

ESC Newsletter

TO DEVELOP ASPIRANT, RESILIENT LEARNERS WHO ARE EMPOWERED GLOBAL CITIZENS

ATTENDANCE - EVERYDAY COUNTS

Regular school attendance is vital to maintain a high level of student achievement and engagement, support the development of positive relationships and develop independence and responsibility. All absences must be reported to the office via the Compass App or by phoning the Attendance Line on (03) 4433 8282.

An important part of your day will be your Teacher Advisory Time which starts at the beginning of the school day. Here, the roll will be marked and then time will be allocated to discussing issues with your Teacher Advisor and undertaking circle time to develop skills that will assist you at school and at home.

Our attendance officer will be calling all families with students that have unexplained absences. Please record your students absence on Compass or by calling the Absence Line on (03) 4433 8282.



1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem like much but...			
If your child misses...	=	Which is...	Which over 13 years of schooling is
1 day per fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Nearly 2.5 years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Nearly 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

Reserve Street, Eaglehawk VIC 3556

Phone: (03) 5446 8099

Email: eaglehawk.sc@education.vic.gov.au

Website: www.eaglehawksc.vic.edu.au

COMMUNITY
OPPORTUNITIES
RELATIONSHIPS
EXPECTATIONS &
ACHIEVEMENTS

Follow us



Principal's Report

RICHELLE HOLLIS

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Richelle Hollis

Extracurricular Activities

Our extracurricular programs have continued to offer rich opportunities for students to grow beyond the classroom throughout 2025. From sports competitions and leadership events to showcasing our talented students' artwork at the Bendigo Show and proudly representing Eaglehawk Secondary College at the Dahlia and Arts Festival, participation has once again been outstanding. These activities highlight the diverse interests and strengths of our students. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making these experiences possible.

Community Engagement

Strengthening our sense of community has remained a key focus in 2025. Events such as fundraisers, cultural celebrations, community nights and parent-teacher conferences have brought us together and reinforced the value of connection and collaboration. Your involvement, enthusiasm and ongoing support have been greatly appreciated.

Looking Ahead

As we look toward the 2026 school year, we are committed to continuing to provide a well-rounded, engaging education for all students. We have several improvements planned, including upgrades to facilities and the introduction of new programs designed to further enhance student learning, wellbeing and success. We look forward to sharing more information with you early next year.

Acknowledgments

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our teaching and support staff for their dedication, professionalism and unwavering commitment to our students throughout 2025. To our parents and carers, your support and partnership have been invaluable. And to our students—thank you for your hard work, enthusiasm and resilience. You are at the heart of everything we do.

As we conclude the 2025 school year, I encourage everyone to take time over the holidays to rest, recharge and spend time with loved ones. For those moving on to new opportunities, we wish you every success. For those returning in 2026, we look forward to continuing our journey together.

Wishing you all a safe, restful and enjoyable holiday season.

College Values

Eaglehawk Secondary College's values of Community, Opportunity, Relationships and Expectations & Achievement are at the CORE of the work we do. Each term we focus on one of our values, and this term we have focused heavily on the CORE value of Expectations & Achievement. This value is all about taking pride in the work we complete, striving for excellence, and demonstrating the high expectations we hold for ourselves, our peers, and our school community. Throughout the term, students have been encouraged to set personal learning goals, work towards achieving them, and celebrate their successes both inside and outside the classroom. Learning Community and year level assemblies have provided opportunities to recognise student effort, progress, and achievement, reinforcing the importance of meeting expectations and taking ownership of learning. Events such as exams, assessments, and student showcases also highlight the importance of persistence and achievement across all areas of school life. While Expectations & Achievement has been our focus this term, the work we do in this space will continue to be embedded in our daily practice, as we look ahead to next term's focus on our next CORE value.

Student accident insurance and ambulance cover

Please note that insurance against injuries or loss of any kind by students is not part of the responsibility of the school or Department of Education. It is possible to purchase this from a variety of commercial providers. Similarly, ambulance cover is not automatic. Families with a Health Care Card will be covered but others will need to be ambulance members to cover the costs of an ambulance call if necessary. Staff will make every effort to contact parents in the event of a serious illness or injury but an ambulance will be called if a student is in a dangerous situation. We hope that this will not be necessary but need to ensure that our duty of care is carried out. To assist with this, please ensure that all medical and personal details are up to date.

