



Diamond Creek East Primary School

UPCOMING EVENTS JANUARY

Wed 31 - No Foundation Students

FEBRUARY

Thurs 1 - A warm welcome to school - Foundation Students

Tues 6 - Grades 3-6 Swimming Carnival

Wed 7 - No Foundation Students

Tues 13 - Foundation - 6 "3 Way Conferences"

Wed 14 - No Foundation Students

Mon 19 - School Council Meeting

Wed 21 - District Swimming

Wed 21 - No Foundation Students

Fri 23 - Enrichment Sport - TBA

Sat 24 - DCE Movie Night

Wed 28 - No Foundation Students

MARCH

Fri 1 - Enrichment Sport - TBA

Mon 4 - Enrichment Camp - Arrabri Lodge - East Warburton

Tues 5 - Enrichment Camp - Arrabri Lodge - East Warburton

Wed 6 - Enrichment Camp - Arrabri Lodge - East Warburton

Mon 11 - Labour Day - Public Holiday

Diamond Creek East Primary School
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diamond.creek.east.ps
@education.vic.gov.au
www.dceps.vic.edu.au

Principal's Report

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school for the 2024 school year. It has been wonderful to see everyone again. All of our Foundation students will be arriving tomorrow. We would like to welcome you all and your families to our school community. It will be an exciting day for everyone helping everyone to settle in. They are of course in the excellent hands of Mrs. Ridi, Mrs. Paterson, Miss. Totino and Mrs. Turley.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome back the following staff members:

Mrs. Gabi Higham, Mrs. Kassie Papuga (DB) and Mrs. Elle Neaves (CD).



BUSHFIRES and EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

With the weather looking like it will become increasingly warmer over the next few weeks I would like to take this opportunity to remind our community that we need to be mindful of extreme weather conditions.

Please find on pages 2 and 3 information regarding Diamond Creek East Primary School and the Bushfire At Risk Register (BARR) and the Australian Fire Rating Danger System across the State of Victoria.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PARENTS/CARERS
BUSHFIRE AT RISK
REGISTER (BARR)**

Please take the time to read the important information overleaf

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The following School Councillors have completed their current term on School Council: Sarah Mahar, Nathan Panzera, Peter Baumann and Asim Suvedi.

I wish to formally thank them for their leadership and support over many years at Diamond Creek East Primary School.

On behalf of the school community, thank you for your time, effort and encouragement of our staff and students.

Between all of the above mentioned School Council Members there have been hundreds of volunteer hours contributed to our school. Without your dedication - DCEPS would not be the school that it is today. Thank you.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

There are four (4) Parent Member vacancies for two (2) years. There is one (1) Department of Education (DE) Employee vacancy for two (2) years.

Thurs 1 Feb: Call for nominations

Thurs 8 Feb: Closing date for nominations. If the number of nominations equals the number of vacancies an election will not be required.

If an election is required the following dates will apply:

Thurs 15 Feb: Distribute Ballot Papers

Thurs 22 Feb: Close of Ballot
Fri 23 Feb: Count votes and Declare poll

The new Council is able to meet after this date. Parents wishing to nominate or re-nominate should collect a nomination form from the General Office.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ENRICHMENT - ARRABRI LODGE - EAST WARBURTON - 2024

Parents/Carers wishing to assist with the Enrichment Camp - 2024 which will be held on Monday 4 - Wednesday 6 March, 2024 at Arrabri Lodge in East Warburton are invited to register their expression of interest at the General Office.

A Working With Children Check is required. Parents who have not previously assisted with camp will be given first preference.

ENROLMENTS FOR FOUNDATION IN 2025

The Department of Education (DE) has advised that the 2025 enrolments will remain the same as for the 2024 school year. Please see details on pages 4, 5 and 6 of this Newsletter, which includes the timeframe for 2025.

Additional information can be found on our website at: [Statewide Foundation enrolment timeline and procedures for 2024-25 \(dceps.vic.edu.au\)](https://www.dceps.vic.edu.au)

Steve Campbell
Principal

ASSEMBLY SINGERS

Monday 5 February, 2024

Verse 1: Riley F - DE
Grayson K - DC

Verse 2: Mila D - CB
Matilda M - CB

Monday 12 February, 2024

Verse 1: Octavian G - DA
Major-Tom MM - DC

Verse 2: Isla D - CA
Zoe A - CA

Auslan Signers

Monday 5 February, 2024

Mr. Chris Hansford

Monday 12 February, 2024

Mr. Chris Hansford

Schools in Category 3 on the Bushfire At-Risk Register and the Category 4 list.

School Preparations for the Bushfire Season

Each year, to prepare for bushfires and grassfires, schools and early childhood services complete a range of activities.

The Department of Education runs an annual fire risk assessment of schools and early childhood services. They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 4) and are published on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR). Diamond Creek East Primary School has been identified as a Category 3 school on the Bushfire-At-Risk Register (BARR).



All schools and early childhood services listed on the BARR and Category 4 list will also close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district.

When the Bureau of Meteorology provides public fire danger rating forecasts or fire weather warnings, they use fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries. Our school is in the Central fire weather district.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan, we have removed vegetation identified as high fire risk. On regular intervals storm water gutters are cleared of debris and we regularly maintain the grasses around the school.

What does this mean for our school?

Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a Category 3 school.

Our school will close on a day forecasted as Catastrophic fire danger rating in the Central fire weather district.

What is the Department's Policy?

The Department's [Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy](#) requires all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 list to close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

When will our school be closed due to Catastrophic Fire Danger?

Our school will **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating in the Central fire weather district.**

Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day. Any information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by Compass.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, even if the weather forecast changes. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.
- Families are encouraged to action their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. **On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

Schools in Category 3 on the Bushfire At-Risk Register and the Category 4 list.

