



Strathewen Primary School

Wednesday March 9th 2022

Dates to Remember:

Thursday 10th March- 'Discovering Wadawurrung' whole school workshop session with Parks Vic

- Respectful Relationships training workshop- at Hurstbridge- staff 4-5pm

Friday 11th March- PUPIL FREE DAY AT SPS

Curriculum Day- NESST school group combined professional learning day for school staff

Monday 14th March- PUBLIC HOLIDAY- Labour Day- no school attendance

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

Wednesday 15th March- Volleyball coaching session P-6

Thursday 17th March- Grade 5-6 Leadership Day 1

NOW BEING HELD AT THE COMMUNITY BANK STADIUM IN DIAMOND CREEK

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

Monday 21st March- AFL coaching sessions P-6

Tuesday 22nd March- NAPLAN system readiness testing session- checking our access grade 3 and 5

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

We're more than half-way through our first term and we're happy to say that programs and plans are all going ahead and it looks like we'll be able to reclaim loads of our school traditions and special events. Today Lisal and I spent some time locking in dates and finalising our Bushfire Education Partnership Project for grades 5 and 6. It's great to think that we'll again be able to provide so many terrific learning opportunities and experiences for our students this year.

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support the twice weekly Rapid Antigen Testing program as it continues. We have, to date, managed to avoid classroom closures, staffing gaps and the many challenges our colleagues are facing. Mask wearing in classrooms continues and we're encouraging everyone to keep up with the twice a week RAT process for as long as needed. All staff are completing their RAT twice a week to ensure that we're not bringing anything into the workplace to share. We're certainly moving in different times when my text messages are photos of negative RATs! Sincerely, thank you for working with us on this safety measure. This week, we've had quite a few bugs going around- colds, coughs and runny noses, none of which have been COVID related. Thank you to parents for keeping symptomatic children at home until they're well to minimise the spread of infection.

You may have seen the email sent out on Monday, regarding the Education Department's survey request to parents. The survey link was provided in the letter, seeking parent feedback around attitudes to COVID19 vaccinations for children. Yesterday I was advised that our school had been selected to participate in a further

survey for the Department, looking at the implementation of the Rapid Antigen Testing program in schools. Today, I'm sending through a link for parents to access and provide their feedback. The survey is entirely voluntary and anonymous. Rest assured that the staff and I have also been provided with our own link to access! The principal survey took only a couple of minutes to complete. Here is the link to the Parent Survey for those who are happy to contribute their thoughts.

- [Rapid Antigen Testing in Schools Survey - Parent Survey](#)

Just a reminder that this Friday is a pupil free day at SPS and across all of our local small schools (North East Small Schools Team- NESST). We'll all be spending the day in workshops at Bridges in Hurstbridge, working on Maths Education, while our Business Managers will be meeting to work on their own program with a team leader from the Dept. For all those interested, Big Child Care will be running a Curriculum Day program here onsite from 6am through to 6pm, with a whole range of great activities planned. Be sure to book your children in for the day if you're keen to access the service.

Jane

Leadership Day for grades 5 & 6

Our first Leadership Day for students in Grade 5 and 6 is planned for Thursday March 17th. Given the large number of students attending this event, we had to change our plans and look for a larger venue than usual due to social spacing requirements in relation to COVID 19. We have been able to secure a booking at the Community Bank Stadium in Diamond Creek (next to Diamond Valley College). This gives us plenty of space to run our usual rotations of leadership workshops and a large area for us to gather for the guest speaker session in the afternoon. As stipulated in the permission form, school uniform is required for this event. Our program begins at 9.30am, so with morning school traffic on our local roads to navigate, it will be an early start for some. Parent transport is required for this day.

Whole School Incursion- tomorrow Parks VIC, 'Discovering Wadawurrung'

We'll be meeting up with park rangers and educators tomorrow online for our session. We'll be looking at and learning about the features of the landscape vital to the survival of Wadawurrung people and gaining an understanding of the importance of Country and Place. We'll be learning about the uses of plants, traditional tools, shelters and rock wells.

