NEWSLETTER

12th November 2026

31 Calvert street Bairnsdale 3875
Phone 51525922
east.gippsland.ss@education.vic.gov.au

Safe
Respectful
Learners

East Gippsland Specialist School
ASPIRING • LEARNING • EXCELLING

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Families,
It is hard to believe we are already halfway through Term 4! Behind the scenes, planning for 2027 is well underway, with staffing arrangements and class structures being finalised. We are excited to share that a new classroom portable is scheduled to arrive during the January school holidays, and we have also welcomed several new staff members who will be joining our EGSS team in 2027. While there is plenty happening in preparation for next year, our current priority remains ensuring that every student continues to receive the teaching, care, support and attention they deserve for the remainder of this term, including the completion of reports and ongoing learning programs.

Our transition program will commence on Friday the 27th of November, providing opportunities for students to become familiar with new classrooms, teachers and routines ahead of the new school year. We will also be welcoming several new students to EGSS in 2027. As we prepare to welcome these students and their families into our school community, I encourage everyone to demonstrate what makes EGSS special by living our culture of Positively Support People, Build Strong Relationships and Seek to Understand.
Let's ensure our new students, families and staff feel welcomed, valued, safe and excited to become part of the EGSS community!

CALENDAR

Up coming events for November

Swimming rooms 12 & 5



Student Free Day Monday November 30th



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Snake Season – Staying Safe at School

As we move into the warmer months, snake activity increases, and we have had several snake sightings around the school grounds in recent weeks. While snakes are a natural part of our local environment, it is important that we all remain alert and know how to respond safely. We know that many of our students are naturally curious and may be interested in getting a closer look when they spot an animal; however, it is extremely important that students never approach, touch, follow or attempt to interact with a snake. If a snake is spotted, students should move away calmly, leave the area and immediately notify a staff member. Staff will manage the situation and ensure the area is safe. We will continue to reinforce these safety messages with students and ask families to also discuss snake safety at home. For further information, please visit the following Australian safety resources:



·Victorian Government – Living with Snakes
·Healthdirect – Snake Bites and First Aid
·WIRES – Australian Snake Information and Safety

Kindest Regards,

Prince



ROOM TWO



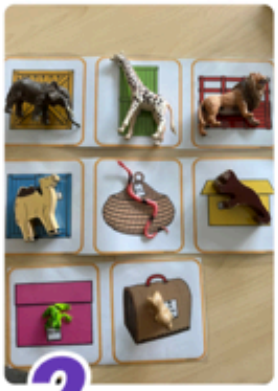
















Room 2
Term 4

PIC•COLLAGE

Staff Shoutouts



Krystal

For always putting so much effort into making sure the students are well supported.

Jaydeep

For always putting in so much effort and doing it with such a lovely smile.





karla

For always being friendly, and supporting students to do their best.

A look at our work experience students

Jye commenced his work experience placement at the Gippsland Water Treatment Plant, where he has had the opportunity to develop valuable practical skills and gain firsthand experience in the water treatment industry.

Throughout his placement, Jye has participated in hands-on activities, including conducting water quality testing, using laboratory equipment to analyse and interpret results, and learning how to read and navigate the water system monitoring program.

This experience has provided Jye with valuable insight into the daily operations of a water treatment facility, while allowing him to build his technical knowledge, confidence and understanding of workplace procedures.

Phoebe is doing an amazing job at the Bairnsdale RSL.
She takes pride in keeping the coffee shop clean and tidy along with washing and collecting dishes for all over the venue.
She does it with great pride and confidence
Phoebe also did five days at Playful paws and was a great additon to their team.
Keep up the great work .













We are so proud of you Jye and Phoebe.





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End of Year Celebration



We will come together to recognise and celebrate our students' achievements.

Friday
11th December

12:20 pm – 1:00 pm
Awards Ceremony
and BBQ

East Gippsland
Specialist School

Presentation of Hansen Awards

A BBQ will be held as part of our celebrations.

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East Gippsland Specialist School
Graduation 2026

Graduating Students



Phoebe Leonidas



Freddy Hanley



Leum Watkins

Graduating on Thursday 10th of December

November Birthdays

Happy Birthday

Elyse

Daniel

Zac

Lydia



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Start 2027 Feeling More Confident



Term 4 Programs Now Open!

ENVISAGE is a fully funded, evidence-informed, peer-led program that supports parents and caregivers of children aged 0–8 years with developmental concerns, disability or neurodivergence.

How it works

- Weekly workshops.
- Led by a health professional and a parent peer.
- FREE Program - no NDIS plan or diagnosis required.
- Designed by parents, practitioners and researchers.
- Australian Government funded.

Online or In Person

Daytime or Nighttime

Scan to register for an ENVISAGE program today!

Need assistance? Contact us on 07 3861 6079 and one of our friendly team can help you register.

Find our available upcoming programs to suit your schedule

https://envisage.community/workshop

© ENVISAGE 2026

Upcoming Programs

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Program duration: 5 weeks. Start dates below.

All programs are AEDT unless specified.

See some of our upcoming programs below

Online Programs

MORNING SESSIONS (5 weeks)

STARTING:

Tue 27 Oct @ 11-12.30pm
Register here

Fri 30 Oct @ 10-11.30am
Register here

Wed 11 Nov @ 10-11.30am
Register here

EVENING SESSIONS (5 weeks)

STARTING:

Mon 9 Nov 7.30-9pm
Register here

Wed 11 Nov @ 7.30-9pm
Register here

Can't find a program that suits? Want to find out more? Click here or scan the QR code to get in touch with the ENVISAGE team.