Personal Property

Eaglehawk Secondary College understands that staff and/or students may sometimes like to bring items of personal property to school. The Department of Education does not have insurance for personal property of staff, students and visitors. Eaglehawk Secondary College does not take responsibility for items of personal property that are lost, stolen or damaged at school or during school activities. Damage to personal property brought to school is the responsibility of the owner of that property. Eaglehawk Secondary College encourages staff and students not to bring items of value to school, or to obtain appropriate insurance for such items.

If students bring items of value to school, they will be confiscated and stored securely at the General Office until the end of the day, when the items may be collected by the student and/or parent.

Mental Health Practitioner

Our school is excited to be part of the Mental Health Practitioners (MHP) initiative. Our school MHP will support the mental health and wellbeing needs of our students. They will also help our teachers to identify and respond to student's mental health and wellbeing concerns. Our MHP is ADAM JOHNSON, they will be working in our school for 5 days a week. Adam is a Occupational Therapist with 14 years of experience working in Occupational Therapy and 12 years in mental health specific roles. Adam takes a holistic approach and utilises principles of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT).

Students and their parents/carers who would like to discuss their suitability to engage with the MHP service can contact Caroline Roy (Wellbeing & Disability Inclusion Leader). Please note, referral and informed consent documentation is required before MHP service commencement For more information on the Mental Health Practitioners initiative see the department's [website](#).

Doctors In Secondary Schools

A reminder to families that we have a doctor on site once a week for students to make appointments. Dr Jo Dennis is our school doctor and practices each Wednesday here at the college. Students and parents can book an appointment with Dr Jo on 5446 8099 or see the General Office. Please note there are limited number of appointments available each week, so if you are not able to attend due to not being at school on that particular day, please contact the school, so that a student on the wait list can take the appointment instead. Appointments can only be made for students and they are all bulk billed. For further information, please refer to: [Microsoft Word - Consent and confidentiality - School information sheet \(Revised - May 2017\)_\(education.vic.gov.au\)](#)

Important school dates

There are a number of important events that happen throughout the term and affect the entire school or just some year levels. It is important that families are aware of these so that planning can be done to ensure that students attend 100% of the required school days and have the opportunity to maximise the benefits available from their education. Please check the IMPORTANT DATES further in this newsletter.

STUDENT ABSENCE LINE: 4433 4455

Please phone through your student absences to this 24 hour phone line.

Child safety and wellbeing at Eaglehawk Secondary College: Information for families and the school community

Eaglehawk Secondary College is committed to providing an environment where students are safe and feel safe.

Our child safety framework includes policies, codes and procedures that explain how we support and maintain the safety and wellbeing of our students and protect them from harm. These documents are available on our website: <https://www.eaglehawksc.vic.edu.au/page/9/Public-Documents-&-Policies>

We are also committed to continuous improvement of our child safety framework. We are currently reviewing our child safety policies and practices to ensure they are up-to-date and effective.

Our students and families are important partners in this process. We welcome your feedback or ideas on ways we can improve our approach to child safety and wellbeing.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact the Caroline Roy on 5446 8099 or at eaglehawk.sc@education.vic.gov.au

CONTACTING EAGLEHAWK SECONDARY COLLEGE

Principal:	Richelle Hollis
Assistant Principal:	Melinda Ellis
Assistant Principal:	Tom Hart
Acting Assistant Principal:	Jacob Smythe
Wellbeing & Disability Inclusion Leader:	Caroline Roy
Walker Community Leader:	Darcy Richards
Lester Community Leader:	Louise Phillips
Dowding Community Leader:	Damien Tricarico
Grieve Community Leader:	Demy Pye
Social Worker:	Sophie Thomson
Youth Workers:	Daniel Smith & Hayley Conway
Mental Health Practitioner:	Adam Johnson
Chaplain:	Cara Barnes
School Nurse:	Rebekah Rigby
Business Manager:	Phoebe Gerring
Finance Officer:	Brianna Aldridge
Reception:	Jodie Hitchens
HR Manager:	Bryony Pretty
Communications:	Paige Currie
ICT Technicians:	Maia Misson & Matt Atkins
School Council President:	Rebekah Perryman

School Council meetings:

Monday 16th February

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 4

October 6 - Term 4 Commences

October 21 - Grade 6 Scavenger Hunt

October 22 - School Captain Applications Open

October 23 - Grade 6 Scavenger Hunt

October 29 - Bendigo Cup - Public Holiday

October 31 - Out of Uniform Day: Halloween

November 3 - School Captain Interviews

November 5-7 - Year 8 Camp

November 10-13 - Year 10 and Y Classes Exams

November 11 - Remembrance Day

November 14 - Year 10 Celebration Day

November 17-18 - Year 10 Exams at BSSC

November 18 - Year 10 Graduation

November 19 - Year 7 Information Night

November 19-21 - Ready to Learn Interviews for Year 10's at BSSC

November 24-27 - Year 9 Exams

November 24 - BSSC Step Up Commences

November 28 - Student Free day - Assessment Day

December 1 - ESC Step Up Commences

December 5 - BSSC Step Up Concludes

December 8-12 - Koorie Camp (CANCELED)

