



No school for preps	Thu 1
No school for preps	Fri 2
First assembly for 2024 2.50pm	Mon 5
No school for preps (assessment)	Thu 8
No school for preps (assessment)	Fri 9
Info Night/ Family Picnic	Fri 9
No school for preps	Thu 15
No school for preps	Fri 16
3-6 Swimming	Tue 20
'Meet the Teacher' interviews No school for students	Wed 21
3-6 Swimming	Thu 22
Sugarloaf District swimming carnival	Fri 23
3-6 Swimming	Tue 27
3-6 Swimming	Thu 29
MARCH	
3-6 Swimming	Tue 12
3-6 Swimming	Thu 14

Hi Everyone,

I'd like to welcome everyone back after the holiday break and to especially welcome the many new students and families we have across the school. I trust your time as part of our Kangaroo Ground primary school community will be both enjoyable and rewarding.

We currently have 247 students and 12 classes. We have kept low class numbers as our main priority with class sizes across the school ranging from 20 to 23 children. The lower class numbers facilitate more individual attention for all our students.

Our new 2024 Prep children have made a great start to their school journey and have already spent considerable time learning with their grade six buddies.

The transition back to the school day routine has gone smoothly and children have already settled into their new classroom setting.

Weather permitting, our school assembly is held on the basketball court each Monday afternoon at 2:50pm. Next Monday's assembly is a special assembly where we traditionally welcome our Preps to the KG school community. Parents are always most welcome to attend our school assemblies.

You may notice some facilities changes which have taken place during the school break. The new running track around the school oval has been a great addition. We will make good use of the new track for PE sessions, bike education, cross country and general play.

The cubby houses connected to the bottom playground are well under way and should be completed in the next week. No doubt children of all ages will make creative use of the new KG Tiny Town!

The Performing Arts area has been landscaped to create another passive play and seating area.

We have attempted to create more options for children's play. Many students will choose passive and active play areas depending on their energy levels or how they are feeling.

BUILDING PROGRAM

Considerable preparation work has taken place during the school break and the project is still on track to be completed in the expected time frame.

Key dates from the tender construction program are as follows:

- Commence works on site – 15/1/2024
- Occupancy permit for new building – 19/11/2024
- Project completion – 16/1/2025

I will update everyone as the various stages of construction take place – slab, frame, roof, etc.

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT - FAMILY PICNIC: FRIDAY 9th FEBRUARY 5:00pm to 8:00pm

Following parent feedback about the multiple after school events held at the beginning of each school year, we have again combined the Parent Information Night with our School Picnic.

We will start our information night with a general information session outside on the basketball court at 5:00pm and then move to classrooms for a brief Q and A session with teachers.

Term 1 'Meet the teacher' interviews will be held on Wednesday February 21. Please remember, if there are

any important issues or concerns we encourage parents to make an early appointment to meet with their child's teacher at the beginning of the year.

We are always aiming to improve communication for more efficient and effective feedback to students and parents and we are always happy to receive feedback to help improve how we operate so please feel free to pass on your comments and suggestions.

Children can remain on the court for our picnic. As in previous years, David Skinner will be providing a music and dancing program for the picnic.

This will be a picnic supper event with families providing their own food.

ART SMOCKS

If you haven't already done so, could parents please send an art smock to school for their children. The smocks should be clearly named and will be kept in classroom tubs for each grade to take to the art room for their lessons. The smocks need to cover the arms to protect sleeves from paint and glue.

SWIMMING (note dates have changed)

Our 3/4/5/6 children will be starting their six session swimming program at the Diamond Creek Outdoor Pool on Tuesday 20th February. Permission notices are available on XUNO. Please note the cost of this program includes the government swimming subsidy. The Sugarloaf District swimming sports will be held on Friday 23rd February at the Diamond Creek pool for all those grade 9/10 year old grade 3-6 students who would like to take part. Parents and carers are most welcome to attend and support our swimmers.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS – Call for nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of our 2024 School Council. Nomination forms may be obtained from the school office and must be lodged in the box provided at the office by 4 pm on Thursday 8th February. There is a self-nomination form for parents and DEECD employees.

