Purpose
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 1 Thursday 29th January - Friday 27th March (Friday 3rd April Good Friday)

Week 7
Monday 9th March
Tuesday 10th March
Wednesday 11th March
Wednesday 12th March
Friday 13th March
Friday 14th March

Week 8
Monday 16th March
Monday 17th March
Monday 18th March
Mon 16th – Fri 20th March
Wednesday 18th March
Wednesday 19th March

Term 2 Monday 13th April – Friday 26th June

Saturday 25th April
Sunday 26th April
Tuesday 28th April
Wednesday 29th April
Thursday 30th April
Friday 1st May
Friday 2nd May
Saturday 3rd May
Sunday 4th May

Term 3 Monday 13th July - Friday 18th September

Friday 17th July
Monday 20th July
Wednesday 22nd July
Friday 21st August
Tuesday 25th & Wed 26th Aug
Monday 31st August
Friday 4th September

Term 4 Monday 5th October - Friday 18th December

Staff Car Park: Do Not Drop Off or Pick Up in This Area

Please note that the staff car park is for staff only. Many parents and children walk through this area to access the buildings. For children’s safety we ask that you not drive in to this area to drop off or pick up children.

Your support in this matter is appreciated.

Principal’s News

Labour Day Public Holiday: School Closed Monday

Monday, 9th March is the Labour Day public holiday. The school will be closed on this day.

Pupil-Free Day: Tuesday, 10th March

Teachers will be undertaking a professional development day on Tuesday, 10th March. Students do not attend school on this day. This is the day after the Labour Day long weekend – Monday, 9th March is a public holiday.

Grade 3-6 Swimming Program

Information and a permission form for the Grade 3-6 swimming program was sent home a fortnight ago. Cost for the swimming program is $51.00 per child. If you have not paid for special events, or do not qualify for the Special Events Credit, please return your payment prior to 4.00pm on Wednesday, 11th March. As per the school’s excursions policy, late payments will not be accepted after the cut-off date. The swimming program will take place in the week beginning Monday, 16th March.

Ride2School Day: Friday, 13th March

This year’s National Ride to School Day is Friday, 13th March. On Ride2School Day, we will have teachers and parents leading groups that will leave from two locations – Weeroona Avenue (across the road from Lake Weeroona) and Epsom Primary School - at 8.20am and ride to school along the bike track, collecting others along the way. We will return to these destinations again after school. This is a great opportunity for your child (and parents) to safely ride/scoot to and from school. We encourage you to become involved and look forward to seeing you on your bike or scooter. If you are available to assist with these rides or require further information, please contact Stewart Scoble at the school on 54430799.

In term 2 we will be launching our 2015 Active Travel strategy, with the aim of increasing the number of students who ride, scoot, walk or take the bus to school. We look forward to your support.

Whole School Production: Early Notice

Our school conducts a whole-school production, involving all students, every two years. This year we will be holding two performances of The Little Mermaid on Tuesday, 25th and Wednesday, 26th August in the new Ulumbarra Theatre. Auditions for our Grade 5 & 6 lead roles are currently taking place. All other students are divided by family groupings into a Tuesday or Wednesday night performance group. Please add these dates to your diary/calendar.
Installation of Synthetic Turf: Tomorrow
Our new turf will be laid between the main building and Peter Davey Building beginning tomorrow Friday, 6th March. This is a week earlier than previously advised and it should be completed over the long weekend. There is also tree-surround seating to be installed around our mature Chinese elms that have been planted in this area. Our next stage of works will involve improving drainage from this area towards the back gate and replacing the pathway. Prep play area & seating, and improved surfacing around parts of the Peter Davey building.

Collingwood Footballers Visit: Monday, 16th March
We have been fortunate to secure a visit from footballers of the AFL’s greatest club, Collingwood, on Monday, 16th March. The WHPS Magpie Army will be out in force.

No Nut Products at WHPS
As parents will know, we have several anaphylactic students at our school. Some of them have severe allergies to nut products. With this in mind, I would like to remind you that we do not have peanut butter, Nutella or nuts at our school. We cannot avoid all nut products as there are traces of nuts in so many foods, but we would appreciate your help in this matter. Anaphylaxis is a life threatening condition and the safety of our students is our first priority. If students continually bring peanut butter, Nutella or nuts to school, parents will be contacted regarding a replacement lunch. Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our students safe.

