



*A Rich Past,
Present & Future*

NEWSLETTER

Friday 21st February, 2025

Term 1: Week 4



DIARY DATES

Monday 24th February

School Council Nominations
Close

Tuesday 25th February

District Swimming DC

Friday 28th February

PHPS School's Clean Up Day

Monday 10th March

Labour Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 11th March

Curriculum Day

12th— 24th March

NAPLAN Testing

Year 3 & 5 Students

Monday 17th March

School Council Meeting

7pm

31st March — 2nd April

Grade 3-6 Camp

Friday 4th April

Last Day of Term 1

2.30pm dismissal

Principal's Report

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Week 4 already and we are certainly in the swing of things here at PHPS. It has been a busy couple of weeks since the last newsletter with some highlights being the appointment of our new leadership team and the school picnic.

PICNIC

Our annual picnic once again lived up to expectations this week. We had perfect weather for our picnic on Wednesday and it was fabulous to see many of our families laying down their rugs and enjoying a chat on the hillside. Of course, the big event on the picnic night is the races – hotly contested by all! Well done to all of the competitors from pre-schoolers to fully grown (very competitive) adults, for participating in our races with such enthusiasm. The novelty races were great to watch from the finishing line with a combination of facial expressions from sheer determination to hilarity! There was also some pretty brutal teamwork on show, particularly in the three legged race – not for the faint hearted! Thankyou to Ella and Theircare for providing free icy poles for everyone.

NEW ADDITION TO ACORN ISLAND

If you have wandered past Acorn Island lately, you may have noticed that we have new real estate on the site – a beautiful dolls house style dwelling for our lucky acorns. This addition is thanks to Alex Cahir's grandfather, Ian who designed and built it especially for PHPS. Good job Alex on choosing the colour scheme.



XUNO



Value Award Winners

Congratulations to:

Archer, Bobby & Jeremy

Kindness
Honesty
Co-operation
Courage



585 Main Rd. Panton Hill – Ph: 9719 7202

www.pantonhill.vic.edu.au

SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT

On Monday we had our final School Council meeting with the existing (2024) School Council. Our call for nominees for 2025 will be closing **Monday 24th February at 4pm** at which stage we will check the nominations against the available vacant places. We will be going to an election if the nominations outnumber the places.

Our next School Council meeting will be held on **Monday the 17th March**. This will be preceded by our Annual General Meeting open to all members at 6:30pm.

DOGS IN SCHOOL POLICY



Our Dogs in School Policy was updated in Term Four last year. Please note that our policy states that dogs are allowed onsite under the conditions that they are on a lead, under the control of an adult. Dogs are not permitted to be left unattended/tied up unsupervised and are not permitted in the school buildings. We do have some students who are particularly anxious around dogs and families who have expressed concern about dogs in our yard.

Department guidelines allow for a choice of two policies, the one that we have adopted allowing dogs onsite as we understand how connected our community is to their canine friends. The other option is to have a ban on dogs onsite altogether. We ask our community to please observe the conditions of the policy so that we can continue to enjoy safe interactions with a variety of dogs.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

We are very proud and excited to announce our 2025 leadership team of four Grade 6 School Captains and our ten Junior School Councillors.

All of our aspiring Captains presented their speeches to the teachers and peers last Thursday at lunchtime. As a staff we could not have been prouder of all of the students who put themselves forward for these positions. It was interesting to note a common thread in their speeches of the pride they hold in being a PHPS student and a commitment to helping our school continually improve, often through the lens of our school values. We were also so pleased to see the encouragement and support that they showed each other as they got up to speak. As I said to our Grade 6 cohort, I believe that we are in very good hands with this impressive group of Grade 6's.

It was a very difficult choice to make, but we would like to announce and congratulate our School Captains as Bec Whitworth, Sophie Henuyer-Williams, Maddie Gyngell and Alex Bates. Our Junior School Councillors for this year are:

Gr 6 Isla and Estella

Gr 5 Josie and Ed

Gr 4 Esther and Alice

Gr 3 Lachie and Harry

Gr 2 Gunner and Patrick

I am looking forward to working with our fabulous leadership team throughout this year.

CSEF (CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND)

CSEF is government funding provided to parents who currently hold a valid means-tested concession card. The funding can be used for camps and excursions throughout your child's government primary and secondary schooling. Families who are currently receiving CSEF do not need to apply again as applications will be automatically rolled over. If your financial circumstances have changed or you have not applied for CSEF before, please see the office to complete a form for submission. <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund/resources>

PLAYGROUND UPGRADE

We are so excited to have the works beginning on our brand new playground at the front of the school this coming week. Our existing playground has served us well but is well overdue for an overhaul. Our 2024 School Captains did a great job last year of canvassing all of our students thoughts about what they would like as a replacement. It will be so rewarding to see all of that decision making come to fruition next week. We have been told that the new playground should be ready for action by the following week.