Nominations are called for seven parent members.

Following the close of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school.

If the number of nominations is more than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for a ballot will be notified.

School councillors are elected for two year terms.

Jelda Sharbell, Tammi Sheppard, Simon Berton, Megan Lewis, Richard Myles and Lani Rowell have completed their two year term. All are welcome to renominate including parents filling casual vacancies.

Amber Hawkins and Rebecca Landy are continuing members so there will be 7 parent vacancies.

Council meets after school on eight occasions each year.

Children of Councillors are covered to attend after school care during meetings.

CODE RED FIRE DAYS

Our school is on the BAR register of schools which will close on code red days. Parents will be notified the day before if we are ever instructed to close our school. (This has only happened once since this process was initiated by the Department)

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

FROM THE PRINCIPAL continued

HOT WEATHER DAYS – 35 DEGREES AND OVER

On days forecast to be 35 degrees and over we will run a different timetable. The lunch break will be shortened to half an hour and the children will start their afternoon classes early. The school day will finish at 3:00pm and parents will be able to collect their children from 3:00pm. Uncollected children will still be supervised in class until the normal dismissal time of 3:20pm. This will keep children out of the sun for an extended period of time in extreme conditions. Please contact the school if you are unsure of our arrangements on these days.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

The Education Department has requested that the following statement is brought to parents' attention. Parents are reminded that the Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. These costs may be recoverable where an injury is caused by the negligence (carelessness) of the

Department, a school council or their employees or volunteers.

Student accident insurance policies are available from some commercial insurers. These cover a range of medical expenses not covered by Medicare or private health insurance.

ANNUAL PRIVACY REMINDER

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy. Please take time to remind yourself of the school's collection statement, found on our school website. For more information about privacy, see: Schools' Privacy Policy – information for parents. This information is also available in nine community languages.

CAR PARK DROP-OFF ZONE REMINDER AND SPEED RESTRICTION

The use of our Drop-Off Zone is an important safety process for our community. All traffic must travel at 10kph or walking pace to help ensure the safety of all car park users.

The Drop-Off Zone has a designated 30 second time limit. This should be ample time to collect children and drive off without the need to reverse into the car park. Bollards have been installed to reinforce this system so your on-going assistance is appreciated.

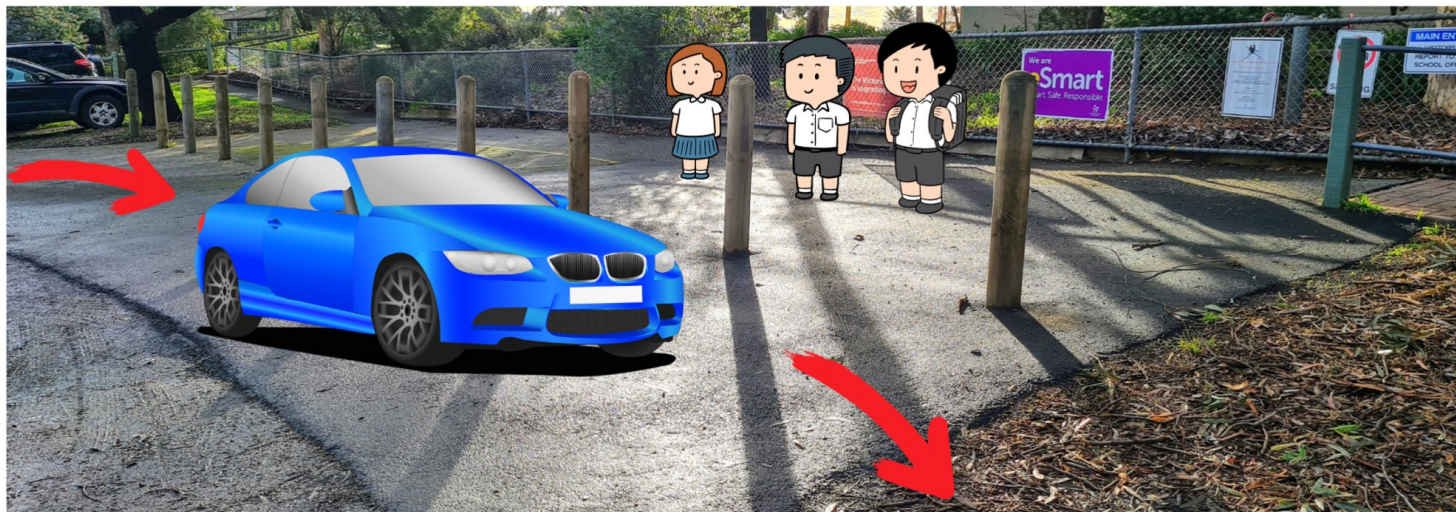
The area between the bollards and the fence is set aside for children while waiting to be collected. Drivers can only stop parallel to this area – please note the arrows in the diagram included with this week's Newsletter.

