

Friday 5th December
2025
Issue 20

LINK LETTER



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Tony Ryan - Principal

Hi everyone and welcome to our latest newsletter. Term 4 is always a busy time in schools, and this year is proving to be no different.

Our students and staff have been working tirelessly in completing assessments and developing the end of year reports. These will be finalised and distributed via Compass in the last week of term. I'm confident that you will find these comprehensive and informative in measuring student learning progress. Thank-you to all our families for their ongoing support of the students and the learning program throughout the year. Another reminder for those families of year 6 students or for other students that may be exiting the school this year, to download all student reports from Compass before the end of the year and the reports disappear.

Our teachers have also been working through our comprehensive transition program, completing a number of learning sessions with flexible student groupings to consider positive class composition for 2026. There are many variables that need to be considered in this process to achieve the best overall class combinations. Student friendships are one key consideration.

Term 4

- Prep-2 Swimming
Tuesday 8th December
- Prep-2 Swimming
Friday 5th December
- Year 7 State School
Transition Day: Tuesday 9th
December & Grade 2
Bundoora Farm Excursion
- Prep 2026 Transition #5:
Wednesday 10th December
- Year 6 Graduation: Thursday
11th December
- Curriculum Day: Student
Free Day- Monday 15th
December
- Last Day of School Year:
1:00pm Assembly – 1:30pm
dismissal – Friday 19th
December

Term Dates 2025

Term 1: January 30 – April 4
Term 2: April 22 – July 4
Term 3: July 21 – September 19
Term 4: October 6 – December 19

Our students have had the opportunity to list the names of 5 friends that they would like to be placed with for the following year. We guarantee that students get a person from their list and in where possible multiple students from their list. These preferences are weighed against a range of other factors to achieve the best overall combinations.

Our staff are finalising the grade selection process and building towards our **Step-Up day** next week on **Thursday the 11th Dec**. This will provide the opportunity for students to move to their next year's classroom and meet with their class and teacher for 2026.

Transitions:

Our Grade 6 students are going through an important transition time also. Next Tuesday those students transitioning to Government Secondary schools next year will participate in the statewide secondary transition day where they will visit their new schools.

Our grade 6 students are also gearing up for their Graduation night celebration next Thursday the 11th. This is a great celebration of their journey as students and leaders of our school.

At the other end of our school our incoming preps for next year will be completing their 5th and final prep transition session next Wednesday the 10th of December. Our incoming preps have adjusted to the routines of primary school very well and will be excited to meet their teachers for next year during this session.

Staffing Changes:

As we approach the end of another year, I can share some staffing changes ahead of 2025. We have had a bit of a baby bonanza and have a number of teaching staff who are going to be changing roles due to them expecting children in the new year.

We congratulate Tara Newton, Shanai Gaul, Stephanie Giammarco, Maddy Henskens and Claire Jackson on their fantastic news and wish them well for this exciting new chapter. All the ladies above will be returning at the start of next year in a variety of roles and have a variety finishing dates from close to the start of the year to closer to midyear. We look forward to celebrating their exciting milestones in the new year.

We also farewell Marc Westgarth after he replaced Ms Davidson mid-year as teacher of 4W. Marc joined us from the secondary sector and is returning to a secondary teaching role teaching humanities again next year. Marc has made a sizable contribution to our staff in a short period of time, and we wish him all the best for his new role.

We also sadly farewell two long standing members of our Education Support Staff team this year Kylie Emmenegger and Kay Rowland.

Kylie has been appointed in an ES leadership position at Donnybrook PS where she will be leading a large Education Support Team. Kylie has been a highly regarded member of our staff for many years and has been an amazing support to hundreds of our students, their families and our staff. Known as an energiser bunny, she is regularly completing three tasks simultaneously, whilst still providing a high level of individualised care. She is a big loss to our school but is very much ready for this new opportunity and will be an amazing asset to her new school.

Likewise, Kay has been a long-standing staff member at WHPS and has been a terrific support to hundreds of our children and our wider community. She shows great concern and compassion for our students and calmly supports their needs and our teaching staff with a minimum of fuss. Kay is moving to Doreen PS, that is a good fit for her current family commitments. Both ladies have also delivered a range of learning support programs to our students and attended countless camps, excursions and special events at our school.

Both Kylie and Kay have impacted on many, many students, families and staff over their time and I personally thank them for their expertise and dedication to the WHPS team. They will both be greatly missed but also celebrated as they turn the page to the next chapter of their personal and professional lives.