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, checking our website at: [Home | Diamond Creek EastPS \(dceps.vic.edu.au\)](https://www.dceps.vic.edu.au) by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our Emergency Management Plan.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is: relocated, undertaking learning from home and/or closed due to elevated fire danger or closed due to a Catastrophic fire danger. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au).
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are actioning your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.

If your child is old enough, talk to [them about bushfires](#) and your family's bushfire survival plan. You can find more information on emergencies, warnings and preparedness actions here:

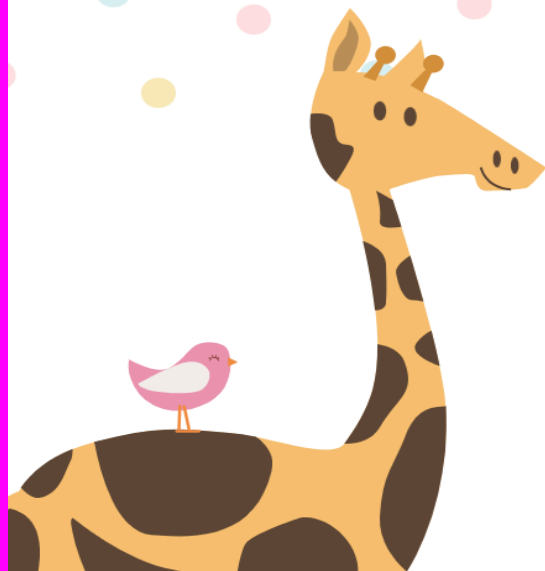
- VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters



Congratulations

To Mr. Blaby and Anna
who are proud to announce the safe arrival of
Breanna Joan Blaby
Breanna was born on Wednesday 3 January, 2024
healthy and happy. A beautiful little sister for Ethan.

Breanna
baby girl
has arrived



Enrolling in Foundation (Prep)

Information for parents and carers on when and how to enrol their child in 2025 Foundation (Prep) at a Victorian government primary school.

Steps to enrol your child in Foundation (Prep) for the 2025 school year

To start primary school in 2025, your child will need to turn 5 years old by 30 April 2025. Schooling is compulsory for children who have turned 6 years old.

If your child is starting Foundation (Prep) in 2025, you will be able to apply to enrol your child in a Victorian government primary school from the start of Term 2, 2024 (Monday 15 April 2024).

What you need to do:

1. Use [Find my School](#) to locate your designated neighbourhood school (referred to as your local school) and other nearby government schools.
2. Contact a government primary school to book a school tour or to learn more about the school and the enrolment application process.
3. Download the 'Foundation (Prep) Enrolment Information Pack for Parents and Carers.' The pack will be available from Monday 15 April 2024 and will include an application form. The school may also provide you with a copy of the form to complete.
4. Submit an enrolment application for Foundation (Prep) by Friday 26 July 2024.
5. You will be notified of the outcome of your application between Monday 29 July and Friday 9 August 2024. If you receive an enrolment offer, you should accept the offer by Friday 23 August 2024.
6. Take part in enrolment information and transition sessions during Term 4, 2024.
7. Your child will start Foundation (Prep) from Wednesday 29 January 2025.

Enrolment applications submitted after 26 July 2024 will be processed by the school as they are received, in accordance with the Department of Education's Placement Policy.

Your child has a right to enrol at their local school. Your child's local school is determined on the basis of their permanent residential address. Visit [Find my School](#) to locate your child's local school. The [enrolling in a school](#) page can also help you to confirm your child's address for enrolment.

If you are seeking to apply to enrol your child in a school that is not their local school, you should read about [school zones](#) and how they work and how applications are prioritised using the Department of Education's Placement Policy found on the [enrolling in a school](#) page.

FOUNDATION (PREP) ENROLMENT TIMELINE 2024-25 – FOR ENROLMENT IN THE 2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Statewide timeline to support enrolment in Foundation in government primary schools

