

# RED HILL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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❖ Exhibition Provocation



*'Students have fun looking at the world map in an EALD class'.*



**Red Hill School is a Nut Free Environment**



27<sup>th</sup> September 2024



**ACT**  
Government  
Education

  
*Open hearts • Inquiring minds*



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Fee code for Voluntary Contributions is VOL CONS

# Leadership Team

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wrote the following article a few weeks ago, after supporting a family with a social media issue. My message will not be new to those of you who have viewed or listened to recent news broadcasts, for example from the ABC on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September.

You may have seen I am showing my age when I confess that I belong to a generation that once used a card filing system to conduct library catalogue searches. Once upon a time that same generation also only drew research from hard copy books and journals and wrote assessment pieces by hand (unless the writer had been fortunate enough to learn to type and had access to a typewriter!)

We recognise the ways in which technological advances have changed how we live and interact- at home, in education, in the workforce and socially. This is particularly pertinent in the realm of information and communication technologies (ICT), with the opening up of access to information and a wider range of communication tools. Over the last two decades we have seen exponential growth in the creation and use of social media tools. For example, Facebook, which did not exist until 2004, is estimated to have had more than 2.26 billion users by 2018 (Hillyer, M., World Economic Forum, 2024).

The use of online social media has impacted many aspects of our lives positively. Being able to chat online with family members and friends or connect with people who share common interests, regardless of the distance between us, is a wonderful thing. I am eased by my middle son's departure last week to America, knowing that I can check he is safe and well by chatting to him on Messenger and viewing his Instagram posts. However, we all know that online communication poses challenges and risks, particularly for young people.

In writing this article I wanted to share my personal concern about young people's use of online social media, and my observations as an educator over the last two decades. I have seen young people's knowledge and understanding of the internet and cybersafety shift in the right direction, because of classroom education and parent input about digital and information literacies, online security and digital footprint. Students, for example, can clearly explain why they should not post personal details online and I rarely hear of cases nowadays where this has happened.

My concern lies with young people using social media outside school, even though most social media platforms do not allow users under the age of 13. Whilst the rate at which more platforms are emerging changes constantly, young people's social and emotional development has not changed. Several times each year I, and other

educators, are asked by parents to help with unpleasant situations where online communication via social media apps has become very detrimental to their child's mental well-being. This can happen so easily and not always with malicious intent.

Imagine this. A young person makes a hastily crafted, thoughtless written comment in a group chat which offends another young person. The second person may have misunderstood the comment, or the author may have been annoyed by something the other party had done at school or a social event. Regardless of the intent behind the post, the second young person feels hurt and/or angry, and responds equally quickly with a comment. Other young people step in to back up their friends and very soon a volley of unpleasant comments is taking place. Sometimes this flows onto the playground at school. Eventually one or more of the young people begin to feel emotionally unsafe, not wanting to come to school, withdrawing from social events and becoming reluctant to leave home.

It might seem obvious that those harmed should block those posting the offensive comments, stop using the social media app and tell a trusted adult. If the comments were happening face to face the young person would likely walk away and tell someone, or another young person would report it. But this often doesn't happen in the online social media space. Many young people don't admit to an adult that help is needed because they believe they will get 'into trouble'. They also seem to become addicted to reading the posts, desperately needing to know if the unpleasantness has stopped and if not, whether they have any defenders, and desperately needing to respond.

In my experience these situations rarely start from a deliberate intent to harm but they are very distressing for the young people involved and those caring for them. They happen because young people generally do not have the social and emotional maturity to handle online interactions appropriately, especially when they start to go wrong. This is why most platforms restrict use to those aged thirteen and over.

I encourage all parents and carers to not permit their children to use social media until they turn 13, unless it is a shared family account. I also encourage you to restrict internet use to shared family spaces, rather than bedrooms, so you can monitor your child's use and know when you might need to step in.

If you give your child permission to use social media before they turn 13 there are steps you can take to help keep them safe. The E-Safety website has some sensible, helpful advice which I encourage you to read: [Parental controls | How to keep your child safe \(esafety.gov.au\)](#).