Contact us below or follow us on social media *@envisage.community*

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EVIDENCE-BASED

Free Parent Program



Co-developed *with* families *for* families

ENVISAGE is a peer program designed for parents & caregivers raising children aged 0-8 with a **disability, developmental concerns, or who are neurodivergent.**

The program is designed to help you:

- Feel more **confident and competent** in making decisions for your family.
- Discover **practical, evidence-based strategies** to help you better understand and advocate for your child's needs.
- **Connect with others** who may have similar experiences to your own, exchanging insights and perspectives.

How does the program work?

All workshops are **live and interactive**, mixing information sharing with group discussions and activities.

- 5 x Weekly Workshop Sessions
  **Intensive formats also offered*
- Up to 90 minutes per workshop
- Face-to-face or online programs available
- Facilitated by a qualified health professional and a parent peer
- FREE — No cost to you. Your child does not need a NDIS plan or diagnosis to participate.

What did caregivers get out of the program?

A new perspective

"The program has changed how I see my child. I now focus more attention on his strengths instead of always worrying about how he might be different."

Support & connection

"Hearing the stories of other parents made the world of difference. It was the first time I felt heard as a parent."

Increased confidence

"I feel more confident advocating for my son. I'm learning to trust that I'm the best person to support his needs, which has made me more comfortable speaking up."

How to register

Scan the QR Code to register for a program or contact us to find out more.

(07) 3861 6079
envisage@acu.edu.au
https://envisage.community

ENVISAGE Families Australia is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Go to dss.gov.au for more information.

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Program Overview



What does the ENVISAGE program cover?

Workshop 1
Health and wellbeing in early child & family development

- Different ways **health and wellbeing** can be understood in early child development.
- Discover **practical tools** to help you and your child tell your story.
- How to identify the **unique strengths of your child.**

Workshop 2
Child and family development

- Thinking about 'development' - of your child, yourself and your family.
- **Exploring connections** with siblings, partners, extended family & community members.
- Recognising the community and **supports around you.**

Workshop 3
Parenting is a 'dance' led by the child

- Discover how your **values** impact your parenting.
- Understanding what your child is telling you through their **behavior, cues, and signals.**
- Explore ways you can **understand and respond** to these messages.

Workshop 4
Looking after myself

- Find ways to **support your own wellbeing,** so that you can best support your child and family.
- Learn about ways to take **small but important steps** to enhance your own health and wellbeing and **stay resilient.**

Workshop 5
Communicating, collaborating, connecting

- Discover what **family-centered service** means and what this might look like for you.
- Learn strategies to **help you communicate & advocate more effectively** with service providers, medical professionals and the wider community.

Interested in joining the fully funded ENVISAGE program?

Head to our website to find a program that works for you:
https://envisage.community/workshop/



Media contact:
Amelie Boucher, Program Coordinator
amelie@gellen.org.au
0486 025 461

Event registration link:
http://www.trybooking.com/DQOHY



PROTECT

Everyone has the right to be safe and be protected from abuse.

No one should behave in a way that makes you feel unsafe or afraid, including anyone in your family, anyone at school or anywhere else in the community.

Tell a teacher or any adult at your school if you feel unsafe.





It's everyone's responsibility.

Adults at school must listen and respond to concerns about child abuse.

If you suspect abuse of any child or young person, you have a responsibility to report it, even if you are not sure.

Further information & resources
www.education.vic.gov.au/protect

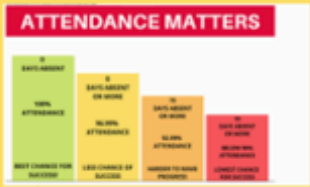
10

Every School Day counts

If your child is absent from school please remember to let us know why.
Please call the office on 51525922 explaining why your child will be absent and how long you expect them to be away.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS







FOUR TYPES OF BULLYING BEHAVIOUR

Bullying is never okay.
It can be physical, verbal, social or online.

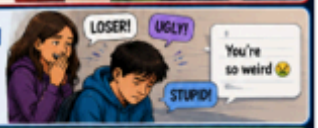
1. PHYSICAL

Examples include:
- hitting, pushing, shoving intimidating or otherwise
- physically hurting another person
- damaging or stealing their belongings
- threats of violence



2. VERBAL/WRITTEN

Examples include:
- name-calling or insulting someone about an attribute, quality or personal characteristic



3. SOCIAL

(Sometimes called relational or emotional bullying)

Examples include:
- deliberately excluding someone
- spreading rumours
- sharing information that will have a harmful effect on the other person



4. CYBERBULLYING

Any form of bullying behaviour that occurs online or via a mobile device. It can be verbal or written, and can include threats of violence as well as images, videos and/or audio.

For more information, refer to Cyberbullying.



ARE YOU A BULLY?

Do you:
- Try to hurt, scare or intimidate others?
- Use mean words or gestures? Leave someone out on purpose?
- Spread rumours or embarrassing information?
- Post or send hurtful things online?

IF YOU ANSWERED YES...

It's not too late to change.



CHOOSE TO BE BETTER.

- Treat others how you want to be treated.
- Think before you act or post.
- Include others and stand up for what's right.
- Apologise and make things right.
- Be kind. It makes a difference.

BE KIND. SPEAK UP. SUPPORT EACH OTHER.
Everyone has the right to feel safe, included and respected.

NDIS

- Needing help to access the NDIS
- Supports and services
- Plan reassessments
- Therapists and Physio
- General enquiries

If you would like more information please call the school on 51525922
our NDIS Navigators
Linda Pendergast
Jennayer Hopkins



8