2024 dates	Activity and notes	Responsible party
Term 1: Monday 29 January 2024 (students commence 30 January) – Thursday 28 March 2024		
Term 1, 2024	<p>Primary schools update school website using the template website content on the Enrolment Policy: Foundation (Prep) enrolment page in the Policy and Advisory Library (PAL).</p> <p>The template website content includes a link to the Enrolling in Foundation (Prep) webpage within the Starting school page on the Vic Gov website. This page contains information for families on how to enrol their child in a Victorian government school and outlines the timeframes for submitting Foundation enrolment applications for the 2025 school year.</p>	Primary
Terms 1 and 2, 2024	<p>Primary schools conduct tours and other activities. It is recommended that tours are completed by the end of Term 2.</p> <p>** Note: Foundation enrolment applications for the 2025 school year must not be accepted in Term 1. Parents and carers may submit applications from Term 2. **</p>	Primary
Late Term 1, 2024	<p>School zones for the 2025 school year go live on www.findmyschool.vic.gov.au</p> <p>The 'Foundation (Prep) Enrolment Information Pack for Parents and Carers' (pack for parents and carers) is available to download from the Enrolling in Foundation (Prep) webpage within the Starting school page on the Vic Gov website. The pack for parents and carers contains the 'Application to Enrol in a Victorian Government School Form' (application form).</p> <p>The 'Foundation (Prep) Enrolment Information Pack for Schools' (pack for schools) is available for government schools to download from the Enrolment Policy: Foundation (Prep) enrolment page in PAL.</p> <p>Early childhood education and care service providers and services invited to distribute the pack for parents and carers and other resources to families.</p>	Department of Education (DE) - Central
29 March to 14 April 2024	School holidays	
Term 2: Monday 15 April 2024 – Friday 28 June 2024		
From Week 1, Term 2, 2024 (from Monday 15 April 2024)	<p>Schools distribute the pack for parents and carers to prospective families and their school community. The pack for parents and carers contains the application form.</p> <p>Schools may use the template email and newsletter article in the pack for schools to provide information about the enrolment timeline to prospective families and the local community.</p> <p>Schools should refer parents and carers to www.findmyschool.vic.gov.au to locate their designated neighbourhood school for 2025.</p> <p>** Note: schools may provide parents and carers with the enrolment form instead of the application form in accordance with the Enrolment Policy: Application and Enrolment Forms. Primary schools with an Enrolment Management Implementation Plan (EMIP) and/or under enrolment pressure are strongly encouraged to provide parents and carers with an application form. Updated EMIP advice for the 2025 school year will be released later in Term 2. **</p> <p>Enrolment applications open – parents and carers submit their completed enrolment application to a government primary school from this date.</p>	Primary
By Friday 28 June 2024	Department of Education notifies primary schools if they are going to receive an enrolment restriction via an Enrolment Management Implementation Plan (EMIP) for the 2025 school year.	DE - Regions
29 June to 14 July 2024	School holidays	
Term 3: Monday 15 July 2024 – Friday 20 September 2024		
By Friday 26 July 2024	<p>Enrolment applications due – parents and carers submit their completed enrolment application to a government primary school by this date.</p> <p>** Note: this date also applies where schools have provided parents and carers with an enrolment form instead of an application form to complete their enrolment application. **</p>	Parents and Carers
Between Monday 29 July and Friday 9 August 2024	<p>Primary schools provide parents and carers with written notification of Foundation enrolment outcomes as per the department's Placement Policy. Schools must follow their EMIP (if they have one).</p> <p>Template letters are included in the pack for schools. Templates include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> letter of offer – for parents and carers who submitted an application form and have been offered a place letter confirming enrolment – for parents and carers of children who submitted an enrolment form unsuccessful application letter – for parents and carers who submitted an application form and have not been offered a place. <p>The 'Form to enrol in a Victorian Government School' (enrolment form) must be included with the letter of offer.</p>	Primary

2024 dates	Activity and notes	Responsible party
	The 'Foundation (Prep) Appeal Form' (appeal form) must be included with <u>unsuccessful application letters</u> . ** Note: schools must <u>not</u> send outcome letters before the enrolment application due date (Friday 26 July 2024). **	
By Friday 23 August 2024	Parents and carers send a <u>letter of offer</u> return the completed enrolment form by this date, to indicate acceptance of their child's enrolment offer.	Parents and Carers
By Friday 23 August 2024	Closing date for parents and carers to lodge a written appeal with primary school. ** Note: parents and carers have the option of using the appeal form to lodge this appeal. Primary schools must provide parents and carers with a copy of this form, which can be found in the pack for schools. **	Parents and Carers
By Friday 6 September 2024	Primary schools notify all parents and carers, in writing, of the outcome of appeals by this date. Template letters that schools must use to communicate appeal outcomes are included in the pack for schools.	Primary
By Friday 20 September 2024	Closing date for parents and carers to lodge a written appeal with the applicable Regional Director, where they have been unsuccessful with their appeal to the primary school. ** Note: parents and carers have the option of using the appeal form to lodge this appeal. Primary schools are asked to provide parents and carers with a copy of this appeal form, which can be found in the pack for schools. **	Parents and Carers
21 September to 6 October 2024	School holidays	
Term 4: Monday 7 October 2024 – Friday 20 December 2024		
Term 4, 2024	Primary schools host transition sessions .	Primary
By Friday 1 November 2024	Regions notify parents and carers in writing of the outcome of Regional Director appeal by this date (only applies to appeals received by the closing date of Friday 20 September 2024).	DE - Regions
Ongoing	Primary schools continue to manage late enrolment applications , including those from families that missed the enrolment timeframes and/or moved permanent residence. Primary schools must consider all late enrolment applications in line with the Placement Policy. ** Note: children of school age are entitled to be enrolled in their designated neighbourhood school, regardless of when their enrolment application is submitted. Out-of-zone children should be offered a place if there is sufficient accommodation at the school and the request for enrolment aligns with the school's EMIP (where applicable). **	Primary
Friday 20 December 2024	Final day of Term 4	

Note: This timeline does not apply to enrolments at specialist schools or registered specialist campuses. Specialist schools and campuses are encouraged to publish advice about any school-specific enrolment timelines on their school website, with reference to [Enrolment in specialist schools and other specialist education settings](#).

Note: This Enrolment Timeline is based on the [Enrolment Policy](#) in PAL. For transition information, please refer to the [Transition – Early Childhood to School: Resources](#) in PAL and the [Transition: Positive Start to School Resource Kit](#).



OPTOMETRISTS
ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA
VICTORIA

Keeping focus on the 2024 school year

As the children settle into the new school year, did you remember to tick off 'see the optometrist' on your 'back to school' list? Many young people experience undetected vision problems as they often assume that how they see is normal.

It is estimated that 80% of learning is experienced through vision and so children with undetected vision problems can have trouble keeping up and as a consequence might become impatient, lose focus and start misbehaving or not enjoying school.

The most frequent vision problems experienced by children are those affecting the ability to see clearly and sharply. These include **short-sightedness** (blurred distance vision), **long-sightedness** (difficulty focusing up close) and **astigmatism** (the distortion of vision due to the irregular shape of the eye). These conditions can be very easy to correct, with a simple measure: glasses. Other vision problems need to be detected and addressed early to reduce risk of long-term vision concerns such as a **turned eye (strabismus)**, or a so-called **lazy eye (amblyopia)**. These conditions require management by an eye health professional, such as an optometrist. Untreated amblyopia can even lead to permanently reduced vision in the affected eye.