The key is to avoid having cars driving directly into the yellow safety area and reversing into the car-park.

This also avoids having children walk through passing cars to get to their parent's vehicle. It was also noted that parents in large four-wheel drive vehicles can find it difficult to see small children around their cars so the need to limit reversing is important.

Thankyou for your cooperation in making this potentially dangerous operation as safe as it can be for our KG students.

Thanks again,
Laurie Murray



KANGAROO GROUND PRESCHOOL

Vacancies available in our 3-year-old FREE KINDER program for 2024.

Our community run kinder offers a combination of play based traditional and BUSH kinder.

Our program runs for 15 hours from 9am-3pm on Wednesday and Friday.

Optional extended 3 hour session on Thursday 8.45am-11.45am and access to Kangaroo Ground Primary School's wonderful out of hours care (fees apply).

For further information please call us on 03 97120297 or email:

kangaroo.ground.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au
or see www.kangaroogroundpreschool.com.au

Welcome Preps!



Term 1 Planner

Each term every student will receive a planner listing all activities and costs.

These items will also be added to XUNO events which you can access anytime via the APP.

Term 1 Planner is in the process of being completed and will be sent out via XUNO messages to all families early next week.

Events -You will have noticed the following events have been added to XUNO

Swimming program- Grade 3 – 6

5/6 PGL Downs Camp final payment - Grade 5/6

Family Picnic -Whole school

Additional events will be added in the coming days and completed by early next week.

Fees – Annual student fees – refer to the attached Parent Payment Policy

Curriculum Contributions

Other Contribution

OSHC registration – For students who will be attending during 2024.

The following link should help new families navigate XUNO on how to approve permissions and make payments.

[Using XUNO events and fees - For parents and carers](#)

Financial Assistance for families

The Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) is available to eligible families to cover costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

Please refer to the attached information flyer and application form.

Forms are available at the school office and via the school website.

Attendance

All student absences should be entered on to XUNO as soon as possible.

If your child arrives at school after 9am they will need to get a late pass from the XUNO kiosk situated in the ALC building. The pass should be handed to their teacher on arriving in the classroom.

[How to use XUNO to inform your school about a student absence](#)

The following link will help all families navigate all information they need including attendance, events, payment, finding your way around XUNO, parent teacher interviews and XUNO family APP.

[Students, Parents and Carers - Help Articles \(xuno.com.au\)](#)

If you need any information or help, please don't hesitate to contact the office on 97120292, or drop in during school hours.

Lisa Lyons

Business Manager



Dear parent/guardian,

I would like to advise you of KGPS's voluntary financial contributions for 2024.

The ongoing contributions of our KG families ensure that our school can provide everything the children require to cover all areas of their curriculum. Parent payments enable our school to deliver the wide range of programs we offer and the necessary materials and consumables to complete related activities.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. Any government grants (including the swimming subsidy) are always deducted from the cost of the event or program.

