

Diamond Creek Primary School

17 Clyde Street

Diamond Creek 3089



www.diamondcreekps.vic.edu.au

9438 1108

diamond.creek.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

D.C Wrap

Principal's Report

February 21st 2019

What's on at DCPS

Now that the year has begun, our activities are certainly gaining momentum. Our year 4-6 students have commenced their inter school sports competition, the swimming sports have successfully been and gone with DCPS now being represented at the next level, our fantastic Junior Rockers instrumental lessons have resumed, our kinder connections program has commenced as has our kindness crusades and our wonderful, comprehensive specialist programs are in full swing offering loads of enjoyable learning.

Our student leaders have jumped into their roles with full enthusiasm. The Junior School Council election process is all but complete. Their badges will be presented on Friday, which they will all so proudly wear to go about their 'duties'.

It was great to see the parents who supported the teachers by coming up to the classroom information sessions last week – so many - which was just wonderful! It is **so important** for all parents to understand where your children are headed with their learning this year, and how the teachers will best plan for a great year of development through the exciting and challenging programs they build for each child. The teachers have provided you with their Education Department email addresses so that you can contact them directly should you need.

Our children are lucky to be so well supported at home, and from the beginning it is very important to establish *the best* habits, as the effect on our children's learning can be quite dramatic. The teachers have requested your cooperation and support at home by asking you for a little time each night to reinforce the home learning process. Please assist them as the difference made by activities such as reading each night, and practising spelling words and times tables so that they become 'automatic', is really quite dramatic.

Hope Your Day's a Diamond,
Helen Micallef
Principal

22nd Feb
I.S.S
Home V's Laurimar

1st Mar
I.S.S
Home V's G.K

4th Mar
Divisional Swimming

6th Mar
Curriculum Day

8th Mar
I.S.S
Home V's Hurstbridge

11th Mar
Labour Day P.H

 Bendigo Bank
Bigger than a bank.

**BANKING MADE
EASY FOR ALL KIDS
BIG & SMALL**



**Reminder:
School Banking
gets collected at
9:30am
Thursdays**

Notice of Election and Call for Nominations - Reminder

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Diamond Creek Primary School. Nomination forms with deadlines have been pushed out on Compass.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school and possibly on Compass.

If you are interested or require further information please contact the school reception or Helen Micallef, the Principal.

Information About School Council

With elections opening for School Council, some information may come in handy for those parents contemplating a nomination, to assist with making an informed decision.

Almost all government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to assist in setting the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In this respect, school council is able to positively and directly influence the quality of education provided to its school's students.

School Council is a policy and decision-making body, which assists in governing the school, within State Government regulations and guidelines. Council supports the development of the School Strategic Plan for a four-year period, which allows for efficient planning and curriculum development.

Council membership (except for that of the Principal) is elected at the start of each year and is for a term of 2 years. Half the membership is elected each year and nominations are called for in Term 1. If the number of nominations exceeds the number of positions, an election is held according to Departmental guidelines. All parents are eligible to vote for parent members and staff members are eligible to vote for staff representatives.

Diamond Creek Primary School Council (2019)

The DCPS School Council comprises 12 members:

- 8 elected parent category members;
- 3 elected DE&T category (staff) members;
- The Principal (also DET category)

The information below directly reflects Departmental advice regarding the formulation and operation of school councils

School Council Meetings

At Diamond Creek Primary School meetings are held on the 3rd and 8th weeks in each term on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm, at the school. Interested parents are always welcome to attend with the approval of the school council President and Principal. Council meetings are generally open to the community, however, depending upon the sensitivity/nature of some agenda items, some meetings may be run as closed meetings. Parents may join one of the sub-committees: Finance, Education, Marketing or Buildings/Grounds Environment & Safety. Dates and times of meetings will be published once determined.