And of course, you may not be aware that your child is even using social media. Most platforms do not have reliable systems in place to verify the user's age, so it is possible for a young person to create an account without their parent or carer knowing. The most important thing that all significant adults in a child's life can do is ensure we promote open communication so that we are having regular conversations about social media (and the

internet in general) and the young people in our care feel safe to come to us when facing difficulty, knowing that the first thing we will do is listen and help, rather than blame or discipline.

Please don't hesitate to ask the school for help, even if the social media issue is occurring outside school hours or involves students at another school.

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Social media has been a challenge for some time. However, the emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) apps is a new challenge for educators. Two weeks ago, I would have said that this would become a primary school challenge in the future, now I know that we are already facing it. We have had several students recently admit that they have completed learning tasks at home using AI to generate written responses. This is a dilemma, posing so many questions for us- just for starters, how do we assess a student's knowledge and understanding of content that has been taught if they use AI, how do we even know if they have used AI, how do we ensure academic integrity and responsible use of AI?

The ACT Education Directorate 'recognises the importance of incorporating emerging technologies to enhance teaching and learning experiences and drive innovation in education', but is approaching the use of generative AI tools cautiously, adhering to responsible and ethical practices in accordance with national guidelines ([Australia's AI Ethics Framework](#)). The Directorate's interim position is that students cannot access generative AI applications on devices within the education network and that "students must not be *de facto* encouraged to use unapproved tools by requesting that they undertake work off school networks (e.g., instructing students to use ChatGPT as part of homework)" (ACT Education, '[Interim position statement on the use of AI in ACT public schools](#)', 2024).

We will be talking to students and staff about this position in the coming weeks. There is an implication for staff, the most immediately important being that no student's personal information, including their name, age, assessment work, and information about their behaviour and learning capacity, may be entered into generative AI.

I hope that you all had an enjoyable time with your families over the break. We look forward to welcoming students back for term four. **Please remember that the first day of term four, Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October, is a pupil free day**, when teachers will be planning curriculum delivery and assessment. Woden Community Services will be open on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October** (8am – 6pm) to support families who need childcare on that day. Information can be accessed on their website at [School Holiday Programs - Woden Community Service \(wcs.org.au\)](#).

Kind regards

Louise Owens (Principal)

# ACT Instrument Music Program

## Message to Year 4 Families

'We believe music and arts education is essential for the holistic development of all students.'

For over 50 years, the Instrument Music Program (IMP) has brought a love of music and the arts to students across Canberra. It's associated with 60 schools, with classes operating across primary schools and high schools.

Classes include the IMP Band Class, which teaches selected year 5 and 6 students to play a band instrument. It includes an instrument, group lessons and all the music required. IMP also offers combined ensembles, including concert bands, choirs and percussion ensembles, as well as special events.

If your child is entering year five at Red Hill in 2025, they may be interested in the school band program. All current year four students will have the opportunity to participate in the band intake assessment process later this year. In the meantime, you may be interested to learn more about the IMP programs.

IMP is holding two information sessions in October.

Tuesday 15 October, 5.30 – 6.30pm      Hawker College – 51 Murrarji St, Hawker

[Register online](#)

Wednesday 16 October, 5.30 – 6.30pm      Mount Stromlo High School – 220 Badimara St, Waramanga

[Register online](#)

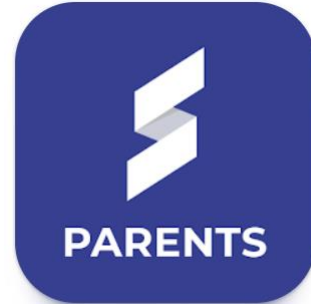
Sessions will also be recorded and placed on the IMP website – [imp.act.edu.au](http://imp.act.edu.au).



# Parent Portal App

## Parent Portal is now available as a mobile app!

You can now access Parent Portal with the *Sentral for Parents* app. Download Sentral for Parents for free through the [App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#).