While it is exciting to have these works starting, it will be a little unfortunate to have our second playground also out of action at the same time. This playground is fenced off due to fire safety related works which are being undertaken on the OSHC building and Junior Building over this term. This work will include painting the OSHC building with a fire retardant paint, replacing wooden garden edging with concrete edging, replacing the existing timber window frames with metal frames and landscaping.

Statement of Commitment PHPS is committed to Child Safety. We want children to be safe, happy and empowered. We support and respect children, as well as staff and volunteers.

ADJUSTED TIMES

Over the beginning of this term we have been trialling a small adjustment to our daily timetable. In the past our students have been outside between 11:00am – 11:20am for recess and 1:30pm – 2:20pm for the lunch break. This term we have adjusted this to having recess from 11:00am to 11:30am and lunch from 1:40 – 2:20pm. This trial was for the following reasons:

- To reduce the amount of time spent outside for the longer break which is often at the hottest part of the day
- We had noticed that many playground issues were occurring in the last ten minutes of the larger playtime
- The extension of the recess allowed staff to have sufficient time to drink, eat and go to the bathroom (a particular issue previously for staff on yard duty)

The staff have been very positive about this change and have reported that the large majority of students are in favour of the adjustments - with some students not having even noticed the change. Some of our students have communicated that they are happy that they have more time at recess to fully get involved in their games and don't feel so rushed to finish their 'play lunch'.

Please be assured that all of our classes have food breaks between the start of the day and recess and again, between recess and lunch so they will not be starving by lunch time.

We discussed whether to make this a permanent change at our School Council meeting this week and it was unanimously agreed that we should lock this in as a permanent timetable change.

STUDENT PHOTO PERMISSION AND SCHOOL POLICY

Our school Photography, Filming and Recording Students Policy has been updated for 2025. This policy includes all current guidance and advice from the Department of Education and identifies:

- how Panton Hill Primary School collects, uses and discloses photographs, video and recordings of students
- when parent/carer consent is required before photographing, filming and recording students
- how consent can be provided and withdrawn.

We are currently experiencing some difficulties with our school website and the updated policy has been posted on XUNO today. We will update the policy on our website ASAP and inform the school community when this has occurred.

Families are able to provide consent for school photography, filming and recording for 2025 as of today on XUNO. Please contact the School Office if you need any further information about this.

PRIVACY COLLECTION NOTICE

As a school we take the collection of private information very seriously and follow the Department of Education's Schools' Privacy Policy. Schools provide families with a [privacy collection notice](#) (also known as a collection statement or privacy notice) on an annual basis to communicate:

- the reason for collecting information about families and students
- how the information is used and disclosed
- how to access, update and correct the information.

The privacy collection notice can be viewed via the link above.

BUSHFIRE DRILL

Yesterday we conducted our bushfire drill and evacuated everyone onsite to the junior building (Shelter in Place). This is always a good opportunity to test all elements of our drill from the alarm, to lighting, to the movement of the students. We were really pleased to have everyone in the building withing six minutes of the alarm going off. I was especially impressed with how calm and ordered our teachers and students were. We hope never to have to execute this in a real situation but are very confident of the processes and the safety of our situation should we have to.

TISSUES PLEASE

We would greatly appreciate boxes of tissues that could be donated. Please pass on a box or two to you child's grade if possible.

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Outside School Hours Care

Welcome back to all of our wonderful families at Panton Hill! We have had a great time discussing our holidays and how good they were! Our Holiday program was fantastic fun with our activities at OSHC, going to the movies to see Sonic 3, going to Inflatable world, Mini Golf at Latrobe University, making Drip Bears and Octopus art as well and our wonderful butterfly incursion! We actually found our own gorgeous butterflies in the garden by the school office after that!

Sunscreen and Hats

Just a reminder that we still need to wear sunscreen and hats at OSHC until May. Can everyone please make sure that their children have a spare hat and, if your child cannot wear our sunscreen, that you send along their own special brand in their bag.



Medical Information

In order to keep all of children safe we need to make sure that all of our action plans, medications and risk minimisations are accurate and up to date. We keep a close eye on everything and make sure that we inform parents about renewing the vital information. Please just call in at BSC or ASC to discuss anything that needs updating. We will be only too pleased to help!

