be eaten quickly.
Remember to send a water bottle with your child.

Reading
Please support your child to bring their reader bags to school every day. We also encourage you to help with classroom reading if you have any spare time. Please see classroom teachers for information about reading programs.

Grade 2 News

Students of the Week
2G – Harley E for his fantastic story writing.
2H – Ella F for her imaginative rocket writing.
2F – Rory B for always giving 100% in class.
2B – Claire S for always doing her best in all tasks.

Major Excursion
Notes have gone home for our upcoming excursion to the Melbourne Museum & Imax. Please complete medical forms and return to your classroom teacher as soon as possible.

Chicken Pox
There has been a confirmed case of Chicken Pox in the Grade 2 area, please monitor your child for symptoms.
**Computer User agreements**
Please ensure you have discussed the computer user agreement with your child before signing and returning to the classroom teacher. These agreements need to be signed in order for your child to access the computers and netbooks at school. If you have any questions please speak to your child’s classroom teacher. Thank you to those families that have already returned this form.

**Spelling Homework**
A reminder that spelling homework books are to be returned each Monday.

**Junior School Teachers**

**Grade 3 News**

**Students of the Week**

Students of the Week:

3N - Ashlen R for excellent spelling and sizzling starts when writing.
3CT - Lachlan M for his beautiful manners and terrific work ethic.
3RD - Jasmine H for her friendly, caring, cheerful nature in the classroom.
3B - Jimmy W for being a caring friend in the yard.

**Swimming**

Swimming begins on Monday for students in Grade 3-6. Grade 3 students will be swimming at the following times:

3B - 10.10am - 10.50am
3RD - 10.50am - 11.30am
3CT - 11.30am - 12.10pm
3N - 12.10pm - 12.50pm

**Drink Bottles**

Just a reminder of the importance of students to remain hydrated throughout the school day. To avoid students leaving the classroom during lessons we would appreciate it if each child had a water bottle to use whilst inside.

**Homework**

Please remember that homework is sent home on a Friday and needs to be returned to school by the next Thursday.

**Middle School News**

**Grade 4 News**

**Students of the Week**

4G - Hayley F for making great choices in class and sharing some terrific answers.
4T - Taleah V for writing interesting cinquain and haiku poems.
4M - Tobias G for a fantastic home reading routine. You are learning lots of great words.

**Swimming**

Our swimming program will commence this coming Monday. Swimming session times for the Grade 4 classes will be:

4T – 9.30am – 10.10am
4M – 12.50pm – 1.30pm
4G – 1.30pm – 2.10pm

**Ride to School Day**

As mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, tomorrow is Ride 2 School Day. As Bike Ed is a major aspect of our curriculum in Term 3 and the focus of our camp in Term 4, we would encourage as many Grade 4 families to be involved in the day.

**Class Readers**

We have recently purchased some new class readers and require them to be covered before allocating them to reading tubs. If you are able to assist with contacting books, please see your child’s class teacher.
Skype Session with Deanna Smith
On Friday afternoon we skyped Deanna Smith, a basketball player from Perth. She talked about her basketball career and how to be successful. She also answered some questions that we had. I learnt that to be successful you have to practise and work hard to make your dreams come true.  Erin B 4M

Classroom helpers
Thank you to those parents who have been able to join us in the mornings to hear some reading. If you have a spare morning or two, additional helpers are always appreciated. Please see your child’s teacher for suitable times.

Middle School Teachers

Upper School News

Grade 5 News
Students of the Week
5K - Cammrynn Y for her excellent work in rounding decimals.
5O - Alex K for his excellent biographical recount filled with many interesting facts.
5W - Makayla E for always being on task and working hard.

Swimming
Our swimming program starts next week. Please remember to pack your child’s bathers, towel, goggles, and a bag for wet clothes for all of next week. Students are able to wear their bathers underneath their uniform; however they will have to remember to pack spare underwear for after their lesson each day.

No School
There will be no school on Monday 14th or Tuesday 15th March, due to the public holiday on the Monday and a curriculum day on the Tuesday.

Ride to School Day Tomorrow
It is Ride to School Day tomorrow. We would love to see as many students riding to school as possible!

HPV News
Our HPV teams enjoyed great success at Casey Fields in the first round of Victorian HPV Series last weekend. The Torpeco team won the primary/junior secondary category with 120 laps and the EcoRush team came home in 3rd position with 110 laps. All team members rode fast long stints and showed great trike handling skills on track while representing our school with great dignity. The teams will now be opened up for try outs which will begin next week.
Grade 6 News

Students of the Week
Holly G for having her writing published again.
Alisha T for being a helpful and friendly member of our class.
Nash M for developing his great leadership skills as a student leader.

Reading
This year our Grade 6 students will once again be required to complete Literate Circles reading each week. The amount of reading required each week is agreed upon by each group on a weekly basis to ensure everyone can contribute to group discussions. Please ensure your child is completing this reading and take the time to discuss the book with your child.

Homework
Students will be given homework on Thursdays each week and will be due back on the following Thursday. If you have any questions about homework, please contact one of the grade 6 teachers.

Bupa
The students who have been selected to take part in our Bupa program this term will need to remember to bring road worthy bikes and helmets every Friday, rain, hail or shine.

Upper School Teachers

Phys Ed News

National Ride 2 School Day
National Ride 2 School Day is Friday, 4th March. We encourage everyone to ride to school on this day and support this great idea. We have wonderful safe bike tracks leading from both ends of the school. Parents may choose to ride with the students and gather school friends to support this day. If you can help out on the morning or afternoon on this day, please contact Stewart Scoble.

Weetbix Tryathlon
There are still entries available for this great event on Sunday 6th March. Log onto the Weetbix web page for your entry. With over 900 students already entered, it should be a great day.

Stewart Scoble
Phys Ed Coordinator

Canteen Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Staff Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4 March</td>
<td>Katie McEwen, Barb Russell, Heather Veitch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9 March</td>
<td>Catherine Hester, Karen Hawthorne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 11 March</td>
<td>Tammie Bourke, Tabatha Boyd, Amy Griffiths</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Community News

Wanted
Bendigo Monday Ladies Netball Ass is looking for players, teams or umpires
To play in our Monday Morning competition at Bendigo Stadium during school terms
A free crèche is provided
All abilities catered for
Phone Marge 54437379

GKR Karate will have an information table set up before and after assembly next Monday at school. The organisation presents fitness through Karate as well as teaching students concentration, co-ordination and self-confidence. Students and parents interested in finding out more information can come along and meet with the GKR representatives or contact Tracy Woolgar on 0415561862.