

Wednesday December 8th 2021



## Strathewen Primary School

### Dates:

**Wednesday December 8th- TONIGHT- 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**



And here we are preparing for another grade 6 graduation event! It doesn't seem that long ago that some of this year's graduates were joining us for Thursday morning pre-prep sessions! We're hoping that the weather will hold out and we can run our event outside, but if not, we're set to move into the multi-purpose room space. Just a reminder for all attendees to check in using the QR code system and if we're meeting indoors, we'll need to check the double vaccination status for adults. Diane, Deb and I organised the downstairs space this morning, so we're ready to go whatever the weather does. Rod is organising the microphone and PA system, so we'll be all sorted.

Our grade 6 group members headed off yesterday to their respective schools for a Year 7 transition session and I'm hearing all about how things went. It's a big change and we wish Christian, Eden, Giselle, Molly and Noah all the very best for the next stage of their education. We have a few special events to enjoy in the coming days, to mark the end of primary school life for them all.

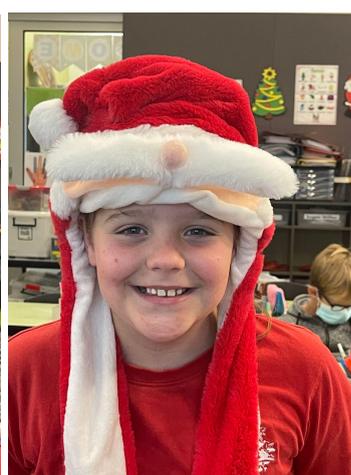
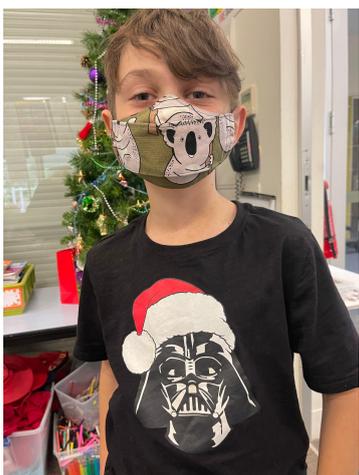
Tomorrow we're ready for our 'Excursion to Nowhere'. The market stalls are set up and Sarah helped me with the pricing. We'll begin the day with our whole school Christmas shopping experience, which should be a lot of fun. From there, the wrapping and labelling will begin and Deb has prepared a huge bundle of gift tags ready for students to write their Christmas messages. We'll need to start our movie session a little before lunch to ensure we don't run out of time in the afternoon. The very large lunch order is set to be picked up at 12.30 and we'll go from there. Even though we're not heading into the city and exploring Christmas in the CBD, we're sure to enjoy a great day no matter what. It might be a good idea to send along a carry bag to ensure that young shoppers can safely transport their treasures home, ready to go under the Christmas tree. Keep an eye out for your Christmas Hamper raffle tickets, sent home today.

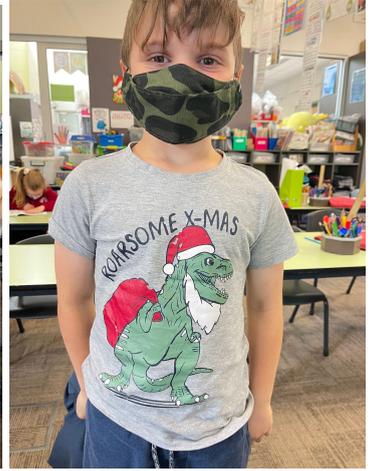
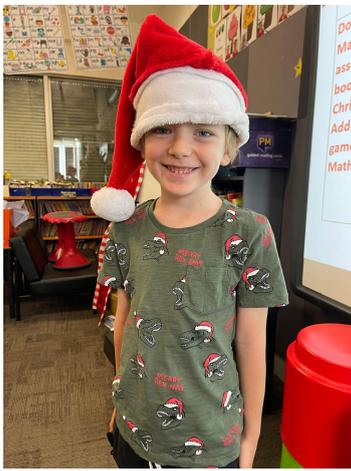
Take care  
Jane

## Mulch Moving Request

Just a request from our gardener, Renate. She is keen to spread the mulch onto our garden beds. It's currently in a heap on the roadside, but Renate would love it if we had some volunteers who were happy to barrow and dump it in piles around the grounds. So... if any of our parents and families are looking for something to do over the break, a bit of mulch moving would be greatly appreciated.

It's really looking like Christmas here at S.P.S.