A Term Planner will continue to be provided each term to cover the range of extra-curricular camp, activities, excursions and incursions on our timetable.

The Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund is available for concession card holders. (Applications are available at the office)

As always, if you are experiencing financial hardship, please contact me for assistance.

For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

Yours sincerely,

Laurie Murray

Principal

Amber Hawkins

School Council President

Payment methods –

- *XUNO – via your XUNO App - go to your dashboard and view events*
- *Eftpos – payment at the school office*
- *BPay – details for your unique reference number will be found on your family statement*

Refunds

Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and made on a case-by-case basis. Refunds will be provided where the school deems it is reasonable and fair to do so, taking into consideration whether a cost has been incurred.

Please refer to the Department Parent Payment Policy and Guidance, Financial Help for Families Policy, and any other relevant information.

For further information please contact the school office on 97120292

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<p><i>Classroom supplies, consumables, materials, and equipment including the following: -</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper</i> • <i>Science – consumables</i> • <i>Mathematics equipment</i> • <i>English equipment</i> • <i>Sports equipment</i> <p><i>Includes- printing and photocopying of worksheets and learning materials</i></p>	\$130
<p><i>ICT Devices and software licences</i></p> <p><i>School events for each grade level will be listed on our term planner i.e.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Athletics carnival – entry and transport</i> • <i>Gymnastic and dance sessions</i> • <i>Swimming program</i> • <i>Camps and excursions</i> • <i>Junior school tabloid sports day</i> • <i>School picnic</i> <p><i>These will be included on Term Planners</i></p>	\$100 Student Term Planner
Other Contributions - for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
<i>First aid equipment</i>	\$20
<i>School grounds maintenance and improvements</i>	\$20
<i>OSHC Registration annual fee per family</i>	\$10
Tax deductible contributions	
<i>Building fund. A tax-deductible contribution to support renovations, upgrades, and maintenance of school infrastructure.</i>	\$
<i>Library fund. -</i>	\$
Total Amount	\$
Category	
Curriculum Contributions	\$230
Other Contributions	\$40
OSHC Registration per family	\$10
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	See term planners

PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY

ONE PAGE OVERVIEW



FREE INSTRUCTION

- Schools provide students with free instruction and ensure students have free access to all items, activities and services that are used by the school to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements in Victorian Curriculum F-10, VCE and VCAL.
- Schools may invite parents to make a financial contribution to support the school.



PARENT PAYMENT REQUESTS

Schools can request contributions from parents under three categories:

Curriculum Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.

Other Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides for free to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

- Schools may also invite parents to supply or purchase educational items to use and own (e.g. textbooks, stationery, digital devices).



FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

- Schools put in place financial hardship arrangements to support families who cannot pay for items or activities so that their child doesn't miss out.
- Schools have a nominated parent payment contact person(s) that parents can have a confidential discussion with regarding financial hardship arrangements.



SCHOOL PROCESSES

- Schools must obtain school council approval for their parent payment arrangements and publish all requests and communications for each year level on their school website for transparency.

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

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](#)

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](#)

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.

PANTON HILL JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB



JOIN US

**OPT FOR A HOME,
NOT JUST A CLUB.
JOIN OUR FAMILY IN 2024!**

**REGO DAY
10AM - 12PM
SUNDAY 11 FEB 2024
A.E. CRACKNELL
RESERVE**



**CALL CHRIS 0422 604 988
PHJFC.PRESIDENT@GMAIL.COM
[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/P/PANTON-HILL-
JUNIOR-FOOTBALL-CLUB-100054460839648/](https://www.facebook.com/p/panton-hill-junior-football-club-100054460839648/)**

PHCC PINK STUMPS DAY

FIELDS OF

PINK



**PHCC TAKE ON PHFNC IN AN
EPIC T20 CLASH!**

**THIS COMMUNITY EVENT WILL
BE HELD ON SUNDAY 25TH
FEBRUARY 2024
FROM 12.30PM
AT CRACKNELL RESERVE
ENTRY \$5 PP - KIDS FREE!**



Come and Join the



Program At Kangaroo Ground Tennis Club!

