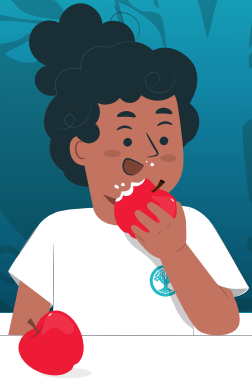


MAHARISHI SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #2

4TH MARCH 2024



Principal's Report

At our weekly Monday School Assembly, we have acknowledged our 2024 Year 6 Student Leaders and presented them with their badges and certificates. We also announced the Term 1 Class Captains for the Pearls, Sapphires and Diamonds, and they also received a certificate and badge to recognise their important position as a role model for other students and as a representative for their class at the fortnightly Student Representative Council (SRC) meeting with the Principal. Our Year 5 Ministers-in-Training were presented with certificates to recognise their individual leadership positions at the school. Congratulations to all of the students in their positions of Leadership and I look forward to the achievements and celebrations of the students throughout the year.

2024 Student Leaders

Position	Year 6 Student Leader	Year 5 Minister-in-Training
School Captain	Gemma	
School Captain	Aaleyah	
Communications Captain	Micah	Ezekiel
Student Representative Council (SRC)	Deon	
Performing Arts	Rafeef	Olivia
Visual Arts	Micah	Angelique
Environment	Jeevika	Fineas
Sport	Vicco	Gabriel, Maram and Sonny
STEM	Deon	Adrhith and Sidharth
Youth	Malee	Sonny, Odette, Sasha and Angelique
Library		Leon and Odette

Term 1 Class Captains

Pearls	Kash	Yiannis
Sapphires	Ryshia	Jake
Diamonds	Hannah	Giacomo



Group Meditations

We are pleased to continue to offer the much-loved Parent Meditations in 2024; we know the practice of Transcendental Meditation® is a tool we all use and the group practice occurs on a Friday at 9am. If you are interested in participating or have any questions, I encourage you to reach out to Suzi who will be able to answer your questions.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Our first Parent/Teacher Interview Day will take place on Tuesday 12th of March. As per previous years, a sign-up sheet will be available on the decking from Tuesday 5th of March for parents to sign up for interviews. Please note that there are in person sessions as well as Zoom sessions and this is a student free day.

Morning Drop off

A gentle reminder to please ensure your child arrives at school on time. We would love the students to be onsite when the gates open at 8:45am to allow them time to put their bags away, settle and be prepared for the start of the day at 9am. As a school, our group meditations first thing in the morning is imperative in settling the students and setting them up for a productive and happy day.

CSEF

CSEF (Camps, Sports and Excursion Funds) is applicable to any family who has a health care card. If you received this in 2023, no further action is required. For new families, if you are on a health care card, complete the attached document and return it to the front office. If you have any questions, please contact Suzi or Wilma.

Key Dates for 2024

The 2024 School Planner is attached with this newsletter. Printing and keeping a copy handy will ensure you have on-hand all the important school dates for the year.

Mon 4th Mar	Assembly (9:00am)
Mon 11th Mar	Labour Day Public Holiday (School Closed)
Tues 12th Mar	Parent/Teacher Interview Day (Student-Free Day)
Wed 13th Mar	NAPLAN commences Grade 3 and 5 students
Mon 25th Mar	Assembly (9:00am) Homework Singing group will perform
Tues 26th Mar	Whole school excursion to CERES
Wed 27th Mar	KPDSA Athletics Carnival for Diamonds and Emerald students (Meadowglen International Athletics Stadium). Form to be returned to school.
Thurs 28th Mar	LAST DAY OF TERM. PJ dress up and Easter Egg hunt

Sonia Culcasi

Principal



Photo Gallery - Term 1 Class Captains



Year 5 Leaders





Year 6 Leaders





Hi Everyone!

Our names are Ezekiel and Micah, and we are the Communications leaders for 2024. As communications leaders we will write in the school newsletter about different school events and tell jokes/facts of the week at Assembly. Something I (Ezekiel) like to do is play sports and practice piano. Micah likes to play with Lego, go swimming, play video games and draw. We're looking forward to keeping you updated on school events through the school newsletter and at assembly.



