

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be A Learner

January 2023

Welcome One and All to the 2023 school year! I would also like to take this opportunity to offer a BIG Merino CS Welcome to Talia Sylvester who will be our new F-2 Classroom teacher.

I thought I'd take this opportunity to give an overview of all staff here at Merino in 2023.

Genevieve—Ms Hulin

I'll be teaching year 3—6 this year and very much looking forward to getting stuck into learning in 2023! We have a pretty jam packed Term 1 and the rest of the year will be full of exciting adventures for sure. I always work hard to make sure that Merino CS students have the very best educational opportunities available to them here at Merino CS and 2023 will be no different!

Talia— Ms Sylvester

Talia has recently graduated from Swinburn will teaching in the Foundation to Year 2 classroom. After completing both teaching pracs here at Merino CS, Talia is very enthusiastic to begin teaching in 2023.

Glenda—

Glenda is our irreplicable Teacher Aide who supports and assists all in all areas of school life here at Merino CS. Glenda expertly runs our SoundsWrite program across all years levels. She also is in charge of our Hands on Learning program and has supported the students to complete many outstanding projects.

Jacinta—

Jacinta is our Artist in residence and will be joining us again on Friday afternoons

for all things Art. Jacinta's projects teach higher level art skills to the students and reflect our learning topics in the classroom.

Karen and Sharon—

These two ladies are our groundskeepers and cut the lawns (which of late has been a BIG job). A huge thanks to them both!

Shaun Fidler—*while not technically staff—*

Shaun is our School council President and has been in the role since the beginning of 2020.

Term 1 Information:

Hats Must be worn

Swimming lessons commence 31st January

7th Feb—Hockey Clinic

9th February 1st MARC class of the year

Kitchen Classes commence Friday 10th February

22nd February—Circus Workshop

28th February—Yr5/6 Leadership conference in Melbourne

20th March (TBC) Merino Wellness Day

27th March—BioCats Excursion (6:15am departure from Hamilton)

6th April—Term 1 Last Day—School Dismissal @ 2:30

As always, If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to drop in or call for a chat :)



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) they must isolate until they receive clearance from the Department of Health and Human Services. Read the [What to do if you've tested positive for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) factsheet](#) (PDF) for more information.

If a person is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) the Department of Health and Human Services will get in contact to tell them they are a close contact of a person who is confirmed to have coronavirus (COVID-19). A close contact must quarantine at home. Read the [What to do if you have been in close contact with someone with coronavirus \(COVID-19\) factsheet](#) (Word) for more information.

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.



Bushfire At-Risk Register - Schools



2022 - 2023 Fire Season

School procedures for the bushfire season

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools and children's services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district.

Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days' notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter or phone call. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00 pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.

As a bus co-ordinating school all bus routes will be cancelled.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – **on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.**

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

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan, and reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.

What can parents do?

- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.
- **Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.** Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters and by checking our website, ClassDojo, <http://www.dmsc.vic.edu.au/> or Facebook page.

If you have any further concerns, please contact either Genevieve Hulin (Principal/ Class Teacher) the school. 0355791305.

Our school is listed as a **Bus Coordinating School for the School Bus Program (SBP)**

An update to Department policy schools **that have bus routes that are within, or pass-through, weather districts where the fire danger is determined to be Code Red will be cancelled.**