

Warburton Primary School

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January 31st 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

ANNUAL UPDATE

SCHOOL PLANS FOR LOCALISED **EXTREME** and **CODE RED** FIRE DANGER RATING FORECASTS
AIR QUALITY AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

Due to its location and the surrounding vegetation and terrain, Warburton Primary School is on the Department of Education's Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR). This is an important notice outlining Warburton Primary School's response to forecast days of EXTREME and CODE RED fire danger rating.

Our Emergency Management Plan has been completed in accordance with directions given to us by the Department of Education.

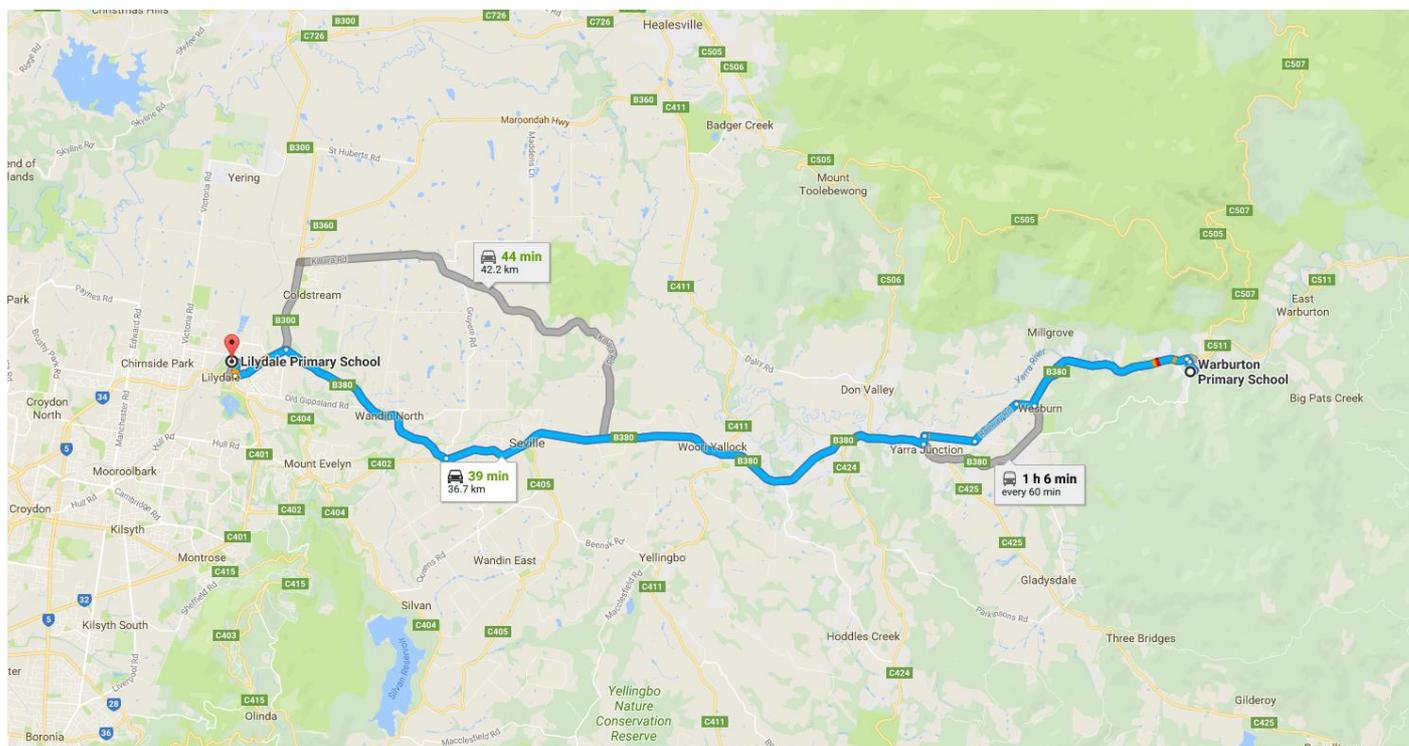


On days of forecast **CODE RED** FIRE DANGER RATING:

