

EHS Reminders

Parent Social Media Age Restriction Webinars:

You will be aware that starting 10 December 2025, new regulations will prohibit certain social media platforms from allowing Australian children under the age of 16 to create or maintain accounts. These changes mark a significant shift in online safety standards, aiming to better protect young users from potential risks associated with digital platforms.

Information on how to access upcoming webinars including eSafety Commissioner sessions is available in the Wellbeing section of this newsletter.

I strongly encourage all parents/guardians/carers to engage with the webinars and become better informed of the new regulations.

Free Public Transport for People Aged Under 18:

From 1 January 2026, people aged under 18 can travel free on all Victorian public transport services using a new youth myki card. This includes trams, trains, buses and coach services.

To access free travel, they must tap the myki card on and off each time they travel. For areas that do not use myki cards, they must show their myki card to travel free.

More information about the youth myki card will be available later in Term 4, 2025 – refer to the myki types webpage on the Transport Victoria website. [myki types - Transport Victoria](#)

For more information about other travel options to school, and support for eligible students, refer to the Travelling to school webpage on the Victorian Government website.

[Travelling to school | vic.gov.au](#)

Update on Suspension and Expulsion Powers:

Our school is committed to providing a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for all students and staff. You may be aware of recent changes announced to suspension and expulsion powers that will be available to Victorian principals from day one of Term 3, (Monday 21 July 2025).

We know that students' behaviour outside of school, particularly online, can sometimes impact the safety of students and staff at school.

In exceptional circumstances, principals of Victorian government schools will be able suspend or expel students for behaviour that occurs outside of school grounds and/or hours including online, if it poses a significant danger to the safety and wellbeing of students or staff.

These powers apply only to serious incidents where there is a clear and close connection to the school and the behaviour of a student outside of school unreasonably impacts the safety and wellbeing of students or staff at school, and their ability to learn or work. Please note:

- They do not apply to behaviours unrelated to the school or school community.
- They only apply to behaviour which occurs from Monday 21 July 2025 onwards.

Suspension and expulsion will remain measures of last resort – our primary approach continues to focus on proactive and positive behaviour support, including working with you to teach students the behaviours we expect of them, in school and in life.

Thank you for your continued support as we work in partnership to educate and support our young people.

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 2:00pm 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 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. Staff are not available to respond to e-mails 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 e-mail 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://kidshelpline.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.