Hi everyone,

**Coronavirus letter**

For those who did not receive the letter sent home on Monday, it can be found on our school website. Please click on the following link as it will take you directly to the letter.


Yesterday, a short letter was sent home to prepare families for online learning if schools are closed. For families who are not joined to classDojo, we advise that this is done as soon as possible. If you need assistance with this, please do not hesitate to speak with your child’s teacher or one of the office staff. Parents should continue to let the school know if your child is away sick.

If parents are keeping their child at home due to concerns with the virus, please let office staff know as this is recorded as an ‘explained absence’ and coded differently. Please understand though, as schools are still open, teachers are not in the position to be providing large amounts of work for students in this instance.

### School Council Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Annual Report presentation

On Monday, school council convened for the AGM and March meeting.

We say goodbye to the following school council members and thank them for their support and contributions to our council. Thanks to Jason Treble, Kate Jongebloed and Amanda Burrows for their input to School Council.

We welcome new members to council for 2020, Caroline Robinson, Leah Wilson, Natalie Reynolds and Corey Ah-Dore (Community member). The following items were discussed and/or approved:

- 2019 Annual Report to the school community. This is a summary report for the year and covers, literacy, maths and aspects of wellbeing and engagement. A hard copy can be collected at the office or you can view and/or download a copy from the school website at https://www.whitehillsps.vic.edu.au/uploaded_files/annual_report_2019.pdf

- The turtle enclosure near the container has begun and the turtles will reside in this space later in the week.

- School lunches will be outsourced to Peppergreen Farm and the plan is to start next term. All orders will be online via QkR. Lunch days will be Wednesday and Friday. We will place the menu on QkR, on the website and in next week’s newsletter.

- We have had increasing amounts of vandalism in the grounds after school and on weekends to keep an eye on the place but we are going to investigate security cameras also.

- The Grade 4 camp in 2021 will be to Campaspe Downs near Kyneton. This is an adventure camp and it will replace the Maldon bike camp we currently use. Whilst the cost will be approximately $50 more, council believes the benefits will outweigh the additional cost.

- School purchasing card policy was approved.

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**End of Term Dismissal**

Students will be dismissed at 2.30pm on Friday, 27th March. We will have recess from 2:00 until 2.30pm, but due to Department of Education regulations, we are unable to dismiss students until 2.30pm. However, parents may collect children earlier if they wish. Please make sure you sign out your child/children before taking them home if you leave early.

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**Purpose**

At White Hills Primary School we provide students with skills to be lifelong learners. We are a community which caters for academic, physical, social and emotional needs, preparing our students to contribute productively to an increasingly globalised world.
Road Rules around crossings
The City of Greater Bendigo has received a number of complaints from School Crossing Supervisors this year about unsafe and unlawful driving at their school crossings. We have received complaints that drivers have driven through the crossings while the supervisor has been standing in the middle of the road with the stop sign raised. There has also been reports logged of drivers driving through red lights at pedestrian crossings.
Children’s crossings are only in operation when flags are displayed. When flags are displayed, drivers must not proceed through the crossing if children or adults are still on the crossing or about to start crossing. This is the law regardless of the presence of a crossing supervisor.
When children’s crossings flags are not displayed, pedestrians should give way to passing road traffic. Drivers should always use caution when approaching children’s crossings when children are present. Not every child will know or remember the different rules. If anyone sees a vehicle driving through a crossing unlawfully, they should attempt to get the vehicles details, including registration, colour and make of the vehicle and report this to the Police. The number to contact the Police is 131444.

Please let us know if there’s anything further that we can do to support you here at WHPS.
Andrew Schaeche,
Principal

NEW TURTLE ENCLOSURE

PFG News
The Shed Guys Open Air Cinema Screening of “Spies in Disguise”
Unfortunately we have had to cancel our Open Air Cinema for this year.
We have rescheduled it again for Friday March 26th 2021 – with a new title to be decided on early next year.
Thank you to our major sponsor – The Shed Guys Bendigo for again supporting this event, and our other sponsors: Hunky Dory, Bendigo Dyno Tuning, and The Bramble Farm. Please support those businesses that support our school events.

“Spies in Disguise” Colouring Competition still going ahead and has been extended!
We have extended our colouring in competition until Tuesday 24th March 4pm. A prize will be awarded to a winner in each of these 4 categories: Prep, grade 1 & 2, grade 3 & 4, and grade 5 & 6. Student leaders will visit classrooms to sell sheets, or alternatively you can purchase from the school office. Cost is $1.00 per sheet. The Art teachers will be choosing our winners! The winners will be notified on Thursday 26th March.

Easter Raffle
The Easter raffle this year will be drawn at our final term assembly on Friday 20th March. Raffle books and money are now overdue.

Next Meeting
The next general meeting of the PFG will be held on Wednesday 15th April at approximately 9.15am in the staffroom. All newcomers are welcome to attend any meeting! You may bring along younger siblings to our meetings as well. Come and have morning tea with us, a chat and a laugh, and find out what we do around the school.

