

HEYWOOD & DISTRICT SECONDARY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023

PRINCIPALS REPORT

This term, as always is flying by. Last week our Year 11 and Year 10 students completed their English and Maths exams to finish off their work before starting Headstart this week. Year 7 – 9 students also completed their Assessment Week as they finalise their classroom learning for the year over the next couple of weeks.

This year we will be holding our presentation evening at school in the Community Complex. Families of students receiving an Award will receive a personal invitation, however we encourage all families to come along and celebrate our year. The night will run on Wednesday 6th December. More information will come out on our Social Media pages.

Week 10 students will take part in our activities week. There are a number of free at school activities along with a number of different fun activities being organised. Thursday, 7th December will be our Geelong Water Park day, please watch out for the information coming out shortly as we need students notes and payments back soon.

Bushfire Season

As we approach the bushfire season, I wanted to highlight the importance of proactive communication with your families, loved ones and neighbours regarding bushfire risks and the actions you will be undertaking. As a school our primary concern is the safety and well-being of students, staff, and the broader community, and effective communication plays a pivotal role in achieving this goal. As a school we are considered as a category 3 and need to put actions in place during the season including closing on catastrophic days.

School preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, to prepare for bushfires and grassfires, schools and early childhood services complete a range of activities.

The Department of Education runs an annual fire risk assessment of schools and early childhood services. They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 4) and are published on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR).

All schools and early childhood services listed on the BARR and Category 4 list will also close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district.

When the Bureau of Meteorology provides public fire danger rating forecasts or fire weather warnings, they use fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries. Our school is in the South West (Glenelg) fire weather district.

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 assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.



Kelly Webster
Principal

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HDSC IS A CHILD SAFE SCHOOL



What does this mean for our school?

Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a Category 3 school. Our school will close on a day forecasted as Catastrophic fire danger rating in South West (Glenelg) fire district.

What is the department's policy?

The department's [Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy](#) requires all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 list to 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.

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

Our school will close on a day forecasted as Catastrophic fire danger rating in South West (Glenelg) fire district. Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day. Any information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by email and social media.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, even if the weather forecast changes. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. 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.
- 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 action 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.

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 reading our newsletters, and social media.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is relocated, [undertaking learning from home and/or closed] due to elevated fire danger or closed due to a Catastrophic fire danger. 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 actioning 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, warnings 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

The CFA has a variety of resources and information that can also support you:

- [Plan and Prepare](#) – CFA Planning and preparation guide.
- [Your Guide to Survival](#) - this guide provides essential information aimed at anyone who lives, works or travels in Victoria so that they are prepared for the summer fire season.
- [Fire Ready Kit](#) - designed to help you plan for survival, beginning with the basics of preparing before the fire season, through to planning what to do if fire is in your area and you cannot leave.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Lots of great things happening at HDSC as we draw to a close for the year. Headstart is underway and students are excited to start their new subjects.

The school has many things to be proud of including the Standing Tall 10 year anniversary, the Wellbeing Team providing lots of fun at lunchtimes, and on Thursdays Homegroup breakfasts. The Hands on Learning Program has the Stephanie Alexander Garden and hydroponic greenhouse brimming with fresh produce that also supports the amazing catering from the school.

Last Friday we celebrated the 2023 Year 12 Formal with the school providing some of the catering. This was a great night shared by current and previous staff members, students, family and friends.

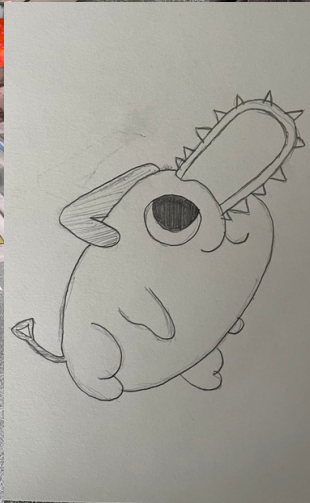
Recently I was fortunate to support the Level Up program driven by Zoe from Brophy. Zoe had organised for students to visit Ezmae's Café in Heywood to learn about how to set up for next days service, making rum balls, cakes, coffees, hot chocolates and egg and bacon rolls. This was a huge success and we can see some budding chefs in our horizon. A big thank you to Erin, Ash and Damien for opening their doors and supporting the school.



