

Heatherwood News



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From the Principal

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2019. Thank you to the parents and carers who attended the school information night and participated in the Parent/ Carer, Student Interviews. We really value community involvement in the school especially events where parents/carers and students can meet together and be actively involved discussing students educational planning.



As a school we greatly appreciate feedback and at the SSG's there should have been a sheet which provided an opportunity to comment on the process. Please take up this opportunity so that the school can improve its understanding of community needs.

The school takes cyber safety very seriously. Through our Protective Behaviours and Digital Technologies programs we stress safety issues, risk factors and the responsible use of the social media. We hope that as parents and carers you are able to support your young adult and reinforce these messages. Monitoring student social media involvement is a responsibility I am sure all members of the community take very seriously. When the school becomes aware of a cyber-safety concern we will send out an alert.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mr Paul Hills | Principal

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

11/3 Mon **Labour Day Holiday – No School**

12/3 Tue – Year 8 Camp – Rubicon
15/3 Fri

21/3 Thu Harmony Day

27/3 Wed Immunisations for
Year 7 & Year 10 students

29/3 Fri Casual Dress Day -
Good Friday Appeal

April

1/4 Mon – Alpine Bike Camp
5/4 Fri

1/4 Mon – S7 Class Camp – Torquay
4/4 Thu

5/4 Fri House Day – Cross Country

5/4 Fri **LAST DAY Term 1**
Early Dismissal 1:50pm

23/4 Tue **First Day Term 2**

Child Safe Standards



Protecting the safety and wellbeing of all students enrolled at Heatherwood School is our highest priority. Families put their trust in the Leadership, staff, volunteers and external providers to keep their children safe as they learn. We know students learn best when they feel they are in a safe and supportive environment.

As required by Ministerial Order 870 all schools are required to:

- have zero tolerance for child abuse
- demonstrate commitment to providing a child safe environment
- have systems to protect children from abuse, and takes all allegations and concerns seriously with the commitment to respond to them consistently in line with the Schools policies and procedures
- be committed to raising awareness of the importance of child safety
- actively work to listen to and empower children
- promote the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and children with a disability

In response to the Ministerial Order, the Victorian Government introduced seven Child Safe Standards across all organisations in the Victorian communities where children spend time.

The standards:

- build a stronger and more consistent approach to preventing and responding to child abuse
- support the empowerment of all students
- embed a culture of child safety at Heatherwood School

Schools should be the safest place for students after the family home, and these standards will support the work that School staff do to maintain the safety and security of our children. Heatherwood School is committed to the protection of all children from all forms of child abuse.

Braham Morris | Assistant Principal

PROTECT

**Everyone has the right to be safe
and be protected from abuse.**



Welcome to all the 2019 new students and families / carers and welcome back to all students and families from 2018. We hope you have been able to speak to your child's teacher during the SSG week and share ideas so we can work together for your son or daughter. We appreciate the feedback sheet you fill in after the interview. We will get back to you if there are any comments or requests. Thankyou.

Heatherwood also welcomes our new staff – Erin Greaves, Maddison Pearson, Beccy Madsen, Martha Noone, Melissa Anderson class teachers, Junior Department, Deb Weinmann, Middle Department and Sarah Dent, Food Technology.



It has been a busy and productive start to the year. The most important focus for the school is to make sure that all students, particularly new students, are settling into their new grades, new teachers/staff and new timetables. Our new captains, vice captains, House captains, ambassadors and Student Representative Support(SRC) have been busy welcoming new students and families. Thankyou to the Hospitality students, Danielle di Cosmo and Lynn Penrose who catered for their first occasion this year, providing a welcome afternoon tea to new staff members. Building work skills, leadership, independence and resilience are key elements of a student's journey at Heatherwood.

