



Melton South Primary School

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THURSDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2021

Melton South Primary School Mission:

Melton South Primary School is a progressive community who lead the way. Together we create motivated, respectful learners who achieve excellence.

This newsletter is available from our school website www.meltonsthps.vic.edu.au or the Melton South Primary School Skoolbag App.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday 8th February	Grade Prep—2 Assembly 2.45pm—3.10pm Uniform Shop 2.30pm—3.45pm
Tuesday 9th February	Uniform Shop 2.30pm—4.00pm
Wednesday 10th February	NO SCHOOL for Prep students Uniform Shop 2.30pm—3.45pm
Thursday 11th February	Uniform Shop 8.30am—9.00am
Monday 15th February	Grade 3-6 Assembly 2.45pm—3.10pm Uniform Shop 2.30pm—3.45pm
Tuesday 16th February	Prep Twilight Games (to be confirmed) Uniform Shop 2.30pm—4.00pm
Wednesday 17th February	MPSSA Swimming Uniform Shop 2.30pm—3.45pm
Thursday 18th February	Getting to know you interviews—more information to follow Uniform Shop 8.30am—9.00am
Friday 19th February	Parent/Carer Information session 9.10am in the gym Summer sports—round 1
Wednesday 17th February	NO SCHOOL for Prep students
Wednesday 24th February	NO SCHOOL for Prep students
Monday 1st March	Preps commence full time school
Monday 8th March	Labour Day PUBLIC HOLIDAY—No School
Thursday 1st April	Last day of Term 1—Early Dismissal 2.15pm
Monday 19th April	First day of Term 2



MESSAGE FROM
THE PRINCIPAL

STAFF, STUDENTS, PARENTS AND CARERS ALL HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS AT MELTON SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL.

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO BE SAFE

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO BE RESPECTED

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO LEARN

WELCOME: It is great to see our students back at school and a special welcome to all of our new families.

ROOMS: We had handover of four more classrooms last week and we have been informed we will be getting another four classrooms delivered. At this stage we do not have a date for siting of the new buildings.

RUGBY OVAL: We have finalised the leasing agreement between the Melton Council and DET for the use of a portion of the oval. It is anticipated that the fencing will be installed next week. We are looking forward to having the additional playing space for our students.

COVID: It is very important that parents/carers coming into the school grounds sign in using the QR codes which are located at every entrance. Just a reminder to all parents that they are not to enter classrooms as we need to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

PARKING: With our increased enrolments, currently at 1,180 students, parking is even more difficult. We ask parents to please take care and be patient at drop off and pick up times to ensure the safety of all students.

SCHOOL CROSSINGS: Students and parents are reminded to use the school crossings around the school. This is extremely important for the safety of all students with the increased number of enrolments.

MOBILE PHONES: School Council's policy on mobile phones states that students may bring their mobile phones to school if needed before and after school to communicate with family etc. If mobile phones are brought to school they must be signed in at the office on arrival and collected at the end of the school day. I am asking parents for your support in the enforcement of this policy.

PERSONAL PROPERTY: Personal property is often brought to school by staff, students and parents. DET does not hold insurance for personal property brought to school and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage.

SMOKING: Just a reminder that smoking is banned on school grounds and within 4 metres of any school entrance. We seek your co-operation in this matter.



Mrs Marilyn Costigan,
Principal

PICKING UP STUDENTS EARLY

Please refrain from picking students up prior to dismissal time unless it is an emergency.

We are running a staggered timetable for students breaks, which often makes it impossible to locate a child when they are out in the playground. If it is unavoidable and you do need to collect your child for an appointment etc. send a note to the child's class teacher so they are aware and can organise for your child to be waiting at the office for you.

Prep—2

Recess 11.00am—11.30am

Lunch 1.30pm— 2.15pm (eat at 1.15pm)

Year 3-6

Recess 10.00am—10.30am

Lunch 12.30pm—1.15pm (eat at 1.15pm)

2021 ESSENTIAL STUDENT LEARNING PACKS

If you have not already done so, please pay the school level charges as soon as possible. Bulk order supplies are arranged by the school in order to reduce costs to families. So that your child starts the year with all items, please ensure you pay the school level parent payment charges of \$110 (prep students) and \$100 (grade 1 to 6 students) to the office as soon as possible. These charges also cover school diaries, lanyard, access to computer programs for literacy and numeracy, bulk class room supplies and Art supplies.