Mother’s Day/Special Person Stall
Our stall will be held on Friday 8th May, early in Term 2. We request that students donate a gift to the value of $2.00 – new, unopened gifts only please. Over the holidays is a good time to have a look around and pick up a bargain. We ask that everyone please provide one gift per student to enable every student to purchase a gift at the stall. Please leave your donations at the office by Monday 4th May. Thank you for your support.

Thank you from PFG members
# Students of the Week – Week 7 Term 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>AWARDED FOR….</th>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>AWARDED FOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PF</td>
<td>Htoo Gay Shee</td>
<td>For being a wonderful friend and helper to all the students in Prep F</td>
<td>4B</td>
<td>Jack B</td>
<td>For being an enthusiastic contributor during the 'This Way North' session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS</td>
<td>Bill</td>
<td>For being an enthusiastic learner and responsible person</td>
<td>4E</td>
<td>Bella Wohs</td>
<td>For her understanding and clever use of mental strategies used for addition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR</td>
<td>Hamish P</td>
<td>For always following our class expectations</td>
<td>4CN</td>
<td>Zeth R</td>
<td>For aspiring to do his best in all learning areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PM</td>
<td>Arla D</td>
<td>For always showing her whole body listening in class</td>
<td>4R</td>
<td>Kaylee Elliot</td>
<td>For being responsible for her own learning by maintaining an outstanding home reading routine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1BW</td>
<td>Madison M</td>
<td>For being resilient and bouncing back during our measurement activity this week</td>
<td>5B</td>
<td>Oliver E</td>
<td>For being a responsible learner by making sure he is staying on track with his learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1F</td>
<td>Muchovey</td>
<td>For always being a great helper in the classroom and assisting his classmates to logon to the netbooks</td>
<td>5L</td>
<td>Abbygail</td>
<td>For always applying herself to the best of her abilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1T</td>
<td>Lila Mc</td>
<td>For her enthusiasm towards her learning</td>
<td>5S</td>
<td>Lexi JL</td>
<td>For her great thinking during our topic on the government and coming up with a well thought out amendment to our bill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1H</td>
<td>Toby C</td>
<td>For his outstanding spelling during writing tasks this week</td>
<td>5M</td>
<td>Kacee T</td>
<td>For being an amazing big buddy to her little Prep buddy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2AK</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>For aspiring to be his best by his terrific participation in class and for a fabulous week of reading</td>
<td>6W</td>
<td>Kai N</td>
<td>For aspiring to do his best at the volleyball tournament yesterday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2P</td>
<td>Scarlett E</td>
<td>For her fabulous dance moves at 'This Way North’</td>
<td>6D</td>
<td>Max L</td>
<td>Demonstrating a strong work focus during writing to improve his recounts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2Y</td>
<td>Jack R</td>
<td>For aspiring to do his best with the size and shape of his letters when handwriting</td>
<td>6P</td>
<td>Aleasha M</td>
<td>For working hard this week in writing, planning a great Beach recount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2M</td>
<td>Eva</td>
<td>For aspiring to do her best during all learning activities at school and being a good friend to her peers</td>
<td>6MW</td>
<td>Roy B</td>
<td>For being a responsible learner and achieving great results in Maths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Moses Poe</td>
<td>For trying his best with all set tasks</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3MB</td>
<td>Deanna</td>
<td>For being an excellent role model to the rest of her class</td>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>Kohen Berger</td>
<td>For his excellent cut shots during continuous cricket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3G</td>
<td>Archer L</td>
<td>For always being a respectful and responsible member of our class</td>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3J</td>
<td>Jett M</td>
<td>For starting all of his work independently and being on task this week. Great improvement Jett!</td>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>Kate Nichols</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3D</td>
<td>Patricia D</td>
<td>For being responsible, taking care of her belongings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Grade 4 News

Bike Ed- Huge thank you to all families who assisted with the bike ed program. Without your support we could not run this valuable program. The students did a tremendous with the workshops both inside and outside.

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### Weekly Rosters

**Sickbay**
- Fri 20 March: Jo Piggott
- Fri 27 March: Sherryn Taylor

**Newsletter**
- Thurs 26 March: Kate Nichols
Autumn Holiday Club

Bookings are now open for Autumn Holiday Club.

Our most popular Holiday Club workshops are cooking and science. They allow your children to get experimental, have fun and learn!

Every season, parents tell us that they want to see more of these, so we’re excited to present to you our Mexican Fiesta cooking class and Science Spectacular experimental extravaganza.

**Mexican Fiesta**

We’re making cheesy quesadillas, moreish guacamole and tasty bionico fruit cocktail desserts, while learning about Mexican cooking and culture.