Incorporating regular eye examinations with an optometrist into your child's health routine can give peace of mind and the best start to the school year – you don't need a referral from a doctor and most consultations attract a Medicare rebate. For more information or to find an optometrist in your local area, visit www.optometrists.asn.au/victoria.

3 interesting facts about your eyes:

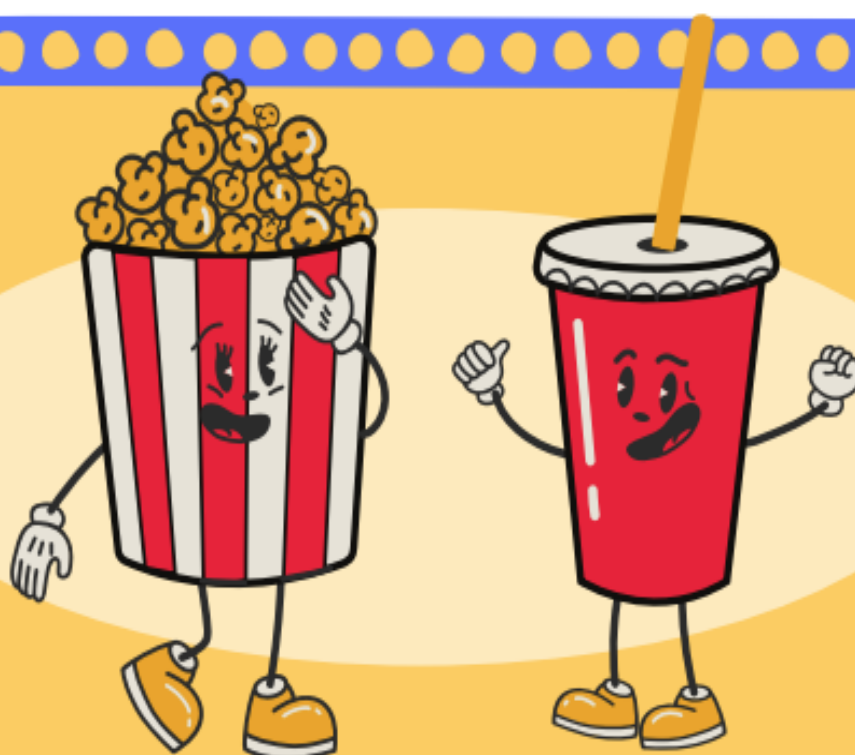
- ★ Your eyes are made up of more than 2 million working parts.
- ★ The human eye will focus on about 50 things per second.
- ★ Your eyes actually 'see' images upside down and then they send these images to the brain where they are flipped around correctly for us.



BYO PICNIC DINNER, RUG, CHAIRS AND BEANBAGS!



DCEPS PFCA PRESENTS
MOONLIGHT MOVIE NIGHT
SAT 24 FEB | 6.30PM
BYO DINNER FOR 7.30PM MOVIE



MOVIE SCREENING ON THE OVAL

**TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
FROM THE OFFICE:
\$40 PER FAMILY OR \$15 ADULT PASS
\$10 CHILD PASS**

**GET READY FOR SOME YUMMY TREATS AT THE CANTEEN!
POPCORN, ICE CREAMS, ICY POLES, LOLLIES, SOFT DRINKS,
AND JUICE WILL AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.**

DOOR PRIZE | GAMES | MUSIC



CALLING ALL BUSINESS OWNERS!

OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Get ready for a blockbuster night under the stars, brought to you by the fabulous Parents, Friends, and Carers Association of Diamond Creek East Primary School! This sensational summer event is exclusive to our school community, and it's going to be an amazing fundraiser giving the students additional learning opportunities, experiences, and resources.

Our big-hearted sponsors will be the stars of the show, with their logos or names up in lights on the big screen. It's an amazing way to show your support for our school, and with sponsorship packages being tax-deductible, it's a win-win.

Check out our unbeatable sponsorship package! For an incredible \$100, you'll get your business or name featured in our pre-screening PPT presentation and school newsletter. Plus, you'll receive a certificate of appreciation to showcase at your business or your social media page. Talk about a fantastic opportunity for promotion!

But wait, there's more! We're also rolling out a door prize, so if you've got a product or service to donate, we want to hear from you! Contact Lisa at 0403 230 705 or Laura at 0400 163 414 to be featured in our pre-screening PPT presentation, newsletter & certificate of appreciation.

Help us make this movie night a blockbuster to remember!





SMASH HITS AUDITIONS

**DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT
TAKES TO BE DCE'S
NEXT ROCKSTAR?**

Calling all drummers, singers,
bass and keyboard players

ENRICHMENT STUDENTS ONLY

Talk to your teacher or Mr Blaby if
you're interested in auditioning to join
the 2024 band line up.

Trials will be held on weeks 1-2, term 1.





Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) Payment Arrangements for 2024 IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO PARENTS

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)

Every Victorian child should have access to the work of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) will ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational fund activities.

School **camps** provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, **excursions** encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and **sports** teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the cost of school trips, camps and sporting activities. This initiative is part of making Victoria the Education State and is the State Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

Applications for the CSEF program will open from the commencement of term one, 2024, helping to ensure that all eligible students are able to participate in school trips and sporting activities.

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card are eligible to apply. A special consideration category also exists.

CSEF Application forms will be sent home with the eldest child in the family today - Wednesday 31 January, 2024 or you can collect your form from the General Office if you did not complete a form on or during the 2023 school year.

