



Strathewen Primary School

Wednesday April 27th, 2022

Dates to Remember:

- Mon. May 2nd- Grade 5-6 depart 3.45pm for Anglesea Leadership Camp -Bushfire Education program**
Wed. May 4th- Grade 5-6 return 3.30pm from Anglesea Leadership Camp- Bushfire Education program
Friday May 6th- interschool sport grade 3-6 at St Andrews
Monday May 9th- Grade 5-6 Girls' 'Big Sister' workshops with visiting facilitator during the school day
-Evening family session 'Big Sister' program 6pm (supporting senior girls)
Tuesday May 10th- Thursday May 12th- NAPLAN testing grade 3 and 5
Friday May 13th- interschool sport grade 3-6 at Panton Hill
Monday May 16th- Whole school Professional Practice Day for teaching staff- no student attendance
Wednesday May 18th- Sugarloaf Cross Country trials- Yarrambat Park
Thursday May 19th- whole school Edendale Farm incursion 12-1pm- 'What a load of rubbish'
Friday May 20th- interschool sport grade 3-6 at Arthurs Creek
Thursday May 26th- Grade 6- invitation to attend the Nillumbik Shire Sorry Day event in Eltham
Friday May 27th- interschool sport grade 3-6 at St Andrews
Thursday June 2nd- Whole school wellbeing excursion event to Healesville Sanctuary
Monday June 6th- Whole school curriculum day- report writing- pupil free
Wednesday June 8th- Cybersafety Day- student workshops and parent information evening event
Friday June 10th- interschool sport grade 3-6 at St Andrews
Monday June 13th- Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
Friday June 17th- interschool sport grade 3-6 at Kangaroo Ground
Friday June 24th- interschool sport grade 3-6 at St Andrews



We've enjoyed a fairly smooth start to the new term, with classes settling smoothly into learning programs. There is plenty to look forward to in the coming months, with a grade 5-6 bushfire education leadership camp next week, incursions, sports events and lots more. Our interschool sports program for grades 3-6 begins next week, as the fixture gives us a bye for this Friday. Thank you to our parents and grandparents who have volunteered to transport students on sports days, hopefully we can move all 28 participants each week.

On Sunday, in the middle of the long weekend, we had a team of seven student leaders join Diane and I for the Friends of the 15th Brigade ANZAC service at the Shrine. In recognition of our wonderful connection with the people of Villers Bretonneux, France, we attend this special service the day before ANZAC Day each year. Once again, our grade 6 students were a pleasure to spend the day with. This year we were joined by Phil Byrne and James Price for the day, which was great. We could have spent a lot more time at the Shrine, there's just so much to see. Thanks everyone for giving up a long weekend Sunday, in school holidays, to be part of this event. Special thanks to our seven students who were wonderful SPS ambassadors.

Just a reminder to families that if you are needing to drop children off to school prior to 8.45am, please make contact with our OSHC program coordinator, Brooke, and book your children in for the morning session. We are fortunate to have a great onsite program up and running, so if you're needing to drop off early to get to work or get your day started, please make sure that children are enrolled and you utilise this service.

I have been working with Nillumbik School Focused Youth Services to investigate programs which will support our senior girls with navigating social connections and relationships. At this stage, we're anticipating success in our funding application to allow us to run the Big Sisters program here at SPS. Our facilitator will lead workshops during the day with our grade 5-6 girls to kick off the program on Monday May 9th and in the evening, we'll have the opportunity for parents/families to come along to a family session. Further sessions will follow throughout the term. More information will be made available as soon as the program is confirmed. If you're the parent of a grade 5-6 girl, please mark Monday May 9th on your calendar!

Jane

COVID SAFE UPDATE FOR SCHOOLS

Face masks

Face masks, while recommended, are no longer required in any school setting. Any student or staff member who wishes to wear a mask may do so, including those who are medically at-risk. Given our personal circumstances, as carers and support people for vulnerable family members, our teaching staff at SPS have elected to continue wearing a face mask when indoors.

Screening requirements

Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19, and have completed their 7-day isolation period, now do not need to undertake rapid antigen test (RAT) screening for 12 weeks after their release from isolation. This was previously 8 weeks.

Household contacts

Students and staff who are household contacts of a COVID-19 case are no longer required to quarantine. They can return to school as long as they undertake rapid antigen tests (RAT) 5 times within their 7-day period and wear face masks indoors if they are aged 8 and above unless they have a valid exemption.

If any household contact returns a positive RAT result during this period, they must isolate for 7 days and not attend school.

Vaccination requirements for visitors to schools

Parents, carers and other adult visitors (not performing work or volunteering in schools) are no longer required to show evidence of two doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

Community use of school facilities

Schools will no longer need to request evidence of vaccination of staff or workers from external community groups who use premises outside the school's normal operating hours.

RAT screening program extension reminder

The supply of RATs will continue for the first 4 weeks of this term. The screening recommendations remain the same, with twice weekly testing.

Farewell Puff



We have some sad news about our school bearded dragon, Puff, (our magic dragon). Over the holidays, while Puff was staying at his holiday resort, he quietly died one night. It turns out that he died of old age. Bearded dragons usually live to about 8-10 years of age, and our Puffy was a lot older than that. We're very sad and planning a little memorial ceremony here at school.

