

EHS Reminders

Free Dental Care and Free mouthguards at healthAbility

Young people are eligible for free dental care through the Smile Squad Program, a Victorian State Government initiative providing no-cost dental services to all government primary and secondary school students.

To book an appointment call 9430 9100

Please refer to the flyer in the community section of this Newsletter for additional Information.

New School Crossing Withers Way/Susan Street

You will remember from the last edition of this newsletter, that over the team break a great deal of work took place to develop the new pedestrian crossing at the Withers Way/Susan Street "T" intersection.

The new crossing is a welcomed change for the safety of our students who are using the crossing well and as intended. However, it is important for all of us to realise that with the new development there have been changes to the traffic condition and traffic flow in this area.

I ask that you all familiarise yourselves with these and take note of any new signage in the area indicating traffic direction and flow. In particular take note of any "STOP" and "Give Way" signs and follow through with the expected road rules around pedestrian crossings. Getting this right is the last step in ensuring that our young people remain safe when crossing this highly travelled path.

Parking in School Quadrangle

Whilst parking in empty parking bays in the front quadrangle of the school is quite acceptable if you are visiting the school during the day, I would like to draw to your attention that close to the exit of the driveway there are 4 parking spots designated for use by the Wildcats Basketball Club staff. Some of their staff come and go at various times throughout the day and are entitled to park in their designated spots. As such can I ask you to ensure that you do not park in these allocated bays. If there are no other parking bays free, please drive out of the quadrangle and park elsewhere. I remind you that during the day between 10:00am and 2:00 pm you can park along the curb opposite the front entrance to the school

I thank you for your support with this.

Staff Work Hours

Parents/carers and students are reminded that regular work hours for staff are 8:30am - 4:30pm. Staff are not available to respond to emails outside of regular work hours.

You are at liberty to send an e-mail at your convenience, but please be aware that it will not be responded to immediately if it is outside of the regular work hours. However, your email will be responded to within 48 hours from the first workday that it is received.

Thank you for your understanding.

Should you require immediate assistance with a matter of concern, please contact these external services:

Telephone or Webchat Support for Young People:

1800 55 1800

<https://kids helpline.com.au/>

Parents/Carers Support:

13 22 89

<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/serviceprofiles/parentline-service>

School Drop Off and Pick Up Times

I remind all parents and guardians, and inform new parents and carers to the school, that student safety is always the primary consideration including both drop off time and pick up times.

Whilst traffic seems to flow smoothly through the circular driveway of the school at the start of the day, there seems to be greater congestion at pick up time in the afternoon.

The circular driveway is to be used purely for drop off and pick up.

There is very little parking available within the school grounds between the following time (8:00 – 10:00am and 2:00 – 4:00pm). “*No Standing Anytime*” signs are located within the school, and it is important that parents/guardians adhere to these. Furthermore, double parking is illegal in the street and within the school grounds, it causes further congestion, which in turn impinges on student safety.

We will be enforcing the use of the circular driveway purely for drop off and pick up of students.

As you move into the circular driveway, if your child is not at the front of the school you will need to exit the driveway and re-enter. You may need to do this more than once. Alternatively, it is advisable that you organise with your child another location for pick up.

As always, we will continue to expect everyone to abide by road and safety laws and procedures as they move through the driveway. The same applies at the Ely Street end of the school. Staff parking on the street is now minimal and this means that there is space for drop off and pick up. Please do not park in residents’ driveways. No parents are to drive into the school driveway or park in it or across it. This is the only avenue that students have to get to and from the school buses and we must be vigilant for their safety.

Subsequently, it is imperative that everyone behaves in a lawful and safe way out in Withers Way, Susan Street, Bell Street and Ely Street. We have informed the traffic division of the Shire of Nillumbik of the school’s strategy, and it is possible that the Ranger’s office may act against people who disregard road and safety laws out in the streets. Likewise, the police will patrol the area at these peak times, and they will not hesitate to reprimand and fine if necessary.

I trust that you will understand the need for this direction, and I ask you for your continued support to ensure the safety of our kids.

If you do use the drop off and pick up zone on Withers Way, can you please direct your children to cross the road at the school crossing both on arrival and on their departure from school. We certainly do not want students crossing the road in front of oncoming cars and placing themselves at risk.

Thank you for your support with this matter.