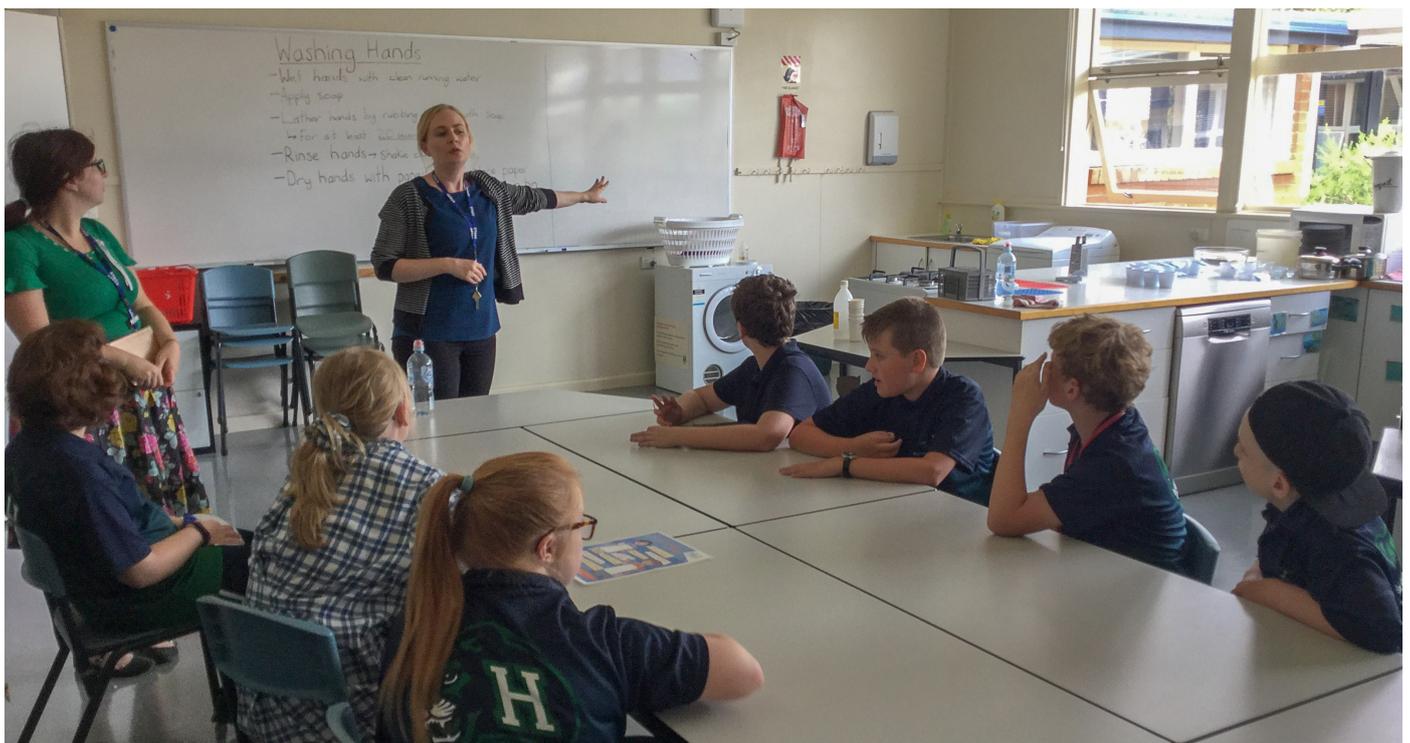
On the 18 March Heatherwood is undergoing a 4 year Review process. With a reviewer and other partners, including our school president, Steve Worrall, we will be examining what we do, how well we do it, and how we can make improvements for the future. This is a very exciting time for us as we develop our new four year Strategic Plan, continuously improving our school.

Reports, Term 2

At the last Heatherwood School Council meeting we discussed accessing reports digitally this year. We know that many secondary schools do this and the benefits are that every parent has efficient and reliable access at the same time to view reports. A digital copy can be saved for future reference. This can be done with a mobile phone, iPad or computer. With any transition, we are keen to meet everyone's needs and cater for all. We are interested in your feedback on this and you can email me with your ideas at foster.lesley.a@edumail.vic.gov.au We will discuss this again at our next Council Meeting.

Transition is a challenge and it is very satisfying to see students settling into school and willing to learn. I am enjoying moving across classrooms, meeting your children, working with staff to develop the skills and abilities they bring to the school. Feedback is a key component of the way we do things at Heatherwood, from students, parents, carers and staff. We provide and receive it every day and try to work on the feedback we are given. We always welcome your feedback and will do our best to make sure your child's experience with us is enjoyable and productive. Thankyou

Lesley Foster | Assistant Principal (Teaching and Learning Coach)



Student Support Group (SSG) Meetings

Thank you to all of our families who came in for an SSG meeting this week. It is a great opportunity for families to meet one to one with the classroom teacher and discuss educational goals and programs for students. I hope that all of you came away from the SSG meetings with a clear understanding of the educational aspirations for your son or daughter.

This round of SSG's were the first which utilised the online booking system (School Interviews) across the whole school. In speaking with teachers, office staff and families, it certainly appears as though the system was a great success.



