



Newham Primary School No. 1913  
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## Newsletter 3

### From the Principal's Desk

Hello Everyone,

#### March is the Month!!

March is certainly the month! This month we have a myriad of activities, events and programs returning, including:

#### SWWAAGers

Our 'Student Wellbeing, Work and Action Group (S.W.W.A.A.G.ers) is back this year and will meet for the first-time next week. Students from years 3-6 will be attending meetings representing their class, reporting back to the P-2s on a variety of activities including, dress-up days and fundraisers as well as bringing ideas to SWWAAGers from students across the school. Next Week SWWAAGers will decide on our first activity which will take place on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March.

#### Kitchen Garden

Kitchen is back and the first sessions will take place on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April. The Kitchen Garden sessions are a component of our Sustainability program and Resource smart ethos designed for senior students to become aware of the benefits of growing fruit and vegetables, cooking for themselves, cooking seasonal produce, and doing so in a sustainable and resource smart way. Further information will go out to families next week. Parents who may be interested in supporting this program either by donating produce or donating their time in the Kitchen or garden, can contact Jacqueline Lee at school (please note that volunteers must be triple vaxx, volunteers have a different vaccination compliance than visitors who must be double vaxx). We would welcome a parent contribution to costs, which will also be outlined next week.

#### Cross Country at Hanging Rock

Every year the District Cross country is held at Hanging Rock and usually Lancefield PS run the event. This year Newham Primary School have been given The Hanging Rock Cross Country event to organise. This is a huge honour and a BIG event for a little school to run and I would like to thank the parents who have volunteered to help run the day.

So that we can practice and prepare for the BIG day (Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March), Newham Primary School will hold our regular 'in-school' cross country event, at Hanging Rock the week before (Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March). In the past we have gone to Hanging Rock to discover how the rangers maintain a sustainable environment, with classes participating in their own special tour of the rock. The school has covered the costs for this to happen again this year albeit on a smaller scale around our Cross-country practice commitments. This time, our Day at the Rock will predominantly require our attention on our Sporting event which will have need for a small parent contribution to cover costs. The cost will be advised when the permission slip is published next week.

## Friday 4th March 2022

#### 2022 Term Dates

Term 1: 31 January-8 April

Term 2: 26 April-24 June

Term 3: 11 July-16 September

Term 4: 3 October-20 December

### Diary Dates

#### PLEASE NOTE NEWLY ADDED EVENTS ARE BOLD

7th March	<b>School Council Nominations Close</b>
8th March	<b>District Cricket</b>
11th March	Conveyance Allowance Applications Due
16th March	<b>Family Fun Afternoon</b>
22nd March	<b>Cross Country at Hanging Rock</b>
28th March	<b>District Cross Country</b>
29th March	<b>Kitchen Garden Session 1</b>
4th April	<b>Kitchen Garden Session 2</b>

#### Family Fun Afternoon

Pop the date in your diary! Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March after school until 5pm. Parents and students are welcome to join an afternoon of activities including pavement art, green screen photo booth, mini golf and more! Students will help their teacher to set up the activities before home time and families are invited to come along and have a go any time until 5pm (parents must sign in at our table and as visitors to the school, will need to show double vaxx proof).

#### Other School News

##### Rapid Antigen Tests

Are available from the office if not collected yesterday. Please remember to keep schools as safe as possible, the Victorian Government has extended the COVIDSafe measures introduced for the beginning of Term 1. This includes extending the availability of free rapid antigen tests (RAT) for screening until the end of term. The need for this program will continue to be monitored and may end earlier based on health advice. This is great news and will mean we're able to continue identifying COVID-19 cases as early as possible.

Twice-a-week testing continues to be strongly recommended for both students and staff. Testing will be conducted at home, and students and staff must report any positive result. **There is no requirement to report a negative result.**

**Excellence:** [Resilience](#) | [Unity](#) | [Responsibility](#) | [Respect](#)

## From the Principal's Desk

**Mask rules** will remain the same, with students in Grade 3 and above required to wear masks – although they will not be required outdoors.