School Council Responsibilities

Within statewide guidelines, School Council:

- Monitors the direction of the 4-year School Strategic Plan and Annual Implementation Plan.
- Approves the annual school budget and monitors expenditure.
- Maintains and improves the school's facilities and grounds.
- Approves the student code of conduct.
- Makes recommendations to the Department of Education and Training on the appointment of a school principal (in the situation where the principal position has been vacated and advertised).
- Reviews and approves school policies.
- Conducts educational, social, recreational and cultural activities at the school.
- Coordinates fundraising for the school (*supports / oversees PFT*).
- Enters hire / lease agreements.
- Enters into contracts e.g. construction work
- Oversees canteen, uniform shop and Outside School Hours Care.
- Approves overnight camps and excursions.
- Stimulates positive interest in the school in the wider community

School Council Code of Practice

School Council operates within government regulations and guidelines and provides direction, accountability, finance and decisions to ensure Diamond Creek Primary School is achieving at the very high standard expected by the school community.

The parents, teachers, teacher's aides, office staff, principal, and students at Diamond Creek Primary School cooperate to ensure the provision of the best learning opportunities for the students in our care, and to work towards the achievement of our vision.

On acceptance of election to Diamond Creek Primary School Council, members are entrusted with the long-term integrity and viability of the school. In return for this privilege and this trust, members perform their duties always in the best interests of the School, in good faith and with honesty.

School Council Policies

An important part of School Council's role is the discussion, examination and approval of some policies, which underpin the activities within the school. These policies are reviewed as part of a regular cycle, or as the need arises in exceptional circumstances, such as in response to new Government requirements. The Education Committee is responsible for the review of those policies before they are submitted to School Council for ratification.

School Strategic Plan and Annual Implementation Plan

All Victorian government schools are required to have a Strategic Plan which is a document describing what the school wants to achieve in the future (focusing specifically on a four year period of development) and how it plans to get there.

School councils are responsible for ensuring that schools have a Strategic Plan that sets out the goals and targets for the next four years and the key strategies for achieving them. This is further articulated in the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP). There is one AIP for each of the four years of the Strategic Plan. The AIP describes how the key improvement strategies in the School Strategic Plan and other significant projects will be put into operation in each of the four years of the Strategic Plan. Input to the Strategic Plan is sought from parents, carers and students, as well as the wider community in various ways at the time of review and development.

Sharing School Council Meeting Discussions and Decisions

School Council Meeting summaries will be provided following the meetings twice each term in the DC Wrap.

What School Council Does Not Do:

- Manage the school
- Deal with day-to-day running of the school – class assignment, staff allocations, class sizes, teaching programs, teaching strategies etc.
- Employ staff
- Represent sectional interests
- Renew the Principal's contract, or 'hire or fire' the Principal
- Purchase land, vehicles or buildings for the school
- Enter into hire purchase agreements or obtain credit or loan facilities, unless authorised by the minister
- Bring individual complaints that do not relate to policy to the SC meetings
- Discuss individual issues between teachers and students and/or parents

Following on from the last points, when it comes to parent complaints or issues, talking to a School Councillor about an issue that a parent may have about our school may not provide a resolution (unless the issue is directly related to policy), as it is only an issue of policy that would be accepted onto the agenda for a SC meeting. However following the school's queries, concerns and complaints processes, and therefore going to the people who are in a position to make a difference, will provide a resolution for a worried parent. It's all about directing your query to the right area or the right person – you wouldn't go to the bakery with a concern about your car would you? So the following may assist if ever you have an issue that you'd like to discuss but perhaps don't know where to begin.

