

Mt Egerton Primary School

Living and Learning Together Since 1856



Newsletter

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Principal: Janet Tuaine

Upcoming Dates

Principal's Message:

As we reach week six, I would like to acknowledge the positive and settled start our students have made to the 2026 school year. Classrooms are calm and purposeful, students are engaging thoughtfully in their learning, and it has been wonderful to see friendships strengthening across year levels. All students are showing pride in their work and in our school environment. It has been particularly pleasing to see students earning Dojo points through positive behaviour, quality work, reading efforts and living our school values.

This time of term can sometimes feel long for students, as we hit over the halfway mark, so we are continuing to focus on wellbeing, resilience and maintaining strong routines. Thank you to our families for your ongoing support. We recently held parent teacher interview. I would like to thank our parents for attending. These conversations are an important opportunity to celebrate student strengths, discuss learning goals and strengthen the partnership between home and school.

Despite terrible weather, it was wonderful to see so many families attend our recent Family Night. Your commitment to supporting our school community, even on a wet and challenging evening, truly reflects the strong partnership we share. Events like these are made special by the presence and involvement of our families, and we appreciate the effort you made to be there.

School Council AGM is coming up on Tuesday 17th. Nomination has now closed. Thank you to those who have nominated.

We were delighted to welcome three Mount Egerton Early Explorers on Thursday 26th February. It was wonderful to see them confidently engaging in activities, exploring our learning spaces, and beginning to build connections with our students and staff. We look forward continuing to support their transition to school and cannot wait to see them back again soon.

Just a reminder to parents with students in grade 3 or 5, NAPLAN will be sat next week. Please ensure your child arrives at school on time. Testing will begin at 9:15 am.

Junior School Council Freezy Friday!

Every Friday of Term 1
Zooper Doopers - \$1 each
& now introducing
Magnum Ice creams - \$3 each

Monday 9th March

Labour Day Public Holiday– No School

Tuesday 10th March

MARC Van

11th, 12th & 13th March.

NAPLAN

Friday 20th March

Cross Country

Tuesday 24th March

MARC Van

Monday 30th March

Easter Raffle ticket due back to school

Thursday 1st April

Easter Raffle Drawn

Last Day of Term 1 – 2:15pm Finish

Resilience: *Picking yourself back up and giving new experiences a go...*

Perseverance: *Challenging yourself to do your best...*

Kindness: *Being friendly, generous and considerate of others...*

Community: *Representing Mount Egerton with pride...*

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Newsletter

Student Awards

- ❖ Congratulations to Finley for demonstrating our school value of Community. Finley has demonstrated initiative by taking our Mount Egerton Early Explorers on a tour of the chicken coop. Thank you Finley!
- ❖ Congratulations to Max for demonstrating our school value of Perseverance. Max has had a go at writing by himself every writing session. Super Effort Max!

Reading Awards

- ❖ Congratulations to Finley, Justin, Maisie, Angus, Max & Archie for reading 25 nights! Great start to the year!

Aussie of the Month

Congratulations to Kole on achieving Aussie of the month for the month of February. Kole has been a great mate and positive role model to his younger peers. Kole has also given every task and challenge his best go. Well done, Kole!





Mount Egerton Primary School Student Shop Open to students - 30th March

Students in both the Junior and Senior classroom have been earning Dojo points; student can then exchange their Dojo points for money to spend at our school shop which open once again on Monday 30th March.

Dojo points can be earned throughout each term, which are then converted into “school shop money” to spend at our shop. Points are awarded for a range of positive contributions including receiving a principal or Aussie of the Month Awards, demonstrating our school values, regular reading, positive behaviour, leadership, initiative, recycling, producing quality work, collaboration and problem solving. The program recognises and celebrates the many ways our students contribute to our learning community.

Our shop will offer various food items supplied from Food Bank Victoria. Not only do we want to recognise and celebrate our students, but we also want to teach our students financial literacy as well as offer a program that supports our families in helping to alleviate financial pressure that some families might be feeling with cost-of-living increases. We also want to promote healthy eating & nutritious food and continue to build a sense of community in our school. Our shop will also offer stationary items and every now and then special “treat items”.

Our shop will be open twice a term to students. Regular items for purchase will include:



We encourage families to discuss this program with their child/ren at home.

Easter Raffle

We are excited to announce that our school will be holding an Easter Raffle this year. A huge thank you to Anchored Family Law hello@anchoredfamilylaw.com.au for donating all the prizes, it is greatly appreciated.

Raffle tickets have been sent home today. We would really appreciate your support selling these tickets to friends and family. All funds raised will go towards furnishing our new "Arts" building.

Please return all sold tickets, along with payment, to the school by Monday 30th March 2026. If you require additional tickets, please contact the office – more tickets are available.

We thank families for your continued support and look forward to drawing the raffle on Thursday 2nd April 2026 (Last day of term).



WOODMANS HILL
SECONDARY COLLEGE

Parents of students in
Grades 5 & 6 are warmly
encouraged to attend our

INFORMATION EVENING

Wednesday 18th March, 2026

Information Sessions

will be held at 5.00pm and 6.00pm
in the Theatre, followed by school tours.

Bookings essential.



www.woodmanshill.net.au

Woodmans Hill - Fussell Street Ballarat, Ph: 5336 7264

Mount Egerton Early Explorers Program

If you have a child or if you know of anyone who has a child starting school next year, we encourage you to check out and share this exciting new program. Now taking enrolments.



Mount Egerton Early Explorers Program MEEEP

Our Early Explorers Program, MEEEP, is a specially curated Pre-Prep learning program for children who are considering attending Mount Egerton Primary School for their Foundation year. The program is designed to ensure a smooth & connected transition experience for your child. Our Mount Egerton Early Explorers Program runs from term one to term four, offering several morning sessions.

