



*A Rich Past,
Present & Future*

NEWSLETTER

Friday 6th February, 2026

Term 1: Week 2



DIARY DATES

2026

Tuesday 10th February

Meet the Teacher

Wednesday 11th Feb

Prep Testing

JSC Speeches

Monday 16th February

School Council 7pm

Tuesday 17th February

School Picnic 5pm

Wednesday 18th Feb

Prep Testing

Thursday 19th February

School Bushfire Drill

Tuesday 24th February

District Swimming

Wednesday 4th March

Parent Helper Session 9am

Monday 9th March

Labor Day

Tuesday 10th March

Curriculum Day—Pupil free

Monday 23rd March

School Council 7pm

Thursday 2nd April

Last day of Term 1, 2.30pm

Monday 20th April

First day of Term 2

Wednesday 29th April

School photos 9am

Principal's Report

What an amazing start to 2026 we have had at PHPS!

It has been amazing to see all of our students, staff and families back at our school. Well done to all of our students for the way they have started the year living our school values of Courage, Kindness, Co-operation, Honesty and Respect. A very special mention to our 2026 Prep students who have impressed us with the way they have commenced primary school.

Thank you to our staff for all of the work they have done preparing for the successful start of the school year and supporting our students in starting the year so positively. And thank you to our families for the ongoing support you provide working in partnership with our school in the education of your children.

You will be aware of our many plumbing works that have been taking place during the first 2 weeks of the year. These works to repair some leaks in our aging pipes are progressing well and should be completed very shortly. Our school community has done a sensational job dealing with the interruptions these repairs have made to our school. A new ring main is currently being planned by the Victorian School Building Authority and our aging ring main and fire pump are planned to be replaced with a brand new system during this year.

We are all looking forward to an amazing year of learning at PHPS!

NEW PHPS STAFF

This year we welcome Chiara Di Natale as an additional Education Support (ES) staff member. Ms Di Natale will be supporting students across the school on Tuesday, Wednesdays and Fridays, working closely with our other ES staff, Kirsten Renouf and Bethany Anderson. Our ES Team do an amazing job supporting our students and teachers!

We also welcome Samantha Fitzgerald to PHPS as our Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader. Samantha has written an introduction for our community on the following page.

Our school has also appointed Joanne Gibbs, an experienced Primary School teacher, to teach 1/2T two days each week this year. Joanne will be sharing teaching responsibilities of this grade with Merron Thompson and we are working with her current school to organise her transfer as soon as possible. We look forward to welcoming Joanne to PHPS in the coming weeks!



Chiara Di Natale

585 Main Rd. Panton Hill – Ph: 9719 7202

www.pantonhill.vic.edu.au

GREETINGS FROM SAMANTHA....

Hi, I'm Samantha Fitzgerald and I'm the Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader at Panton Hill Primary School. I have worked in the Primary School environment for nearly 20 years as a classroom teacher, specialist teacher and in a variety of wellbeing roles. I enjoy working alongside students and colleagues to create a happy learning environment for everyone.

My role focusses on supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our students and helping to build a positive, inclusive school culture where every student feels safe, supported and connected. I work closely with students, teachers and leadership to promote a whole-school approach to health and wellbeing, making sure student wellbeing is part of everyday school life.



This includes supporting students to develop social and emotional skills, resilience and positive relationships, as well as contributing to wellbeing programs and initiatives across the school. I also work with staff and external supports where appropriate to help ensure students receive the care and support they need.

I'm looking forward to working with our school community and supporting our students' wellbeing throughout the year.

Samantha Fitzgerald

MEET THE TEACHER APPOINTMENTS

At the start of each year, PHPS hold our annual Meet the Teacher appointments. These meetings provide an opportunity for families to meet their child's teacher for 2026 and discuss any relevant information to support their learning. We value these meetings as a way of ensuring a strong partnership between our school and our families, enabling us to continue to meet the needs of all of our students.