We are also excited to welcome some new members of our staff team in 2026 Caitlin Tyler, Elise Richards and Kaitlyn Bryant all join our teaching team and bring a range of skills and teaching experience. We are excited to add them to our great staff team and know they will be a great asset. We are also excited to have Anthony Lentini who has been part of our local CRT team, joining us part time as a member of the specialist team next year. Anthony will be replacing Wayne Wood as a member of the PE team and Wayne is expanding his role with us into a full-time classroom role. The full staffing plan will be shared in the next newsletter.

International Day of People with Disability:

Did you know there are more than 5.5 million people with disability in Australia? International Day of People with Disability is a United Nations Day observed on 3rd December each year. The aim is to increase awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with disability. As part of our Respectful Relationship curriculum our students develop a greater understanding and awareness of people living with disability and acceptance and inclusion for all people. By acknowledging this important day, we can all do our bit to ensure people with disability can take part in and contribute to society. We can help to remove barriers for people with disability and contribute to positive change in our classrooms and our community. For more information about the day, refer to the International Day of People with Disability website.

SWPBS:

In other exciting news for 2026, our school was recently notified that our application to be included into the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support framework with the DET was successful. School-wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) is a globally recognised, evidence-based framework that helps schools create safe, positive, and inclusive environments where students and staff can thrive.

SWPBS supports the Education State priorities and the Victorian Teaching and Learning Model 2.0 by helping schools build consistent, whole-school systems that promote positive behaviour, wellbeing, and inclusion—creating the right conditions for effective teaching, learning, and leadership across the school. <https://www.vic.gov.au/school-wide-positive-behaviour-support>

Our inclusion in this program will shape significant aspects of the strategic direction, instructional practices, student support systems and staff professional development in the years ahead. We will be forming a dedicated SWPBS team that includes a range of stakeholders including parents. The school will also have access to an external SWPBS coach who has ongoing involvement with our team to support our development of our local SWPBS framework.

SWPBS isn't a program but a framework that will assist us in identifying the current strengths in our practice and identify beneficial changes to support the following outcomes:

- increase respectful and positive behaviour
- strengthen social and emotional wellbeing
- reduce classroom disruptions and increase learning time
- build positive, respectful relationships between students and staff
- create safe, orderly, and supportive school environments.

Our school has always set high standards around student behaviour and performance. With the DET's recent policy release respectful, safe, engaged: shared expectations to support student behaviour across the education system, we believe now is the perfect time for us to reevaluate and strengthen our behaviour practices and are excited by the opportunities provided by being selected as a SWPBS school in 2026.

Student Leaders:

After a rigorous and positive process we can announce our 2026 Student Leadership team. The process included students writing leadership application letters and short-listed candidates sitting interviews for the various roles. The quality of the applications and candidates we received is very encouraging and made the process of selecting our leaders a very difficult task. Unfortunately we can't have all our students elected to the formal leadership positions but there will be numerous opportunities for all our year 6 students to display their leadership qualities such as running school assemblies and supporting the running of school events.

I offer congratulations to all our school leaders and especially to School Captains Erin Keogh and Theo Hughes and Vice Captains Amelia Denton and Nandan Narkedamilli.

On the following pages you will find our full list 2026 student leaders listed.

Whilst on the topic of student leaders I would also like to thank our 2025 student leaders for their amazing work throughout this year. It has been a pleasure to work alongside the team and to see them evolve and grow in their personal and collective confidence and capacity as leaders. Our future looks bright with such amazing people forging into secondary school with purposeful leadership potential.

School Holiday Program:

Earlier this week I sent out Kelly Club's holiday program schedule. It is also attached to this newsletter. A reminder to families thinking they are likely to access the service to be proactive in setting up your account information with Kelly Club and providing the required documentation. The holiday program is offered from Monday January 12th next year.

Xmas Raffle:

Please be aware of our annual end of year WHPS Christmas Raffle drawn in the last week of this term. There will be lots of great prizes on offer for those interested in purchasing a ticket. Please keep an eye out for further information via Compass about the Raffle. All donations for our raffle hampers are greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at the office. The more donations we receive the more prizes that can be offered. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Link to purchase tickets is below and tickets can also be purchased through the school office.

<https://www.trybooking.com/DHZCP>

Curric Day:

Please be reminded of the upcoming curriculum day on Monday December 15. Students are not required at school on this day. Staff will be working in teams to formulate the curriculum plan for 2025. This time is invaluable to ensure consistency of our learning programs and also to develop clear and targeted learning programs for your children.

