



THOMAS MITCHELL WEEKLY

Web Site: <http://www.tmps.vic.edu.au/>

THOMAS MITCHELL DRIVE, ENDEAVOUR HILLS.

PH. 9706 2254

February 8th 2024



Issue No. 1

Friday	9/2	Year 5 & 6 Assembly – 2.40pm in Gym
Tuesday	13/2	Getting to Know You Interviews – 11.00am to 6.00pm (Students are only expected at school to attend interviews)
Friday	16/2	Last Day for Bookclub Issue 1 orders Year 3 & 4 Assembly – 2.40pm in Gym
Friday	23/2	Endeavour Hills District Swimming Carnival, Noble Park Aquatic Centre Year Prep – 2 Assembly – 2.40pm in Gym
Friday	8/3	Year 5 & 6 Assembly – 2.40pm in Gym
Tuesday	12/3	Casey North Divisional Swimming Carnival
Friday	15/3	School Photo Day Year 3 & 4 Assembly – 2.40pm in Gym
Friday	22/3	Year Prep – 2 Assembly – 2.40pm in Gym
Tuesday	26/3	TMPS Annual Cross Country
Thursday	28/3	Last Day of Term 1 - School finishes at 2.30pm Whole School Assembly
Monday	15/4	First Day of Term 2 - School commences at 9.00am

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Welcome back to all our families and a special welcome to our new families who have joined the Thomas Mitchell community. Our prep students commenced on Monday of this week and settled very well into the classroom. Welcome also to our new teachers:

Mr Adam Greene	Year 4	Miss Tiffany Truong	Year 3
Ms Mia Wrightson	Year 6	Miss Ashlee Smith	PE/Science
Miss April Fang	Mandarin/Extension Maths		

Today we farewelled one of our school nurses, Liz Martin. Liz joined us in June 2023 for two days each week and has supported our staff, students and parents with their health needs and enquiries over this time. Liz is moving to a full time position in a non school location, and we wish her well in her new and exciting venture.

BUILDING WORKS

Over the holidays we had a number of works completed around the school. Bifold doors between classrooms in the main building were replaced with plastered walls. All the interior walls throughout the main building were painted, including the library (in bright colours). The roof of the main building was resprayed. The Early Learning Centre (ELC), exterior of the building was painted. New windows were placed in the teacher's planning room at the end of the ELC. The Community Building had the flooring replaced, new storage shelving installed (for playgroup and Science) and the interior was painted. Blinds for classroom windows were replaced or installed where required.

It has been a very busy break, but the school is looking much better for it.

PLAYGROUNDS

We currently have workmen removing the mulch underneath the junior playground. This will be replaced with bright rubber that is anti-slip and has shock absorbing properties. When the junior playground is completed, they will replace the soft fall under the senior playground.

Once the playgrounds are completed, work will commence on our new junior soccer pitch. This will be built between the junior playground and the back fence line, giving more students the opportunity to play soccer.

UNIFORMS

Just a reminder that all students are to wear the correct uniform to school. Pants (including leggings), shorts, skirts and skorts must be navy blue. Students are to wear the school jumper/jacket only. In cold weather, students are allowed to wear a coat (regardless of colour).

COMPASS

Have you downloaded the COMPASS app onto your phone? All communication and notices will be sent to families via the app. If you need assistance with this, please come into the school and we will assist you.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU INTERVIEWS

We are holding Getting to Know You Interviews on Tuesday 13th February. These will commence at 11am and will run until 6pm. Bookings can be made via the COMPASS app. The normal school program will not run on this day and students should attend the interviews with their parents. This is an opportunity for you to share your knowledge about your child with their classroom teacher.

NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters will be sent home in this format once per term. The school will keep parents and guardians informed of what is happening within the school through the COMPASS app.

Kathie Arnold
Principal

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSION FUND (CSEF)

The Department of Education has advised us that the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) will be accessible again in 2024 for eligible families. The fund will assist these families to cover the cost of school excursions, camps and sporting activities to ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important educational and fun activities.

If you hold a valid, means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for \$150 per student attending primary school. Cards must be valid on first day of Term 1, 29 January 2024 or first day of Term 2, 15 April 2024. An application form is attached to this newsletter. Spare forms are available at the office. If you have not yet applied for this fund, please ensure you do so by the end of February.

