



Strathewen Primary School

Wednesday February 16th 2022

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday 22nd February- First Aid training evening for school staff- session 1- 4-7pm at Doreen - please arrange after school pick up 3.30 sharp or book children in for our OSHC program

Wednesday February 23rd- Weekly Volleyball coaching sessions begin P-6

Friday 25th February- District Swimming Trials- for keen, confident swimmers gr 3-6

Monday 28th February- Red Balloon Day- thank you CFA- special student projects P-6

Tuesday 1st March- School Council meeting- Webex 4.30pm

Friday 11th March- Curriculum Day- NESST school group combined professional learning day for school staff

Tuesday 15th March- First Aid training evening for school staff- session 2- 4-7pm at Doreen- please arrange after school pick up 3.30 sharp or book children in for our OSHC program

Thursday 17th March- Grade 5-6 Leadership Day 1 at Panton Hill Hall

Friday 18th March- The World's Greatest Shave- special event at SPS

Monday 21st March- AFL coaching sessions P-6

Thursday 24th March- AFL coaching sessions P-6

Monday 28th March- AFL coaching sessions P-6

Tuesday 29th March- Family Egg Drop Night and Picnic Event- tentative date 5.30- 7.30pm

Thursday 31st March- SPS DAY IN THE SURF at TORQUAY- whole school event 8am-6pm

Friday 1st April- Whole school Italian Carnivale Day- a great day is planned, more details to follow

Tuesday 5th April- Drumming workshops for 4-6 and P-3 with Mind Beatz

Thursday 7th April- Drumming workshops once again, rehearsing performance items

- Family Night at the Strathewen Hall- Drumming Performance and BBQ 5-7pm

Friday 8th April- final day of term 1- 2.30 dismissal

Looking at the 'Dates to Remember' above and our staff room calendar wall, we've certainly got lots of great action to look forward to this term. Details are being finalised today for our wonderful Day in the Surf at Torquay, our AFL coach sessions are locked in and it's all happening. Our volleyball program was set to begin today, but the start was postponed until next week due to unforeseen circumstances. There are plenty of highlights ahead.

Our fundraising effort for Shri has been very successful. Following generous donations and our ice cream day, our funds are sitting at just over \$900 and we're hoping to collect a little more and round off our target to hit the \$1000. I will be making contact with Shri's wife today to either organise a catch up or a transfer of funds. Thank you to all who supported our fundraising efforts. Your support will make such a difference to this terrific young man and his family.

We're continuing to implement COVID safe procedures here with sanitising, mask wearing etc. All staff are fully vaccinated and evidence of this has been submitted to the Dept. as required for us. Many of our students have also begun the vaccination process. No doubt, we'll face some COVID related isolation situations, as family members test positive and our students are required to quarantine at home for 7 days. Keeping up with twice weekly Rapid Antigen Testing is our most effective tool for early identification of a positive case and assists us in the protection of others. Thank you to our school community for your RAT support.

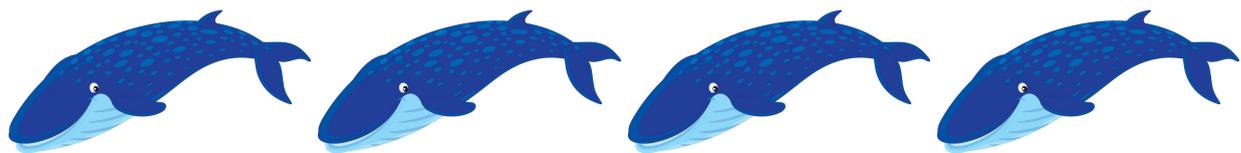
We have our first School Council meeting coming up on Tuesday March 1st. We'll meet via Webex at this stage. For any interested parents keen to join our council, it's not too late to have a chat and come on board. We'd love to meet you.

A reminder about contacting school staff when you need a chat. We're here at school each day and able to arrange a time to speak with families as needed from 8.30 in the morning, prior to the start of the school day, or after school between 3.30 and 4.30pm. Of course, in an emergency situation requiring Departmental assistance or the arrangement of specialist support (a significant community event where trauma counselling is needed, major family disaster etc), after hours calling is warranted. In these times of COVID, of course a call to confirm the positive test result of a class member also warrants an outside hours call, as we're required to work through a list of Departmental processes and reporting. For all general school concerns, questions or enquiries, please contact staff inside their working hours of 8.30am and 4.30pm. Feel free to email any time, however staff may not check and respond to emails outside the normal school hours of operation and on weekends. We do a lot of work in our own time outside of school hours, which is simply part of the job, but in the interest of staff wellbeing and workload, and in line with other schools, we need to limit access to staff outside school hours. Just a reminder that next Tuesday, March 22nd, all staff will need to leave school as close to 3.30pm as possible. We're all heading to Doreen PS for part 1 of our First Aid update and need to be there and ready for our session at 4pm. Please assist us with a prompt after school pick up or if that isn't possible, an OSHC booking for your children that afternoon. We'll be brushing up on our CPR and first aid skills through to 7pm.