Facilitated by our experienced Junior Room teacher, MEEEP will enable your child to:

- Become confident with Foundation routines & school.
- Meet staff & form friendships with other Junior room peers.
- Participate in engaging early literacy & numeracy activities. As well as enjoy indoor & outdoor learning opportunities.

Please contact Principal Janet Tuaine to arrange your child's participation in MEEEP for 2026!

Our Service:

- ✔ Engaging Pre-Prep Program
- ✔ Stimulating School Environment
- ✔ Qualified & Nurturing Teachers
- ✔ Creative, Fun & Hands-On
- ✔ Indoor and Outdoor Learning

☎ 03 5368 9357

🌐 mount.egerton.ps@education.vic.gov.au

📍 58 Church St, Mount Egerton 3352

School preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, we undertake a range of activities to ensure the safety of our school and to prepare for bushfires and grassfires.



An important part of this process is communicating to parents what will happen when certain fire danger ratings are issued to help ensure the safety of students and staff.

Our school has recently been identified as being in one of the highest fire risk categories – and has now been identified as a Category 2. On elevated fire danger days, schools in the highest levels of risk take pre-emptive actions to minimise the risk of being caught in a fire in these conditions.

Our school will action its pre-emptive plan for **relocation** on a day forecasted as **Extreme fire danger rating** in our **local government area (LGA), Moorabool Shire Council.**

Our school will also **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in **Southwest fire district.** **Mount Egerton Primary School will relocate to Gordon Primary School on these days, where we have our own learning space.**

We will let you know when we are enacting our pre-emptive action plan by **Compass.** Please be aware that no one will be on site on days where the school has enacted this plan.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, 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 continually clearing our facility's grounds and gutters.

What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by checking Compass, reading our Newsletter and by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan if you have any concerns.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements if our school is relocated due to elevated fire danger or closed due to a Catastrophic fire danger rating. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#).
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas, and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are enacting your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to [them about bushfires](#) and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can find more information on emergencies, and preparedness actions here:

- VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices.
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News, and other emergency broadcasters

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the department's policy?

The Department of Education annually assesses the fire risk of all schools and early childhood services with the support of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 6). Schools and services that are categories 0-3 are published on the [Bushfire At-Risk Register \(BARR\)](#). Schools at some risk of bushfire and grassfire are published on the [Category 4 List](#).

The department's [Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy](#) requires schools at high risk of bushfire to enact pre-emptive action plans based on LGA-level fire danger forecasts. Conditions can vary significantly across the wider weather district, so using local forecasts helps us to respond appropriately to risks in our local area and maintain stability and educational continuity for our students and school community. This policy is consistent for all schools at high levels of risk, and this approach is supported by emergency services.

The policy also requires that all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 list close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

Why do we use the LGA forecast?

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) provides public fire danger rating forecasts, they use fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which include numerous Local Government Areas. As conditions can vary significantly across a wider weather district, the department uses BoM LGA forecasts for some pre-emptive actions to respond appropriately to risks in the local area and maintain safe educational continuity for students and the school community. LGA forecasts are a subset of the weather district ratings and while not issued publicly, are provided to emergency services and government departments to support planning and operational activities.

This policy is consistent for all schools at high levels of risk, and this approach is supported by emergency services, including the Country Fire Authority (CFA).

What do we do when our LGA has a different fire danger rating to the wider fire weather district?

As we respond to local conditions, there may be days during the fire season when our fire weather district, is forecast as an Extreme fire danger rating, but our LGA is at a lower level of fire danger. On these days our school operations will continue as normal; however, we will be acting in line with fire services' advice by:

- checking our Emergency Management Plan and taking any necessary preparedness actions
- actively monitoring our local conditions and warnings
- having plans and procedures in place for if a fire starts to support us to take immediate action.

While our school will continue to operate, we encourage our school community to consider their own [bushfire survival plan](#) and reassess any travel through bushfire risk areas. We encourage you to follow your family bushfire survival plan and the advice of emergency services.

There may also be days where our LGA is forecast as Extreme fire danger, but Southwest district is not. On these days we **will** enact our pre-emptive action plan.

When will our school be closed due to Catastrophic fire danger?

Our school will also **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating in Southwest fire district**. Closure of the school due to a Catastrophic fire danger rating will be enacted when the BOM forecast and related public safety messaging is confirmed. Due to uncertainties in the forecast, the timing of this confirmation may vary. Information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by **Compass**.

It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

Families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. **On such days, children should never be left at home alone 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 Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

Community News



Mount Egerton Nature Playgroup

Mount Egerton Primary School is offering playgroup!

Tuesdays 10:00am - Storytime in the portable building

Our Storytime playgroup is a free, lively, interactive session. We want children to discover the joy of reading with action songs, books and rhymes.

Storytime enhances communication and social skills, fosters imagination, boosts listening skills and improves language and literacy skills. BYO snack and water.



Raising Children Australia is your complete and trusted online parenting resource.

At raisingchildren.net.au, we provide free, reliable, up-to-date and independent information to help your family grow and thrive together. We're funded by the Australian Government, reviewed by experts and non-commercial, so you know you can trust us.

Designed for busy families and full of tips and tricks for you to try, our content is easy to find and easy to digest. We have the answers to hundreds of parenting questions, where and when you need them.

Our articles, videos and interactive resources are tailored to different ages and stages, taking you from nurturing a newborn to raising a confident, resilient teen - and helping you to look after yourself as a parent too.

raisingchildren.net.au is here for you, every step of your parenting journey.