### NAPLAN

NAPLAN seems a long way off considering it takes place in term 2, however for the year 3s this will be their first attempt and the student cohorts above them are old hands, be as it may, this year NAPLAN is going ONLINE! The only section to remain a pencil and paper session will be Yr. 3 writing. Yr. 5 and Yr. 3 will do the rest of their sessions, Reading, Writing, Grammar & Punctuation, Spelling and Numeracy via computer. Over the next 2 weeks DET have timetabled opportunities for our staff and students to practice the new format. This is a whole new world for staff too!

### School Council

Our annual school council election processes will take place from next week. Nominations for a position on council will open next Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February and close Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Nomination forms will be sent via uEducateUs to parents interested in nominating (or a hardcopy can be picked up from the office). Applicants can self-nominate or have someone nominate them. Further information will go out to parents via uEducateUs as the process progresses. For the moment I have included here some information on the role of school council in our school.

School councils play a vital role in Victorian government schools and are established and operate under the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic), the Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 (Vic) and a constituting Order.

A well-informed and effective school council strengthens community confidence in the school and helps to build and secure the school's reputation.

The key functions of school council regarding our school are:

- to establish the broad direction and vision of the school within the school's community
- to arrange for the supply of:
  - goods, services, facilities, materials, equipment, other things, or matters required for the conduct of the school, including the provision of preschool programs
- to raise funds for school related purposes
- to regulate and facilitate the after-hours use of the school premises and grounds
- to exercise a general oversight of the school buildings and grounds and ensure they are kept in good order and condition
- to provide for the cleaning and sanitary services that are necessary for the school
- to ensure that all money coming into the hands of the council is expended for proper purposes relating to the school
- to inform itself and consider any views of the school community for the purpose of making decisions regarding the school and the students at the school
- to generally stimulate interest in the school in the wider community
- to prepare the School Strategic Plan and the Annual Implementation Plan — to be signed by the president and the principal

- to report annually (the Annual Report) to the school community and to the Department on:
  - the school's financial activities, the School Strategic Plan, and any other matters that are determined by the Minister
- to manage the hire, licence, and shared use of school facilities
- to determine the dates for the school's student-free days.

### Student Anxiety & School Refusal

School refusal commonly arises after a period of school absence –such as COVID, a long illness or holidays – or due to a big change such as starting a new school or moving from primary to high school, as well as from forms of anxiety such as separation anxiety.

At school, children often present to teachers or first aid with a myriad of physical complaints such as headaches and stomach aches. If you're concerned, a GP can check for physical causes. In the absence of a physical illness, these complaints can be anxiety related. GP interventions often encourage relaxation, challenge anxious thoughts, and aim to provide skills to cope with distress or discomfort. Please contact school or your child's teacher as soon as possible for support. The sooner intervention and support are established the better the outcome can be. Below also, are several useful support sites for families.

<https://headspace.org.au/friends-and-family/understanding-school-refusal/>

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/school-learning/school-refusal/school-refusal>

<https://beyou.edu.au/fact-sheets/development/school-refusal>

<https://theconversation.com/so-your-child-refuses-to-go-to-school-heres-how-to-respond-98935>

Simone Wood  
Principal

### SWPBS



Congratulations to the students who achieved 20 value cards last week!

### Newsletter Format

We are moving to a new format for our school newsletters in the coming weeks. Keep an eye out for the new look!



# Managing Illness in Schools



## Managing illness in schools and early childhood

One of the most important things we can do to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in our community is to stay at home when we are unwell, even when we have the mildest of symptoms.

### What you need to know

#### 1. If a child is unwell, even with the mildest of symptoms, they must stay at home

If a child becomes unwell during the day, they must be collected from school/early childhood education and care (ECEC) as soon as possible.

#### 2. If a child has any of the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) outlined below, however mild, they should get tested and they must remain at home until they receive their results:

- fever
- chills or sweats
- cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath
- runny nose
- loss of sense of smell or taste.