Bookings for ASC

We all know how busy life can get and just how easy it is to forget to let us know in advance, but, we would seriously like to be told either by a phone call or a text message if your child has been booked in for the afternoon and will not be attending. If a grandparent or another carer is collecting them, please just ask them to walk up to the OSHC building and let us know that your child is safe with them.

Panton Hill Their Care: 0419179 948 I'm here after 2pm. If the phone is not manned, then please leave a voice mail.

Our next Holiday Program (Autumn) will be available soon, so, keep an eye out for it and make a booking!

Interactive Open Afternoon
 Thursday 27 March 2025
 Auditorium, Diamond Valley College
 Information sessions at 4:00, 4:45 and 5:30pm
 Join us to explore the endless opportunities awaiting your child in 2026!

Semester 1 School Tours
 Tours are open to students and families considering secondary school commencing 2026. Bookings essential.

Bookings essential, please scan the QR code to book a session

DIAMOND VALLEY COLLEGE
 RESPECT | EXCELLENCE | RESPONSIBILITY
 165-179 Main Hurstbridge Rd, Diamond Creek VIC 3089
 www.dva.vic.edu.au

OPEN NIGHT
WEDNESDAY 26 MARCH
 FAMILY BBQ 5.30 PM
 PRINCIPAL ADDRESS 6.00 PM
 TOURS 6.20 PM - 7.40 PM

BOOK NOW
 QR CODE
 HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/CZDPK

WARRANDYTE HIGH SCHOOL
 EXCELLENCE | INTEGRITY | RESPECT
 DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE

SPECIAL PROGRAMS: BASKETBALL AFL STEM ARTS

TOURS ALSO AVAILABLE WEDNESDAYS 9.15AM + 4.15PM
 BOOK VIA THE WEBSITE

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PANTON HILL JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

u12's GIRLS WANTED

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED

For more information please contact Ruby Moore
0473211603

TERM 1 2025

FITNESS IN Panton Hill

FUN • RELAXED • LOCAL • SOCIAL

STARTING 3 FEB

MON	7PM	Strength Pilates
TUE	6.30PM	Boxing
WED	7PM	Cardio Pilates
THU	7PM	Strength Pilates



STARTING 18 FEB (PENDING SIGN UPS)

TUE	6-7.30AM	Strength Circuit
THU	9:15AM	Family Friendly
FRI	6-7.30AM	Cardio Circuit

**PANTON HILL
COMMUNITY HALL**
580 Kangaroo Ground-St Andrews Rd

**BOOKINGS
& INFO**
hforhealth.com.au/pantonhill



The Chess Club Champs first tournament for 2025 will be the most epic adventure yet, held at no other than Kryal Castle in Ballarat! The one-day tournament will run on Wednesday March 26th with a \$25 tournament fee which includes venue entry on the day. 10 students dedicated to the game will be invited to the event.

More details to come!

Chess Club is open to all, held in the Italian room every Monday and Friday lunch-time.

**WHITTLESEA
MUSIC
SCHOOL**
EST. 2006

HOW TO ENROL

Go to our website:
www.whittleseamusic.com/enrolment/

Complete the online enrolment form, ensuring you choose the correct campus, preferred lesson duration and preference of instrument.

We will then be in touch between 12-5 Monday to Friday with enrolment confirmation and to chat about your child/children's needs.

WWW.WHITTLESEAMUSIC.COM
Contact on 0439 913 302

**Playhouse Early Education Centre's –
Eltham and Panton Hill**

Stimulating educational programs that encourage enthusiasm for learning exploration and forming connections through play.

Nilumbik Shire Council operates the Playhouse Early Education Centres in Eltham and Panton Hill. They provide occasional care for children aged from three months to six years. The Child Care Subsidy is available based on eligibility.

Both Playhouse operate between 9am – 2pm weekdays and are closed over the Christmas and January period.

Eltham Playhouse 58 Pitts St Eltham Phone - 9433 3755
Panton Hill Playhouse – 14 Bishops Rd Panton Hill - 9433 3795
Email - Playhouse@Nilumbik.vic.gov.au

**Panton Hill
Community
Garden**

Fridays 3-5pm

Do you love gardening and would like to join a friendly, local group?

Led by an experienced horticulturist, you will learn while having fun and meeting others

All volunteers welcome!
No experience necessary.

Panton Hill Neighbourhood House
18 Bishops Rd, Panton Hill

More information: Call us on 9433 3744
livinglearningnilumbik.vic.gov.au

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