



November 2013

Information re: School Closure on Extreme Fire-Risk Days

Dear Parents,

The Endeavour Hills and Officer districts are included in the CFA's list of areas of compulsory school closure on days of extreme fire-risk. As you would realize, we have two of our school's campuses in those areas. There is no reason to be alarmed, our campuses are safe schools, it is simply a CFA decision to denote certain areas as compulsory higher risk districts.

In line with other independent schools, Maranatha will follow the CFA's school closure procedures. All three Maranatha campuses will be closed on any day forecast by the CFA as "Code Red" fire danger. There will be no classes running at any campus and no staff from those campuses will attend school. There will be no capacity for child-minding by the school on an imposed closure day.

It is impossible to keep Casey Campus Primary in Doveton open without Maranatha central administration at Endeavour Hills operating. The Doveton shuttle and other connecting buses that link up at Endeavour Hills cannot run on such a day. So, for the overall safety of all staff and students, all three Maranatha campuses; at Endeavour Hills, Officer and Doveton will be closed on any day designated by the CFA as "Code Red" fire danger.

There is a scale of forecasts that the CFA uses during the fire-danger period. The scale ranges from Low-Moderate to "Code Red". The CFA will issue notification of "Code Red" classification by midday the preceding day through the media.

Even if there is a weather change and the predicted forecast does not eventuate, schools stay closed on "Code Red" days.

No doubt this will cause considerable inconvenience for those parents who work and will need to find some way to have their children minded for the day. Notwithstanding that it is clear that in order to keep our school population safe, we must follow the advice of the authorized fire-danger experts.

Yours in His service

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vernon Clark', is written in a cursive style.

Vernon Clark

Principal