

# Mt Egerton Primary School

*Living and Learning Together Since 1856*



## Newsletter

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**Principal:** Janet Tuaine

**Phone:** 03 5368 9357

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## Upcoming Dates



### **Principal's Message:**

As we come to the end of another fantastic year, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our entire school community – students, staff and families – for your amazing partnership, resilience and support throughout the year. Together, we have created a positive, welcoming and productive environment where every child is valued and encouraged to grow.

Our students have achieved so much, academically, socially and personally. From classroom learning to sporting events, assemblies, concert and other celebrations, it has been wonderful to watch them develop knowledge, skills, understanding, confidence and kindness. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and the way they support one another.

I would like to acknowledge our dedicated staff. Their commitment to high-quality teaching, student wellbeing and creating an inclusive school culture has been evident in everything they do. I thank them for their professionalism and the care they show our students every day.

To our families, thank you for your continued involvement, encouragement and trust. Your support plays a vital role in helping our students succeed.

As we prepare for a well-earned break, I wish everyone a safe, restful and joyful holiday period. We look forward to welcoming students back in the new year and continuing our work together to ensure every child thrives.

**Freezy Friday will continue Term 1 - 2026**

**Zooper Doopers are \$1 each**

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January**

Grades 1-6 return to school

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January**

Foundation students begin school

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January**

Assembly - Leadership Speech  
Presentations – 3 pm

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February**

Assembly – Leaders announced, and  
badges presented – 3 pm

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February**

School Council

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February**

Family Fun Night – 5 -7 pm

**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

#### Reading Awards

We recognise and celebrate the following students who read 250 plus nights for the year. Well done!

- ❖ Congratulations to Archie for reading 306 nights!
- ❖ Congratulations to Ben for reading 283 nights!
- ❖ Congratulations to Max for reading 266 nights!
- ❖ Congratulations to Angus for reading 257 nights!

#### Aussie of the Month

Congratulations to Archie on achieving Aussie of the month for the month of November. Archie has demonstrated several qualities including being an inclusive leader and mate to all his peers, demonstrating kindness, fairness and respect – Well done Archie!

#### Sustainability Champion

Congratulations to Justin. Justin is our term 4 sustainability champion for his efforts in helping his junior peers to recycle correctly and demonstrating initiative by taking down the bins and helping in the school gardens.

#### Victorian High Abilities Program

For their participation in the Primary Maths Victorian High Ability Program in Term 4 2025, congratulations to Finley.



## MEPS School News

### CERES Environment Park Excursion

Students had an amazing day exploring CERES Environment Park. Students visit Honey Lane urban farm, made seed bombs and newspaper seedling pots, found tadpoles and water bugs in the pond, fed the chickens, played in the recycled playground and learnt about biodiverse habitats.



### Catherine King MP Award for Community Service

Thank you to all our families who attended our final school assembly yesterday. We acknowledge & celebrated our wonderful school & community volunteers. During this assembly, we presented awards to two individuals who have generously given their time, skills & support to enrich our school. Congratulations to Liz Marsden & Paul Murphy.

As our school council president, Liz provides leadership, collaboration and advocacy to support our school's strategic direction. In addition to this, Liz actively volunteers in the breakfast program every week and always offers to help whenever an extra hand is needed. Thank you, Liz!

Paul is a dedicated parent volunteer whose generosity, and commitment greatly enhances our school environment. Paul is always willing to lend a hand and contributes countless hours to school maintenance and voluntary projects that benefit our whole school community. Thank you Paul!

That value of our volunteers is never underestimated here at Mount Egerton Primary School, and we are so grateful the contributions made by so many of our families and community members.

## **Chicken Coop**

Our school chicken coop is now complete and ready to house some lucky chickens in 2026. A huge thank you to Wayne Bell on a job well done. We love it and we know our chickens will too.



## **Changes to School Council 2026**

From 2026, parents, carers and community members who would like to join the school council need a working with children (WWC) clearance to nominate. If you are considering nominating for school council, and don't already have a WWCC, you are encouraged you to apply for a volunteer WWC check as soon as possible. This will allow for processing times, which are estimated to be from 3 to 12 weeks.

Please note that if you do not hold a WWC clearance, you will not be able to nominate for school council, so it is vital that you prepare in advance. Obtaining a WWC clearance is free for volunteers, and you can apply online at Service Victoria.

When applying for your volunteer WWC check, please nominate the Department of Education as the organisation you are working for.

If you already hold an employee WWC clearance, you do not need to obtain a volunteer WWC clearance to nominate for school council.

Victorian Institute of Teaching-registered teachers and school students who are interested in joining school council are not required to obtain a WWC clearance.

Current parents and community members of school council do not need to apply for a WWC check immediately. Current members only need a WWC clearance if their term ends and they wish to nominate or be co-opted again. For more information, refer to Ministerial Order 1280 (Constitution of Government School Councils) 2020.

## 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 **South West 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 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**.

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.

MT EGERTON REC RESERVE

# UPCOMING EVENTS 2025

MAR 23	CAR BOOT SALE 10AM- 2PM
BONFIRE NIGHT 6PM	MAY 24
JUN 14	MAIDEN'S CIRCLE (TEEN GIRLS)
PAINTING + SIP 4PM KIDS/ 7PM ADULTS	AUG 16
OCT 25	HALLOWEEN PARTY 5PM
NYE PARTY 5.30PM	DEC 31

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
MT EGERTON REC RESERVE FB PAGE

**MOUNT EGERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
SENSORY GARDEN FUNDRAISER



WE ARE RAISING FUNDS TO HELP PURCHASE SPECIALIST EQUIPMENT AND PLANTS FOR OUR NEW SENSORY GARDEN.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

DROP OFF YOUR 10C CONTAINERS INTO OUR COLLECTION BIN LOCATED AT THE FRONT OF THE SCHOOL OR SELECT US AS YOUR PREFERRED CHARITY ON THE CDS VIC WEST APP




AS WINTER APPROACHES, STOCK UP ON KINDLING FOR \$2 PER PILE, LOCATED AT THE FRONT OF THE SCHOOL

WWW.MTEGERTONPS.VIC.EDU.AU  
58 CHURCH ST, MOUNT EGERTON



## 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.

# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outpatient clinic

It is a culturally safe, general medicine stream clinic for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander adults with chronic health conditions who do not require urgent care. It is designed to provide a wrap-around service for patients with longer appointment times, a multidisciplinary focus, assistance with any barriers to attending and the individualised support and advocacy of an Aboriginal Hospital Liaison Officer (AHLO).



The clinic provides short term care with the purpose of facilitating re-engagement into the Adult Specialist Clinics, at both Western Health and other health networks, as well as referral onto other healthcare providers or services, as required.

## Contact our team for more information:

wilim.berrbang@wh.org.au

AboriginalAndTorresStraitIslanderClinic@wh.org.au

8345 0952

your Culture | your Ability | your Identity | We welcome you at Western Health



## 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.



With delivery partners

headspace



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Raising Children Australia is your complete and trusted online parenting resource

At [raisingchildren.net.au](http://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.

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