Thank you
Jane

Behind the Scenes:

- *Chase has assisted with marking out the area for our Bathtub Project. Chase has taken on the role of leading this project and we're looking forward to having the area dug out ready for the installation to begin.*
- *Our electrician has been in again, sorting out the hand dryer in the boys' bathroom, installing new parts*
- *The latest RATs have been distributed across the school this week, for continued twice weekly testing for all students and staff*
- *Jane and Lisal have been working on the proposed direction of this year's Bushfire Education Partnership Program*
- *Staff members are registered for their First Aid training updates, coming up on Feb 22 and March 15 at Doreen PS.*
- *Maree is getting our 'thank you CFA' project sorted and on the go*
- *Our maintenance man Tony has started updating the line marking in our carpark and Maree has produced a stencil to complete the marking in our disabled parking space.*
- *Our bus is booked, our surf school lessons are booked, Rotary volunteers have the BBQ trailer ready and we're heading to Torquay for a Day in the Surf on the 31st of March.*



MONDAY AFTERNOONS- CROSS-AGE INTEGRATED STUDIES **THE OCEAN**

our work groups are currently investigating the Blue Whale





SHAVING EVENT- here at SPS on Friday March 18th

We have three senior students who have nominated themselves for the World's Greatest Shave this year. They are seeking sponsors from far and wide in their attempt to raise money for The Leukaemia Foundation to fund research, specialist support and make a change for people with blood cancer. It seems that we all know someone, young or older, who is currently dealing with a diagnosis of leukaemia, so this fundraising effort is quite personal for our team.

Mason, Eli and Oliver are seeking sponsors and making plans for the great shaving event. All sponsorship support is greatly appreciated.

Further details about the day will follow shortly.

TORQUAY- DAY IN THE SURF

After cancelling our annual adventure a week prior to the event in 2020 due to COVID and not even attempting to make plans in 2021, we're delighted to announce that our wonderful Day in the Surf is booked in for 2022. This extra-curricular event is all about promoting well-being.

This day began back in 2009, when a couple of amazing women in Torquay, Gail and Karen, gave us a call out of the blue at our temporary school and offered to join with their local Rotary Club to host us for a day away from life as we knew it. It was a chance for our kids and parents to spend a day at the beach, learning to surf, sharing a BBQ, relaxing, connecting and taking a breath. Life was pretty wild back then. And from that time onwards, each year that it's been possible, we have enjoyed an annual adventure in the surf at Torquay. It's a wonderful opportunity for our young people to explore the beach with a range of activities, take to the surf with specialist coaching lessons with the Torquay Surf Academy, spend some fun time away from school with their friends, meet and connect with our Torquay 'family' and enjoy a BBQ lunch and seaside picnic. After the challenge and disruption our children have faced over the last couple of years, a day at the beach is a wonderful chance to recharge and relax.

We have an early start on the day, usually departing from SPS at 8am and we return at around 6pm. We will have a couple of seats available for parents and carers on the bus and parents often car pool and drive themselves down to join us for the day. It's not a suitable day out for toddlers and pre-schoolers, as safety is paramount. It's a long day and continuous supervision can be challenging if you're trying to enjoy and be involved in the programs with school aged siblings.

There will be a charge to families of \$25 per child to assist with the cost of this event. Payment will need to be made in full prior to the day of our travels. We're working through the process of applying for funding support to cover the majority of costs of the day which will reduce parent payment from approximately \$87pp to just \$25. We hope to have all of our students make the most of this great opportunity and join us for our Day in the Surf. Your child's permission form will be coming home soon. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to touch base with us.



Aussie of the Month- kicking off in 2022- February award next week

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

Matanship- 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

As we start back for 2022, 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.

District Swimming Trials- Friday Feb. 25th at the Diamond Creek Pool

Coming up next week we have the District Swimming Trials. This event is held each year and confident, capable swimmers from grades 3-6 are encouraged to compete. Only swimmers who can strongly swim over 50 metres in their chosen event should nominate themselves. The events are freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly. Parent transport is required for this event and parents transporting children are required to supervise them at all times during the morning of competition. The program will be run to a timed schedule, with school staff from our district in charge of organising the heats, timing events and recording results. The fastest times in each event (not each heat) will qualify to represent the District at Division level. The students in grades 3-6 will meet and discuss participation in the trials and those interested will bring a permission form home. Nominations for participation close on Monday, as team lists need to be sent through. For all students electing to participate in this extra curricular event, there is a \$5.00 charge per person, which is payable to our school office prior to Friday the 25th. If you have any questions, please chat to Jane.

