

Wednesday December 1st 2021



Strathewen Primary School

Dates:

Thursday December 2nd - Final Prep Transition Session 5- Special hot lunch orders- JSC hot lunch day

Tuesday December 7th- Grade 6 to Year 7- Transition Day- all secondary schools

School Council- final meeting for 2021

Wednesday December 8th- Grade 6 Graduation- afternoon event at school 5pm-6.30pm at school

Thursday December 9th- Whole School- Christmas Special Day at school- Christmas shopping market, special lunch & movie day

Tuesday December 14th- Grade 6 Big Night In- afternoon activities, dinner and evening at school

Thursday December 16th- final day for students- School wide Kris Kringle morning, 1.30 dismissal- short day, no lunch at school

Friday December 17th end of term- pupil free day- pack up



We're into summer and the Christmas countdown has begun. It really doesn't seem long ago that I packed up my classroom Christmas decorations and here we are setting up again. The lunch order forms for the end of year 'Excursion to Nowhere' have been sent home today, with students having the opportunity to order a special lunch from Mr Rooster for Thursday, December 9th. Just a reminder that orders and full payment are required by Monday so that we can get our large order in and sorted. The stock for our onsite 'Christmas Market' for kids is being organised and we're almost there. As most families know, in usual times we head into the city for a day at the movies, a special lunch out, a visit to the Myer windows and a bit of Christmas shopping. Given ongoing restrictions, we're running with what the students cheerfully named our 'Excursion to Nowhere' again this year, involving the market morning, gift wrapping and labelling, some Christmas activities, a special lunch and a movie afternoon. We mightn't leave the valley, but it will be a great day.

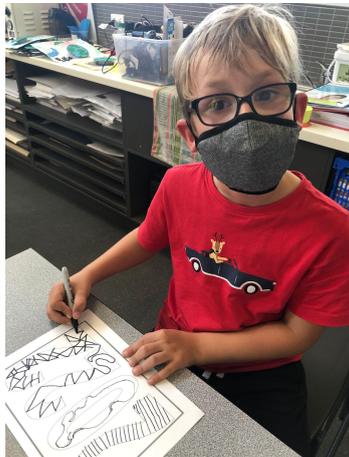
We continue to manage a lot of minor bugs and illnesses at the moment, across both classrooms. The end of year exhaustion is apparent and there certainly are some bugs about. With social commitments and festive season events kicking off for families, we have a lot of tired children in the classroom. Thanks to parents and carers for keeping on top of covid testing for unwell students. As many of our neighbouring schools manage group and whole class isolation periods or in some cases closure due to exposure, we're really hoping we can make it to the end of the year without having to navigate the complexities of contact tracing and further interruptions to school operation.

Take care
Jane



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

Tuesday's Art session with Mrs Galvin- lots of Christmas fun for all



Lots of great treasures under construction...

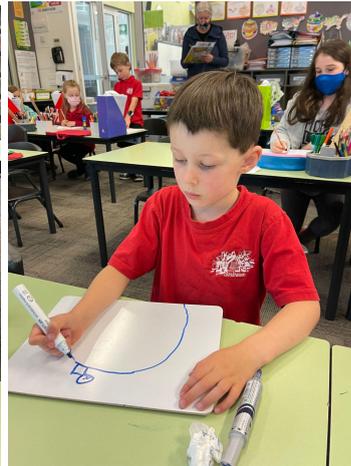
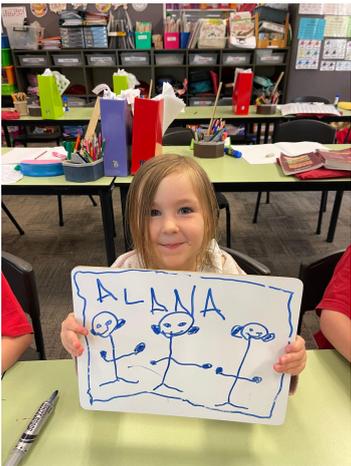
School based Parent Opinion Survey

In line with our planning for 2021, we have developed a brief survey for parents and carers seeking feedback on our school performance.