**Science Spectacular**

We’ve got the Exploding Toothpaste experiment; they’ll mix science and art in the gelatin Streaking experiment and the wonder of the Magical Water Blossom.

Book now. To find out when these activities are on during the school holidays and to find your nearest service, visit: [www.campaustralia.com.au/holidayclubs](http://www.campaustralia.com.au/holidayclubs)

We look forward to seeing you at Holiday Club.

The Camp Australia Team

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Community News

Cyber safety
FOR PARENTS AND CARERS
Do you feel ready to help your child navigate the online world?
Tuesday, April 21, 2020. From 6:15pm to 7:15pm at Sturt Street Community Centre.

Term 2 Enrolments
NOW OPEN!!
All Instruments & Singing Lessons Available
Books supplied
Hire instruments available
Why wait? Call TODAY!!
0407 502 438
dewthorpe@emusic.com
www.dtmaustralia.com.au
CONNECT WITH US ON:

HOLIDAY CLINIC
MON 30th & TUES 31st MAR
@ South Bendigo TC
THUR 2nd & FRI 3rd APR
@ East Bendigo LTC
9.30-11.30AM each day
Tennis fun for Juniors of all standards!
$40 for two days - $25 for one day
Register Online www.gianttennis.com.au

Connect with us: www.bchs.com.au
Leading the way for children during the Coronavirus pandemic

If you’re like me, the news of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has your head spinning and your heart pumping. That’s only natural as life as we know has taken a seismic shift in recent days.

International travel bans, cancellation of sporting and cultural events, shopping frenzies and talk of school closures continue to dominate the airwaves. Terms such as social distancing, self-isolation and social lockdowns have entered our vocabularies and may soon become part of our daily lives.

Coronavirus is having an unprecedented impact on our daily lives, and will probably do so for some time. While keeping ourselves and children healthy and safe is our main concern, it’s also essential to address the anxieties of children and young people during these changing times. Here are some ideas to help inform, reassure and keep children and young people safe.

**Build on what your children know**

Children and young people have already been exposed to a great deal of information about coronavirus through media, digital means and direct social contact. Their understanding will vary depending on their age and also the quality of their information sources so you probably will need to help kids process what they already know.

Casual conversations with teenagers and older children can be useful ways to glean their understanding. You could ask questions like “What are you hearing about Coronavirus? Is there anything you’re not sure about?” Younger primary age children may need a more direct approach with parents addressing their specific concerns without giving too much information that can overwhelm them.

**Check your own thoughts and feelings**

Check your own frame of mind and emotions about COVID-19 before talking to kids. Most children are astute mood detectives and they’ll gauge their safety by the way you communicate with them. If you tell a child, “You’ve got to wash your hands or you’ll get infected” you are communicating your own anxieties, making it difficult for them to maintain a healthy state of mind. Have a think about how you can frame your instructions and their importance in a way that doesn’t heighten your child’s anxieties.

**Stay informed**

It’s difficult to work out fact from fiction, correct from incorrect, information from exaggeration when the news is changing so fast. However you need to educate yourself about the virus itself, including how it’s transmitted and how to stay safe. Get information from trustworthy sources such as The Australian Government Health Department website and the current federal government coronavirus information media campaign.
Answer questions truthfully

It's important that parents and teachers answer children's questions honestly in age-appropriate ways and within context of what is happening at the given time. If their sport or hobby has been temporarily cancelled empathise with their concerns, while helping them maintain a sense of perspective.

Initiate positive action

One way to reduce anxiety and allay children's fears is to involve them in planning and preparation for their personal and group safety. Positive activities such as maintenance of personal hygiene, greasing people with an elbow tap and getting plenty of sleep can help restore a sense of control, that is so important for their wellbeing.

Find refuge in rituals

Regular rituals such as mealtimes, bedtime stories and regular one-on-one time provide both an anchor to normality and a sense of connection for kids at times of change. Consider reconstituting favoured family rituals at this time if they have lapsed due to lack of time, or lifestyle frenzy.

Look outwards

In difficult times there is a tendency to look inwards, which is a natural protective strategy. The alternative is to establish a sense of connection and community spirit by focusing on generosity and togetherness. Help children see past their own needs and look for ways to assist others whether it’s shopping for an elderly neighbour, helping a younger sibling occupy themselves, or planning an indoor movie night for the whole family.

The Coronavirus presents many practical challenges to parents and other important adults in the lives of kids. Staying calm, keeping informed, and adjusting our own habits are just some of the challenges we face. However a significant challenge is one of personal leadership. That is, during these difficult times we need to be civil to each other, look out for each other and be mindful of the common good in everything we do. In this, we can all take a significant lead.

Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia’s leading parenting educators. He’s an award-winning speaker and the author of 12 books for parents including ‘‘Spoilted Generation’, and the bestselling ‘Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It’. Michael is a former teacher with 15 years experience, and has 30 years experience in parenting education. He also holds a Master of Educational Studies from Monash University specialising in parenting education.