Addressing concerns and complaints

From time to time, a parent may have a query or complaint about something to do with our school. Depending on the nature of the complaint, at Diamond Creek Primary School the following steps should be taken:

- If the complaint relates to a function of the school council** (such as a problem with school grounds for example), then the matter should be brought to the attention of the council. The person with the query should put their concern in writing and address it to the president of the council. The complaint would then be considered for discussion at a council meeting. The Principal, as the executive officer, would contact the parent advising how the matter has been resolved after SC consideration.
- If the matter relates to the operation of the school**, for example a complaint regarding a teacher, a class structure, bell times, or similar, the person with the query should approach the principal to discuss the concerns. The principal would then provide advice or action from that point.
- If the issue relates to a child in their classroom** or if a child is having an issue with other children, parents must speak directly or correspond with the classroom teacher. If the issue has to do with a specialist lesson, then parents would speak directly or correspond with the specialist teacher.
- If the complaint is about the principal**, the parent is advised to contact the Department's regional office.

We have always promoted an open and honest practice at Diamond Creek Primary School. However we cannot 'fix what we don't know is broken', so we need an open dialogue to exist and for concerns to be brought straight to the staff for our direct attention. Sometimes issues arise from miscommunication or lack of communication, and some concerns raised by parents are complex; however in all cases an open, consistent approach that is courteous, efficient and fair, best addresses any worries parents may have.

Put simply for our school, speaking directly to the teachers or me (the Principal) is the best approach. This approach is outlined each year in our DC Wrap, and is one that results in tremendous success. There is nothing we cannot resolve when we maintain a clear focus on what is best for **all** children and of course being guided by our school values in the way we approach any issues.

GARDENING CLUB

In previous years we have had a very successful and enjoyable gardening club run once each week at lunchtime by volunteer parents. We have appreciated their help and enthusiasm immensely but many of these parents have over time now moved on to other things. **We have had one mum volunteer to run the gardening club this year, but she would appreciate another parent to partner her for this lunchtime activity.** We would love to hear from any parents who may be interested in partnering up to help run gardening club for the children this year. This is a great little activity to share with other parents. Please contact Helen at the office if you are interested.

PARKING AROUND THE SCHOOL

Please ensure you pay particular attention to the workings of the Drop Off Zone, which runs (very carefully) through the car park to drop children off on the mornings and to pick them up in the afternoons. This is the only area suitable for this. If you would like more information about the workings of the Drop Off Zone please ask at reception or come in to see me. If you are not keen to use the drop off zone in that way, then please find a park for your car which will not interfere with the neighbours who live directly around the school and remember to pay particular attention to the street signs re parking regulations! When dropping off and picking up, please consider our neighbours and show them the same respect you would expect if you lived in the streets directly around the school. Always keep in mind that there is plenty of parking over behind the shops and around the netball court area; this is only a short walk then over to school, and you have the traffic lights to assist with the safe crossing of the road.

SCR Group Recycling.

Our school has participated in the SCR recycling program for many years now, where once each term we collect unwanted clothes and housewares and pass them on to the SCR group for processing. Of what we donate, the SCR groups assess the usefulness, and for all usable items our school is paid an amount per kilo. It is a great program to keep unnecessary rubbish out of landfill and keep the "reuse, recycle" notion going.

It was my great pleasure to go along to the SCR recycling offices today, with Adele and Noah, our school captains. Our School Captains accepted a cheque for \$1000 as a bonus for our school's recycling efforts over last year, as we rated as one of the top four recyclers registered for this program. The School Captains spoke very articulately as they thanked the organisers and proudly stated our connection with them, and the value we place on recycling. Noah and Adele represented our school very, very well. I was very proud of them and they should be very proud of themselves too.

Family Fun Night

We had a great night on Tuesday at the Family Fun night. We had over 30 children there with their families. The parents chatted as they ate their dinner while the kids played. I was very lucky to have Lachlan, Jayden and Kiara as my very special and most capable group leaders – they did a great job in having each child engaged and having fun! We also had many of the dads and mums join in and think of some creative variations to the activities. Thank you families – we appreciate your support!

HOME LEARNING – SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER

The common home learning elements right across the school are reading each day and to participate in some 'home talk' about a topic that is assigned each week for the children's writing experiences at school.