FOR PREP 2024 FAMILIES: Later this term, if your application for CSEF has been approved, we will write to you about your eligibility for a 'free' Prep uniform package. This package usually includes shoes, and a complete uniform for your child. Details of the package are yet to be confirmed.

2024 TERM DATES

Period	Start	Finish
Term 1	Monday 29 January 2024 (Student Free Day) Students commence Tuesday 30 January 2024	Thursday 28 March 2024
Term 2	Monday 15 April 2024	Friday 28 June 2024
Term 3	Monday 15 July 2024	Friday 20 September 2024
Term 4	Monday 7 October 2024	Friday 20 December 2024

2024 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

11 Mar	Mon	Labour Day
29 Mar	Fri	Good Friday
30 Mar	Sat	Day following Good Friday
31 Mar	Sun	Easter Sunday
1 Apr	Mon	Easter Monday
25 Apr	Thurs	Anzac Day
10 Jun	Mon	King's Birthday
5 Nov	Tue	Melbourne Cup Day *

GETTING TO KNOW YOU INTERVIEWS – STUDENTS ONLY ATTEND SCHOOL FOR THEIR INTERVIEW TIME

We will be hosting 'Getting to Know you Interviews' at school on Tuesday 13th February. The only exception to this is class 2S, which will be spread over 2 days. This interview will be an opportunity for parents and teachers to exchange information on how best to support your child in their learning.

The interviews will run from 11:00am until 6:00pm with each one lasting for 10 minutes. Bookings can be made through Compass. When attending an interview, parents do not need to sign in at the Office and can proceed directly to the classroom.

At this early stage of the year, Specialists will not be available for bookings. Any matter concerning a Specialist teacher could be raised with your child's classroom teacher or alternatively you might contact the school via email or phone.

For support on how to make a booking through Compass, please see the attached documents. If you are still experiencing difficulties, please contact the Office on 9706 2254.

Classes will not be running on this day. Students are expected however to attend their scheduled interview with their parent/s. Camp Australia will be running a full day program for any families requiring additional supervision.

NOTICES SENT TO FAMILIES VIA COMPASS

- Getting to Know You Interviews
- Gleneagles Secondary College Open Night
- 2024 School Classrooms/Map
- Camps, Sports and Excursion (CSEF) Information
- COVID 19 Reminder for 2024
- Year 5 Camp Information Slides and deposit request
- School Sport Victoria State Team Trials



PLAYGROUP

The school will be running a Playgroup for 0-5 year olds each Tuesday morning from 9.15am – 10.30am during the school term in the Community Facility. We ask for a gold coin donation to participate and for parents to please bring a nut free snack and drink bottle for their child/ren.

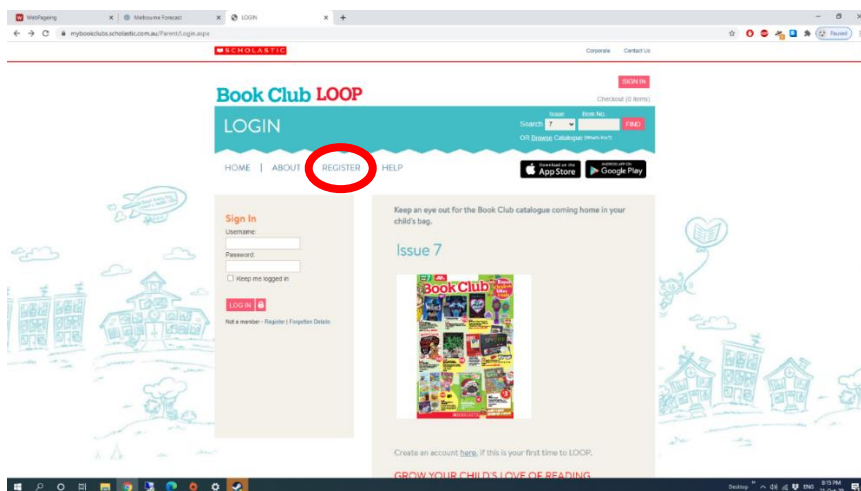


It is a great opportunity for local families and parents of children attending our school and for your young children to meet other children who may be joining the school in the future. Please feel free to bring a friend along, or if you know someone with younger children who would like to join this group, please let them know. Fun activities include: playdough, painting, pasting, stories, music, singing and games.