The main issue this time around, however, was that of changes to student travel arrangements. It would therefore be timely to remind families that, **whenever** there are changes to the travel arrangements for your son or daughter, it is very important that you **inform the classroom teacher (and preferably the office staff)**. This applies not only for SSG appointments but also for any other day of the year. Unless we receive notification from a **parent or carer** of a change to travel plans, students will be required to travel as per their normal arrangements. Please be aware that Heatherwood staff will not accept changes if they come from a student.

In order to assist families and carers, below is a list of preferred methods of communication:

1. **Communication Diary** – the teacher will then initial the diary entry and pass it onto the office staff
2. **Email the teacher directly** – some teachers provide email addresses to families and carers. Please note that this is at the discretion of individual teachers
3. **Phone the school and inform the office staff** – this will be passed onto the teacher
4. **Email the school** (heatherwood.sch@edumail.vic.gov.au) – this is the last option

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this.

Emergencies and Medical Costs

The Department of Education and Training (DET) and Heatherwood School strongly encourages families and carers to have up-to-date ambulance cover in the case that a medical emergency occurs.

If a student is ill or injured, our preference is to contact families and carers first in order that they can seek whatever medical attention they feel is appropriate. In an emergency, if the parent or carer cannot be contacted, the school (through the authority of the Principal) may:

- call an ambulance or;
- call for any necessary medical attention on behalf of the student's parents/ carers.

Please note that the school (through the Principal) has the legal authority to do so as we are obliged to exercise our duty of care to our students. An ambulance **will always** be called in a medical emergency.

The position of the DET is that families and carers are responsible for any medical expenses (such as ambulance costs) incurred if their child is injured or requires an ambulance at school, or whilst participating in a school activity

Ambulance cover can be incorporated into many Private Health Insurance policies or available directly through Ambulance Victoria (Ph: 1300 366 141)

Warren Gaff | Assistant Principal

A word from the Office ...

Parents and Carers

- **All visitors to the school, including parents and carers, need to report to the Office (House) upon arrival.**
- **Please remember** if you wish to speak to a teacher, your first point of contact is with the Office, who will contact your requested teacher.
- *If they are unavailable*, Office staff will gladly take a message.
- Please make sure all your students' clothing is **clearly labelled** with their name
- Remind your young person **NOT** to share food with other students, due to health and safety reasons

CSEF Applications

- The first payment of successful CSEF applications will be paid to the school early March. Any family who has applied for CSEF should have received a '*yellow acknowledgement slip*' from the Office.
- If you have applied and **have NOT received this slip**, please call Kaye Shilcock - Business Manager ASAP.

Please Note

- **CSEF funds can ONLY be used towards Camps, Sporting Activities and Excursions.**
- Your school Statement may 'appear' to be in credit however the Essential Items, Food Technology charges (where applicable) and items such as the Yearbook are NOT covered by this funding. They need to be covered by other means.

Food Technology

Semester 1 charges are now due.

Your prompt payment of these charges will ensure that this quality program continues.

2019 Yearbook

The 2019 Yearbook will **ONLY** be ordered for your student, if the \$25.00 charge has been paid in full.

NB: payment in full is required *before* November. **Reserve YOUR copy now!**

Second-hand Uniform

The school is always seeking to source good quality, second-hand Uniform items.

If you have garments to donate, the school will graciously accept them...

Thank You!

Playground Supervision

Parents are reminded that playground supervision is provided **from 8.45 am on school days** until the last contract bus departs after school and that no formal supervision of the playground occurs outside those hours.

Unknown Bank Deposit

In December 2018, the School received a payment into our bank account from Studfield. If it was you who made this payment, could you please contact Kaye Shilcock, Business Manager.

Accident and Property Insurance

Parents/guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance,

- are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance or transport as well as any other transport costs; and
- can purchase insurance policies from commercial insurers.

Parents/guardians and staff are reminded that the Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property.

A friendly reminder from Crown Shuttle Bus Service

- If someone new is collecting your child for the first time, please ensure you contact Crown Coaches on 9845 1455. Our staff will not release a student to people they have not met before or have not been informed about.
- Please call if your child will not be travelling on the bus, it is never too late to inform us. You can call 9854 1455 option 1, 24/7 and leave a message or visit our website <https://www.crowncoaches.com.au/contact/for-parents>

House Achievement Program

House Welcome Afternoon early in the term provided students and staff an opportunity to gather together in their house teams, meet their House Staff Leaders, welcome new students, revisit the House Achievement Card system, and vote in their House Student Leaders for the 2019. Well done to all senior students whom proudly nominated themselves for this role. We are pleased to announce the 2019 House Staff & Student Leaders and wish them all the best as they uphold the names of the famous Australian athletes.