December 9 - Year 7 Orientation Day | Student Free Day

December 12 - ESC Step Up Concludes

December 15 - Awards Night

December 15 - Activities Week | Lester

December 16 - Activities Week | Dowding (Pool Day)

December 17 - Activities Week | Grieve (Cinema Day)

December 18 - Activities Week | Walker (Canterbury Park)

December 19 - Student Free Day

December 19 - Term 4 Concludes

Privacy Reminder

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 [Photography, 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 learning programs safely at the school 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 their computers for school related work, please contact the school.

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

- Amharic
- Arabic
- Chinese
- Dari
- Gujarati
- Mandarin
- Somali
- Sudanese
- Turkish
- Urdu
- Vietnamese

Bushfire Preparation

School preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, we undertake a range of activities to ensure the safety of our school and to prepare for bushfires and grassfires.

An important part of this process is communicating to parents what will happen when certain fire danger ratings are issued to help ensure the safety of students and staff.



Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a Category 3 school.

Our school will close on a day forecasted as Catastrophic fire danger rating in the Northern Countryfire district.

Closure of the school due to a Catastrophic fire danger rating will be enacted when the Bureau of Meteorology forecast and related public safety messaging are confirmed. Due to uncertainties in the forecast, the timing of this confirmation may vary. Information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by Compass and Text Message.

It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and prioritised maintenance works to assist in preparing for the threat of fire.

What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, checking our website and social media or talking to your child's teacher.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements if our school is closed due to Catastrophic fire danger. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#).
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are actioning your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to [them about bushfires](#) and your family's bushfire survival plan.

Parking & Safety Around School

Parking Services from the City of Greater Bendigo have contacted our school to request that we share the following important information with our school community.

The illegal parking of vehicles near our school poses a significant safety risk to children, pedestrians, and other road users. Parents are reminded to follow all parking restrictions when dropping off and collecting children to help ensure a safe environment for everyone.

Motorists must:

- Not stop in "No Stopping" areas, even briefly, regardless of whether the engine is running.
- Not park next to a continuous yellow edge line, on nature strips, over driveways, too close to school crossings, or double park.
- Observe time-restricted parking zones, such as 2-minute pick-up/drop-off areas, which are in place to maintain traffic flow and safety near schools.
- Not perform U-turns over an unbroken or continuous dividing line.

Regarding children's crossings, the law requires drivers to approach at a speed that allows them to stop safely if needed. Please slow down and take extra care when driving in school zones.

City of Greater Bendigo Parking Officers and Bendigo Police conduct random patrols throughout the school year at various locations to ensure compliance with Road Safety Road Rules.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school community safe.

Energy Breakthrough

Eaglehawk Secondary College had a fantastic weekend in Maryborough for this year's Energy Breakthrough. Our students, families and staff demonstrated impressive teamwork, resilience and school pride throughout the 24-hour challenge.

A huge thank you to all families who supported the event — from cooking and transport to mechanics, marshals, lap counters and pack-up crews. Your efforts make our EBT program possible.

Team Highlights

Bangerz (Senior Team): 57th overall, 9th in category, 394 laps / 622.52 km

Mash (Junior Team): 65th overall, 369 laps / 583.02 km

Both teams performed strongly in design, presentation and riding, supported by an enthusiastic pit crew and cheer squad.

We also acknowledge our 2025 EBT sponsors: Medusa Restorations, Johansen Insurance Brokers, JBS Pork, Rotary Club of Eaglehawk, Bunnings and Eaglehawk Hot Bake.

Thank you to all staff and families whose dedication ensured another successful year. Well done to everyone involved!



Statewide Orientation Day

Statewide Orientation Day

On Tuesday 9th December, Eaglehawk Secondary College proudly welcomed our 2026 Year 7 cohort for the Statewide Orientation Day.

Students began the morning with a warm egg-and-bacon breakfast, generously provided by the Rotary Club of Eaglehawk. They then spent time in their potential 2026 classes, meeting teachers, making new connections, and getting a feel for life as an ESC student. A sausage-sizzle lunch and an afternoon of engaging activities added to the excitement of the day.