Meet the Teacher appointments are being held on Tuesday 10 February after school. Families are encouraged to book a time with their child(ren)'s teacher(s) via Xuno. Please contact the school office if you require any support with this.

SCHOOL PICNIC—SAVE THE DATE!

PHPS is very excited to be holding our annual School Picnic on **Tuesday 17 February**. Our school community is invited to attend this picnic, held on the grassed area at the back of the school. You are welcome to bring a rug or chairs and some food as we meet as a school community.

We will also be holding some fun racing events for our students and families during the picnic so bring your runners. The picnic will **start at 5pm and conclude by 7pm** to support our students getting home and ready for bed on a school night.

YARD SUPERVISION BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

Our school is committed to ensuring the safety of all students during the school day. Our yard is supervised by school staff from **8:45am** every morning. We have noticed some students arriving at school very early and we remind families that students are not supervised before this time. Our school yard is also supervised from the conclusion of the school day at 3:20pm until **3:35pm** each afternoon. Their Care run our school's before and after school care service for families who require this.

CURRICULUM DAY TUESDAY 10 MARCH

Our school will be joining a number of other schools in our network for a Curriculum Day on **Tuesday 10 March**. This day will be a student free day at PHPS and Their Care will be operating for families who require this service. This day supports our staff in continuing to strengthen their teaching practice by participating in a number of professional learning activities with their colleagues.

ANNUAL PRIVACY REMINDER FOR OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' privacy policy](#) and the [Schools' privacy collection notice](#).

Our [Photographing, Filming and Recording Students policy](#), describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use digital technologies safely at the school, as identified in our [Acceptable Use Agreement](#), and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using digital technologies, please contact the school.

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' privacy policy: information for parents](#). This information is also available in eleven community languages.

Statement of Commitment PHPS is committed to Child Safety. We want children to be safe, happy and empowered. We support and respect children, as well as staff and volunteers.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Council will be meeting on **Monday 16th February at 7pm**, which will be the final meeting of the 2025 council. Next week we will call for nominations for staff and parent representatives on our **2026 School Council**. The 2026 School Council will meet for the first time on **Monday the 23rd March**. More information about the 2026 School Council nominations will be shared on Xuno next week.

SHELTER IN PLACE DRILL—BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS

As part of our school's emergency management plan, we have a Shelter in Place drill scheduled for Thursday 19 February. We regularly conduct drills to ensure that our staff and students are aware of what to do if these emergency procedures were ever required to be enacted.

Our Shelter in Place drill practices what our school would do in the situation where a bushfire was threatening the safety of everyone onsite. Our school has a Shelter in Place building (the Prep building) that is designed for this purpose. We also have a very strong relationship with our local CFA brigade.

As identified in our school's [Bushfire Preparedness information](#), our school will close on a day forecast as Catastrophic fire danger rating in the central fire district. Any potential or confirmed school closure due to fire danger ratings will be communicated to the school community.

CSEF (Camps, sports & excursions funding)

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.

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

From the 1st January, 2026 the annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$400 for Primary and Secondary school students

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form.

If you applied for CSEF last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year 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 this year.
- **changed family circumstances**; such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you require any financial support throughout the year.

IMPORTANT FORMS

Just a reminder that we have some important documents which require parent/guardian permission. These forms are all on Xuno. Thanks to those families who have already completed them.

- Local excursions—eg: Bunjil Reserve, Library Bus, Hall etc.
- Head lice forms
- Permission to administer Stingos
- Photo permission

Statement of Commitment PHPS is committed to Child Safety. We want children to be safe, happy and empowered. We support and respect children, as well as staff and volunteers.



FAMILY DETAILS

We will be emailing out a copy to parents/guardians of the Student Enrolment Information Form for each student. This document contains all of the contact details and important information we require for our students and it is important that each year it has been thoroughly checked and updated if necessary.