Behind the Scenes:

- *The car park line marking has been completed by our maintenance man, Tony*
- *Maree and Jane completed their next 3 hour NAPLAN online training session yesterday and we are working towards our school readiness test on March 22.*
- *Jane had a meeting with Sarah, our Banyule/Nillumbik School Focused Youth Services Coordinator to explore support programs available to SPS*
- *Huge thanks to Mel Brady who has put in many hours creating our 'Thank you' photo books to present to the different groups at Torquay this year*
- *Lisal and Jane have meet to plan out and lock in dates for our Strathewen-Arthurs Creek Bushfire Education Partnership*
- *We have applied for a range of Positive Start programs and opportunities for 2022, through the Education Department's initiative which aims to boost the physical and emotional health and wellbeing of our young people after two very challenging years.*
- *The Prep Health Nurse was here at school yesterday, completing student health checks for our grade prep and one students*
- *Brett has finished off our pavement painting in the rear courtyard and the area looks fantastic*
- *Jane has been working to finalise our school's Annual Implementation Plan*
- *Thanks to Lisal, we've had big bags of fleece donated, so there might be some natural felting projects coming up in the art room*
- *Deb has ordered a batch of new soccer balls and volleyballs for our keen sports crew*



SHAVING EVENT- here at SPS on Friday March 18th

A lunchtime big shave event

We have five 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, Oliver, Oscar and Chase are seeking sponsors and making plans for the great shaving event. All sponsorship support is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to Mel Brady, who has secured the support of local hairdresser, Julie Reeves, who is happy to come along and get the shaving happening. We're hoping for a nice day and the stage area will be set, with our keen audience out on the grass area.

TORQUAY- DAY IN THE SURF

We're getting organised for our big day out! Please note that a Safe Surfing Declaration form has been sent home for each family today. This needs to be filled out with student name/s, one form per family, acknowledging the fact that as guardians you have read the Safe Surfing Declaration. Please read, complete and return as soon as possible so that the paperwork with the Torquay Surf Academy can be finalised.

The catering is being sorted, thanks to the Rotary Club of Torquay who will provide their BBQ trailer and equipment, their volunteer hours managing things and our food for the day. The Strathewen Bushfire Relief Company has generously approved our grant application for funding to support this day of well-being and adventure and our program is locked in. Apparently a high tide is expected on the 31st, so our beach side activities may be moved to the estuary area or the park space if necessary.

After two years of not being able to run this event, we're looking forward to seeing our little surfers in action once again. Mel Brady has done an amazing job of creating fantastic photo books, celebrating our many years of heading down to Torquay and these will be presented to Gail and Karen, the Rotary Club of Torquay and the Torquay Surf Academy. We'll also have one copy to keep here at school.

We have filled our 48 seat coach. We only had a couple of spare seats, so unless your place on the bus has been confirmed in a chat with Jane and locked in, car-pooling is recommended for any parents or grandparents planning on joining us for the day. We always kick off the surf session with some basic training on the sand with our experts. Wetsuits are provided for all and we love to have parent volunteers join the surf group in the water to provide extra assistance, particularly with the younger group. Please let a staff member know if you're planning to come along or meet us there, so that we can lock in catering numbers.

Home Harvest 2022

In 2022, Home Harvest sets out to celebrate the local food community in Nillumbik year round with seed libraries, community gardening workshops, food swaps and much more.

You might be interested in our upcoming workshop – **Growing Your Own**

This free activity is all about growing your own food, and what veggie seeds (or seedlings) need to grow successfully – particularly healthy soil!

Learn about the different parts of the plants we can eat, how different plants grow best at certain times of the year and how some plants grow best with friends (companion planting)

When: Thursday, 10 March 2022, 4pm – 5pm

Where: Edendale Community Environment Farm

[Growing Your Own - For Kids - Edendale Community Environment Farm](#)



At S.P.S. we focus on our school values and what they mean. We continually look at 'kindness' and the importance of being a good friend and a good person. Kindness is never wasted.

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 Jacob, who takes care of his friends and is always keen to help them out. Congratulations Jacob.



PARENTS' CLUB

The annual Easter Raffle is planned again for this term. Our parent volunteers will be putting together hampers of interesting bits and pieces for our raffle prizes. We'd love it if families in a position to do so could pick up a little something extra with the weekly shopping to donate to our hampers. Easter bits and treats are always great, but we welcome all sorts of contributions- anything you think a prize winner would be happy to find in their basket. Donations can be dropped off at the office. Raffle tickets will be sent home soon.

ALL-STAR STUDENTS!

Our star students this week are Sage, Siana, Oscar and Sarah



Sage- for readily taking on extra tasks and being a great support for Aidan during volleyball sessions

Siana- for guiding and assisting younger students as a team leader in our volleyball sessions

Oscar- for his wonderful effort with persuasive writing this week. Great ideas and great work.

Sarah- for her terrific support of younger students during our cross-age program on Monday



We're back on track and we'll be collecting and weighing our lunchbox litter starting next week.

We're aiming to see as many 'rubbish free lunchboxes' as possible across the school.

The two classrooms will be competing each week to see who gets to hold the trophy!

Let's reduce what goes into landfill and limit the packaging and wrappers in lunch boxes.

We collect food waste for the chickens, worm farm and compost.

Volleyball Week 3