Huegill House

House Student Leaders Dale Atkinson (S7)
Tahlia Tesselaar (S7)

House Staff Leaders Ewan Wheeler
Ryan Teasel

Pearson House

House Student Leaders Kieran Dean (S7)
Shannon Kerr (S5)

House Staff Leaders Patty Sendekyj
Sue King

Stosur House

House Student Leaders Katie Verde (S7)
Seb Charlton (S3)

House Staff Leaders Ken Igba
Campbell Prior

Evans House

House Student Leaders Cadell Groves (S7)
Daniel Ellis-Van Gent (S7)

House Staff Leaders Katherine Walsh
Liza McCormack



Overall House Staff Achievement Program Coordinators:

Sam Ditty, Leanne Diez, Tony Walker



Physical Education

Student reminders for Physical Education classes:

- Wear runners
- Wear school sports uniform or shorts/tracksuit pants & t-shirt (no dresses at PE please)
- Wear cap or hat
- Bring a full water bottle
- Bring Asthma puffers if required
- Apply sunscreen prior to PE session
- Hair shoulder length or longer to be tied up
- If you are unable to participate in a PE session please provide a written note from home to the PE teacher.



Interschool Sports

Interschool Basketball & Beach Volleyball has begun well for the Heatherwood School teams. Great to see lots of skills and great play in action. Proud of the teamwork that has been demonstrated through the mixed level teams. Pleasing to see some parents coming along when time permits to support their children representing Heatherwood School. Just a few reminders for family spectators:

- Please sit in the spectator's area this allows staff from Heatherwood School to remain focused on the students in their care and assists students in staying with their team to listen and follow instructions given.
- Please refrain from taking photos and videos of students other than your own.
- Any issues you see please go through the Heatherwood School teacher in charge of the teams so they can address areas of concern with either Heatherwood students or the opposition team students and staff.

Sam Ditty | Physical Education

A word from Protective Behaviours

The focus for Term 1 Protective Behaviours across the school is Cyber Safety. All classes at Heatherwood School have been engaged in lessons that teach them about being safe online, steps to stop cyberbullying, their digital footprint and how to be respectful and responsible digital citizens. Please see our action steps to stop cyberbullying and I encourage you to ask your child to take you through these steps and what they mean.

There has also been new additions to the cyber safety course at Heatherwood, these include:

- Year 10: Young and eSafe, a gateway program to Senior VCAL Protective Behaviours
- Year 11 & 12: The YeS Project, senior students being online leaders and change makers

For more information on these programs please visit www.esafety.gov.au and for parent tips to assist you in monitoring your son or daughters online habits please take a look at www.esafety.gov.au/iparent

Emily Sauvarin | Protective Behaviours



Think you know who you are talking to online?



Performing Arts

AS excitement grows with the expectation of occupancy of our new buildings sometime soon the Drama room has welcomed some small but significant building projects of its own. The wooden stage now has a full back screen with side support that it now functions as a full studio for making small movies and TV style programs complete with green screen facility and 'backstage' access. This will add greatly to the depth and scope of the Drama program.



Our new Year Seven students have been learning to master simple but important skills such as answering the phone at school and at home especially the basic safety protocols for being home alone. Most of the Year Sevens have also learned to responsibly order their own meal when out at a fast food restaurant with family and friends. Whilst these are important skills for all young teenagers to have the hidden Drama agenda is establishing each student's as a confident and comfortable performer to an audience of their peers.

The Junior Rockers Music education program at Heatherwood school has recommenced for 2019 with our new specialist instrument teacher Stewart. Stewart has worked at Ashwood for many years and has a deep understanding of our students and their special needs. We thank Josh for his work with us over the past 12 months. He is moving to another position interstate. For all enquiries re the Junior rockers program simply get on line to WWW.juniorrockers.com or call 1300 46 7625.

Tony Walker | Performing Arts

SRC

WELCOME DAY- Welcome Day was held on Friday February 8th. I would like to thank all staff and students involved in Welcome Day. I would also like to make mention of our amazing School Captains.



It was lovely to see the way they interacted with the new students when giving out Welcome Certificates at the Junior Assembly. Also, I would like to sincerely thank Braham Morris, Lesley Foster, David Gall, Deb Heland and the Junior staff members. It was truly a team effort!