Canteen Counter Sales: Purchasing Limits
Please note that each child is limited to purchasing a maximum of one (1) ‘iced’ item (e.g. slushy) and $1.00 of other items from counter sales at the school canteen. Products available in our school canteen are from the approved ‘Healthy Canteen’ menu. We would also ask that parents refrain from sending children to school with large denomination notes. Coins are a much better option and counter sales should be seen as an occasional treat for children. We appreciate your support in this matter.

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.

Advise School of Changed Pick-up Arrangements
If children are to be picked up early (and signed out of the school) by anyone other than their parent/guardian (this person must be over the age of 18), it is essential that the school is informed of the changed arrangement. The school cannot allow someone who is not the child’s parent/guardian to sign them out early unless we are advised. We ask that parents try to make appointments outside of school hours. We appreciate your support in this matter.

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 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.

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 while you watch from a distance. “Ask yourself what you did as a child and be guided by that,” says Ungar. Still uncertain your 9 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.

Damien Jenkyn
Principal
**Student Banking**

A new student Banking Program is available in 2015. The theme is ‘Outer Space Savers’, which includes a new range of reward items to redeem.

This year’s Grand Prize is a family trip to Disneyland, for those students who make 25 or more deposit. See end of newsletter

If you haven’t received a new information pack, please pick one up from the table in the foyer outside the office at school.

Thank you

_Sam_
Student Banking Coordinator

**Music/Drama News**

**Guitar Tuition**

Wayne Lomas is teaching guitar again at the same price and arrangements. Please see the Instrumental Music Program form that went home to families today, register your interest and return to the school office or to me by the beginning of next week.

_Trevor Trewartha_,
Music/Drama Coordinator

**HPV News**

Our school had two teams compete in the first round of the Victorian HPV Championships at Casey Fields last weekend. Both teams rode really well in this event and gained some valuable experience in the vehicles which will set us up for a great year of racing. Velocity placed 3rd in our age group and EcoRush placed 5th. We would like to say a big thankyou to Letesha Bawden and Zoe Costigan who filled in for us and the parents for making the long trip down. The HPV teams will now begin try outs over the next few weeks. Good Luck.
Parent Club/Fundraising News

AGM Elected Office Bearers
Congratulations to the following parents who have taken up office positions for 2015:
President – Nicole Logan
Vice President – Kim Engi
Secretary – Sam Franklin
Assistant Secretary – Mary Mitchell

Next Meeting
Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th April at 9.15am in the staffroom.

Easter Raffle: Drawn Monday 23rd March at Assembly
Return by 4.00pm on Wednesday, 18th March

Hot Cross Bun Day: Thursday 26th March
Return by 4.00pm on Wednesday, 18th March

Parent Club/Fundraising Committee

Clean Up Australia Day
Grade 3 went on a Clean Up Australia Day walk. We were given a glove and some of us got a plastic bag. We were also put in teams. The group with the most rubbish got a prize!
Out the front of the school we collected lots of cigarette butts. We walked along Plumridge Street. We found bottles, cans, wrappers, plastic and paper.
My team didn’t win but we tried. Now hopefully, everywhere is clean!
We ended up with five full and five half full bags of rubbish.
Aymee R. Grade 3N

Junior School News

Prep News
Prep Lunch In The Botanical Gardens
On Friday, March 13th, the Preps will be having lunch and activities with their buddies at the White Hills Botanical Gardens. On this day we ask that children do not have a lunch order and bring their lunch and a prima/water drink in a named plastic bag.

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.

Assembly
The Preps are now attending assembly and also have 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. There will always be at least one teacher on duty in the Prep play area.

Prep Attendance
Prep children will attend school on Wednesdays after this weekend, but if your child becomes tired with a full week of school, let them have a sleep-in if necessary and bring them to school at a later time. Some parents may prefer to pick up their child at lunchtime for a rest but remember to tell the class teacher and sign your child in and out at the office. If you have any concerns with your child at school please see your child’s teacher to arrange an interview time.