A payment of \$150.00 for eligible primary school students and \$250.00 for eligible secondary school students will be paid directly to the school to be used towards camps, sports and excursion costs for the benefit of the student.

Important Dates:

Monday 29 January, 2024 – CSEF eligibility date. The CSEF web system will perform an automatic check on this date whether a parent's concession card is valid.

Thursday 29 February 2024 - CSEF payments to schools will commence from this date onwards. Regular payment runs will occur throughout terms one and two.

Please note: If you have already filled out a "CSEF Application Form" during 2023 your information will automatically be processed for CSEF Funding 2024. If your situation has changed please contact the General Office on 9438 1413



For more information about the CSEF program, visit: [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Policy | education.vic.gov.au](#)



SPORTS REPORT

At Diamond Creek East Primary School we try to offer students a wide range of experiences in diverse sports such as golf, hockey, tennis, badminton as well as the more mainstream sports such as basketball, netball, soccer, footy, athletics and swimming.

The aim is to be fair and give all students equal opportunity to represent Diamond Creek East Primary School. We also endeavour to provide talented students the opportunity to extend their skills and compete at higher levels.

Code of Conduct - The following is annotated from the School Sport Victoria (SSV) 'Code of Conduct'.

The code of conduct is very different from what is acceptable in children's sport outside of school. Please be aware that there is to be no coaching by teachers or parents during affiliated events. This policy becomes more important as students/teams progress towards the State Finals. Sometimes however, at the lower levels, coaches agree that the main emphasis of the game should be on educating the students about the game (rules, positioning etc.) If you come along to watch your child compete, please be aware that telling the students where to position themselves, who to pass to, when to run etc., is deemed inappropriate. Abusing umpires and opposition players is totally unacceptable. Of course applauding good play is quite OK. Everyone who attends our games and events needs to be aware of the difficult position the teachers could potentially be placed in if parents/spectators break the 'code'. Students (and teams) who have deemed to have been coached during events (such as swimming and cross country) can be disqualified.

Please refer to the SSV web site if you would like to read the Code of Conduct in full.

State Team Trials - The following has been extracted from the SSV website: "Each year, talented Victorian school students have the opportunity to trial for a place in the School Sport Victoria (SSV) Team Vic State Team and participate in annual School Sport Australia (SSA) Championships. The sports for primary school students include **Australian Football, Basketball, Cricket, Cross Country, Diving, Football (Soccer), Golf, Hockey, Netball, Orienteering, Rugby League, Softball, Surfing, Track and Field, Swimming and Tennis.** The SSV Championships offer gifted and talented students the opportunity to participate in higher levels of sporting competition against students from other Australian States and Territories."

Students who are nominated for this obviously need to be of a very high standard in their particular sport. They would be the type of player who is dominant at their age level and is regularly winning 'Best and Fairest'/'Most Valuable Player' awards. The purpose of trials is **not** to provide an opportunity for students to gain experience or to have a go, it is about identifying elite talent.

In the past, District trials have been held for 'the big four' sports (basketball, netball, football and soccer) but this is no longer the case. SSV implemented an on-line registration process for all sports across the State in 2019.

Parents must register on-line from late December 2023 and registrations will close in mid March 2024 (check web-site for exact dates).



<https://www.ssv.vic.edu.au/>



SPORTS REPORT - Continued

State Team Trials (Continued) -

Please be aware of the following:

1. On the SSV website it has been made clear that students/parents need to consult with their Sport Teacher at school to ensure they have the skill level to trial and represent their school.
2. It is imperative that teachers decide on your child's capability of representing their school at a state level trial.
3. This discussion with the school Sport Teacher is necessary as all students **must** get the Sport Teacher/Co-ordinator and Principal signatures on their registration form prior to attending a trial.
4. A non-refundable fee is payable upon registration.

Selection Process for Interschool Teams - Grade 6

students nominate their first choice - most students get into the team of choice. However, if there are too many in a particular sport (such as basketball which can only take 9 players), students will be offered their second choice. Should no one take up this offer then the coach of that team will conduct a trial.



We make every effort to ensure that the students make the choice and are not pressured in any way. We try to avoid going to the trial process as this can only lead to disappointment. Normally, there are very few places left once the Grade 6 students are given priority.



Over the last few years we have run a 'B' team in division two of the DVPSSA competition, so there may be extra opportunities for Grade 5s to participate. We are still awaiting advice if a 'B' team will be running for 2024. Once we have further information will let you know.

The exact 'B' teams that we field will be negotiated with Sacred Heart Primary School on a yearly basis.

The process for selection for either scenario (making up the numbers in 'A' teams or for the 'B' teams) is the same:

Grade 5 students are offered a preference for which sport that they would like to be considered for should there be places available. If there are places available, the students who nominated that sport will be automatically selected (or placed in a ballot if there are more than what is required). If no one has nominated that sport, it will be offered to anyone who would like to have a go. If a Grade 5 student is chosen for a summer sports team, they will not be able to participate in a winter team unless there is no one else available. (Students who agree to play a sport which was not their first choice will be exempt from this rule.) The aim is to be fair and give all Grade 5s an equal opportunity to represent Diamond Creek East Primary School.

Students not involved will participate in the 'alternative sports' program (which in 2024 may include Lawn Bowls, Hockey, Tennis and Calisthenics - this list is yet to be finalised).

Events where district carnivals/tournaments are held, expressions of interest are sought from the students and selection trials are held where necessary. In team events, again, we generally give preference to Grade 6 students.



