



Strathewen Primary School

Wednesday June 8th, 2022

Dates to Remember:

Wednesday June 8th- Tonight:

6-7.30pm Cybersafety information evening event for parents and carers- save the date!

Thursday June 9th- Division Cross Country event at Bundoora Park

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

Monday June 20th- BIG SISTER program for grade 5-6 girls- 1:30-3:30pm

Friday June 24th- interschool sport grade 3-6 at St Andrews

- Last day of term 2

We've experienced a very wintery week with some additional time spent indoors here at school. We ensure that we have adequate ventilation, even with our heaters in action, with our air purifiers running, doors ajar and windows open slightly. We're doing the best we can to avoid the spread of any viruses on the go. You will notice that all staff continue to wear masks indoors. With so many bugs circulating, in addition to COVID, we're trying to avoid a major staffing absence impacting our school. At the moment, luckily we've done a reasonable job of staggering our staff illness and absences, so here's hoping we can continue that pattern. Unfortunately, Diane tested positive for COVID on Sunday, so she is isolating at home and has been quite unwell. Despite this, she has continued to prepare her learning programs and sent them through for Kylie each day. We're hoping that Di gets better soon and we look forward to having her back on deck next week. Thanks, as always, to Kylie who has stepped in to teach the P-3 bunch this week.

We continue to have quite a few confirmed COVID cases within our school community. A steady stream of parents, students and siblings have notified us of their positive status. In addition to COVID we have had general colds and also flu. Just a reminder to everyone to continue testing when symptomatic to avoid unnecessary spread of infection and for all children to be kept home when unwell.

Staffing in schools has been extremely challenging in recent times, with many schools struggling to replace absent teachers during the pandemic. Fortunately we haven't had numerous absences at one time and we've been able to maintain class coverage. Your children may have mentioned that Rod, our Music/Italian teacher who joins us every Friday, will be taking long service leave from the end of this term, through to the end of the school year. We'll certainly miss Rod's expertise and great programs while he's on leave. A leave replacement position has been advertised and we're hoping we can find a suitable applicant, who will be able to continue with Italian and Music as specialist subjects, but this may be a challenge, particularly in the current climate.

As a result of the significant student absences we continue to manage here at school and the recent staff illness, our midyear assessments have not been completed at this stage. As a result, we are only in the initial stage of student report writing. Having discussed this situation with the Department, please be advised that our midyear reports will be sent home to parents in week one or two of next term. This is not our usual process here, but with classes often having less than half the group in attendance, completing assessment tasks has been extremely difficult. We're doing what we can!

This evening we have our Cybersafety Parent Session taking place here at school from 6-7:30pm. Our presenter, Susan McLean, is extremely experienced and highly regarded in this field and this is a great opportunity for adults to hear from her. Susan's expertise is always in demand and having had to postpone our planned session last year due to lockdown, today's booking was her only free date from a long way out. Please try to have a representative from your family attend this evening- keeping children and young people safe online is such an important topic. Thank you to the generous support of the Strathewen Bushfire Relief Trust which has made Susan's visit and workshops possible.

Take care

Jane



Special S.T.E.M. Announcement

Last year some dedicated students made some board games to help raise awareness and educate themselves on animal species close to extinction. They did such a great job they are now featured on the Zoos Victoria Fighting Extinction Showcase! Check out their amazing projects here: <https://flipgrid.com/eb9e7848>

Cockroaches can live for a week without their head. True or False? Week 6 and we're counting down to the end of term. For this week's activity we thought about how to identify accurate information and communicate that as scientists. The younger students had a go at the beginnings of research and had to learn about the "science of" a topic of their choice and share their new found knowledge with someone else. The older students either busted facts presented to them or learned to differentiate between fact or fiction online.



Parent's Club
'GUESS THE LOLLIES IN THE JAR'
The challenge is on!
Pay \$2 for a guess for a chance to win
Call in at the office to check out the great prize



Grade 3-6 Phillip Island Camp

7 WEEKS TO GO!

Our camp is coming up in around 7 weeks- the itinerary and permission forms will be sent home next week. Setting up a payment plan is highly recommended to soften the financial impact on the family budget.

August 1st- 5th

Just a reminder that camp is coming up early next term for our group of 28 students in grades 3-6. Our itinerary is closely based on last year's planning and details are being finalised. Permission forms and cost details will be sent home soon. The anticipated cost per student is approx. \$550, so a payment plan is recommended to make this manageable for families. Feel free to see Jane for more information or pop in and have a chat to Deb or give her a call if you need help to organise a payment plan.



J.S.C. HONEY DRIVE 2022



THE ORDERS ARE COMING IN!