Transition Survey
Each year our school asks parents to complete a short survey to assist us in improving our transition program for Preps. This survey was sent home earlier and we would appreciate if all parents would complete it and return it to the school office. Thank you.
Prep Reading
We would appreciate help with listening to children read between 9.00-9.30am on any school day, except Wednesday. Red Room will not have reading at 9.00 on a Thursday too due to their Art lesson being at this time. Pre-schoolers are welcome to come into the classrooms while parents & grandparents hear readers, but please ensure that they are quiet.

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.

P.M.P. (Perceptual Motor Program)
Our Perceptual Motor Program (P.M.P.) will start on Monday, 16th March, 2015. 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 last Thursday, to a Prep teacher by Friday, 6th March 2015.

Grade 1/2 News
Students of the Week
2RD – Phoebe M for trying super hard to get lots of writing done.
2/B – Xavier G-U for a great home reading journal.
2/S – Mikayla M for always completing her work to the best of her ability.
1/P – Phoenix H for careful and neat handwriting.
1CK – Ella for being an honest and caring team player.
1/T – Tammekah C for making great decisions and trying lots of new things.
1/M – Dustin M for being persistent with his writing. Keep it up Dustin!

Grade 2 Acceptable Use Policy
A reminder that the Acceptable Use Policy forms need to be returned by this Friday. This is for Grade 2 students only, and outlines the acceptable use of netbooks and computers. Please read and discuss the policies with your child. If you have misplaced your form, please see your classroom teacher for a new one.

Spelling Books
Spelling books need to be returned each Monday for Grade 1 students and 2S + 2B, and Friday for Grade 2RD + 2W. Please assist your child with their spelling words each week and remind them to bring their spelling book to school on the appropriate day.

Football Clinic
All Grade 1 students are participating in a free Football clinic every Tuesday from 11.30am – 1.30pm for 4 weeks. The first clinic session was on Tuesday and the students were fantastic participants. We thank Rick Coburn and the volunteer players from the Bendigo Pioneers for offering this opportunity to our Grade 1 students.

Reading Stories at Home
We have been encouraging students to read a variety of reading material at home, especially books that entertain. We thank students who have brought books from home to share and to parents who are continually engaging students in different literary experiences.

Name Belongings
We have a large collection of lunch boxes and containers starting to form as a result of students not having their name on them. Please check lunch baskets or the lost property at school for missing items. We encourage students to look after their belongings.

Junior School Teachers

Grade 3 News
Students of the Week
3/N Sophie M for working hard to deal with some challenges.
3/W Tobias G for his wonderful approach to his maths tasks. Fantastic to see him sticking to a job till he gets it done.
3/O Hannah R for working hard all the time and trying difficult words in her spelling.

Camp notices
Please remember to return the expressions of interest for camp. We have also received some expressions of interest from parents.
Clean up Australia
On Friday the students participated in Clean up Australia on both sides of Plumridge street, all the way to Napier Street and down to the bridge. We found an amazing amount of rubbish including a tradies hammer as well as lots of paper. It was rather disappointing to see that there were a large number of cigarette butts around the school grounds.

Swimming
Swimming notes are due back at school as swimming will begin on Monday 16th March until Friday 20th March. There are still a number of parents who have not paid for swimming. All money needs to be paid for your child to participate in the swimming program. Please make sure you have organised your child’s bathers and towel in a named bag.

Acceptable user policy for the computers
We are still waiting for a number of these. Please return them to school ASAP. Children are not allowed to use school computers until this has been done.

Grade 4 News
Students of the Week
Students of the Week:
4/G Roman M for the pride and enthusiasm he displays towards his learning.
4/K Matthew S for his fantastic organisation, time management and homework routines.
4CT Ebony W for her positive attitude and helpful nature in class.

Camp
Please remember to return you expression of interest notes to school by Friday, 13th March. See you child’s classroom teacher if you have any queries.

Swimming
The program will commence on Monday, 16th March. Swimming session times for the Grade 4 classes will be: 4/G - 11.50am – 12.30pm. 4CT – 12:30 – 1:10. 4/K – 1.10pm – 1.50pm.