SPORTS REPORT - Continued

Team Selection for District Athletics/Cross Country - The school runs a house competition for both Cross Country and Athletics and the teams are selected based on results*. In athletics a student can only compete in two individual events and one team event (relay). Students who have 'qualified' for more than two events are asked to make a preference and the other position/s are offered to the next place getter in that event.



In Cross Country the top nine place getters in the house event automatically qualify for the district Cross Country. The tenth place in the field is at the discretion of the teacher-in-charge (see below).

In cases where students are unable to compete for reasons beyond their control (i.e. medically diagnosed injury, family holiday) we may run a trial at school to decide who represents the school in a particular event. This will be done only at the discretion of the teacher-in-charge and only if it has been possible to communicate the situation with the other competitors well in advance (not on the day of competition).

For instance - if a child who has competed in the Regional final in 800m in the previous year is unable to compete because of a broken arm - we would inform the rest of the competitors that winning the event is not a guaranteed position in the team - a trial will be held at school.

*There have been occasions in the past where inclement weather has caused the multiple cancellations of events and there has been no other option but to choose the teams based on trials conducted at school and on the data collected from the fitness tests that are conducted each year.

Team Selection for Swimming - Swimming will be held this year. The Swimming Carnival will be held on Tuesday 6 February, 2024 at the Diamond Creek Outdoor Pool for Grades 3-6. Information has been posted on the COMPASS Portal for parents of the Challenge and Enrichment Areas. From this event a 'squad' will be selected (possibly place getters from each event). The final team will be selected from this squad, generally the fastest swimmer will be selected.

A student can only compete in two individual events and two team events (age group relay and open age medley relay). Students who have 'qualified' for more than two events are asked to make a preference and the other position/s are offered to the next place getter in that event.

Team Selection for 'Ancillary' Sports - Hockey 7s, Golf, Girls' Football, Challenge 3/4 Netball, Challenge 3/4 Kanga Cricket and Hoop Time. (Please note that we may not run all of these activities in any given year).

At various stages of the year the DVPSSA/SSV conducts tournaments in various sports. The team selection process is determined firstly - by the number of teams that we are allowed to enter. Generally we seek expressions of interest from the students - bearing in mind that preference to grade is given to Grade 6 students in Certain annual events (e.g. Golf, Hockey, Girls' Football etc.). Should there be more students than required the teacher-in-charge will conduct a trial to decide the final make-up of the team.

Team Selection for Tennis - Expressions of interest are sought from the students - bearing in mind that preference is given to Grade 6 students. Places are strictly limited (usually 2 boys and 2 girls). Students provide details of the level of competition in which they play. Students are placed in the team based on the 'section' level. Where this is inconclusive or the students do not play competitive tennis - a trial will be held at the discretion of the teacher-in-charge.

Please be aware that the SSV will only make allowances for students who miss events as a result of involvement in another sanctioned event. No allowances are made for illness, injury or absence due to holidays.

David Mitchell
Physical Education Teacher



CANTEEN NEWS

Welcome back to 2024

The Canteen is now open and we would like to welcome all of our new families.

Canteen operating hours are Tuesday - Friday for Lunch Orders via www.quickcliq.com.au and we open for cash sales over the counter at lunch times for drinks and icy treats.

We are also seeking volunteers for anyone that might have a spare hour or two. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for over the counter sales from 1.30pm - 2.00pm and on a Friday for lunch order assistance and then over the counter sales from 12.30pm - 2.00pm

If you would like to pop your name down to volunteer it is usually only once or twice per term and your kids love to see their favourite people serving at the canteen. Please do not hesitate to contact me on: 0409 784 654 if you'd like to assist.

Nat Flint
Canteen Manager

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school. Just a reminder that children need to have a named and approved Diamond Creek East Primary School hat to wear while in the playground and during Physical Education lessons until Friday 27 April, 2024.



Children who are not wearing hats will be required to play undercover or in the shaded areas of the school. It is also recommended that children have a named water bottle at school for the warmer months.

Many thanks for your support

Josh Gee
Sunsmart Co-ordinator



Annual Privacy Reminder for 2024

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 Schools' Privacy Policy.

Please take time to remind yourself of our school's collection notice, found on our website: [Privacy Policy | Diamond Creek EastPS \(dceps.vic.edu.au\)](http://www.dceps.vic.edu.au/PrivacyPolicy). For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents/carers. This information is also available in nine community languages:

- * Amharic
- * Arabic
- * Dari
- * Gujarati
- * Mandarin
- * Somali
- * Sudanese
- * Turkish
- * Urdu
- * Vietnamese

Where kids love to be!

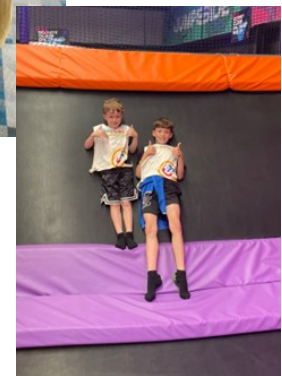
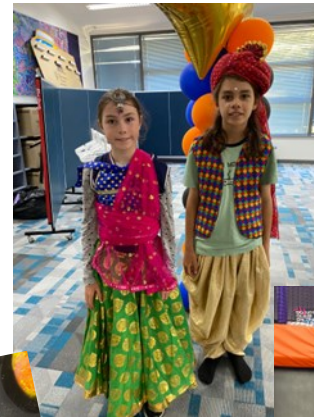
What Has been happening at TheirCare?

Over the summer holidays we have had a fantastic turn out for our 'Passport To Summer' holiday program.

We have spent our time visiting lots of fun countries such as making tie dye pandas in China, learning Bollywood dancing in India, participating in an American soap box derby, we had our very own Mexican fiesta and even had a Hawaiian luau party plus much more.