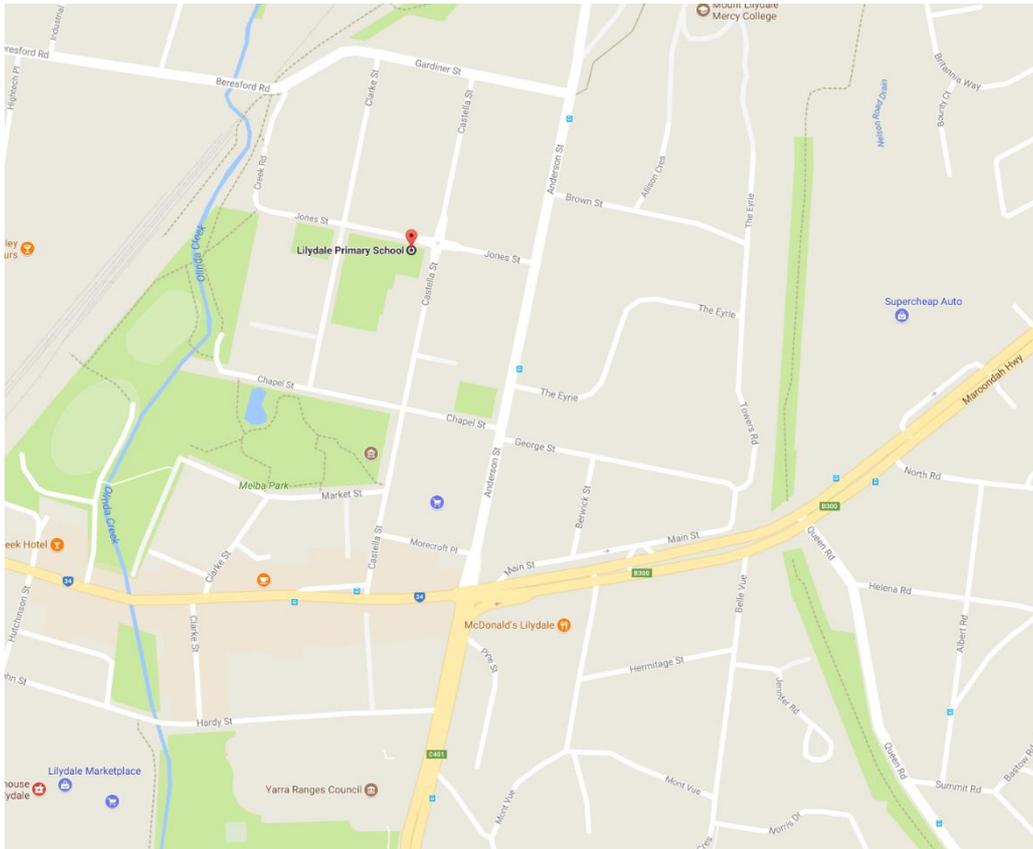
- Warburton Primary School will be **CLOSED**.
- The school will notify ALL families via paper notice, SMS, email and social media (school Facebook, school Twitter and school Sentral portal) of the closure no later than 3.00pm the previous day.
- Phone calls will be made if necessary.
- Signage will be displayed around the school reminding of the closure.
- **Staff will NOT BE PRESENT at Warburton Primary School.**

On days of forecast localised **EXTREME FIRE DANGER RATING**:

- Warburton Primary School will **RELOCATE** to Lilydale Primary School, 63 Castella Street, Lilydale.
- The school will notify **ALL** families via paper notice, SMS, email and social media (school Facebook, school Twitter and school Sentral portal) of the relocation no later than 3.00pm the previous day.
- Phone calls will be made if necessary.
- Signage will be displayed around the school reminding of the relocation.
- **Staff will NOT BE PRESENT at Warburton Primary School.** Staff will be relocated to Lilydale Primary School.
- Parents and guardians will be required to transport their children to Lilydale Primary School, and collect them at 3.30pm. Warburton school staff will be present to welcome the children, mark the rolls and run an education program.
- We understand that parents and guardians may decide to enact their own fire plans on such days of forecast localised **EXTREME** fire danger conditions.



Lilydale Primary School; usually a 39 minute drive from Warburton Primary School



Lilydale Primary School
63 Castella Street, LILYDALE Vic 3140
Phone 03 9735 1642

Please note that the arrangements for EXTREME fire danger ratings will depend on **localised** conditions. This means that whilst the Vic Emergency App and website may list a day as EXTREME, the decision to close is made by the DET and will depend on information provided by the CSIRO as well as the Bureau of Meteorology.

Please use the Vic Emergency App to make your own decisions as to your family's fire plan. The decision for Warburton Primary School to RELOCATE on forecast localised EXTREME days will be communicated to you via the methods described above.

I urge you to use the Vic Emergency App (available for Apple and Android) and to visit the Vic Emergency website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/>

Please be aware that there is always the potential for fire danger at **ALL** ratings of the scale, from LOW-MODERATE to CODE RED. Warburton Primary School's Emergency Management Plan guides us in our response to any dangers.

Feel free to contact me should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Damian Marley".

Damian Marley
Principal

Air Quality and Outdoor Activity Guidelines

Warburton Primary School is guided by advice from the DET and EPA Victoria as to the best way to protect our students from poor air quality during a smoke event or from atmospheric dust.

We monitor the air quality at www.epa.vic.gov.au/airwatch.

You can find out more information about smoke here
<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/forcommunity/environmental-information/air-quality/smoke/smoke-your-health>

For further information, updates and advice relating to incidents affecting air quality in your area go to <http://emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/>

Air quality during a smoke event is variable, and the measurements at our nearest monitoring site may not accurately reflect conditions at the school. Warburton Primary School will use our best judgement, if we can see or smell smoke, to limit or prevent outdoor activities including planned excursions. For any students and staff with known health issues, we ensure health plans are enacted, for example an asthma plan.

We refer to the following air quality categories and guidance:

| Air Quality Category | Outdoor Activity Guidance |
|----------------------|--|
| Good | It's a good time to be outside. |
| Moderate | It's okay to be outside but watch for changes in air quality around you. |
| Poor | Shorter and less strenuous activities such as recess are okay to hold outside. Longer activities such as physical education or sports training should be avoided outdoors. Watch for symptoms and take action as needed.* Anyone with asthma should follow their asthma action plans and keep their quick-relief medicine handy. Anyone with concerns about their health should seek medical advice or call NURSE-ON-CALL on 1300 60 60 24. |
| Very Poor | Move all activities indoors or reschedule them to another day. Avoid being outdoors. Excessive smoke levels can not only aggravate existing lung conditions, but may also irritate eyes, coughing or wheezing. Anyone with asthma should follow their asthma action plans and keep their quick-relief medicine handy. Anyone with concerns about their health should seek medical advice or call NURSE-ON-CALL on 1300 60 60 24. |
| Hazardous | Reschedule all physical activities to another day. Avoid being outdoors. Excessive smoke levels can not only aggravate existing lung conditions, but may also irritate eyes, coughing or wheezing. Anyone with asthma should follow their asthma action plans and keep their quick-relief medicine handy. Anyone with concerns about their health should seek medical advice or call NURSE-ON-CALL on 1300 60 60 24. |