MEETING WITH PAUL HILLS – On Wednesday 20th February SRC representatives had a meeting with Paul Hills to outline ideas for a student survey and proposals they would like to develop throughout the year. These meetings are a positive exchange of ideas between leadership and Heatherwood students.

AMBASSADORS – The Ambassadors program began on Tuesday 19th February in the Drama Room. Students took part in a speed talking activity. Students would speak to each other for three minutes before swapping partners. A fun social experience was had by all.

**David Gall, Braham Morris and Lynda DenElzen
Heatherwood SRC**



STEAM

This year at Heatherwood, Junior and Middle classes will be participating in STEAM lessons as part of their Science curriculum. STEAM stands for Science – Technology

– Engineering/English – Arts and Mathematics. Your child will be completing activities, which will fuel critical thinking, dialogue and student inquiry. In term 1, the Year 7s will be focusing on communication through Art, language and Technology. The year 8s will explore the science of weather charting and collection of data. Year 9s will focus on design and marketing of products targeting primary students. The Year 10s will be focusing on the functioning of hydraulic systems. So it's full STEAM ahead at Heatherwood.



Patrizia Sendeckyj | STEAM

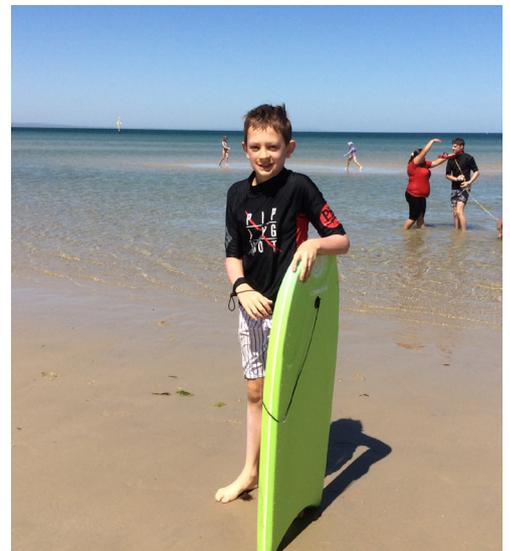
MENTONE BEACH

On Monday the 25/2/19 J8 went to Mentone Beach for their first Outdoor Ed excursion. The staff who joined were Anthony, Leanne, Campbell and Ryan.

We stopped at Braeside Park for morning tea. When we arrived at the Beach, we changed into our swimmers. Most of the class went for a swim. We saw cute dogs and kids playing in the water.

We ate our lunch at Rickett's Point. The whole group engaged well with one another for the day.

Heidi and Emma | J8





21 MARCH
HARMONY DAY

Harmony Day

On the 21st March 2019 Heatherwood School will celebrate Harmony Day. Harmony Day is a day to celebrate our cultural diversity.

- Be inclusive
- Be respectful
- Every one belongs



Heatherwood School is Proud to present the **“Speak to me Project”** with motivational speaker, writer and refugee Abdi Aden.

Not long after the war started in Somalia, Abdi was forced to leave his family and home at a very young age. Not knowing where he was going he began a journey that would take him to the other side of the world in search of safety. After many years searching for a better life, Abdi now believes Australia is not only a place that he sought refuge but his home. After studying Community Development at Victorian University and furthering his knowledge at the Melbourne University with the Mental Health Adolescence and Welfare Advanced Diploma, he felt it was time to incorporate this in to his life and career. Abdi was contacted by SBS and appeared on the documentary ‘Go Back To Where You Came From’ to raise the public awareness of the plight of refugees and human rights. Through Abdi’s experiences, he has witnessed and been involved in injustices based on race. With the knowledge, he has acquired, Abdi feels it is both his job and his personal morals to ensure that the community is being well educated on issues surrounding racism and ensuring our world is developing for a healthy future. Abdi is the writer of the book ‘Shinning- The Story of a Lucky Man’ and more recently a children’s book. Abdi will speak to each section about motivation, life and personal experience.

What is Harmony Day?

Harmony Day is a day to celebrate Australian multiculturalism, based on the successful integration of migrants into our community. Australia is the most successful multicultural country on earth and we should celebrate this and work to maintain it. Harmony Day is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values.

Held every year on 21 March, the Day coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Abdi’s message is let us come together with friends, families: through schools, workplaces and our wider communities to celebrate our diversity on and beyond 21 March.

Sally Campbell