We went on some fun excursions to Super jump side trampoline park, plenty valley's Village Cinemas, Fighting Lyons' ninja warrior course, Melbourne Zoo and Inflatable World.

We have had so much fun over the summer holiday break but we can't wait to start term 1 and see what this year brings us. We hope everyone has had a great first few days back.



Service contact number: 0473 300 993
Head Office Contact Number: 1300 072 410

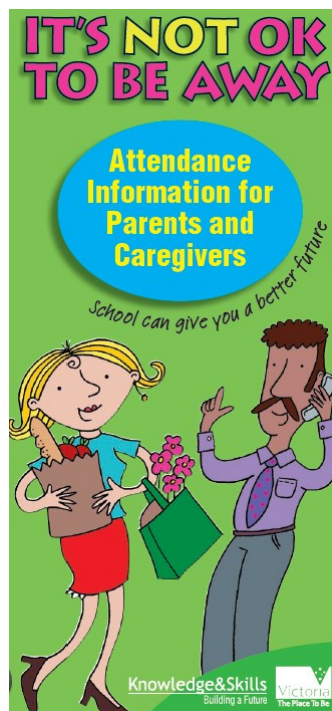
Before school care hours: 7:00AM - 8:45AM

After school care hours: 3:30PM - 6:30PM

Holiday program hours: 7:00AM - 6:30PM

The Victorian Government is introducing new measures to ensure students attend school every day and get the most out of their schooling.

- ★ Children and young people who attend school regularly and complete Year 12 or equivalent have better health and employment outcomes and higher incomes throughout their lives.
- ★ From 1 January 2014, amendments to the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* will come into effect in relation to the enforcement of compulsory school enrolment and attendance. New procedures to implement the legislation took effect on 1 March 2014.
- ★ This new legislation means that parents could receive an Infringement Notice if their child misses five full days of school in a year without a reasonable excuse.



Frequently asked questions

What is my responsibility as a parent/caregiver?

Make sure your child:

- attends school on ALL school days
- is on time every day

Make sure you:

- provide the school with an explanation if your child is away
- contact the school if your child does not want to go to school
- arrange doctor and dentist appointments out of school hours
- arrange personal shopping trips with your son/daughter or birthday celebrations out of school hours
- do not allow your child to stay at home for minor reasons.

Is regular attendance at school important?

- Yes – from the first day. If your child misses the basic skills in primary school they can experience difficulties with their learning
- Regular attendance is essential to make sure learning is not disrupted. Regular learning provides building blocks for the future
- Schools help children to develop important social skills, such as friendship building, teamwork, communication skills and a healthy self-esteem.

What can I expect from the school?

- Monitoring of student attendance and review progress on a weekly basis
- Strategies to help you as a parent encourage your child to go to school.

What help can I get if my child refuses to go to school or is truanting?

The school can offer a range of support options:

- teacher working with the student in a supportive, counselling role
- school student welfare co-ordinator working with the student
- provide a mentor for your child
- home visits to identify the problem and help work it through with parents
- identify reasons why your child doesn't want to go to school
- strategies to help you encourage your child to go to school
- develop an incentive program to encourage your child to attend school
- link with community agencies.

Must I send my child to school every day?

Yes, unless:

- your child is too sick or injured to go to school
- your child has an infectious disease
- the principal is provided with any other genuine and acceptable reason for absence.



IT'S NOT OK TO BE AWAY

Will my child be marked absent if they are doing a TAFE, VET or community program?

→ No – as long as it is part of the school program.

What if my child is involved in sport?

→ No – as long as it is part of the school program.

Do I need to let the school know if my child has been away?

→ Yes – for the wellbeing of your child, Department of Education & Training has an attendance policy and teachers and schools are required to follow up student absences.



Student absence fits into the following categories:

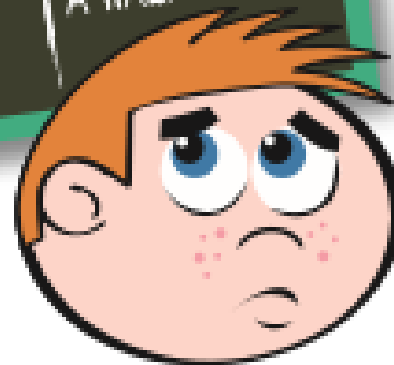
- 1** **Illness/injury**
- 2** **Truancy**
Your child is absent from school without your knowledge
- 3** **School Refusal**
Your child does not want to attend school, even though you have tried
- 4** **School Withdrawal**
Your child does not attend school with your permission. For example, family holidays, baby-sitting, helping parents at home, working in the family business.

www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/wellbeing/welfare/attend.htm

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS

Just a little bit late doesn't seem much but....

He/She is only missing just....	That equals....	Which is....	over 13 years of schooling. that's....
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly HALF A YEAR
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40 minutes per week	Nearly 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly 1 YEAR
Half an hour per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 AND A HALF YEARS
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Nearly 2 AND A HALF YEARS



Did you know your child's best learning time is the start of the school day?

That's when every minute counts the most!



Meet the most important person in your child's schooling - you



The research is clear: it's not just about class sizes, the state of the school buildings or whether you're born on the right side of the tracks. The biggest factor in whether students succeed in school is the attitude of their parents. So when parents are told they hold the key, what does that mean? What role do they need to play and what steps can they take to give their child the best chance of shining? **Elisabeth Tarica** asked the experts.

READ TO YOUR CHILDREN

Words are like brain food for babies, says Parenting Research Centre Chief Executive Warren Cann, and it's never too early to start reading to them.

"One of the most practical things a parent can do is introduce their children to reading, as there is quite a lot of evidence that early exposure to books and written material is important for development of reading skills," he says.