One of the important parts of this document is the emergency contact list. This is a list of people, other than the primary/ alternate family (already listed on the form) who you would like the school to contact should there be a situation where there is an emergency and we cannot get in contact with either of the primary/alternate adults.

We will always attempt to contact the primary/alternate adults first in an emergency before calling the emergency contacts. Please note that these emergency contacts are the only people who are authorised (other than parents) to pick up students from school. If you have alternate arrangements for pick up it is important that you please contact us and notify us of who will be picking your child/ren up.

If there are any alterations required to your form please let us know by either calling us at the office, amending them in Xuno or emailing us on panton.hill.ps@education.vic.gov.au and we will make the amendments.

MEDICAL ACTION PLANS

If your child has a current medical diagnosis, please ensure we have current information including a Medical Action plan and that in date medication has been provided/updated.

All Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Allergy and other medical action plans need to be in date and completed by a General Practitioner or Paediatrician.

If you child has a Asthma Action Plan, in date asthma medication needs to be provided to the office or classroom teacher. Students with an Anaphylaxis diagnosis, need to provided an in date EpiPen to their classroom teacher. Having accurate information and medication available helps us care for your child safely while they are at school. If you have already provided this, thank you very much. Please see Leanne in the office if you are unsure if your child's plan or medication is current.

If you child has sensitivity to band aids, please provide the office suitable band aids for future use if needed. All other medication to be administered will require a Medical Authority form to be completed which can be provided from the office.

ART SMOCKS

A special request from Mrs Howard in the art room. If you haven't already supplied an art smock—or if the existing one is too small, could you please send one along for those delightfully messy art lessons!

There is no need for a commercial art smock, an old shirt with the sleeves rolled up or cut to size are absolutely fine.

TISSUES PLEASE

We would greatly appreciate any boxes of tissues that could be donated. Please pass on a box or two to your child's grade if possible.

SCHOLASTIC BOOKCLUB ORDERS

Once a term we will send home a Scholastic Book Club order form. All books need to be ordered and paid for online. The books will be received 1 week after the close of ordering date, and delivered to some very excited children at school.

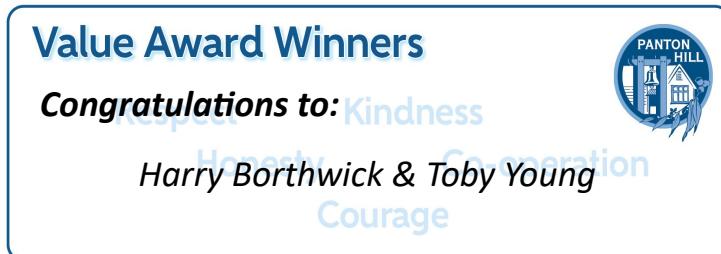
ZOOPER DOOPER DRIVE

What a perfect day for our first Zooper Dooper Drive for 2026!

Congratulations to everyone for raising \$137.00



Well done also to Mr Hurst and the senior students who ran a well oiled operation when preparing and selling the Zooper Dooper's at lunch time on the day.



Statement of Commitment PHPS is committed to Child Safety. We want children to be safe, happy and empowered. We support and respect children, as well as staff and volunteers.



**Would you like to help with learning activities
or events in our school?**

**You are invited to attend our Term 1
Helpers Training Session.**

PANTON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

HELPERS TRAINING



Find out how you
can volunteer at
PHPS

Get your questions
answered

WEDNESDAY 4TH MARCH 2026

9:00AM – 10:00AM

SIGN IN AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE

**Use the QR Code to register
your attendance**



 **Book Club LOOP**
for Parents

Hang
me up in your
classroom!

Healthy reading habits are forged through Book Club.
Parents can order books easily through the
Scholastic **LOOP** platform.