School Council:

I also say a BIG thank-you to the 2025 school council. Their leadership and governance has been fantastic and a very supportive component in making our school great! This year has been one of substantial change and their support in guiding the strategic direction of the school can't be underestimated.

A HUGE thank-you to: Charlotte Bethune, Penny Stammers, Fiona McLean, Emma MacDonald, Adrian LoRicco, Jordyn Booth, Stuart Hunt, Xi Huang-Leaver, Steven Clough, Rebecca Nisbet, Peta Beattie, Adam Ringeri, Jasmina Bojadzieva, Tamara Oliver and Andrea Lally.

We will be calling for nominations for the 2026 council in February next year. If you are interested in joining council please let me know.

Canteen:

Please note the Canteen service provided in the final week of school :

There is no Canteen sales on Mon 15th due to the curriculum day. The Canteen is available on Wednesday 17th December for counter sales and lunch orders however we may have limited stock of some lunch order items.

Friday 19th December counter sales at lunch break only - **NO LUNCH ORDERS**

End of Year Dates:

- Tues 9th December Year 7 Transition Day (for public school settings)
- Wed 10th December 2026 Prep Transition Session #5
- Thurs 11th December Step Up Morning (meeting 2026 teacher and class)
- Thurs 11th December Year 6 Graduation
- Mon 15th December Curriculum Day (student free day)
- Tues 16^h December Semester 2 Reports Published via Compass
- Fri 19th December Last Day of School – Final assembly @ 1:00 for a 1:30pm dismissal.

2026 School Term Dates:

Term 1:

- Thursday 29th January Years 1-6 Students return
- Friday 30th Preps start half day
- Preps Wednesday's off during February (apart from assessment day)
- Thurs 2nd April term 1 end

Term 2:

Mon 20th April term start

- Fri 26th June term end

Term 3:

- Mon 13th July term start
- Fri 18th Sep term end

Term 4:

- Mon 5th Oct term start
- Fri 18th Dec year end

Have a great weekend everyone,

Tony

From the Assistant Principal

Stuart Hunt

With lots of information shared already in our Linkletter, I thought I would share one final change happening country-wide from Wednesday 10th December. As previously shared, the Federal government is introducing a social media ban for under 16s, requiring social media platforms to require age-verified accounts for access.



Families can support this transition by explaining the changes to students and supporting any loss of access in the coming week.

We encourage the WHPS community to monitor student's use of technology and communication tools.

Please reach out to the school if you wish to seek further support on these upcoming changes.

Have a wonderful weekend ahead.

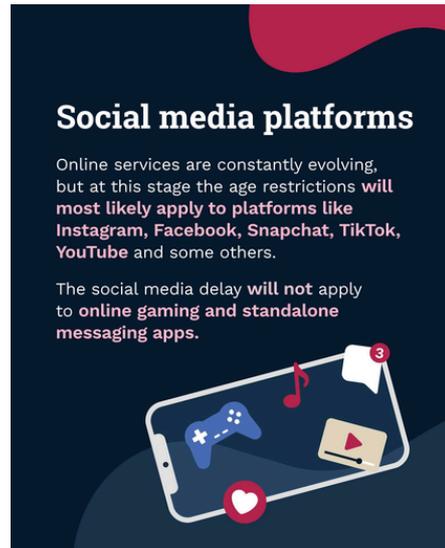
Stuart



Teens will still have access to the online world

The changes will only prohibit under 16's from holding a social media account. They can still access some content while logged out, like YouTube videos.

More importantly, under 16's will still be able to access online services that provide crucial information and support if they're experiencing distress.



Social media platforms

Online services are constantly evolving, but at this stage the age restrictions will most likely apply to platforms like Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube and some others.

The social media delay will not apply to online gaming and standalone messaging apps.



This applies to existing account

If children under 16 have existing social media accounts, **they won't be allowed to keep using them.**

From 10 December, social media platforms must take reasonable steps to find and deactivate those accounts.



Got any questions?

For more information visit

[eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au)

Student of The Week

Week 8

CONGRATULATIONS



Bailey, Theo, Nina, James, Tahlia, Ella, Arya, Lauren, Colin,
Josh, Ivy, Elsie, Will, Hana, Murphy, Bonnie,
Lachlan, April, Sadie.