Sarah and Yvie

GRADE 6 LEADERSHIP EVENT

Grade 6- Friends of the 15th Brigade Anzac service and event

On Sunday, we started the day by going down to the Hurstbridge War Memorial and laying our first wreath there. Mrs Phillips, Ms Hayward, Phil and James came with us. We went on the train into Flinders Street Station, bought some lunch bits and had our lunch at the cafe outside the National Gallery. We walked to the Shrine and on the way we visited the memorials, including the Weary Dunlop statue and the police memorial and then we went on to the Shrine. We had a brief look around and then we went to meet everyone at the 60th Battalion Tree for the Friends of the 15th Brigade ANZAC Day service. We listened to a few speeches about the battles in France and then we got to lay our second wreath at the tree. Ms Hayward was asked to lay the Friends of the 15th Brigade wreath too. At the end of the service, we all place our poppies in the special bowl. They played the French and the Australian National Anthems and the bugler played the last post and we did the minute of silence. We were given front row seats and we were the VIPs. After some photos and talking at the end, we went back to the Shrine for a longer long look around. We could have spent hours there, but we had to go back to catch our train. We left Mrs Phillips in the city for her anniversary adventure. We bought ourselves some treats for the trip home.

Our day was amazing. It was such a privilege to attend the service.

Eli, Sarah, Oliver and Mary





Outstanding Booklist Payments for 2022

Last year all school families were contacted regarding how we would proceed with organising student booklist supplies for the coming year. All families agreed to have the school purchase student booklist requirements for 2022 and to pay this once the school year began.

As first term comes to an end we are following up on this, reminding families that payment for each child's booklist is required. If you're unsure of whether your payment has been made, please check with Deb or Donna at the office.

big
CHILD CARE

here at Strathewen Primary School



During the term break our first ever school holiday program, providing child care during the school holidays, was up and running at SPS. Thanks to Brooke for organising and delivering the great program.. We had students from our schools and others from neighbouring schools attend and it seems that a lot of fun was had by all.

Just a reminder that our program operates before and after school every day.

There will be full day OSHC programs running on our pupil free days this term.

In primary school, some students **miss** on average **3 weeks** of school per year. That's **half a year** of school by the end of **year 6.**



**EVERY
DAY
COUNTS**

Primary school attendance



What a fabulous night of drumming we all enjoyed on Thursday May 7th. Dave and Daniel, the Bongo Brothers, had everyone involved. The drums were beating and everyone had a go! We finished up with a lovely community BBQ. Thanks to everyone who came along for the night and special thanks to our wonderful visiting performers.

What a great way to see out the end of term 1.





BEHIND THE SCENES

- All of our new sports equipment has arrived and is ready for use
- Our school gardener, Renate, has been in over the weekend tidying up the rock wall area and it looks fantastic
- The last of the Easter Raffle prizes were handed out today. Congratulations to our many, many prize winners.
- Final preparations are underway for our Strathewen-Arthurs Creek Bushfire Education Partnership Camp next week. Additional information has been prepared for attending students.
- During the term break, the periodical clean took place, with carpet steaming, floor buffing etc.
- Thanks to the Positive Starts program, promoting student well being and engagement, we have been able to secure a whole school excursion to Healesville Sanctuary in June, as well as some additional sporting and cultural programs later on in the year.
- We have a whole school incursion with Edendale Farm coming up, titled 'What a load of rubbish'. Thanks to Kylee for sourcing this program, which will support our focus on reducing our contribution to landfill.
- Deb and Donna have been working to set us up for the Premier's Reading Challenge 2022- information will be sent home soon
- Final preparations are underway for grades 3 and 5 NAPLAN testing online in week 3. If you have any questions about this year's NAPLAN week, feel free to chat to Maree, Diane or Jane
- Our chickens are still producing eggs well and Sarah is selling the eggs for JSC
- Mrs Galvin will be completing her Bike Education instructor's update this Friday



Rubbish Free Lunch War on Waste Challenge...

Hold onto your hats... it seems we're all out of practice with our lunch box packing and only two days into the collection process this week, our containers are overflowing! The scales are set to give us our highest weights for lunch box landfill rubbish ever this week and the senior class is in real trouble! The weigh in on Friday isn't looking too promising.

We're attempting to reduce our contribution to landfill through managing our daily lunch box litter. Here are some tips to help us with our very own, SPS

WAR ON WASTE!



practical tips for a **WASTE FREE SCHOOL LUNCH**

- 1. Lunch box:** Buy a good quality non-toxic, durable lunch box that has a variety of compartments and is large enough to hold smaller sealable containers.
- 2. Snack containers:** Purchase reusable smaller containers to hold snacks- buy a large bag of crackers, pretzels or dried fruits and pack small lunch box pots for snacks.
- 3. Water bottle:** Invest in a reusable stainless steel or BPA free plastic water bottle
- 4. Reducing plastic:** Have you seen the latest trends for reusable packaging? Products like beeswax wraps are great because they can be used over and over. Reusable silicone bags are popular too, they can be used hundreds of times saving you money on buying new packaging.
- 5. Homemade snacks:** Even small amounts of packaging on snacks like muesli bars and a box of sultanas have an impact. Make these snacks at home or buy them in bulk so the kids can still enjoy them without waste.
- 6. Make your own baked goods:** Making your own baked goods is often much cheaper than buying them. Freezer-friendly recipes are especially convenient to batch cook, and they can be put straight into the lunchbox while frozen and they will defrost by recess
- 7. Whole fruit:** Fruit has its own packaging. Send whole fruits such as apples, bananas and mandarins to school to skip any extra packaging, or place peeled, sliced fruit into reusable pots to send to school.