BOOK CLUB Issue 1, 2024 - closes Friday 16th February

Brochures for Issue 1 are being distributed this week. Orders can only be placed using a credit card through the parent portal LOOP [scholastic.com.au/LOOP](https://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP)

If you have not used LOOP before, it is a simple process to join, select your items and pay for your order using a credit card. Click on the **REGISTER** button and fill out your details.



When you order and pay using LOOP, there is no need to fill in the brochure or return anything to school. Your order will be automatically linked to Thomas Mitchell P.S. Items ordered will be sent directly to the school (no postage fee) and distributed to students.

Orders close Friday 16th February.

Josie Morando
Librarian



AUSTRALIAN GIRLS CHOIR



Is this your daughter?

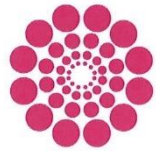
Look no further than the Australian Girls Choir because we encourage, challenge and inspire girls as they learn to sing, dance and perform.

Join us at our
FEBRUARY OPEN DAY



AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS





AUSTRALIAN GIRLS CHOIR



An experience that goes far beyond the stage!

Girls blossom as members of the AGC, both on and off the stage. Your daughter will develop confidence, public speaking and presentation skills, resilience and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Our senior performers have shared the stage with a long list of artists including Hugh Jackman, Amy Shark and Kylie Minogue. You may have seen our girls perform for the FIFA Women's World Cup or AFL Grand Final; or on television appearances on Sunrise, Today, Carols by Candlelight and Carols in the Domain.

Now accepting 2024 enrolments for our rehearsal venues in Berwick, Box Hill, Caulfield North, Essendon, Glen Waverley, Greensborough, Heidelberg, Ivanhoe, Kew, Mentone, Ringwood and Yarraville.



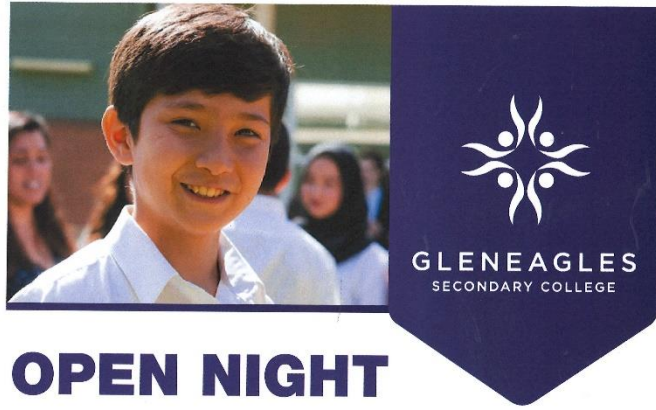
JOIN US AT OUR FEBRUARY OPEN DAY

Register now at ausgirlschoir.com.au/joinagc or phone 03 9859 6499



AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS





OPEN NIGHT

THURSDAY 7 MARCH • 6-7.30pm



A modern learning environment where all students are supported to achieve their very best. We offer a broad range of pathways and a thriving extra-curricular program focusing on: sport, visual arts, performing arts, student leadership and academic extension.

Enquire within for all enrolments
gleneagles.sc@education.vic.gov.au
 Tel: 03 9708 1319



GET TERM 1 READY – CAMP AUSTRALIA OSHC

This booklet was distributed to prep students today. There are spare copies at the office also for other families who would like one.

Pupil Free Day



Date: 13-Feb-2024



Time: 06:45 to 18:30

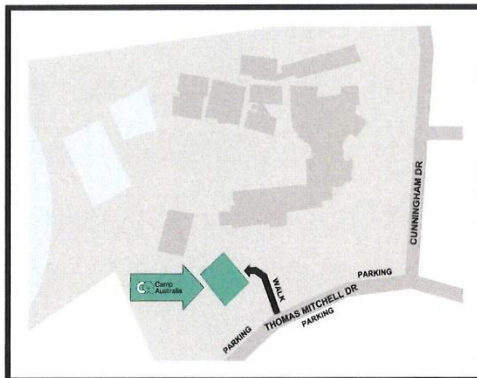


Location: The Before and After School Care Room at Thomas Mitchell Primary School



Fees: \$57.24

\$5.72 after max. CCS*



*Child Care Subsidy (CCS)

The Child Care Subsidy can provide up to 85% off your fees. Your eligibility is determined by your family's annual adjusted taxable income, the type of childcare you use, and your activity level. To find out if you're eligible, contact Centrelink on 13 61 50.