It was wonderful to see so many smiling, enthusiastic faces as students took their first steps into our school community. We look forward to welcoming them back in 2026 and supporting them as they begin their journey at Eaglehawk Secondary College.





Foodshare

POP-UP Christmas PANTRY

Bendigo Foodshare, with the support of local service clubs and community organisations, is providing free food relief this festive season to people doing it tough.

BRING A SHOPPING BAG!

Date	Times	Location
Monday 22 Dec 2025	Open at 1pm	St Paul's Cathedral Bendigo 8 Myers St, Bendigo (opposite Coles)
Tuesday 23 Dec 2025	Open at 1pm	Gateway Park Function Centre 26 High St, Kangaroo Flat
Monday 29 Dec 2025	Open at 1pm	St Paul's Cathedral Bendigo 8 Myers St, Bendigo (opposite Coles)
Tuesday 30 Dec 2025	Open at 1pm	California Gully Mechanics Institute Hall 8 School Street, California Gully VIC 3558.



With support from the following service clubs





PLAY SOCCER WITH US IN 2026



Come & join Epsom Football Club! Anyone aged 4yrs+ can play! Whether you're new to soccer or a seasoned player, you'll find a safe, friendly and welcoming environment.

Our Expression of Interest form is now open

Complete our short form (link below or scan QR code) to get early access to all 2026 club info, from our Club Open Day, to registrations and training dates.



<https://forms.office.com/r/5UmDcRuSmd>

Ages 4 yrs & above

**Non-competitive teams
from Under 6 to Under 10**

**No experience
necessary**

**Competitive teams from
Under 12 to Under 16**

**Mixed & all-girls
teams available**

**Youth (16-18yrs), Mens &
Women's teams**

Contact secretary@epsomfc.com.au or
juniors@epsomfc.com.au for more information

www.epsomfc.com.au



SEE Diabetes *Christmas Event*



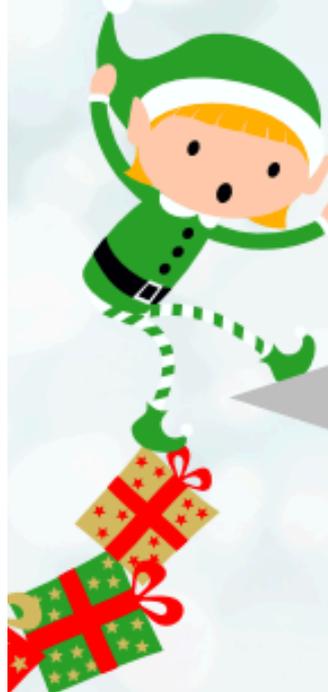
**Do you or someone you love have Type 1 Diabetes?
Do you want to come to a Christmas party exclusively for people
with Type 1 Diabetes?**

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6TH, 2025

LOCATION: QUARRY HILL COMMUNITY HALL

TIME: 12PM-4PM

**It's
free!!**



For regular updates follow
our Facebook Event

To get your free tickets, go
to our Registration Link



Contact Bec on 0489 168 990 for more information

*Bring the kids, grandkids, aunts, uncles, grandparents!
Let's build a Type 1 community in our area*

Calling All Young Adult
Book Lovers!

BOOK CLUB

**FREE
ENTRY**

*Read a chosen
book, your own
choice, or come
and chill out!*

WEDNESDAYS

3:30PM - 5:00PM

*All Ages are
Welcome and
Teen/Young Adult
books will be read*

*BYO Snacks and
Drinks*

*9 Mitchell Street,
Bendigo*



APPLY NOW

WE ARE HIRING

Join Our Admin Team

- Casual Junior Admin Person
- General admin duties
- Scanning/ Filing
- During School Holidays
- Flexible after school work

SEND YOUR CV TO :

✉ pam@eufs.com.au

CONTACT US :