In certain circumstances headache, muscle soreness, stuffy nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea may also be considered symptoms.

For further advice:

- call the 24-hour coronavirus (COVID-19) hotline 1800 675 398
- call a general practitioner
- use the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) [online self-assessment tool](#)

Visit: [Where to get tested](#)

#### 3. A child must stay at home until they are symptom free, even if their coronavirus (COVID-19) test is negative

If a person has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or been identified as a close contact they must isolate/quarantine until they receive clearance from DHHS.

**Children with persistent symptoms due to underlying conditions such as hay fever or asthma** whose symptoms are clearly typical of their condition can continue to attend ECEC/school. They should be tested for COVID-19 if they develop symptoms that are different to or worse than their usual symptoms. They should consider getting a medical certificate from their GP to attend ECEC/school if they have persistent symptoms that may overlap with symptoms of COVID-19 such as cough or runny nose.

**Younger children (pre-school up to Grade 2) may have prolonged post viral symptoms** such as a runny nose or cough and may return to school/ECEC following a negative COVID-19 test even if they are not completely free of symptoms. They will need a medical certificate from their GP to confirm they are otherwise well or have recovered from their acute illness.

For information on the minimum periods students and children need to stay at home for other conditions, refer to the [DHHS school exclusion table](#).

#### 4. Children do NOT need a medical certificate before returning to school/ECEC

Once symptoms have cleared, there is no requirement from the Department of Education and Training or DHHS for children/students to have a medical certificate before they return to school/ECEC.

**Thank you for your support in following these steps, together we can all stay safe.**



# Vaccinations for 5 to 11 Year Olds

It's been really fantastic to see such excitement around the return to school and we want to keep it that way. A crucial part of that is getting as many students vaccinated as possible.

Alongside ventilation and other vital COVIDSafe steps such as regular rapid antigen testing, supporting as many students as possible to be vaccinated will help make our school as safe as possible.

Bookings for children aged 5 to 11 to receive the paediatric Pfizer vaccine are open and we encourage parents and carers to get your child vaccinated, if you haven't already done so.

The [Pfizer vaccine is safe and recommended for children](#). The vaccine will help protect your child from getting sick from COVID-19, help to reduce the spread of COVID-19, and help ensure kids can have more time at school and playing with their friends.

Vaccinations for children aged 5-11 years old are delivered at 2 appointments, 8 weeks apart. Children with specific medical vulnerabilities can access their second dose 3 weeks after their first dose.

If you'd like more information about this, you can read a recent statement from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI): <https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-update-following-weekly-covid-19-meeting-19-january-2022>

## To book an appointment

You can book at your local GP or pharmacy: <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/booking>

You can also book at a family-friendly vaccination centre by calling the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398.

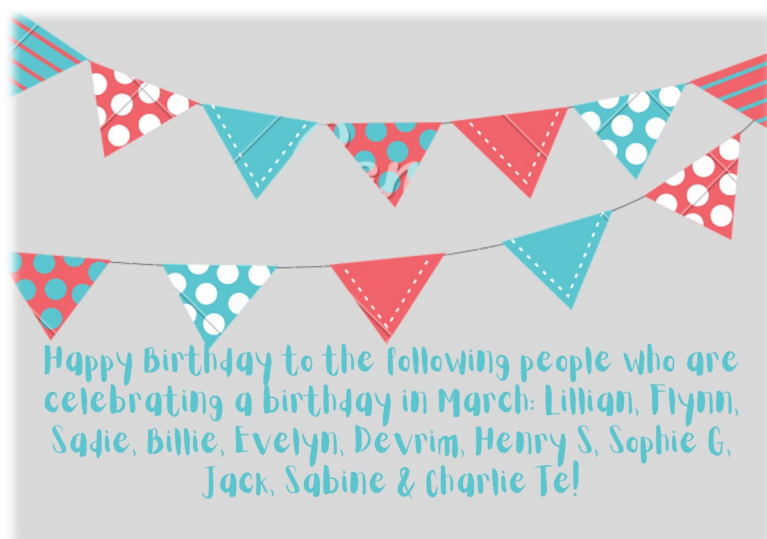
You can also make vaccination centre bookings for your children online, though you will need to use an email address that has not been used in the system before: <https://portal.cyms.vic.gov.au/>