SWIMMING 2022- Thank you to those who have let us know about contributing to the cost of bus travel for a swimming program. **Please advise the school to confirm whether or not you're happy to pay for subsidised bus travel to and from swimming for our intensive swimming program.**

With the changes to parent payment policies, we are exploring how we are able to provide our usual intensive swimming program again this year.

Learning to swim is part of the curriculum and it is expected that all students are able to swim by the end of grade 6. We have received funding specifically allocated towards providing a grade 6 swimming education program, which will mean their program costs will be fully covered.

We have also been able to allocate some additional swimming funds to offset the cost for our P-5 parents. Unlike many metropolitan schools who have access to public transport or nearby swimming facilities, we need to travel to and from our swimming sessions by bus, and this is a major part of the cost of our program. Our intensive swimming program, providing 6 sessions in the pool run over two weeks, costs around \$100 per student in total. This year, our grade 6 group sessions will be cost free for parents and we'll be able to run at a reduced cost for all other grade levels, only charging part of the bus travel cost per student. If you have a student in the P-5 group, we would love your feedback in regard to this. We're working as hard as possible to ensure costs to our school families are kept to a minimum. Are you happy to pay a contribution towards the subsidised cost of the bus travel for your child/ren?



Some measurement work happening in Prep Maths sessions...

big OSHC
CHILD CARE

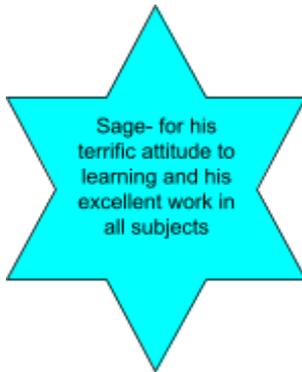
Just a reminder to make sure that parents have registered their children with our OSHC program so that in a last minute situation, before or after school care is accessible.

ALL-STAR STUDENTS!

Our star students this week are Marley, Sage, Yvie and Harriet



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS



Pre-Prep Action on Thursday



Our first Pre-Prep morning for 2022 took place last week and it was lovely to see so many happy faces at school. Rumour has it that at least one little person was so excited about coming to school that he slept in his uniform!

CSEF - Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

Department of Education

The CSEF provides payments for eligible students to attend activities such as school camps, swimming and organised sport, excursions and incursions.

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card (examples- age pension, health care card, job seeker, newstart, sickness or special benefit etc) are eligible to apply. Families who are eligible can list more than one student on their application as long as the students attend the same school. Schools receive applications over terms one and two.

You can apply online for the CSEF or see us at the office to have a chat.

Uniform Orders

We will be placing an order for school uniforms at the end of next week, so if you're in need of any uniform items, please put your order in at the office.

HELPING YOUR CHILD TO NAVIGATE FRIENDSHIPS AND THEIR SOCIAL LIFE AT SCHOOL

The social playground can be a confusing place. A child might struggle with friendships, they might feel unable to stand up for themselves, they might not like what the other kids like. They might run hot and cold in friendships. So, what can you do if your child is having social issues at school?

Here are some of the suggestions for parents and carers:

