Mt Egerton Primary School

Living and Learning Together Since 1856



Newsletter

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Principal: Janet Tuaine

Principal's Message:

It is hard to believe we are already heading into Week 4 of Term 4! It has been wonderful to see our students settling into the final term of the year with enthusiasm, positive attitudes and a willingness to learn.

As we continue through this busy term, there are several exciting activities and important dates to keep in mind.

School Council – Our next School Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 27th October. Thank you to our School Council members for their ongoing commitment, support and contributions to our school community.

Day for Daniel – On Friday 30th October, our school will recognise Day for Daniel, a national day dedicated to raising awareness about child safety. This is an important opportunity to reinforce messages about personal safety, recognising unsafe situations and seeking help from trusted adults. We encourage families to continue these important conversations at home.

Cricket Australia Coaching Sessions - We are excited to welcome Cricket Australia coaching sessions over the next three Fridays. These sessions will provide students with a fantastic opportunity to develop their cricket skills, practise teamwork and enjoy being active. We look forward to seeing students participate enthusiastically, learn new skills and have fun!

Congratulations to all the students who participated and meet the 2026 Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge: Archie, Brooklyn H, Kole, Lily, Max, Sadie, Abby, Ben, Finley, Justin, Maisie & Xander. Well done!

As always, thank you to our families for your continued support and partnership. With a busy and exciting term ahead, we look forward to celebrating student learning, participation and achievements across our school.

Upcoming Dates

JSC Freezy Fridays
Every Friday Term 4
Zooper Doopers - $1 each

Tuesday 27th October
School Council Meeting 3:30 pm

Monday 2nd November
Curriculum Day – No Students

Friday 30th October
Day for Daniel
Halloween Dress Up Day

Tuesday 3rd November
Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

Friday 13th November
Junior Excursion – Fighting Extinction

Sunday 22nd November
Save the date - Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser – volunteers will be required see Compass Note

Friday 11th December
Grade 6 Graduation Dinner

Friday 17th December
End of year Assembly and Carols

Friday 18th December
Last day of term – 2:15 pm finish

Mount Egerton Primary School respectfully acknowledges the Wadawurrung People, the Traditional Owners of the land on which our school is built. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our community.

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Newsletter

Student Awards

- Congratulations to Angus for demonstrating our school value of Resilience. Angus stepped out of his comfort zone to meet new people, try new foods and participate in activities during camp.
- Congratulations to Brooklyn for demonstrating our school's value of Perseverance. Brooklyn has worked really hard in speech sessions.

Reading Awards

- Congratulations to Abby for reading 250 & 275 nights!
- Congratulations to Justin or reading 250 nights!
- Congratulations to Ben & Max for reading 225 nights!
- Congratulations to Lily & Kole for reading 125 nights!

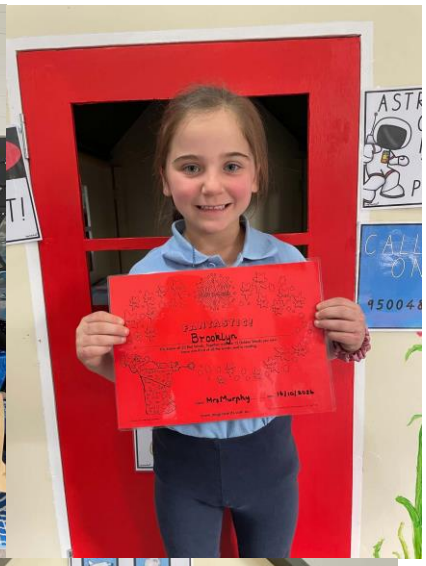
Spelling Awards

M100W

- Congratulations Brooklyn F on receiving awards for red & Blue M100 Words.
- Congratulations Addy on receiving an award for Indigo M100 Words.
- Congratulations Max on receiving an award for Pink More Magic Words











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…*

2026 Premier's Reading Challenge Awardees





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 been identified as being in one of the highest fire risk categories – 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**

We will let you know when we are enacting our pre-emptive action plan by **Compass & SMS.** 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 taking action 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 & SMS.**
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.

📌 **School Policies:**

Becoming a volunteer at Mount Egerton Primary School

We have updated our Policy. Members of our school community who would like to volunteer are encouraged to speak with the principal Janet Tuaine to complete the Child Safety Induction, as well as complete a volunteer OHS induction.

Throughout the year, the school may call on volunteers to assist with things like fundraising activities, excursions, sport events etc., this will be done via the newsletter and/or emails to families. Induction lasts for 12 months.

Working with students

Mount Egerton Primary School values the many volunteers that assist in our classrooms, with sports events, on camps, during excursions, in breakfast club, and in other events. To ensure that we are meeting our legal obligations under the *Worker Screening Act* and the Child Safe Standards, Mount Egerton Primary School is required to undertake suitability checks which in most cases will involve asking for evidence of a Working with Children (WWC) Clearance and may also involve undertaking reference, proof of identity, qualification and work history involving children checks.