Due to the impact of COVID-19 in 2020, we will be subsidising this fee by \$75.00. PLEASE NOTE that this subsidy is ONLY available this year.



SCHOOL UNIFORM: The Uniform Shop is only open on the days and times listed below.

You can still order school uniform by the SKOOLBAG APP, over the phone or by email to uniform@meltonsthps.vic.edu.au

Should you need to visit the Uniform Shop, opening time are;

- Monday 2.30pm to 3.45pm
- Wednesday 2.30pm to 3.45pm
- Thursday 8.30am to 9.00am



The Uniform shop will be open 2 extra days to help with the back log.

- Tuesday 9th February 2.00pm—4.00pm
- Tuesday 16th February 2.00pm—4.00pm

CANBERRA CAMP 2021—Grade 5 & 6 Students Monday 25th October—Friday 29th October 2021

As you may be aware, unfortunately the 2020 Canberra Camp was unable to go ahead due to Covid-19 restrictions, because of this we have rescheduled the camp to this year!

Notes will be sent home this week with expression of interest in the form of a \$150 deposit from families now to estimate potential numbers of students that will be attending this camp.

The cost of this camp will be determined by the number of students that will be attending.

We would like to finalise the numbers as soon as possible in order to calculate the exact cost of the camp.



From previous Canberra camps, we anticipate that the cost will be approximately \$650, subtracting the Government PACER rebate of \$30 per student, this will reduce the total cost to \$620. This cost is dependent on at least 100 students attending the camp and may change slightly according to the number of students attending.

To assist in paying for the camp, a payment plan will be available when numbers are finalised to those who wish to take advantage of this. CSEF can also be used to contribute to payments.

School Banking Program: The Victorian Government has decided to ban school banking programs in Victorian Government schools. The banking program has been offered to Australian schools since 1931 and we are sad that it will be ending in our school.

The Victorian Government has now ceased school banking programs in Victorian government schools. As a result, the CommBank School Banking program is no longer operate in our school. If you are unsure of other methods of depositing to your child's account, please feel free to contact the Bank's general enquiries hotline on 13 2221 or alternatively visit your local CommBank branch. We would like to thank you for your participation and support throughout the School Banking Program



HAVE YOU DOWNLOADED OUR SCHOOL APP?

We use our school App to communicate directly to parents and inform you of what is happening around our school.

If you have not downloaded our App, it is imperative you do so NOW.

Our newsletter will be published on the App every Thursday and we do not send home hard copies with students. There will be printed copies available from the office on Thursday afternoons.

Stay informed with the SkoolBag App



The SkoolBag app is the easiest way to stay up-to-date with school events, last minutes notices, newsletters and **all** school communications.

1

Download the app

Search for the free SkoolBag app in the Apple App or Google Play Store

2

Create an account

Sign up in seconds with your email address

3

Add your school

Search for your school and add your subscription groups



SkoolBag 

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the CSEF visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

If you applied for the CSEF at your child's school in 2020, you do not need to complete an application form in 2021 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools in 2021 or you did not apply in 2020.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2021.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

Melton South Primary School

3717

School Name

School REF ID

Parent/legal guardian details

Surname _____

First name _____

Address _____

Town/suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Contact number _____

Centrelink pensioner concession **OR** Health care card number (CRN)

- - - **OR**

Foster parent* **OR** Veterans affairs pensioner (Gold Card)**

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

**Applicants must provide a copy of the Veteran Affairs Gold card

Student details

Child's surname	Child's first name	Student ID	Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	Year level

I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

- DHS will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- this consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DHS and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
- if I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.
- Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and /or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant _____

Date ____ / ____ / ____

CSEF ELIGIBILITY

Below is the criteria used to determine a student's eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 – Eligibility

To be eligible* for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one, or;
 - on the first day of Term two.
- a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
- b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
- c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see:

www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and 17 years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and 18 years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

Eligibility Date

For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (27th January 2021) or term two (19th April 2021).

PAYMENT AMOUNTS

CSEF payment amount

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

- Primary school student rate: \$125 per year.
- Secondary school student rate: \$225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child's school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student's date of birth. For more information, see:

www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx

Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents so please register your interest at the school.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

NOTE: ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

1. Complete the PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN DETAILS section.

Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.

If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.

2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.

3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible. The CSEF program for 2021 closes on 25th June 2021.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.