

### Message from Jacqui

Welcome back to school for what is shaping up to be a terrific 2020. A very special welcome to our new students and their families; Charlotte, Olle, Clancy, Piper and Mona.

The start of the school year can be challenging as families resettle into the routine. For some children they may be coming home from school very tired, others will be full of beans and excited to share their day. Please be assured that this is expected at this time of the year, however if you do have any concerns come and have a chat.

There have been a number of forms sent home already this year. We ask that forms are signed and returned to the school by the due date. Forms can be returned either directly to teachers or by placing them in the black box which is located in the hallway near the office. We prefer payments for fees and excursions to be made electronically, however if you are paying by cash we ask that they are returned in a sealed, labelled envelope and place in the black box. If at any time your family is experiencing financial difficulty please come and speak to either Nicole or myself to discuss how the school can support you.

It was terrific to see parents at the parent helper session on Wednesday morning. One of the many things that make Christmas Hills Primary School such a supportive environment for all the students is the wonderful community and parent involvement. If you would like to help in the classrooms, veggie garden or in any other way around our school please come and chat to Jacqui about the process. Just like the old sayings that 'many hands make light work', or 'it takes a village to raise a child', children learn so much more when they are being supported by a community. We appreciate all the time and effort parents make to help around our school.

If you are unable to help in the classroom there are many other ways to help contribute to the running of our school including; school council, PFA, fundraising, maintenance, publicising, and much more.

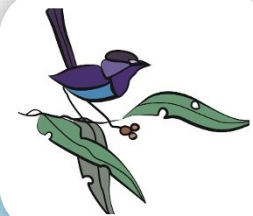
We will be holding our Parent Information session on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February from 3:45pm in Quip Quip. This will be a terrific opportunity to hear about how we support the learning of the children at Christmas Hills Primary School, we hope to see someone from each family at this session.

### School Council

At the beginning of every year we elect a new School Council which is a group of parents and staff who represent the school community.

School councils play a key role in Victorian government schools. Participating as a school council member is a rewarding and challenging experience. The school council supports the principal to provide the best possible educational outcomes for students.

We have a number of vacant positions this year. Please keep an eye out for nomination information which will go home next week.



## Important Dates for 2019

### Curriculum Days

Friday 6th March

Monday 17th August

Monday 30th November

### Term Dates

Term 1 28th January—27th March

Term 2 14th April—26th June

Term 3 13th July—18th September

Term 4 5th October—18th December

### Coming up:

Wednesday 12th Feb

Bunjil Sugarloaf Excursion

Thursday 13th Feb @ 3.45pm

Parent Information Session

Wednesday 4th March

School Photos

Friday 6th March

Curriculum Day

### CHIRPS ALERTS

CHIRPS alerts are going out to ...

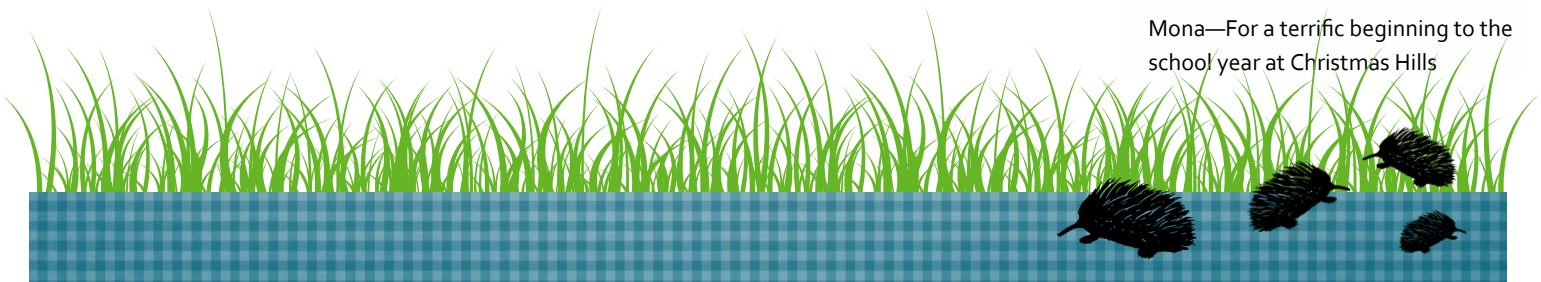
Charlotte—For a terrific beginning to the school year at Christmas Hills