In the past, the response rate to the Departmental survey online was fairly low and we're hoping that in providing our own school based survey we'll see an increase in responses.

Links to our Google survey will be sent home soon and simply require an email address entry to log in. If you have any questions about the survey process, feel free to have a chat.

Jane



Our Pre-Prep group enjoying some time in their new classroom



We've had students arrive at school on bikes, in trucks, on horseback, on the back of dirt bikes and large road bikes, but we've never had anyone dropped off at school on a tractor before!



Our six hens are laying happily! We have packs of fresh eggs for sale. All incoming funds will go towards purchasing chicken food, nesting straw and JSC.

SPECIAL SPRING PRICE

\$2.00 a dozen

For sale here at the school entrance

we'd love to take your old egg cartons off your hands

Any money raised through selling eggs goes directly towards covering the cost of chook food, straw etc. Help to support our wonderful school chook program and buy some eggs

What do you know about our R.A.P working group?

A [Reconciliation Action Plan \(RAP\)](#) is a formal statement of commitment to reconciliation. Our school has formed a Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group. We plan to work together to develop a plan for SPS. Through this work we aim to promote reconciliation in education, while focussing on strengthening relationships, respect and opportunities in the classroom, around the school and with the local community. We'll keep the community updated as we move forward. If you have any questions about our working group, please contact Kate Fawcett.



Guided Meditation with grades 4-6

During our busy days of learning, it's nice to stop and take some time out to relax, slow down and recharge.

Grade 6 Graduation Event Wednesday December 8th - 5pm-6.30pm at SPS



This year we are able to hold an onsite graduation event for our grade six students. This is set to take place on Wednesday December 8th, here on the lower school lawn and stage area, weather permitting. We'll have seating set up on the lawn for families and friends joining us. We will organise to film the ceremony for those unable to attend. Students have been discussing their graduation speeches and making a start on them! We'll kick off with the formalities just after 5pm, hear from all involved, make our presentations and then finish up with a cuppa or cold drink and a covidsafe light afternoon tea. If the weather isn't suitable we will move the event into the multipurpose room. In line with current requirements, in the case of an indoor event all adults attending will be required to show evidence of full vaccination status to enter the building. We plan to conclude the evening by 6.30pm.

Strathewen Primary School Bushfire Emergency Management Planning

A question for all school families...

In the event of a day of EXTREME fire danger for our area, when our Relocation Plan would be enacted and we'd be operating from Diamond Valley College, would you plan to send your children to school or plan to enact your own home bushfire plan?

In working with prospective student numbers on an EXTREME day, it would be helpful for us to have an idea of what your plans are.

behind the scenes...

- our special hot lunch orders have been placed and we're ready to go tomorrow
- our maintenance man, Tony, is up and running ticking jobs off the list
- electrical testing and tagging of cleaning equipment took place earlier this week
- Kylee has been in and continued her preparation work in the bush food garden
- on Monday we carried out the draw for our end of year Kris Kringle and notes were sent home
- shopping for items for our end of year Christmas Market for students is almost complete
- we're finishing up student assessments and continuing work on end of year report writing



S.P.S. Supporting the Diamond Valley Gift Appeal 2021- we'll have a box set up at the school entrance for easy drop off

Bring some joy to those in need by donating to the Diamond Valley Gift Appeal this year. We're collecting donations at SPS- unwrapped new toys for 0-5 year olds, gift vouchers, special Christmas food items etc. Help us make Christmas a little brighter for those in need.



Parent's Club Christmas Hamper Raffle

We're planning on holding our special end of year Christmas Hamper Raffle, which is always a highlight for our students.

We're putting out the call for donations of suitable items to add to our baskets. All donations can be dropped off at the office. Raffle tickets will be sent home soon.