*Our classrooms are busy with Christmas fun and there's plenty of excitement around watching the Kris Kringle presents mysteriously appearing under the trees in each room. Just a reminder that our KK event is happening on the last day of term, Thursday December 16th.*

### **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 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.

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



*It's happening this afternoon. I believe graduation speeches have been written and we're ready to go. 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 Mr Rooster lunch orders are in and we're ready to go tomorrow, with plenty of fun planned for the day
- the final School Council meeting for 2022 was held last night. Thank you to all of our council members for their work and commitment to the school again this year
- the periodical school clean has been booked in for over the summer break, with carpet steam cleaning, hard floor cleaning and the window clean and Jane met with our cleaning company supervisor today to lock in dates and provide a run through
- over the weekend Renate was onsite mowing the lower lawns and the amphitheatre areas
- our maintenance man was in today and is sorting out a small plastering job and replacement supports for our table tennis tables
- we're waiting on the delivery of our new concrete bush stools for the Fairy Garden, expected to arrive on Friday



## 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

*Ticket books have been sent home today.*

*Many great prizes are on offer- a collection of fantastic hampers, 4 X \$60 Coles vouchers, a \$50 voucher for the Speckled Hen in Hurstbridge....*

*Tickets are \$2.00 each. Each family has been given a book of 10 tickets. With so little opportunity for fundraising this year, please show your support for our Christmas Hamper Raffle.*

*Donations for hampers still most welcome.*

*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 Giselle.*

*Giselle always checks in on her friends and is ready to step up and help others.*

*Congratulations Giselle.*



## Kris Kringle 2021



Don't forget, our KK will be taking place on the last day of term. Everyone has been given their ticket detailing who they are to buy for. The idea is to purchase a small, suitable gift (approximately \$5 to \$8), which is then wrapped and labelled with the name of the recipient and 'from Kris Kringle'. Wrapped gifts can be placed under the class Christmas trees at any time. Both grades will get together on the last day of school (Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec.) for the fun of gift giving and guessing. These gifts will hopefully remain anonymous until the day they are given out.

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.

**ALL-STAR STUDENTS!**

*Our star students this week are Nash, Louie, Sarah and Oscar. Congratulations to you all.*



Taking Initiative

RANDOM ACTS OF  
**KINDNESS**



that extra  
little thing



Awesome  
Effort!



team  
work



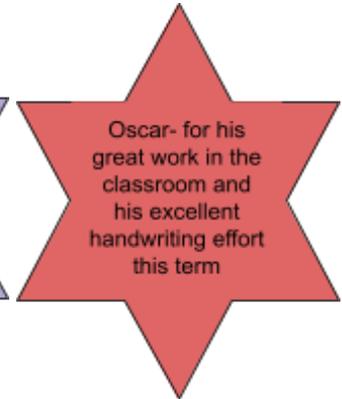
Nash- for putting  
so much effort  
into his home  
reading and  
making such great  
progress



Louie- for his  
consistently  
wonderful effort  
and his great  
work every day



Sarah- for her  
great work in the  
classroom and for  
always  
volunteering to  
help others



Oscar- for his  
great work in the  
classroom and  
his excellent  
handwriting effort  
this term

## *The Famous Strathewen Christmas Pudding...*

We are sorry we could not run Pudding Making this year. Earlier in November we felt the COVID-19 space restrictions would make it too difficult to complete with our usual numbers over two nights.

However we thought residents might like the recipe so you could continue making yours in your own kitchen or get together with a neighbour or friend.

(The recipe is shared in an attachment with today's school newsletter.)

This recipe was originally published in The Age newspaper as MA McGhie's Christmas Pudding. It's a rich, dark pudding and is delicious. The recipe has been tweaked here and there over the years and used ever since for Strathewen Pudding Making since 2009.

We hope you get to use the recipe and enjoy eating it on Christmas Day!

All the best for a great Christmas with family and friends,

Regards,  
Strathewen Wellness and Activities Group.



## 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

Our Excursion to Nowhere is on tomorrow.

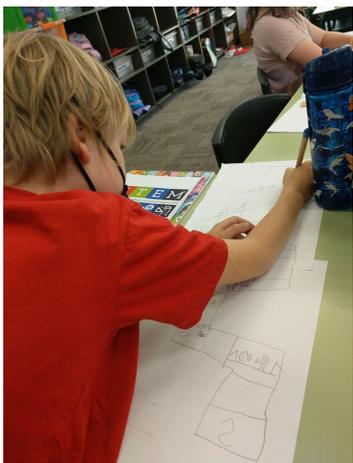
The day begins with the Christmas Market, providing those who would like to do their Christmas shopping with the opportunity to do so here on site. We'll be set up in the multi-purpose room downstairs and students will need to bring along their own wallet and money to shop for their special people. Our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



This week was all about what makes a threatened species special. We had a look at the unique adaptations some of these species have that separates them from other species. Some students included these in their board games and others used them as inspiration to design and build an ultimate animal who is made up of many different animal parts. The younger students then thought about other, more common animals and tried to connect adaptations to the diet and habitat these animals live in. It was great to see some students even thinking about brains, jaws and other cool features of animals that are crucial to their survival.





*Check out Kylee's crew managing the Great Broad Bean Harvest of 2021*