A reminder here about the remarkable advantages of you sharing a book with your child **every day**:

Your child will build a stronger relationship with you.

Your child will develop and strengthen speech and communication skills.

Your child will expand their vocabulary and develop a broader use of language.

Your child will increase their knowledge in general, their curiosity and imagination.

Your child will strengthen their ability to think logically and develop stronger analytical thinking skills.

Your child will be better prepared for new experiences.

Your child will develop enhanced concentration and self-discipline.

Your child will reflect more effectively and strengthen their memory.

Your child will appreciate the 'quiet' and the 'calm' that reading provides, reducing their stress, and

Your child will develop improved writing skills.

And of course ... your child will learn that reading is fun! All this from a few minutes well-invested each day! It costs us nothing but a small outlay of your time, for a huge return in their future!

Our 'Home Talk' is much the same; an investment of a few minutes to simply talk with your child about a given topic. By doing so your child learns and develops the ideas, vocabulary and 'higher level' grammar and language structures needed to improve their writing almost entirely through this talk. The idea behind the 'Home Talk' in preparation for their writing is ... "If a child can't say it, a child can't write it". That's where your little casual chat is so valuable; no need for list making or note taking – all that's needed is a few minutes of conversation!

KINDNESS CRUSADERS

TERM 1 DRIVE

HELPING SHELTER DOGS AND CATS

Collecting:

Dog & Cat food — dry kibble, canned food, dry biscuit treats (we cannot accept previously opened or raw foods.)

Rubber pet toys — no soft or pre-loved toys please.

Collections can be dropped off at the office or in foyer of the Inglis building, with thanks.

Last collection day 3rd April.



All donations will be given to The Lost Dogs Home, North Melbourne.



Junior Rockers

primary music
education specialists



APPLY FOR MUSIC
LESSONS NOW!

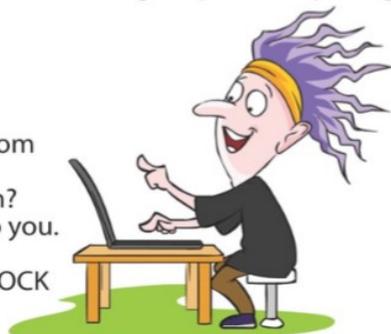
Junior Rockers runs instrumental music lessons right here at school.

To find out all about our music lessons, head to our website. From there you can check which instruments are available at your school, get up to date pricing and apply for lessons online.

www.juniorrockers.com

Rather chat in person?
We'd love to speak to you.

Call us on 1300 GO ROCK
(1300 46 76 25)



Small Sided Football

for 5-7yr olds

ELTHAM
REDBACKS FC

Boys & girls teams!

STARTS APRIL

REGISTER NOW

elthamredbacksfc.org.au





FRIDAY CAKE RAFFLE

The list for volunteer bakers is up outside the office.

We still need a volunteer for Friday 1st March

Raffle Tickets are \$1 each and sold weekly.

If you would like to help out by baking a cake, or selling tickets at assembly, please contact the office.



ICY POLES WILL BE SOLD EVERY THURSDAY AT LUNCH FOR \$1



ONLINE LUNCHES

This term we are continuing with the online lunch order system for Mondays and Wednesdays. This service is offered by the company, 'Classroom Cuisine'. Please visit their website at www.classroomcuisine.com.au. The lunches are delivered to school, and then we distribute them to the children. Orders are placed independently of our school; we cannot order for families.



The Diamond Creek Primary School Walking School Bus operates four mornings a week along two different routes.

TIMETABLE

MONDAY and THURSDAY

Meets outside 22 Campbell Street at 8:15am

TUESDAY and FRIDAY

Meets Broadgully Road Park at 8:20am

What is a Walking School Bus you well might ask?

The concept of the "Bus" is promoting a healthy and environmentally friendly way to travel to school with your friends. We all gather at nominated stops and walk instead of driving. Our Walking School Bus Program has been really successful and we have over 75% of our students walking regularly to school.