## Helping children to get their vaccination

Vaccination centres understand that children may feel anxious about vaccination or have other support needs. A range of options are available to help children get vaccinated. Please discuss your child's needs with the vaccination centre when you book an appointment.

Appointments are also available at Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Organisations.

📍 Find out more about vaccination for kids: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-children-and-teenagers>





## Community Notices

# LET KIDS PLAY

# CRICKET!



## SAVE LOCAL SPORT AT HANGING ROCK



**SIGN THE PETITION**  
[bit.ly/3BhsrRt](https://bit.ly/3BhsrRt)



Hanging Rock Cricket Club is in a fight for its life. The State Government is turfing it from its home, while developing the Hanging Rock reserve exclusively for tourists and large events like horse racing, car rallies, concerts etc. Meanwhile, Government and Macedon Ranges Shire Council are offering no support for the kids who need this ground to play local sport, no plans for viable relocation, and no commitment to ensure a future for the club's 8 teams. HRCC believes strongly in protecting the reserve's environment and Aboriginal cultural heritage...but kicking out local kids to make way for tourists is not the way.

If you'd like to support local community access to land where cricket has been played for 170 years, please consider signing our petition at <https://bit.ly/3BhsrRt>

And if you're local, come along to the ground on Thursday 3rd March at 4.30, when a commercial TV news crew will be reporting on us. We've got something special planned and we'd love you to be a part of it.

GISBORNE DISTRICT CRICKET  
ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

# GIRLS ONLY COME & TRY CRICKET



JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENING FOR  
GIRLS AGED BETWEEN 8 AND 14 TO  
TRY CRICKET.  
NO EQUIPMENT REQUIRED.

**FRIDAY MARCH 4TH 2022**  
**5PM TO 6:30PM**  
**DIXON FIELD OVAL,**  
**GISBORNE**

All queries contact Emma on  
0477993441  
Register via QR code:



**Macedon Rangers Soccer Club is looking for new soccer  
superstars for the 2022 season**

Boys and Girls teams starting at U8's up to U13's  
Boys and Girls born in 2009 - 2014

**Training:**

**U13's - Sunday's 9am - 11am & Wednesdays 6:30pm - 7:45pm**

**U8's - U11's Teams - Wednesdays 6:30pm - 7:45pm**

Training takes place at Romsey Oval 2

Season: April - September

Sunday morning games

For more information make sure you follow our Facebook Page



@macedonrangerssc

or

Email: [macedonrangerssc@hotmail.com](mailto:macedonrangerssc@hotmail.com)



## Community Notices

**MACEDON RANGES  
MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
HELD ON THE LAND OF THE WOI WURRUNG, DJAARA & TAUNGURUNG PEOPLE.

**AT HANGING ROCK**

**ASH GRUNWALD**  
**THE SEVEN UPS**  
**BABY VELVET**  
MDRN LOVE / TAYLOR SHERIDAN  
GEORGIA STATE LINE / BUSTED CHOPS  
ROMANIE / HANNAH COOPER  
MRMF 2022 YOUTH COMP WINNER

**SATURDAY 26TH MARCH 2022**

ALL PROFITS DONATED TO THE CAMBODIAN KIDS FOUNDATION  
TICKETS: [WWW.MACEDONRANGESMUSICFESTIVAL.ORG](http://WWW.MACEDONRANGESMUSICFESTIVAL.ORG)

Community Bank, Bendigo Bank, AUTUMN FESTIVAL, RISE AGAIN, CREATIVE VICTORIA, MUSIC VICTORIA, Macedon Ranges, proglazed, Greater Shepparton, REEVES, gallopvetvetvet

**STORYBOARD**  
**Woodend**  
Neighbourhood House  
Ages 5 to 8 years

The aim of Storyboard classes is to help children build confidence and resilience through drama, acting and performance.