Week 9

CONGRATULATIONS



Eli, Ashy, Hiroto, Riley, Rylan, Kate, Henry, Jayden, Saylor,
Reggie, Zara, Arjun, Kyrie, Aria, Sierra, Melody, Alice,
Emerson, Riley, Samantha.

Congratulations!

2026

WHPS LEADERSHIP TEAM

Our process for selecting Grade 6 leaders for 2026 has now concluded. We are extremely proud of all Grade 5 students for the effort, maturity and enthusiasm they demonstrated throughout their leadership letters and interviews.

We are excited to announce our 2026 Leadership Team for WHPS!

School Captains	Erin Keogh & Theo Hughes			
School Vice Captains	Nandan Narkedamilli & Amelia Denton			
House Captains	Blue Banksia	Yellow Wattle	Red Waratah	Green Boronia
	Madelyn Abdallah Hudson Beddome	Olivia Ly Isaac Barnes	Lachlan Williams Ziggy Feehan	Tori Strickland Digby Parsons
Library Captains	Ariel Gabinskiy & Grace Wise			
Sustainability Captains	Poppy Marini & Amelia Hess			
Wellbeing Captains	Hazel Kitingan & Adelaide Stewart			
Science Captains	Patrick Maxwell & Yaami Pothuguntla			
Mandarin Captains	Corbin Symons & Octavia Kaing			
Community Captains	Eva Francis & Lola Simm & Joaquin Antonio & Tilly Strickland			
The Arts Captains	Felicity Ridsdale & Abigail Alexander			



WHPS

Wishing Tree

THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DONATE GIFTS FOR CHILDREN WHO MAY NOT GET A GIT THIS YEAR. THERE IS A TREE SET UP NEAR THE OFFICE, TAKE A TAG AND DONATE A GIFT FOR A CHILD OF A CERTAIN AGE.

PLEASE DO NOT WRAP THE GIFTS.

GIFT IDEAS

- GIFT CARDS
- HEADPHONES
- BOOKS
- SPORT EQUIPMENT
- ARTS & CRAFT
- SCHOOL SUPPLIES

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS AN OPTIONAL GIFT AND DONATION TO THE COMMUNITY.



Tennis in Banyule



Help shape the future of tennis in our community

Whether you play casually or in competition, we want your ideas to make tennis clubs, courts and facilities more friendly and inclusive.

Share your ideas by completing the survey until 11 January or come and talk with us at a community drop-in session.

Thursday 27 November, 10am - 11am

WaterMarc, Level 1 Foyer/Cafe

Tuesday 2 December, 9.30am - 10.30am

Ivanhoe Aquatic & Fitness Centre

Wednesday 10 December, 5pm - 6pm

Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub

Thursday 11 December, 9.30am - 10.30am

Shop 48 (The Harmony Centre, Heidelberg West)



Visit shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/TennisBanyule or scan the QR code.





Saturday 13 December 2025

Greensborough War Memorial Park

Henry Street, Greensborough

5pm: **Food trucks and
preshow entertainment**

7pm: **Carols showtime**



Eltham Wildcats Neurodiverse Friendly Basketball Clinic (5-10 year olds)

To help celebrate the International Day of People with Disability, the Eltham Wildcats are excited to be hosting a **FREE** clinic for **5-10 year olds** who are looking to participate in a neurodiverse supportive environment. Players who identify as neurodiverse, or as an interested neurotypical partner are invited to join us for a fun afternoon of basketball. Following the on-court session, we will also host an afternoon tea for the players.

Clinic Details

 **Cost:** FREE

 **Who:** 5-10 Years Olds (Neurodiverse and Neurotypical partners)

 **Date:** Sunday the 30th of November

 **Time:** 2:00pm-3:00pm on court 3:00pm-3:30pm afternoon tea.

 **Location:** Montmorency Secondary College: 27 Simms Road Montmorency. (Courts 1-3)

If you'd like to be part of this event, please click on the registration link below! 