Come and join the other children at Kangaroo Ground Primary School who are a part of our **HOT SHOTS** team! The Hot Shots program is run during the school lunch hour and is available for all ages and abilities, from preps to grade 6 and competition players.

A Free trial for Preps starts Wednesday 7 February lunchtime.

Lessons are also available before and after school.

Start the day with **Cardio Tennis Sessions** for a morning filled with fitness and fun. Sessions are run on Mondays and Wednesday 9.15-10.15am.

All adults are welcome; bookings are essential.

Please contact Katie on 0407 071 599 for inquiries and bookings.



WHITEFRIARS
CATHOLIC COLLEGE FOR BOYS

Open Day

Sunday 3 March



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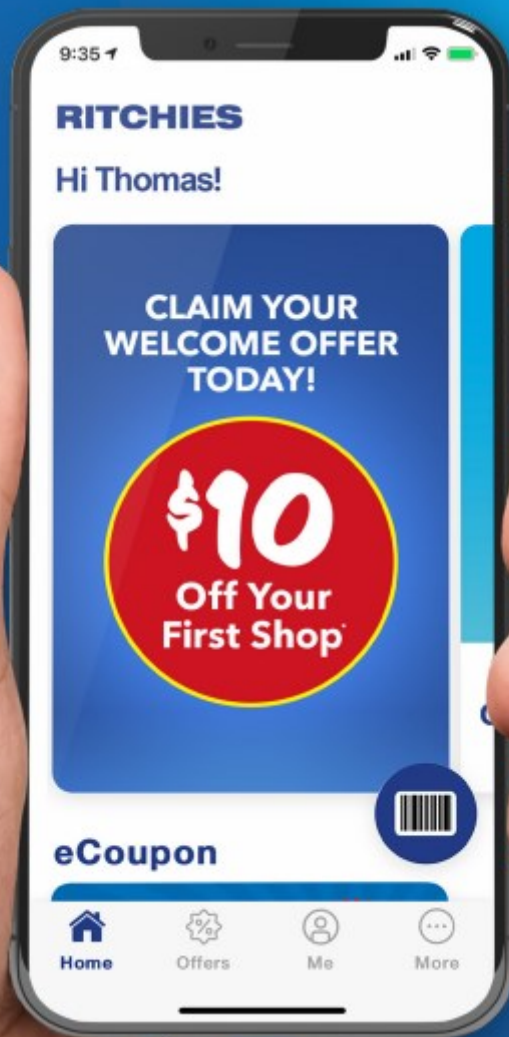
Register now
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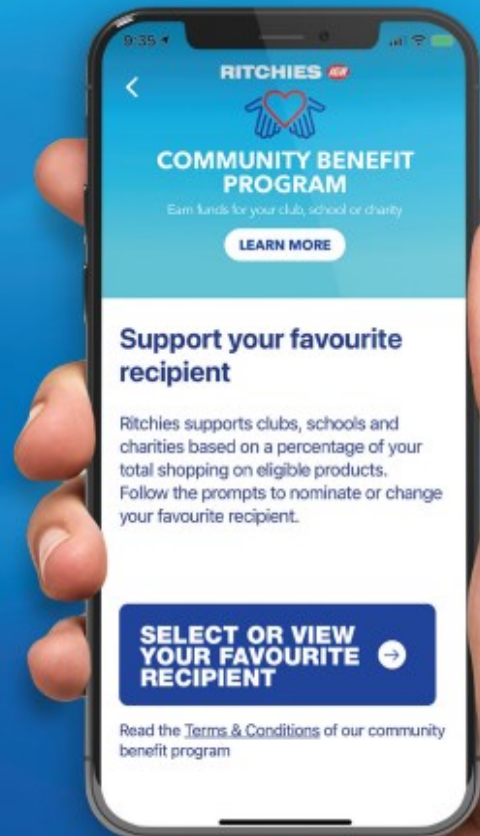
KANGAROO GROUND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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