On the 16th of February, Friday, the Emeralds (year fives and sixes) went to a leadership conference in the city, called Halogen Leadership Conference. In class we've been studying the Fundamental of Growth 'Creativity', and we've been talking about how every leader has their own unique creative style. We all met at Ruthven station at 7:45am and caught a train at 8:00am to Southern Cross station after a 45-minute train ride. We arrived at the new exhibition center at 9:00am and the conference started at 9:30am.

First, a dance teacher named Ezra got up on stage and got us energized by teaching us a different dance after every break. After the first dance, he went off and another man came on called DJ Raf. We played a few games, and then the first speaker, Anastasia Woolmer, Australian memory champion and someone who has featured on Survivor, came up and talked about memory and how anyone is capable of having a good memory. A student from another school came up and said around 50 different numbers, which Anastasia wrote on the board, turned around, recited all of it, then again backwards. She got every number correct. After talking a bit more about memory, she took questions from the crowd. After a few questions, Ezekiel was handed the microphone, and stated his name, school, and asked his question.

After a short break, the next speaker came on, Bryson Klein, multiple Australia Ninja warrior grand finalist, and achieved first place in USA versus the world. He showed us some videos on the big screen with him winning Ninja Warrior, and then spoke about never giving up which was inspirational to the whole audience.

Next, Jane Bunn, meteorologist and 7 network weather presenter, came on, and showed us her best news impression, then spoke about her career, how she became a meteorologist, and the book she wrote. It was interesting to learn about her career and behind the scenes of weather forecasting.

Finally, Melissa Barbieri, former captain and goalkeeper of the Matildas came on and spoke about her life leading up to becoming a soccer player, showed us some footage of her playing. Unfortunately, we had to leave her presentation early to get the train back to school in time for the end of school.

Overall, the conference was an amazing experience, and we learnt a lot about leadership. The speakers were really inspiring and overall, it was fun. Ezekiel's favorite bit was Bryson Klein talking about his inflammable napkin, and my favorite part was Ezekiel's question.

-Ezekiel and Micah

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$150 for primary school students
- \$250 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund APPLICATION Form

Maharishi School

School Name

School REF ID

Parent/legal guardian details

Surname _____

First name _____

Address _____

Town/suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Contact number _____

Centrelink pensioner concession **OR** Health care card number (CRN)

- - - **OR**

Foster parent* **OR** Veterans affairs pensioner (Gold Card)**

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH).
 **Applicants must provide a copy of the Veteran Affairs Gold card.

Student details

Child's surname	Child's first name	Student ID	Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	Year level

I authorise the Victorian Department of Education (DE) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry about my Centrelink customer details and concession card status to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) to provide the results of any enquiry to DE regarding temporary care orders.

I understand that:

- DFFH or Centrelink will use information I have provided to DE to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DE personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- This consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DFFH and provide it to my child's school so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
- If I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DE.
- Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to DFFH and/or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You can request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant _____

Date ____ / ____ / ____

Camps, Sports and Excursions fund eligibility

Below are the criteria used to determine a student's eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 – Eligibility

To be eligible* for the fund, a mature minor of sixteen years of age or over, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one, or;
 - on the first day of Term two.
- a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
 - b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
 - c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Eligibility | education.vic.gov.au](https://education.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund-eligibility)

Mature minors or parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and seventeen years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and eighteen years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooling, or TAFE.

Eligibility Date

For concession card holders, CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on **29 January 2024 and/or 15 April 2024**.

Payment amounts

CSEF payment amount

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

- Primary school student rate: \$150.00 per year.
- Secondary school student rate: \$250.00 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly the school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student's date of birth. For more information, see: [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Payment amounts | education.vic.gov.au](https://education.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund-payment-amounts)

Foundation and Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents, so please register your interest at the school.

How to complete the application form

NOTE: ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

1. Complete the PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN DETAILS section.
Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.
If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.
2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.
3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible. The CSEF program for 2024 closes at the end of term two 2024.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.