Parent Portal is a secure online platform used to share student information between you and your child's teachers.

If you've already registered, you can download the *Sentral for Parents* app to receive notifications when new information is available.

If you haven't registered for Parent Portal yet, use this [Parent Portal access](#) link to log into or create your ACT Digital Account. To access Parent Portal, you will need your access key, you should have received this by email when we launched.

If you can't find the email with the access key, please contact the front office team for help.

Some reminders about what you can do with Parent Portal:

- notify us if your child is sick or explain an absence,
- book parent-teacher interviews,
- receive academic reports,
- receive our school newsletter,
- receive messages from your child's teachers,
- make payments,
- access the school calendar.

Head to our website for all the details: <https://www.redhillps.act.edu.au/>

# Sports and Special photos



Unit 20/14-16 Stanton Rd  
Seven Hills NSW 2147  
Phone: (02) 9674 9824  
email: aftersales@theschoolphotographer.com.au  
[theschoolphotographer.com.au](http://theschoolphotographer.com.au)

**YOUR SCHOOL YOUR STORY**

## Red Hill School

SPORTS and SPECIAL PHOTOS

Photos can be viewed and ordered online at  
[www.theschoolphotographer.com.au](http://www.theschoolphotographer.com.au)  
using the ordering code below:

# 24S4060EL50R

Photo prices are:

**\$20.00** each, 2 for **\$36.00**, 3 for **\$48.00**, 4 for **\$60.00** or 5 for **\$72.00**

Any additional photographs are **\$10.00** each.  
This discount is only available per family order.

Photos will be available to view and purchase **ONLINE ONLY**



ABN 47 083 674 613

# Uniform Shop

## Ordering Online

The Red Hill School P&C Association uses Flexischools for uniform shop sales.

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

It is a cashless online ordering system which streamlines payment, ordering and processing of purchases and events. Quick and easy, it can be accessed 24/7 on PC, Mac, or mobile app.

School uniform orders for existing students will be delivered to your child's classroom. Otherwise, orders can be collected from the front office.

## Ordering in person

Opening hours Wednesday 8.30 to 10:00am and Friday 2.30 to 4.00pm. We prefer payment by credit card, but we can accept cash.

With COVID continuing to present a risk we prefer that orders are made online where possible.

Secondhand requests can be emailed through to the shop manager.

Donations can be placed in the purple bin in the front office foyer.

Lost property collected around the school is placed in the big blue bin outside of the uniform shop. Items in the blue bin will be sorted and then placed in the adjoining blue and white cupboards for students to look through and collect any of their property that they find. When possible, staff will deliver labeled items to classrooms.





# Community News



**JOIN US**  
**Eastlake Junior Cricket Club**

**Boys and girls U10 to Colts**  
**CRICKET BLAST 5-9 years**

**REGO now**



## **Canberra Brick Show**

Come along to Canberra's largest LEGO® fan event! Over 300 tables of LEGO® displays, food trucks and interactive displays.

When  
**26-27 October**

Where  
**Thoroughbred Park,  
Lyneham**

Tickets available online:

[canberra.brickshow.au](http://canberra.brickshow.au)

**2024**

Presented by  
Canberra LEGO  
User Group



**HURRICANES**  
SOFTBALL CLUB

**IS YOUR 5 - 9 YEAR OLD LOOKING TO START TEAM SPORTS?**



**T BALL IS FUN FOR ALL**

PLAYERS AGED 5 - 9 WANTED TO FILL THE FINAL 4 PLACES ON OUR T-BALL TEAMS. SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER TODAY & DISCOVER WHY T-BALL WITH HURRICANES IS CANBERRA'S BEST INTRODUCTION TO TEAM SPORTS!