Classroom helpers
Thank you to those parents who have been coming in to hear children read in the morning. We appreciate your support and the children always enjoy reading out loud and discussing their reading material.

Ride to School Day
As mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, Friday 13th March in 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.

Camp
Tomorrow we will be sending home an expression of interest letter regarding camp. These will need to be returned to school by Friday, 13th March. Please contact the school should you require additional information.

Swimming
Could you please ensure that your child’s swimming permission note and payment are returned to school by Wednesday, 11th March.

Middle School Teachers

Grade 5 News
Students of the Week
Congratulations to our Students of the Week
Issac G - a positive approach to all learning tasks
Zac S - for improved attitude towards all learning tasks.
Isabella H and Montana B - for their friendship towards a new student.

Swimming
Swimming notes have gone home and must be returned with payment no later than Wednesday 11th March. A reminder note was sent home Tuesday for those students who have not returned money and permission.

Netbooks
There was great excitement when the netbooks were received last week. Students are reminded that they need to bring their netbooks fully charged, ready for learning each day.

Middle School Teachers

Upper School News
Interviews
Most goal setting interviews have now been finalised. It was great to meet parents and discuss the goals for individual students. Hopefully when they are revisited, half way through the year, the students will have achieved all or part of their goals.

Ride 2 School Day
Ride or scoot to school day is coming up on Friday 13th March. Where possible we encourage students to walk or ride to school every day. The collection points for that day’s ride will be in the newsletter.

Have a great long weekend.

Grade 6 News

Students of the Week
6/B Riley C for working hard to include the endings on his words and not saying things like ‘mornin’.
6/G Lahtesha C-C for her excellent voice projection and presentation on the Salvation Army.
6/M Max Mc for his improved attitude and effort in class to stay on task.

Homework
Homework will be handed out to all grade 6 students every Thursday. This week’s homework will be a maths sheet and spelling task. This will be due next Thursday at 9.00am.

Student Absences
If your child is absent from school they need to provide their classroom teacher a written note the day after their absence that explains why they were away.

Swimming Program
Notes were distributed out to students on Wednesday, outlining the Swimming Program for 2015. Permission notes and payment is due by 4.00pm Wednesday, 11th March.
Times: 6/B: 10.30-11.10am 6/M: 11.10-11.50am 6/G: 12.30-1.10pm

Ride to School Day
We hope to see as many Grade 6 students as possible riding to school on Friday, 13th March.

Grade 6 Excursion to the Soldiers Memorial Museum
On Friday, 13th March, all Grade 6 students will be either riding or scooting to attend a tour at the Soldiers Memorial Museum in Bendigo. We will be leaving at 1:00pm, ride to Rosalind Park for lunch and then attend the tour at the museum. We will return to school by 3:30pm. Students must bring their bike or scooter and helmet on Friday or it may be held at school if students can’t get their bike here on Friday.
Bendigo East Baseball Club
The Bendigo East Baseball club is seeking to recruit new junior and senior players to join our club. For further information please contact Gay Huggard, Club Treasurer on 0419137556

White Hills Junior Football Club Under 9 & 10 vacancies
WHJFC has vacancies for players in Under 9 & Under 10 grades. Anyone born between the 1.1.2005 to the 31.12.2007 are eligible for these teams and are most welcome. Please contact the club at whjclub@gmail.com or call Nigel Lewis on 0409022275.

Splash into Fun
Splash into fun with Playgroup Victoria for National Playgroup Week. This is a free community event on Tuesday 24 March 10.00am – 1.00pm at Long Gully Recreation Reserve, Cunneen St, Long Gully.
FREE activities, FREE giveaways, FREE fruit and sausage sizzle for $1.00 each
For more information contact City of Greater Bendigo Young Communities Team 54346327 or k.bennett@bendigo.vic.gov.au

Come and join Huntly Football Club in 2015
Looking for a game of football. Places are still available in all age groups for the 2015 season. We welcome children of all skill and experience levels to join us and play our great Aussie game!
Registrations for all our junior teams will take place at Strauch Reserve, Huntly between 4pm and 6pm on Monday nights during March 2015. Come along and be part of a Huntly Hawks Football team this year. Contact Paul Price 0438103029
Thanks Huntly Junior Football Committee