

# Term Four - 16th October 2020

## Message from Jacqui

Welcome Back! It was terrific to see everyone back at school this week. Students have been enjoying running around the school yard and reconnecting with their friends. Whilst some of our routines and activities look a little different because of our covid guidelines we are continuing to focus on supporting the learning of each individual student. This includes academic, personal and social learning. Term 4 is traditionally full of special events and celebrations and this will also be the case in 2020, however they may look a little different to past years. Nevertheless we will be providing a range of opportunities for our school community to celebrate the growth and learning of our students.

Monday was indeed one of these occasions. On Monday we welcomed our students back to school with a bubble machine and an afternoon of party games. This was our Iso Birthday Party. We wished Mona, Charlotte, Nia, Luka, Piper, Tate and Carla all happy birthday as we enjoyed cup cakes, party hats, music and games. Birthdays are one of the many aspects of our students' lives which have changed due to Covid. This birthday party was a wonderful chance for the students to reconnect whilst also acknowledging the amazing resilience that each of them have shown in recent months.

This week we have also had our first on-site Bush School session with Adam and boy did the kids love it. This will be a feature of our weekly timetable from now on with Wednesday afternoons being our Bush School session. This program has been carefully designed to encourage students to use their inquisitiveness to investigate and learn about the natural environment. It will also provide students with an opportunity to use a range of literacy and numeracy skills to support their investigations. Once students identify a 'seed' or 'spark' of interest this will also be used in the classrooms to support and engage them in their learning across the curriculum. We look forward to sharing our experiences on our blog (<https://www.christmashillsp.vic.edu.au/blog>) as well as in our newsletters.

Term 4 is always a busy term so please keep an eye on the diary dates to see what is coming up.

### Transition

Whilst at the moment we are not able to have transition activities or tours on site we are still providing families with weekly transition activities to help students preparing to start school in 2021. These activities are found on our website and facebook page each week.

If you know someone who is thinking of joining us at Christmas Hills Primary School in 2021 please ask them to contact the office so that we can begin to support their family with the transition process. Research shows us that a strong transition program which is focused on building relationships between home and school support students to feel safe as they begin their school journey.



## Important Dates for 2020

### Curriculum Days

Monday 30th November

### Important Dates for Term 4

Book Week Monday 19<sup>th</sup> – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>

Tuesday 20th October- Community Story Time via Webex 5pm

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October- Stories Under the Stars

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October- Book Week Parade

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October- Grand Final Eve Public Holiday

Wednesday 28th October— Children's Day

Thursday 29th October- CFA Community Information Session

Tuesday 3rd November -Melbourne Cup Day

11<sup>th</sup> November Remembrance Day

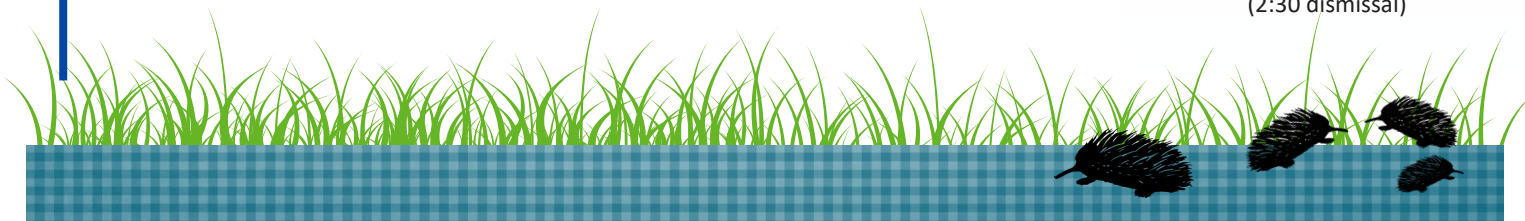
13<sup>th</sup> November- Parent Opinion Survey Closes

27<sup>th</sup> November - Bunjil Camp 26<sup>th</sup>

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November - Curriculum Day

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December - Graduation

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December- End of Term (2:30 dismissal)





## Book Week

Next week is Book Week. Traditionally it is held in August, however the CBCA rescheduled it due to the remote learning. This year's theme is Curious Creatures, Wild Minds. Traditionally our 'Stories Under the Stars' is a real highlight of the year. Unfortunately this year it won't be able to be held in the usual format. So we have put our thinking caps on and together the students and staff have come up with a week of activities which will provide our school community with the opportunity to share our love of literacy and sharing stories.

Students will be sharing their skills as engaging story tellers by reading a range of stories in a clip which will be distributed to families on Wednesday. They will also be invited to join a Webex story telling session on Tuesday night where families will be asked to share a story which they enjoy as a family. This will all culminate with a Book Week Parade on Thursday morning, I can't wait to see the creative costumes that the students come up with.



## 2020 Parent Opinion Survey

WE WANT OUR PARENTS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!

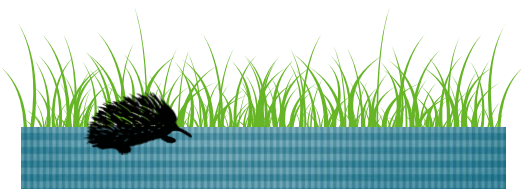
Our school is conducting a survey to find out what parents think of our school. The Parent Opinion Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education and Training that is conducted amongst all parents. It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of parents' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour, student engagement and experiences of remote and flexible learning. Our school will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies.

All parents will have received an invitation to participate in the parent opinion survey. If you have not received your invitation please contact Jacqui. All responses to the survey are anonymous. This year, the Parent Opinion Survey will be conducted from Monday 12th October to Friday 13th November.

The survey will be conducted online, only takes 20 minutes to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time within the field-work period on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones. The online survey will be available in a range of languages other than English.

The information gathered in the parent opinion survey assists the school leadership and School Council when making decisions for school improvement. We value your feedback and urge each family to participate in the survey so that we can continue to improve the school experience for all members of our community.

If you have any questions regarding the survey please contact one of the staff members.



## Art

This term in the art room Bunjil and Quip Quip learning about and building castles. For our first lesson we looked at photos of castles and grand buildings from around the world. We discussed different 3D shapes we could see in each castle and built our own with blocks.

Next week we will start designing our own castles and build them out of recycled cardboard boxes.



Supporting families with effective communication, positive interactions and dealing with anger and anxiety, this workshop for parents with children 2-12 years, provides strategies to support ourselves as parents and our children to build emotional well-being and resilience. Presented by Parentzone in partnership with Yarra Ranges Council and Eastern LGA's.

For registration: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=663514&>



Kind Regards,

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## Peaceful Parenting Webinar

Peaceful Parents Equals Happy Kids  
Webinar for Parents of Children Aged 2 to 12 years

Do you want to:

- Learn ways to deal with anger and anxiety in your children and in yourself?
- Improve communication and relationships with your children?
- Discover strategies to manage challenging behaviour?
- Take care of your own emotional wellbeing and resilience?

**When:** Wednesday 28 October 2020

**Time:** 7:00 to 8:30 pm

**Where:** Online via Zoom

**Cost:** Free of charge for parents and carers in Melbourne's Eastern Region.

**Bookings:** Via Try Booking link below  
<https://www.trybooking.com/BLTNU>



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