Popularity

Our Walking School Bus is so popular that some children have been known to ask to have sleep overs at their friend's houses so that they can walk on the bus! Many children from outside of the nominated routes have asked their parents to leave a few minutes earlier and take them to the bus instead of driving straight to school. A large number of our parents also come on the bus and leave their car at the beginning of a bus route.

How it works

The buses are staffed by trained volunteers with a minimum of two trained adults on each route. We usually have a driver and conductor and the odd ticket inspector. The Walking School Bus is professionally run by trained volunteers and is supported by Nillumbik Community Health Service, Nillumbik Shire Council and Vic Health. The Walking School Bus is an attempt at promoting healthy lifestyles in our younger generation by actually beginning the day with a walk to school instead of a drive. There are nominated bus stops and the children are put on the bus by a parent. There is an official adult "driver" who walks at the front of the bus and an adult "conductor" who walks at the end of the bus.

The benefits are numerous:

- * increased fitness
- * less congestion around school with far fewer cars
- * very social - chatting with friends while achieving fitness
- * incidental learning of road rules
- * great fun with your friends - older children help younger ones and encourage them up the hills whilst reminding them to be careful near driveways.

The concept of the Walking School Bus is sponsored by Vic Health, Nillumbik Community Health Service and Nillumbik Shire Council.

LITTLE HOOPS BASKETBALL CLINICS
DIAMOND CREEK



Our aim is to encourage children to play basketball & more importantly have fun!

Clinics include:
Shooting drills
Dribbling drills
Passing drills
Team work

Term 1
Wednesday/Thursday
4pm - 5pm
\$10 per session
4-7 yrs



Phone: 0425-198-773

Email: office@happyhoopsbasketball.com.au



ELTHAM LACROSSE 2019
**SCHOOLS
COMPETITION**



FREE
EVENT!

COME & TRY THE FASTEST GAME ON TWO FEET!

Tuesday 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th March
Time: 5.15 - 6.30pm
Lower Eltham Park, Main Road Eltham (near train park)

TO REGISTER VISIT
elthamlacrosseclub.com.au/registration

FOR MORE INFORMATION
info@elthamlacrosseclub.com.au

Let the de-cluttering begin!

Do you have old clothes, books, homewares, manchester, shoes, toys, bags cluttering up your home?

Well bag/box it up and bring them to the school on **Friday 8th March between 8.15am-9.15am** and not only do you clear your house and our school gets \$0.25* per kilo.

The van will be parked under the big tree near the entrance of the car park.

Bring along your old washed clothing and bedding that are no longer usable because they will accept things that can be used for rags and other things. Even odd shoes!!!!

(No electrical or furniture please)

For further information about this amazing program please go to www.scrge.com.au

DIAMOND CREEK TENNIS CLUB
28 PHIPPS CRESCENT DIAMOND CREEK

FREE SOCIAL TENNIS DAY SUNDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 10AM - 2PM



Come and experience the hospitality of the Diamond Creek Tennis Club!

- Have a social hit with some of our members.
- Meet our experienced tennis coaches.
- Find out about our club membership, coaching programs and competition tennis.
- There will be tennis games for all ages and prizes to be won on the day.
- A BBQ and soft drinks will be provided.

For more information, contact the club on
0413 594 577 or shellpike@hotmail.com



The Resilience Project Family Information Night

Wednesday 27th of March 7.00-8.30pm

*We strongly encourage all DCPS parents
to attend this valuable session.*

www.theresilienceproject.com.au

We are very fortunate at DCPS to be working with the Resilience Project this year. The Resilience Project has been extraordinarily successful working with schools and sporting teams (including AFL and NRL teams). The Project's mission is "teaching positive mental health strategies".

DCPS teachers, students and parents will be involved in a series of emotionally engaging programs with evidence based, practical strategies to create positive emotions and therefore build resilience. The message is simple yet powerful.