Olle —For a terrific beginning to the school year at Christmas Hills

Clancy —For a terrific beginning to the school year at Christmas Hills

Piper—For a terrific beginning to the school year at Christmas Hills

Mona—For a terrific beginning to the school year at Christmas Hills



## Uniform

Students are required to wear school uniform on all excursions. We have hats, school tops, vests and dresses available for purchase from either Nicole or Jacqui. We only accept cash payments for uniform items. Uniform prices are:

Hats	\$15
Polo Tops—Child	\$15
Polo Tops—Adult	\$18
Vests—Child	\$17.90
Vests—Adult	\$21.25
Dresses	\$18

## Emergency Procedures- Fire Danger Period

Christmas Hills Primary School is a category 1 Bushfire At Risk School. This means that we have some additional planning and processes in place to prepare for the bushfire season. Please familiarise yourself with some of these procedures which are outlined below.

If the Fire Danger Rating (FDR) for the Nillumbik Council is Severe or Extreme we relocate to Yering Primary School. The FDR for Nillumbik is at times different to the FDR for the Central Weather District and I understand that this can be confusing, however as a Department of Education school our relocation plan is triggered by the FDR for the Local Government Area (LGA), rather than the Weather District. I am committed to communicating this information as soon as it becomes available and have been in discussions with the Department of Education to refine this process.

If the Fire Danger Rating (FDR) for the Nillumbik Council is Code Red the school is closed.

If at any time we need to take shelter in place we are fortunate to have received an upgrade in 2019 to our 'Shelter in Place' or Art room and work closely with the local CFA to support our planning and preparedness.

In the event of having to evacuate off site due to a fire in the local area staff and students will be evacuated by buses to either Kangaroo Ground Primary School or Yarra Glen Primary School where parents will be asked to collect their child when it is safe to do so.

If at any time your family chooses to enact your own personal fire plan which may differ from the school's procedure please inform the school via text message.

If this topic raises any concerns for you or your family please make a time to discuss it further with the school to ensure we are supporting your family.

## Annual privacy reminder

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the School's Privacy Policy. Please take time to remind yourself of the school's collection statement, found on our website, [https://5179c21b-d624-427d-81cb-ae8b87ba5851.filesusr.com/ugd/e4e23b\\_b7faf1ae38394177b22d807f07boacab.pdf](https://5179c21b-d624-427d-81cb-ae8b87ba5851.filesusr.com/ugd/e4e23b_b7faf1ae38394177b22d807f07boacab.pdf)

This information is also available in nine community languages.

## Clifton Creek Primary School Book Drive

As you know much of Australia has been devastated by the recent bushfires. We feel for all the communities affected and would like to help in any way we can. One community which has been affected is Clifton Creek Primary School community. They lost their school and are in the process of planning a rebuild. We will be taking donations of brand new books over the coming weeks and will make arrangements for them to be delivered to Clifton Creek Primary School to ensure that they are able to start to rebuild their library.

If you are able to help support another small school community a collection box will be located in the library until **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February**.



## Child Safe

Christmas Hills Primary School is a Child Safe school. For further information on our child safe policies please see our website.

All primary school children have the right to feel safe at school. The Department of Education has developed a flyer for primary school students. It includes information on what to do if you feel unsafe in child friendly language. This flyer is on our website, [https://5179c21b-d624-427d-81cb-ae8b87ba5851.filesusr.com/ugd/f7ef60\\_da208c48698940bb9102cfcdf4e8befc.pdf](https://5179c21b-d624-427d-81cb-ae8b87ba5851.filesusr.com/ugd/f7ef60_da208c48698940bb9102cfcdf4e8befc.pdf)

## STEM

We're excited to start S.T.E.M. again this year! Hope you all had a great break and happy new year. The first week was packed with games and fun things. Check it out in the summary: <http://sugarloafstem.global2.vic.edu.au/category/weekly-s-t-e-m-summary/>