☎ 03 5446 8507





**NOW
HIRING!**

**Empower the next
generation of swimmers**
Become a GOswim Teacher

GOswim™

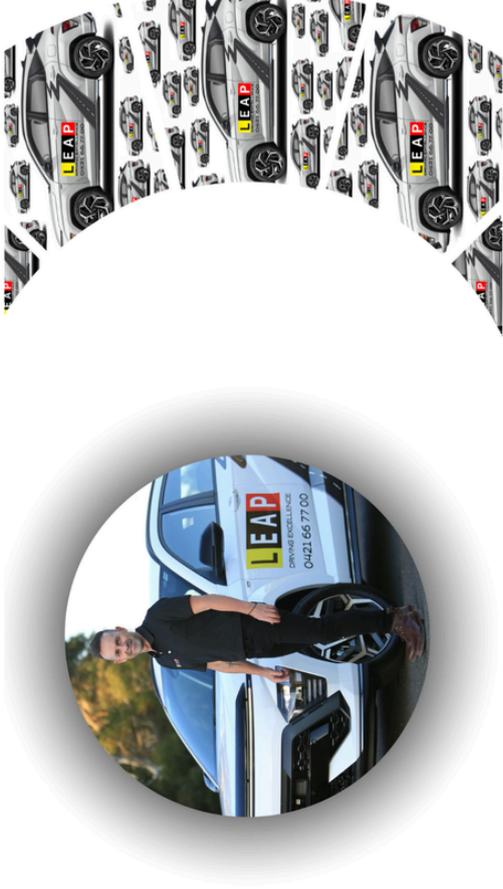


MEMBERSHIPS

KIDS GO FREE

ALL KIDS AGED 14 & UNDER #SPIRITTAKESFLIGHT

"We're thrilled to share a 100% pass rate!"



Have you just got your Learner Permit or are you looking at going for your Probationary Licence soon?

Please send me a message so we can make sure you are **BEST PREPARED to PASS!**

I am Dion Jelbart, the owner of LEAP Driving Excellence, with over 30 years of driving experience and having conducted over 3000 drive tests as a Licence Testing Officer for VicRoads.

Book a lesson or two and your drive test with me today!

Gift vouchers are also available, a great chance to make sure someone you care about is ready for the road.

Take care & drive safely.

Dion Jelbart
0421667700

<https://www.leapdrivingexcellence.com.au/>

Attendance Challenge 2025

Burra Bucks to be won!

Five full consecutive days of attendance, you will receive 5 Burra Bucks

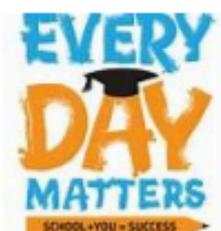
If your TA has the highest percentage of attendance for a week, every student in your TA will receive one Burra Buck each!

In the last week of each term, the TA with the highest percentage of attendance will have a celebration to reward you for your efforts.

Check in on your friends – ask them why they're not coming to school – remind them what they are missing out on – see how you can help them to turn their attendance around – speak to your TA to see how we can help – everyday matters!

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela





DiSS

Doctors in Secondary Schools

Eaglehawk Secondary College

Dr Johanna Dennis & Registered Nurse, Michelle Pascoe
Physical Health : Mental Health : Sexual Health

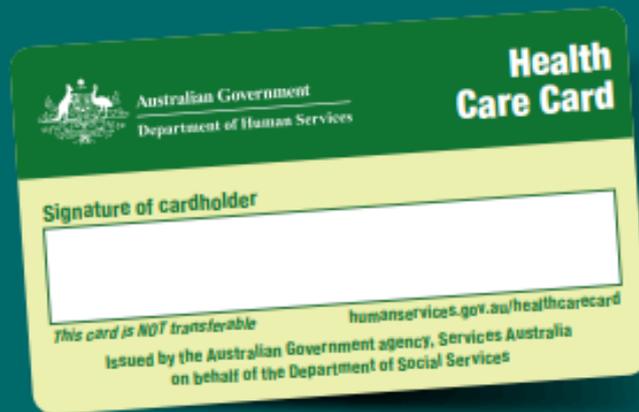
WEDNESDAY

9am -1pm

- Confidential and supportive service
- Wellbeing support
- Bulk Billing (free)

To make an appointment, please see Andra in the General Office





Do you have a health care card? You could be eligible for Saver Plus.

For every dollar you save, you'll get a dollar from ANZ to spend on educational costs, up to \$500.

To join, you need to meet all of these requirements:

- ✓ Be 18 years or older
- ✓ Have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card
- ✓ Have a child in school, starting school next year, or be studying yourself
- ✓ Get a regular income (can be you or your partner)
- ✓ Agree to join in free online financial education workshops


saverplus

1300 610 355 saverplus.org.au



BSL/BTS 25



fresh fruit friday



Celebrating
10 years

Delivering
1,000kg of free
fruit to Bendigo
school children
every week

 mckern steel™
foundation



@mckernsteelfoundation

Made possible thanks to our Foundation Partners



For further
information on
upcoming events,
please check
Compass and follow
the College on the
platforms below.



www.instagram.com/eaglehawksecondarycollege



www.facebook.com/eaglehawksecondarycollege