Where prospective volunteers are required under the law and our volunteer policy to have a WWC Clearance, the principal has the discretion to accept evidence of a WWC check application in order to commence volunteer work, provided the volunteer provides the school with evidence of the application outcome (clearance or exclusion) as soon as practicable after the applicant receives it.

In the case of nominating for school council, the person must already hold a WWC Clearance to be eligible to nominate (it is not possible to nominate with only an application for a WWC Check).

raisingchildren.net.au

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.



Mount Egerton Early Explorers Program – Term 4 Session
Thursday November 26th November 3rd December & 8th December.



Keeping Culture update from VACCA

Support

- **24 Hour Telephone Support Services** - Emergency phone numbers.
- **Wellmob** - Social, emotional and cultural wellbeing online resources
- **Ask Izzy** - Search over 450,000 support services.
- **Become a Foster Carer** - Submit an online enquiry.
- **Victorian Aboriginal Services Directory** - Contact and social media links
- **VACCA Services** – Supporting a broad range of needs
- **BLKTRX Service Directory** - Culturally safe mental health support.

Stories

Health - **Koori Community Kitchen RECIPE BOOK (pdf)**
Download and Save! More ideas and recipes to eat healthy and warm this winter. Produced by the Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation in NSW.

Community - **GLaWAC NAIDOC Family Day (Facebook Video)**
If you couldn't make it to our NAIDOC Family Day, or if you'd like to relive the fun, here's a look back at a deadly day of culture, community and connection.

Kids - **Little J and Big Cuz (iView)**
All episodes - 4 seasons. Little J and Big Cuz are a couple of First Nations Australian kids living with their Nanna and Old Dog. There's always something surprising going on whether it's at school, in the backyard... or beyond.

Community - **AFL star and Matildas ace to headline Nanyak Burras Youth Summit** Hosted by Rumbalara Football Netball Club, the two-day summit will bring together young people, prominent Indigenous speakers, entertainers, community leaders and prospective employers on Wednesday, July 29 and Thursday, July 30.

Movie - **Last Cab to Darwin (SBS On Demand)**
Comedy/Drama. A terminally ill cab driver picks up an Indigenous drifter and a backpacker while travelling through the Australian outback where he plans to die with dignity.

Culture - **Understanding how Australia's landscape changed over time**
Article with Boandik man, Uncle Ken on how he has taken on the job of sharing these stories with the next generation. (from 2024)

Community - **The next frontier of an Australian First Nations economy**
Uncle Ian Hamm joins VAN Talks to argue that true self-determination requires shifting from rights-based social policies to macro-economic participation and wealth independence.

Community - **Burraja Cultural Centre - open for bookings - WODONGA**
Indoor and outdoor areas, Burraja Cultural Centre is available to book for individuals and orgs. Host cultural events, community gatherings, activities, workshops, conferences, meetings, playgroups, school holiday activities, youth programs, community consultations or forums.

Events

24 Oct - **Cultural Yarns for Carers of Aboriginal Children - ONLINE**
These sessions are designed to support carers to strengthen their confidence, knowledge, and practical skills in nurturing the cultural identity, belonging, and wellbeing of Aboriginal children in their care.

EOi Dec - **Aboriginal Sport Participation Grant Program guidelines - VIC**
Assists in addressing a range of barriers to the community's participation in sport and active recreation across the state. Applications open until funding allocation is exhausted.

1 Dec - **Cultural Yarns for Carers of Aboriginal Children - ONLINE**
These sessions are designed to support carers to strengthen their confidence, knowledge, and practical skills in nurturing the cultural identity, belonging, and wellbeing of Aboriginal children in their care.

Mental Health Services and Support

Beyond Blue

24/7 mental health support service

1300 22 4636
beyondblue.org.au

headspace

Online support and counselling to young people aged 12 to 25

1800 650 890
(9am to 1am daily)
headspace.org.au

Kids Helpline

24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services for children and young people aged 5 to 25

1800 55 1800
kidshelpline.com.au

Lifeline

24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services

13 11 14
lifeline.org.au

Suicide Call Back

24/7 crisis support and counselling service for people affected by suicide

1300 659 467
suicidecallbackservice.org.au

13YARN

24/7 crisis support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

13 92 76
13yarn.org.au

Mensline

24/7 counselling service for men

1300 78 99 78
mensline.org.au

1800 RESPECT

24/7 support for people impacted by sexual assault, domestic violence and abuse

1800 737 732
1800respect.org.au

QLife

LGBTIQ+ peer support and referral

1800 184 527
qlife.org.au

If you are concerned about someone at risk of immediate harm, call 000 or go to your nearest hospital emergency department.

be you | Beyond Blue

With delivery partners: Early Childhood Australia; headspace

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