Every bucket of honey sold brings in another \$5 to assist our fundraising effort to send the grade 5-6 bunch off to take part in an immersive leadership learning experience at Anglesea in term 4. We're attempting to fundraise and access grant funding of approximately \$5000, so every honey tub sold takes us one step closer to our target.

Our label has been designed and Yvie's great label will be on our buckets of honey.

1kg buckets of delicious Arthurs Creek Honey- \$20

If you need another order form, let us know.

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
CHILDCARE

here at Strathewen Primary School

An attachment outlining the program planned for the upcoming school holiday period has been sent out to families. The program looks fantastic. This school holiday program is open to SPS students and students attending other schools nearby. Remember to book in online.

**BEHIND
THE SCENES**

- Our SunSmart School re- accreditation has been completed and our new signage is on the way!
- The wearing of hats for sun protection is required in terms one and four and outside these times it's now determined by checking the SunSmart phone app. to check the daily UV rating.
- The new replacement admin computer has arrived and we're hoping to have it set up by the end of the week and ready for action.
- Last week, the successful tender applicant, taking on our extensive building works relating to drainage issues, visited the school, so we're hoping this means things are on the move.
- Did you see our aluminium can collection point get a mention on the local Facebook pages? We're hoping that our drop off point will be widely promoted and everyone drops their cans off here for recycling. Tell your friends and neighbours!

ALL-STAR STUDENTS!

Our Star Students this week are Alana, Amelia, Logan M and Emily

Alana- for always working hard and doing her very best in the classroom

Amelia- for the wonderful research and fabulous presentation on her her leafy sea dragon poster

Logan M- for his terrific effort in class, tackling all work with a smile and doing his very best. Well done.

Emily- for her terrific enthusiasm and using class time well and for her super spelling effort revising her words each week



Good luck to our three representatives competing in tomorrow's Division Cross Country Trials: Arizona, Esmay and Sarah



Cyber Safety

Wednesday June 8th- it's on tonight!

With Susan McLean of CyberSafety Solutions

Here at SPS from 6pm

An evening workshop with an expert in the field.

Parents, grandparents, carers and friends are welcome. Open to SPS adults and the wider community.

Adults only- no under 18's to attend

Spread the word, invite your adult neighbours and friends to join us.

We encourage every school family to have an adult representative attend this important session.

Susan is an expert in this field and we are extremely fortunate to have her joining us for the day.

This event is made possible through the generous support of the Strathewen Bushfire Relief Trust

*Please note, onsite supervision for children will be provided by Brooke upstairs while the parent session takes place

STRATHEWEN- ARTHURS CREEK BUSHFIRE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP



This week we had our CFA session. This included learning about the different types of shots when you're filming, like the POV- point of view, CU- close up, ECU- extreme close up, MS- mid-shot, OS- over shoulder, LS- long shot, WS- wide shot and BEV- bird's eye view. Jimmy taught us how to tilt and pan the camera and how to get good shots. We now have to label our storyboards so that we know what sort of shot is being used in our mini-movies.

Zoe and Sarah

*Each group had to finish their story boards explaining how to use their specific item. We had a visitor, Fire Captain Ross, and we had to teach him how to use each piece of equipment. Because his background is in managing structure fires rather than bushfires, we had the job of teaching him how to use the tools- the fine fuels moisture meter, the Windmate, the inclinometer, the compass, the whirling hygrometer and the McArthur Wheel. Ross was pretty impressed with our knowledge and skills. We all got to have a turn using the camera with Jimmy.
Oliver and Eli*



Waste Free Lunch Challenge

We're seeing plenty of change here at SPS.

Last week we finished up with the senior class weighing in with 37g of landfill waste and the junior grade weighing in with 44g. And so... the trophy remains with the big grade for now!

It has been great seeing the transformation in so many lunchboxes- less and less rubbish is being loaded into the collection boxes. Many students are proudly chatting about how they're packing their own lunches and snacks, using containers and really thinking about their choices. Once we have our soft plastics collection point set up, there will be even less going into our red bins.



Have you seen our aluminum can recycling bale at the school entrance? As part of our work on reducing waste and promoting recycling, we're collecting crushed aluminum cans here at school and encourage everyone in the local and wider community to collect their cans and drop them off.

HEALESVILLE SANCTUARY

We enjoyed a great day at Healesville Sanctuary last Thursday. This was a day planned to support student engagement and well being, which it did, but there was a great deal of learning involved too! We enjoyed some excellent educational workshops with the teachers there.

There's just so much to see and enjoy at the sanctuary and many of us have planned return trip to catch up on seeing all the bits we missed.