Tuesdays @ 4:30pm - 5:15pm  
[storyboarddrama.com](http://storyboarddrama.com)

**STORYBOARD**  
**Newham**  
Mechanics Institute  
Ages 7 to 12 years

The aim of Storyboard classes is to help children build confidence and resilience through drama, acting and performance.

Thursdays @ 4:30pm - 6pm  
[storyboarddrama.com](http://storyboarddrama.com)

**DRAMA STUDIOS**

**LANCEFIELD Juniors**  
Lancefield Junior Football & Netball Club

**GET EXCITED!**  
**Footy is back!!**

Pre season training starts for all Under 11's

**Monday 7th & Thursday 10th February**  
**4:15 - 5:15pm**  
Lancefield Football Oval

New & existing players welcome to join this great club

**PLAYERS NEEDED**

All enquires please contact  
Jake O'Meara 0492 838 642

**YELLOW & BLACK**

**LANCEFIELD Juniors**  
Lancefield Junior Football & Netball Club

**GET EXCITED!**  
**Footy is back!!**

Pre season training starts for all Under 9's this Monday & Thursday 5pm to 6pm (as of next week training will be Wednesday & Friday night for under 9's)

Lancefield Football Oval  
New & existing players welcome to join this great club

**Coaches Wanted**

All enquires please contact  
Dave Condon 0491 288 835

**YELLOW & BLACK**



## Community Notices



### IT's ALWAYS HIGH FIRE SEASON – EVEN IN TOWN!

Although we're heading along towards some 'classical' Macedon Ranges autumn weather, the risk of a grass or forest fire is still extremely high.

In fact, the biggest fires in the Newham area have occurred outside the fire danger period causing hundreds of acres to be burnt, wildlife to be lost and people's property to be destroyed.

The message Newham CFA wants to get across to people is that we can never be complacent. Fire will burn through a village taking all in its path. Around two years ago a lightning strike in the Goochs Lane end of the Cobaw Ranges threatened to flare up and come right through Newham with a wind change.

Fire fighting appliances from right across the area came to Newham to wait in readiness for the fire to move towards us. Luckily, the wind change was not as strong as expected and all of us and our properties were unharmed.

We cannot get a truck to every house in the event of a fire, but if we do need to access your property...will the CFA be able to?

### Will our fire truck fit?

If a fire truck needed to get into your property, could it fit down the driveway? Yes, we know fences can be cut, but driveway access is often the only way to a fire. Overhanging limbs, driveways planted out with lines of trees and more all stop or slow down fire crews getting to a fire. So before this fire season really kicks off locally, have a look around your place and ask yourself if a fire truck could get in. If in doubt, contact Newham CFA brigade who will be only too happy to bring a truck to your place to assess the situation.

Please note that the measurements on the truck illustrated are not the maximum a fire truck could be these days (new ones coming here from outside the area are quite large) so make sure there is a little more room than indicated on the photo...we don't want to lose our flashing lights or side mirrors on that shrubbery! Email [newhamcfa@gmail.com](mailto:newhamcfa@gmail.com) and ask that we bring The Bobby Adams (the larger of our two trucks) for a visit so we can assess the situation for you.

### Be fire aware – always

Have a look at Newham CFA's facebook page where fire safe tips – for indoors and out - are regularly posted.

Of course the best way to become fire aware is to become a volunteer firefighter. Newham CFA volunteers need more like-minded people now.

Only 16? Join up, it will look good on your resume for future job applications and you'll learn new skills. Just retired? Impress the grand kids with stories about your firefighting abilities and the new skills you will learn will help keep you agile! Email the Newham CFA at the above address if you are interested or drop by the Newham CFA station any Sunday morning from 9am-10.30am to find out more.