Thank you



In our classrooms this term, we're focusing on our school values and what they mean. We're continuing to look at 'kindness' and the importance of being a good friend and a good person. Our bear presentation recognises the following: friendliness, care, respect, responsibility, valuing difference and including others.

This week's Better Buddies Kindness Bear is awarded to Sage.

Sage is a very considerate student who takes care of others and is a great friend.

Congratulations Sage.



Kris Kringle 2021



This year we will again be running a Kris Kringle involving students and staff. Everyone will draw a 'secret' name out of a hat and this will be written on a note to come home.

(Only the person with the note will know who they are to buy for.)

Each participant then purchases a small, suitable gift (approximately \$5 to \$8), wraps and labels the gift with the name of the recipient and marks the tag- 'from Kris Kringle'.

Wrapped gifts can be placed under the class Christmas trees at any time from the first week in December. Both grades will get together on the last day of school (Thursday 16th Dec.) for the fun of gift giving and guessing. These gifts will hopefully remain anonymous until the day they are given out. If you would prefer your child not take part in this year's KK, please let a staff member know next week and we'll take them off the list.

Strathewen Primary School

Community Pantry

*Take what you need ... Share what you can
Do you know anyone needing a little help at the moment?*

Did you know the evidence shows that across the Nillumbik-Banyule area there are approximately 13295 currently experiencing food insecurity?

Agencies have recorded a 380% increase in food provision in our area since 2019/20.

Having a tight week? Know of anyone who might need some assistance?

That's what our pantry is here for.

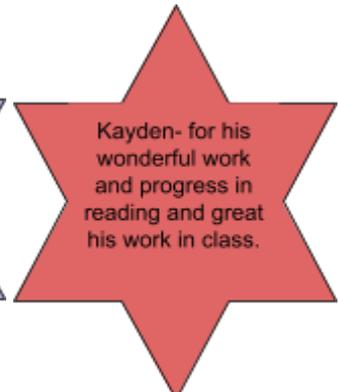
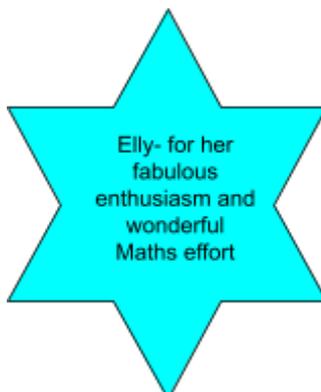
Our pantry was restocked yesterday and there's plenty there.

Community pantries operate on a trust system and encourage donors to give what they can, and recipients to take only as much as they need.

Be sure to spread the word.



Our star students this week are Giselle, Elly, Van and Kayden. Congratulations to you all.



Our final day of Badminton for 2021



Aussie of the Month

Purpose

Recognising and celebrating active citizenship that demonstrates inclusive Australian values in our primary schools

Values

Fair go- not just in how we apply ourselves but also providing opportunity for all

Mateship- generosity of spirit and compassion for those in need

Respect- of self, others, of our community and the environment

Inclusion- celebrating difference and the rights and freedoms we are all entitled to

At SPS we have registered to participate in the Aussie of the Month program, a primary civics and citizenship recognition program, which is delivered under the auspices of the Australia Day Council's National Network. The focus is to encourage and recognise students for their contribution to their community through a demonstration of Australian values as outlined in the Values for Australian Schooling and Curriculum framework. These are values outside of academic application, instead they're about active contribution to school, community and peer groups.

Each month, students will be nominated and one student will be selected for recognition with an award certificate and badge. We're hoping to invite special visitors along to present the award each month.