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/ElthamWildcats/ElthamWildcatsNeurodiverseFriendlyBasketballClinic>



Christmas Tree SALE

Scout Hall, Community Drive Greensborough

Intersection of Community Drive, Mountain View and St Helena Roads GREENSBOROUGH

NOVEMBER

Saturday 29th November 8.30am to 5.00pm

Sunday 30th November 9.00am until sold out

DECEMBER

Saturday 6th December 8.30am to 5.00pm

Sunday 7th December 9.00am to 5.00pm

Saturday 13th December 8.30am to 5.00pm

Sunday 14th December 9.00am to 5.00pm
or sold out

LIMITED SUPPLY OF TREES (AVAILABLE)

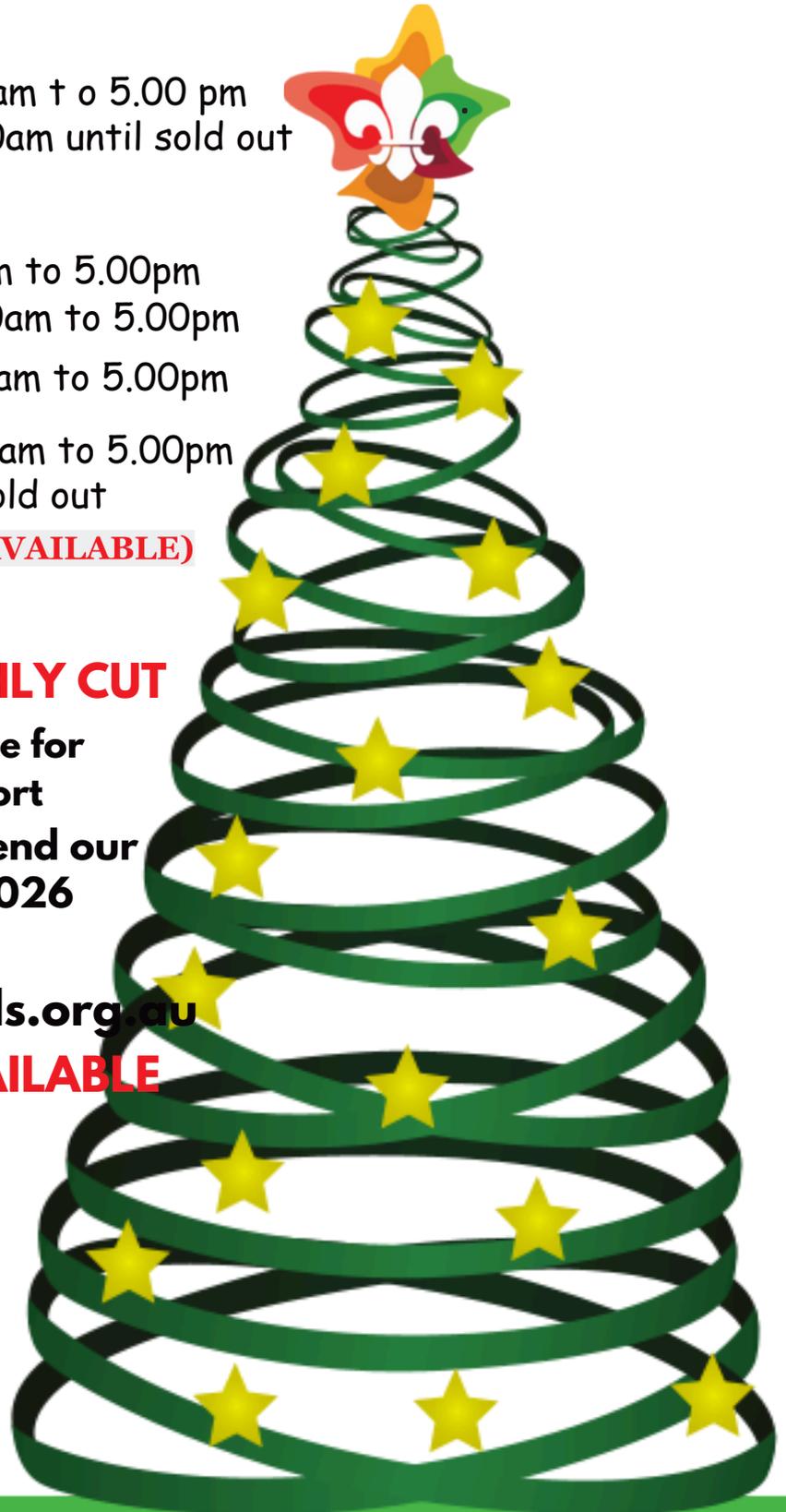
FRESHLY CUT

Come and select your own tree for Christmas 2025 and help support our fundraising efforts to send our Scouts to major events in 2026

Pre Order Online:

xmastrees@1stgreenhills.org.au

EFTPOS FACILITIES AVAILABLE



1st Greenhills Scout Group