Christine Hart
Assistant Principal



YEAR 9/10 FOOD FOR LIFE & YEAR 8 DESIGN



HDSC IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TERM 4

Monday 20th November to Friday 24th -
Year 10/11 Headstart

Friday 24th November - Last Day for Year 11 students

Monday 27th November to 1st December -
Year 10 continue Headstart

Friday 1st December - Last Day for Year 10 students

Monday 4th December - Activities Week

Wednesday 6th December - Presentation Night

Thursday 7th December - Geelong Water Park Excursion
(Permission and Payment required)

Tuesday 12th December - Orientation Day



And that's a wrap for our Year 12's....



In the world of sports, this term has seen our students not only represent themselves but also proudly don the colours of our school in the Super 8's cricket competition. The enthusiasm and dedication displayed on the field were truly commendable.

Girls and Boys Year 9/10 Team Excitement

For many of our female athletes, this was their first foray into the world of cricket, and the experience was nothing short of exhilarating. The girls, with Marnie Mueller, Saige Bell, Maddison Bayley, and Kalae Sciascia, showcased outstanding teamwork, securing a well-deserved victory in one of their games. Laughter echoed through the field as they not only displayed their cricket skills but also exemplified the true meaning of pride and support for one another.

A special mention goes out to Lydia Sanderson, Leah Stephens, and Nikeata Wass, who, as Year 7 students, bravely stepped up to play alongside their Year 9/10 peers. Their courage and sportsmanship did not go unnoticed.

Impressive Year 7/8 Boys Team

In the Year 7/8 category, our boys' cricket team displayed remarkable prowess throughout the competition. Daniel Sanderson, Max Stephens, Cooper Pevitt, Indy Barclay, Tyrell Lovett, and Dainton Rose exhibited skill, determination, and sportsmanship from the very beginning. Winning their opening game against Portland Secondary was just the beginning of their journey. Finishing third in the pool stage only on countback and missing out on the top spot by 6 runs. the boys demonstrated resilience and a strong representation of our school.

We extend our gratitude to the Bayview College students who graciously stepped in to ensure our team had a full lineup, showcasing the spirit of good sportsmanship.



TENNIS



HDSC assembled 3 teams in Hamilton last Friday for the annual inter-school tennis competition.

Representing the junior boys team: Daniel Sanderson, Cohen Peatling, Robert Wass and Cooper Pevitt.

Representing the intermediate boys team: Jacob Sanderson, Ethan Smith, Harry Wass and Jayden Schack.

Representing the junior girls team: Lydia Sanderson, Zarabelle Stuchbery, Niketa Wass and Leah Stephens.

All of our students acquitted themselves well with some accomplished tennis skills on court and impeccable behaviour off court, which impressed both Miss Millard and myself.

Congratulations to all our players, in particular Cooper Pevitt who came runner up in the junior boys B grade singles event.

Mr. Pevett
Tennis Coach



STANDING TALL

On Wednesday, 15th November, Standing Tall had a full day training for new mentors. We had seven community members enquire further and on the day had four prospective volunteers complete the training. We'd like to thank all of you for your interest in the program and supporting our young people to live rich and fulfilling lives. Our new mentors will continue through the onboarding process and will be paired with students Term 1, 2024. We look forward to welcoming you into the program!

Photos below are from the 10 Year Standing Tall Celebration held on Tuesday 21st November.



The poster features several stylized hands in shades of orange and yellow, some holding hearts. The background is a solid orange color with a white border containing small red and orange dots. At the top, a blue banner contains the text "#SayNO2familyviolence" and contact information. Below the banner, the text "WALK AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE" is written in a curved, orange font. The main title "16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM" is in large, white, bold letters. Below the title, a paragraph of text describes the event. A white rounded rectangle contains the date "FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER" and the start time "10 AM START AT THE PLOUGHED FIELD". To the right of this box, it says "Walk to the Portland Library Deck for a free BBQ and guest speakers." At the bottom, a QR code is accompanied by the text "SCAN THE CODE TO REGISTER!".

#SayNO2familyviolence

24 Hour Help Lines: 1800 RESPECT or 1800 737 732 or 900
www.sayno2familyviolenceglenelg.vic.com

Privately supported by 

WALK AGAINST
GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

SayNO2familyviolence committee, together with Rotary and local business are staging an awareness walk to mark the 16 days of activism.

FRIDAY
24
NOVEMBER

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