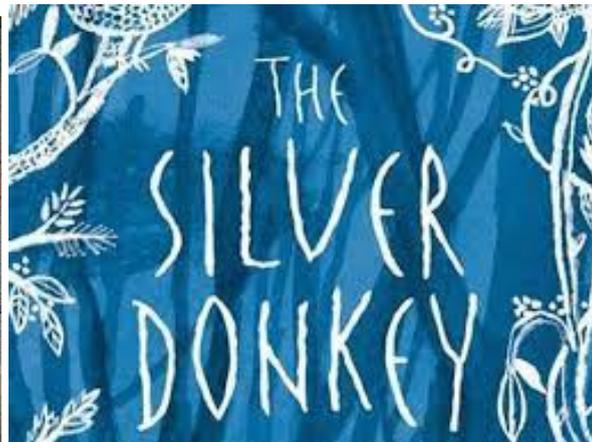
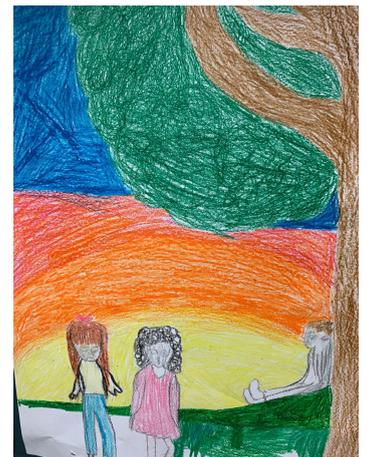
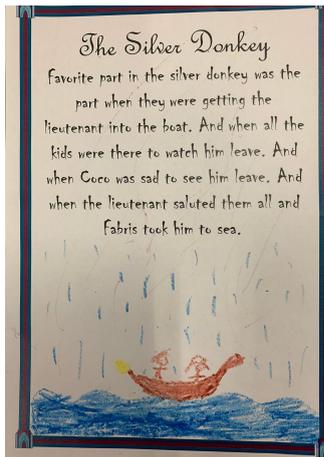
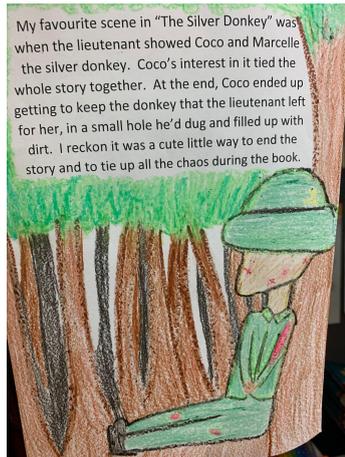
Christmas Market for Kids

In place of our end of year Christmas Excursion we're again planning our special Christmas Excursion Day at school on Thursday December 9th.

The day begins with the Christmas Market, providing those who would like to do their Christmas shopping with the opportunity to do so here on site. We'll be set up in the multi-purpose room downstairs and students bring along their own wallet and money to shop for their special people. Our older students will again assist the little ones.

Items are priced from \$2- \$5. The shopping adventure is a lot of fun.

We'll then be spending some time wrapping and labelling gifts ready to come home and go under the Christmas tree. We've got some Christmas activities planned for the morning and after this our special ordered lunch will arrive and then it's time for our movie afternoon.



"Ahh," the soldier tries not to make a sound,
If he were to, it might get him found,
Now the stretcher-bearer comes 'round,
And to the medic's shack he is bound.

Down the cliffs we go,
I hope I see another snow,
But as I lie here and try to know,
How beautiful the poppies will be when they grow.

I'm in the hospital connected to a drip,
I feel my skin starting to rip,
On the bullet, the doctors have a good grip,
I hope I won't go to a heavenly ship.

I can hear my family weep,
As I count devilish sheep,
Where these sheep creep,
I wonder as I go to sleep.

I can feel my body descent into the ground,
I hear my family standing 'round,
To the gates of heaven or hell I am bound,
At this sacred moment I do not hear a sound.

Oliver

*My favourite part of the story is when a man waits for people he doesn't know he can trust
Bust he feels he's met them just ...once.*

*A man with such trauma he loses his sight,
He saw things that gave him quite a fright.*

*When the world is asleep, he is awake,
Waiting for things he doesn't know he should take.*

*When in the morning he lies in wait,
Scared that the children might be late.*

*He's run from the war, he has so much to give,
Above all else, he just wants to live.*

Mason