1 Log in, or create a new account at scholastic.com.au/LOOP

2 New parents can follow the Wizard to set up a child's profile

3 Click the ORDER tab, and select the child's school and Issue of Book Club

4 Select your child's name

5 Enter the product item number from the Book Club catalogue

6 Apply promotional codes that children may have earned from previous issues

7 Make a payment via credit card

8 Feel great about the Scholastic Rewards that have been earned for the school



ORDER TODAY
scholastic.com.au/LOOP







WHITTLESEA
MUSIC
SCHOOL
EST. 2006



HOW TO ENROL

Go to our website:
www.whittleseamusic.com/enrolment/

Complete the online enrolment form, ensuring you choose the correct campus, preferred lesson duration and preference of instrument.

We will then be in touch between 12-5 Monday to Friday with enrolment confirmation and to chat about your child/children's needs.



www.whittleseamusic.com
Contact on 0439 913 302



TERM 1 2026

FITNESS
IN *Panton Hill*

FUN • RELAXED • LOCAL • SOCIAL

TERM 1 CLASSES START MON 2 FEB

MON	7PM	Pilates
TUE	6.30PM	Very Social Boxing
THU	7PM	Pilates Plus

Your fave class not here? Tell me and I'll get it happening!



FOOD CHATS
STARTS 11th FEBRUARY
8 X 1 hr online. Join 1 or join all

INTERESTED?
LEARN MORE



PANTON HILL
COMMUNITY HALL
580 Kangaroo Ground-St Andrews Rd



BOOKINGS
& INFO

hforhealth.com.au/pantonhill



Statement of Commitment PHPS is committed to Child Safety. We want children to be safe, happy and empowered. We support and respect children, as well as staff and volunteers.



POP UP BLAST CRICKET

Come and try Cricket, kids aged 5-10. There will be 4 more weeks at the Panton Hill oval (AE Cracknell reserve) This is a great introduction to cricket ideal for learning foundational cricket skills.

WHEN: Sunday 9am for approx. an hour. Dates: 1st Feb 8th Feb 15th Feb and the 22nd of Feb.

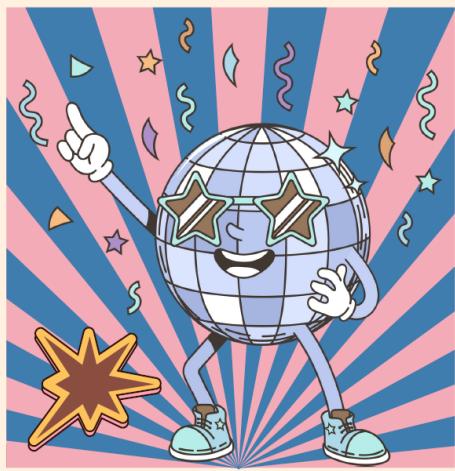
Register: <https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/register/c62040>

\$35 and you will receive a participant pack containing a Shoulder bag, hat and W/BBL team ball.

Enquiries: pantonhillcc.secretary@gmail.com



DIAMOND CREEK BLUE LIGHT DISCO



13 FEB 7-9.30PM

8-13 YEAR OLDS | \$8 ENTRY

NO EFTPOS AVAILABLE

Diamond Creek Community Centre
28 Main Hurstbridge Road, Diamond Creek
Contact: Diamond Creek Police 9438 8300



PROUDLY RUN BY LOCAL
POLICE & VOLUNTEERS

DIAMONDCREEKBLUELIGHTDISCO
 Diamond Creek Blue Light Disco




**BOYS & GIRLS
BORN BETWEEN
1/7/2018 - 30/6/2020**

HURSTBRIDGE HURRICANES

WE NEED YOU!

LIMITED SPOTS LEFT FOR AUTUMN SEASON 2026.

COME JOIN OUR COMMUNITY AT THE HURRICANES AND ENJOY ALL THE BENEFITS OF TEAM BASED SPORTS

www.hurstbridgehurricanes.com info@hurstbridgehurricanes.com