Reading to your child should continue well into primary school, says Melbourne University early Childhood expert Kay Margetts.

"It should become part of everyday regular routine and shouldn't be limited to just books — it could be catalogues, recipes and so on," she says. Setting aside a relaxed, quiet time to read stories together, to talk about what's on the pages, and to look for words and letters is invaluable.

Choosing stories beyond the children's reading level allows them to focus on the magic of the story rather than having to struggle to understand every word.

BUILD SELF-CONFIDENCE AND ENCOURAGE

Confidence, says Andrew Fuller, family psychologist and author of the book *Help Your Child Succeed at School*, is one of the most powerful, and one of the most elusive, qualities behind success in life. Confident children with well-developed organisational skills, resilience, independence and social skills will thrive in the classroom.

Mr Fuller, who specialises in the wellbeing of young people, says families that work well seem to praise one another a lot — compliments are made and positive efforts are commented on. Parents should also try to treat mistakes as opportunities to learn and look for the best in themselves and their children by focusing on success, skills and abilities. Encouragement is a powerful confidence-building tool.

"When children make comments like 'I'm no good at maths', acknowledge their feelings and help them to express them. Ask them what makes them feel that way. Accept their fears or insecurities as genuine but don't agree with their self-assessment. You might say, 'I get it that you are struggling at maths, how can we work on it to make it easier?'"

Building social and emotional skills in young children is also vital, says Associate Professor Margetts, whose research has shown that preschool children without such skills find it difficult to cope with the general demands of school.

Source: The Age National

An extract from : Elisabeth Tarica, February 7, 2011

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/education/meet-the-most-important-person-in-your-childs-schooling--you-20110204-1agpc.html>



Dedication, Care & Excellence

Community Advertisements & Announcements

JUNIOR GIRLS COME & TRY SOCCER




Come kick it with us! Free soccer session for girls aged 5-16, no strings attached. Give it a shot, no cost, no commitments!

6pm on 14th Dec 2023 & 6pm on 22nd Feb 2024
@ Partingtons Flat, Greensborough

LEARN MORE
Contact Shirley 0437 685 620

Registration essential

www.dvusc.club

Teamwork
Community
Respect
Fairness
Performance
Integrity
Equality
Fun




LOOKING TO PLAY BASKETBALL?



Registrations for the Autumn 2024 season are open. Diamond Creek Basketball Club will have teams in all age groups:

- Girls U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 & U19
- Boys U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, U18 & U20

If you're interested in joining a team, you can register at <https://dcbasketball.com.au/register>

If you would like more information, you can email coordinators@dcbasketball.com.au




HURSTBRIDGE JUNIOR FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB 2024 SEASON JUNIOR GIRLS REGISTRATION



JUNIOR GIRLS WANTED
UNDER 12 GIRLS
UNDER 14 GIRLS



Head to: <https://hurstbridge-junior-football-netball-club.square.site>

DIAMOND CREEK BLUE LIGHT DISCO




16TH FEBRUARY, 2024

7-9.30PM | 8 TO 13 YEAR OLDS | \$8 ENTRY

Diamond Creek Community Centre
28 Main Hurstbridge Road, Diamond Creek

Contact: Snr Sergeant Wayne Spence 9438 8300
Please ensure children have an emergency number on them.







Dedication, Care & Excellence

Community Advertisements & Announcements



WARRANDYTE FRIDAYS
9.30 am -11.30 am

Why MyTime?

MyTime is for parents and carers of a child with a disability, chronic medical condition or other additional needs including developmental delay.

FIND US AT:
Warrandyte Community Church
57 Yarra St, Warrandyte 3113
Park & Enter at rear via Playground

CONTACT:
Facilitator: Sue Batcheler
Phone: 0413 655 659
Email: suzanneb@mytimevic.com.au

MyTime
Supporting parents of children with disabilities

Views expressed by MyTime staff, members and guests do not necessarily express the views held by the Warrandyte Community Church

mytime.net.au

MyTime term plan mytime.net.au

DATES	GROUP ACTIVITY	CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY
Friday		Child/ren under school age are welcome at MyTime
2/2/2024	Coffee & Chat	Dinosaur Volcano Sensory Play
9/2/2024	Make: Chupa Chups Bouquet of Flowers	Songs & Storytime
23/2/2024	Guest Speaker: Kim Henderson, Program Lead NDIS (Maroondah Council) Your NDIS Questions Answered	Garden Magic Potion Making
8/3/2024	Coffee & Chat	Sponge Painting Trains & Unicorn Craft
Final Session 22/3/2024	Make: Chick, bunny & carrot shaped edible treats	Scavenger Chocolate Hunt

Each session morning tea is provided along with an opportunity for general discussion

We will be making good use of our wonderful outdoor space, so please bring a sunhat & sunscreen for your little ones

NO SESSION ON EXTREME OR CATASTROPHIC FIRE RATING DAYS

It's support for you

It's free to join

Professional support

Pre-school aged children are welcome



PRESCHOOL DANCE

Classes Resume from 3 February for all Ages

2 Fully Equipped Dance and Singing Studios
450 Ironbark Rd
Yarrambat

NEW STUDENTS receive 40% DISCOUNT TERM 1

PRESCHOOL CLASSES
3-4yrs Tues & Wed 9.30-10.15am
Thurs 2.30-3.15pm
Sat 9.00-10.00am
18mths-2yrs Tues & Wed 10.15-10.45am
Dance & movement, singing, musical instruments & more

CLASSES IN CONTEMPORARY, JAZZ, TAP, MUSICAL THEATRE, BALLET, ACROBATICS, PLUS PRIVATE VOCAL LESSONS

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