Your OSHC.

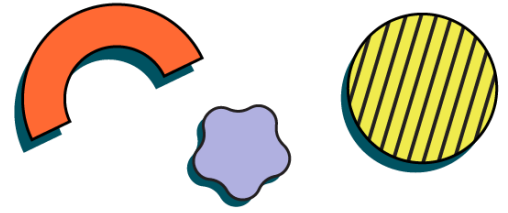
Tailored before and after school experiences that children love.

To book, visit www.campaustralia.com.au

by  Camp Australia

Meet the team

at Thomas Mitchell Camp Australia



Siumi Kalutara

COORDINATOR

Dear parents

I am Siumi Kalutara and am excited to be your Before & After School Care Coordinator here at Thomas Mitchell PS – OSHC.

I have been a Camp Australia Employee for 14 years and have been a OSHC & Vacation Care Coordinator for about 13 years.

I have worked at Mossgiel Park PS, Seaford North PS, Black Rock PS and many other services over the years.

I love cooking, music, play violin and travelling. I look forward to meeting you all.



Kaitlin Koreny

EDUCATOR

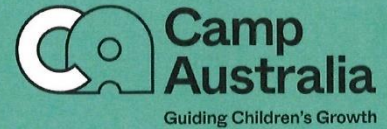
Dear Parents

I am Kaitlin and I have been an educator at Thomas Mitchell OSHC for last 4 years. It has been a great experience and I enjoy working with children.

I love crochet and shopping for yarn. Love going to musicals with my mum and my sister as well. I love sharks, cats and lamas.

Outside School Hours Care

Newsletter



05/02/2024

Thomas Mitchell Primary School - OSHC

Your
OSHC.



A message from your Coordinator

Dear families

Welcome to 2024, I hope everyone had an amazing holiday break and excited for the new year.

We have loads of exciting experiences coming up, our Big Art Competition, and Art Fridays, we will celebrate Valentines Day and Chinese New Year, this is just to name a few.

We look forward to seeing you all, please don't forget to check your bookings and we always welcome new faces so please feel free to come and chat with the team if you have any questions.

We have a few reminders as we kick off the year,

Please ensure to update your child's medical management plans, these can be uploaded to your parent portal.

All teachers are aware of who is coming to care in the afternoons, if there is a last-minute booking if you can let the school know so to ensure your child is informed as well.

Prep Children are dropped off to their classes and will be picked-up by a CA staff in the afternoon.

Thank you
Siumi Kalutara
OSHC Coordinator

Activities coming up

- Lizard Art
- Monster Masks
- Scratch art hearts
- Paper towel coloring

Make a booking

Join in the fun of Outside School Hours Care activities and experiences with Your OSHC and Rocketeers.

[Book now](#)

Register free and book in 24/7 via our app

To attend our program, you must register your child. You can register an account with us at pp.campaustralia.com.au or by downloading our Camp Australia smartphone app from the Apple App Store or on Google Play. Once registered, it's easy to make bookings and manage your account.



Find out more and book now at www.campaustralia.com.au

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund APPLICATION Form

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 Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH).

**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 Victorian Department of Education (DE) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry about my Centrelink customer details and concession card status to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) to provide the results of any enquiry to DE regarding temporary care orders.

I understand that:

- DFFH or Centrelink will use information I have provided to DE to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DE 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 DFFH and provide it to my child's school 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 DE.
- Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to DFFH and/or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You can 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 ____ / ____ / ____

Camps, Sports and Excursions fund eligibility

Below are 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 mature minor of sixteen years of age or over, 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: [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Eligibility | education.vic.gov.au](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund/csef-eligibility)

Mature minors or 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 seventeen 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 eighteen years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooling, 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 **29 January 2024 and/or 15 April 2024**.

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: \$150.00 per year.
- Secondary school student rate: \$250.00 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly the 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: [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Payment amounts | education.vic.gov.au](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund/csef-payment-amounts)

Foundation and Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. 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 2024 closes at the end of term two 2024.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

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