- 1. Help your child identify the problem and talk about the feelings involved.** Sometimes younger children can have difficulty identifying why friendships aren't working. Listen closely and check with your child to see if you understand what the problem is. *"It sounds like you're feeling sad and mad because you weren't included in the game at lunchtime. Is that the problem?"* When you talk about a social problem that arises, listen to your child, but remember there are always two sides to every situation and somewhere in the middle and the middle will be an accurate picture of what's going on.
- 3. Help your child brainstorm and choose solutions.** Avoid telling your child what to do in the situation. Instead, help your child to become a problem-solver. Brainstorm together lots of alternative ways for improving the situation. After you've brainstormed a variety of solutions, help your child to evaluate the consequences of some of those ideas. *"What might happen if you do that? Would that help to solve the problem for you?"* Encourage your child to select the solution most pleasing to them (even if it's not the solution you would choose!). This helps your child to take ownership of the situation. Once you have worked through the situation, you could ask your child to role play what has happened and what he would like to have happened. This gives your child the chance to practice what he hopes to say and do in these situations.
- 4. Make the most of the "teachable" moments.** If you observe interesting social situations between your child and other children at the park, on playdates or after school, make sure to discuss these and debrief with your child. Reflection is an important social skill.
- 5. Involve children in family discussions and decision-making.** By involving children in the family decision-making process, they have the opportunity to learn about compromise.
- 6. Be a role model.** Children learn by observing. Show your child what good and healthy friendships look like by surrounding yourself with good friends. Discuss with your child why you enjoy these friendships and what makes these friendships solid. Chat about the values that you look for in a friend.
- 7. Encourage your child to have a wide network of friends.** A child who moves between a variety of social networks has many opportunities to build up their social resilience. Children don't need to focus all of their friendship energy on just one person. Joining a group like Scouts or a sporting team away from school will help your child meet a variety of kids.
- 8. Don't ask "How was your day?" as soon as you see your child after school.** School days are action-packed and often it takes a child a while to decompress from the school day. Give them the time and space to process all that has happened throughout the day. Encourage conversation by asking specific, open questions like, *"What was a happy moment in your day?" "Were there any difficult moments in your day?" "What was the best thing about today?"*
- 9. Don't confront the other kids.** You're responsible for guiding your child through tricky social situations, not the children of others.
- 10. Don't ban friends.** Tempting though it is to try to manipulate your child's friendships and direct them on who to play with, banning friends can confuse them. Respect your child's choices and gently steer them in the direction of alternatives if you just can't help yourself.
- 11. Don't judge or criticise.** Children shouldn't have to navigate through tricky social situations alone. Your child needs your support and guidance, so be there for them without question or comment. Be careful of discussing other children, parents or families negatively in front of your child- what is a social challenge this week, might blow over and be a non-issue for children next week and your comments about their classmates can have an impact on this. Any comments about others made at home and overheard by your child will quite often be shared at school, which can tend to make a school yard problem a community issue for you.
- 12. Foster empathy.** Encourage empathy by asking your child to think about how other children in the situation might have felt. Discuss what might be going on for others. Encourage them to see all sides of the situation and encourage kindness.
- 13. Talk to your child's teacher.** Allow children time to sort things out, but with serious ongoing issues, make sure you chat with your child's teacher. Together you can come up with a plan to help your child.

It's not what you do for your child but what you let them do for themselves. When your child comes to you with a social problem, it is only natural to want to shield them from distress and try to solve their problems for them. However your child will learn more if, with your emotional support, they learn and develop the skills necessary to navigate different social situations on their own.



Diamond Valley Singers Present

Come and join the Diamond Valley Singers Youth production for the 7-performance season of “Shrek Jr”

Shrek is a gigantic, green-skinned, physically intimidating ogre with a Scottish accent! In the show, it is revealed that he is much smaller than the average ogre. Even though his background is something of a mystery on his seventh birthday, Shrek was sent away by his parents because it was an ogre tradition. His parents then evict him from their swamp. The rest of the story awaits you on the stage at Warrandyte High School!

From our Director, Lexi Patman: “I am excited to be directing Shrek Jr with DVS. I have previously performed in junior productions with DVS and have now come full circle. I am really honoured to be moving into a creative role with this wonderful company.”

“Acting locally and thinking Globally” Diamond Valley Singers will donate proceeds from the performances to International Needs Australia and Open House in Macleod.

Performance Details:

All Performances are at the Warrandyte High School Theatre, Alexander Road, Warrandyte.

Friday 1 April 7.00pm

Saturday 2 April 2.00pm

Saturday 2 April 5.00pm

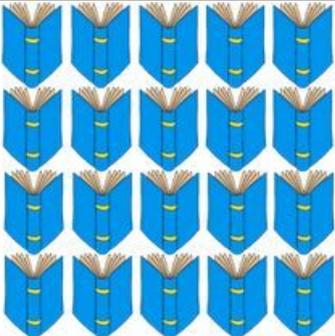
Sunday 3 April 2.00pm

Friday 8 April 7.00pm

Saturday 9 April 2.00pm Saturday 9 April 5.00pm Web Site: www.dvsingers.org

Further information contact: Malcolm Wilton: 0435 763 215

WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?

<i>Student A Reads</i>	<i>Student B Reads</i>	<i>Student C Reads</i>
20 minutes per day	5 minutes per day	1 minute per day
3,600 minutes per school year	900 minutes per school year	180 minutes per school year
1,800,000 words per year	282,000 words per year	8,000 words per year
		
Scores in the 90th percentile on standardized tests.	Scores in the 50th percentile on standardized tests.	Scores in the 10th percentile on standardized tests.

If a student starts reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.

WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.

For a Free TEACHING