# KELLY SPORTS WEEKENDER

INFORMATION  
FOR PARENTS

WEEKENDER  
PROGRAMME



BOOK ONLINE NOW AT

**KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU**

This program gives children skills and confidence in a fun and enjoyable environment. It also encourages enthusiasm, participation and life skills that such involvement brings, giving confidence to join sports clubs and teams in the future. Sessions will be facilitated INDOORS under a COVID-19 safe environment.

- ✓ Skills based intro to sport
- ✓ Ideal for Beginners!

**8 WEEK PROGRAM FOR \$120 incl. GST**

### LOCATIONS

Amaroo School - 135 Katherine Ave, Amaroo  
 St Thomas Aquinas - 25 Lhotsky St, Charnwood  
 Lake Tuggeranong College - 123 Cowlishaw St, Greenway  
 St Bedes Primary School - 55 Hicks St, Red Hill  
 Harrison School - 20 Wimmera St, Harrison

Chapman Priamry School - 46-50 Perry Dr, Chapman  
 Rosary Primary School - 9 Fleming St, Watson  
 St Vincents Primary School - 3 Bindel St, Aranda  
 St Claire of Assisi Primary School - 40 Heidelberg St, Conder  
 St Bedes Primary School - 55 Hicks St, Red Hill

### DAY

Saturday  
 Saturday  
 Saturday  
 Saturday  
 Saturday

### SPORT

Soccer  
 Basketball  
 Basketball  
 Soccer  
 Basketball

Sunday  
 Sunday  
 Sunday  
 Sunday  
 Sunday

Soccer  
 Soccer  
 Basketball  
 Basketball  
 Basketball

### SESSION TIMES

3 - 4 year olds 9:45am to 10:30am  
 5 - 6 year olds - 10:30am to 11:15am  
 7 - 10 year olds - 11:15am to 12:00pm

### TERM 4 DATES

When: Saturday or Sunday  
 Commencing: 26th and 27th October 2024  
 Concluding: 14th and 15th December 2024

Register online at [www.kellysports.com.au/act](http://www.kellysports.com.au/act)

Payments can be made online at [www.kellysports.com.au](http://www.kellysports.com.au) or by EFT to Kelly Sports ACT - BSB 325-185. A/C No 03 912 874.

**Website:** [kellysports.com.au/act](http://kellysports.com.au/act)  
**Email:** [scott@kellysports.com.au](mailto:scott@kellysports.com.au)  
**Questions:** 0418 399 139  
**Facebook:** Kelly Sports ACT



## RED HILL AFTER-SCHOOL MUSIC CLASSES

### GUITAR | PIANO | VOICE

## GUITAR • PIANO • VOICE

**Unlock Your Child's Musical Potential Right at Their School!**

Looking for a fun and convenient way to nurture your child's musical talent? Join our exciting after-school music classes, held right on school grounds!

We offer Guitar, Keyboard, and Vocal classes, designed to inspire creativity and build confidence. With small class sizes, your child will receive personalized attention and support from our expert instructors. Each class is a 30-minute burst of musical exploration and growth, giving your child the perfect balance of learning and fun!

Spots are limited, so don't miss this opportunity to help your child discover the joy of music while building lifelong skills. Sign up today and let the music begin!

**ENROL HERE**

**FRETVISION**  
www.fretvisionschools.com

## How does your child move, talk and play?



Worried about your child's development?

Come to a drop in clinic at Narrabundah Early Childhood School

**22nd October**

Narrabundah Early Childhood School, Speech Pathology & Occupational Therapy Drop in Clinic  
Tuesday 22nd October 2024  
9:00am to 12:00pm  
2:00pm to 3:30pm  
**Call us on 6207 8884.**



## Bringing fun after-school classes to your school



**Little Coders . Coding . Curious Minds . Robotics  
Animation . Design . Minecraft Engineers**

See what's on at your school and book at

**[www.codecamp.com.au/redhillps](http://www.codecamp.com.au/redhillps)**

Get in touch at [hello@codecamp.com.au](mailto:hello@codecamp.com.au) or 1300 263 322

Rated 4.9 on **PRODUCT REVIEW** with over 1000 ★★★★★ reviews