We frequently hear media reports about mental health and the issues that poor mental health brings to our communities and families. The Resilience Project focusses on building positive mental health capacities in people and supporting them to live in the now! The strategies support the wellbeing of adults and children alike!

There are staggering facts around mental health:

- 1 in 4 adolescents have a mental illness
- 1 in 7 primary schools kids have a mental illness
- 1 in 5 adults will experience mental ill-health throughout the year
- 65% of adolescents do not seek help for mental illness

The Resilience Project focus on the key concepts of:

- Mindfulness
 - Gratitude
 - Empathy
- Students will learn many strategies to support their own resilience and emotional and mental health. This work will have a strong positive impact on learning outcomes as well as emotional health.*

As part of The Resilience Project, all students will shortly receive a journal that will be used throughout the year in classrooms. The \$20 cost for these journals has been Term planner for Term 1. We will be working to minimise any other extra costs to accommodate this. These books will be an invaluable reference for our students.

disability meets creativity



100% | FREE
includes follow up resources
real films, by real children
Downloadable film festival exploring disability and exclusion
Find out more: www.bardicstudio.com.au/information-wait-schools



21ST CENTURY LEARNING



STUDENT CHOICE



STEM OPPORTUNITIES



INDIVIDUALISED PROGRAMS



ACCELERATED PROGRAMS

Bundoora Secondary College

THEY SAY YOU SHOULD BE THE HERO OF YOUR OWN STORY

WHY NOT CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE?

Discover the difference at Bundoora Secondary College.

OPEN NIGHT
Wednesday, 27th March, 2019
5-7pm

053 9487 3511
www.bundoora.vic.edu.au



PERSONALISED LEARNING



PATHWAY MAPPING



HANDS ON SKILLS



SPORTING FACILITIES



OVERSEAS LEARNING



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC



Diamond Creek Eltham Panton Hill
livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au
Info.livinglearning@nillumbik.vic.gov.au
 9433 3742

Check the website for details. Enrol online, in person or over the phone!

Courses for kids and teens

Art for kids Art for teens Come 'n' try kids - didgeridoo Come 'n' try kids - aboriginal art
 Cooking for kids Guitar for kids Kids singing Little Picasso's Photography for teens Youth impro and performance skills



Courses for adults

Art and pottery Books and writing Career and business skills Computers and technology Crafts and textiles Dance and music Family Health, fitness and wellbeing Home, cooking and gardening Languages MakersSpaces Social events and activities Technology and computers



Are you thinking about starting your career or looking for a career change?

Let Living and Learning Nillumbik help you get there! Not only is Living & Learning Nillumbik your local provider of Nationally Recognised Qualification courses but on average 95% of our graduates gain employment. (Registered Training Organisation Performance Indicator Report 2017, Dept. of Education and Training.)

Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing, Home and Community) CHC33015 Become qualified to work in the expanding Aged Care and Home and Community Care industries.

Certificate IV in Training and Assessment TAE40116 Earn more with what you already know! This qualification opens up opportunities to teach at TAFE and other RTOs

Diploma of Project Management BSBS1415 New in 2019! Become a qualified Project Manager, whether you are seeking to formalise your skills or you aspire to a project management position.

Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care CHC30113 and Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care CHC30113 We have excellent relationships with over 20 local early childhood services which offer ongoing professional networks and practical placement.

For eligible individuals this training is delivered with Victorian and Commonwealth Government funding. Registered Training Organisation No. 3080



St Helena Secondary College



St Helena is a high performing Secondary College that inspires students to flourish and Dare to be Excellent.

“Dare to be Excellent”

SHOWCASE 2019

19th March
Information Sessions at
5pm, 6pm & 7pm

Bookings via: <https://www.trybooking.com/BAQMB>

Showcase and regular tours booked via our website

St Helena Secondary College Wallowa Road Eltham North 3085 Ph: 9438 8500 www.sthelena.vic.edu.au