



## Strathewen Primary School

### Wednesday June 22nd, 2022

#### **Dates to Remember:**

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

- **Choir performance to finish the term- 2pm for a 2:10pm start- amphitheatre area or MP room**
- **Last day of term - 2:30 dismissal**

**Monday July 11th- First day of term 3**

**Monday July 25th- Big Sister Parent Event- 6-7pm- all adults welcome- here at school**  
**'The Keys to Nurturing Resilient, Independent Young People'**

**Monday August 1st- Friday August 5th- Phillip Island Camp- grades 3-6**

**Monday August 8th- School Dental visit onsite**

**Thursday August 11th- first day of school swimming program P-6- Eltham Leisure Centre**

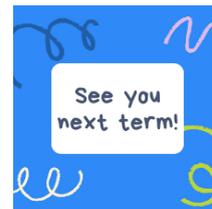
**Friday August 12th- second day of school swimming program P-6- Eltham Leisure Centre**

**Sunday July 17th- Spirit of CFA Awards ceremony- Ballarat**



**STAY SAFE.**

**KEEP WELL.**



The end of term is almost here and I'll say it again, this has been one of the most challenging terms we've ever tackled here at SPS. We're planning to finish off the week on a high note, with a choir performance on Friday, led by Rod, just before the end of the school day. We won't have Rod with us for the rest of the year, as he commences long service leave. With so much to fit into his life next semester, we wish him all the best and thank him for his terrific support and work with us. Rod joined us in 2014, providing the rare skill combination of a specialist Italian program and instrumental Music sessions. We have indeed been fortunate to have such a skilled staff member. Many of you may not realise that Rod came to us to take over the Italian-Music teaching position previously held by his partner Liz, who was with us for many years. As school council were advised yesterday, we had advertised a leave replacement position, hoping to fill Rod's shoes, but received no applications. Yes, there certainly is a teacher shortage and many schools are finding themselves in this position. I will continue to seek out a teacher to take on the Italian and Music role, or a modified version of the position, and we are hopeful.

Today we received some pretty special news. Our Strathewen-Arthurs Creek Bushfire Education Partnership was nominated for a Spirit of CFA Award by Phil Hawkey of the CFA, who came out to work with our students on their measurement tools used to record information regarding local fire risk. It seems, we are now finalists in the award process. The award ceremony will be held in Ballarat 2-4:30pm, on Sunday July 17th. Lisal is in the process of negotiating permission for some grade 6 student representatives to attend the award ceremony with us. They will need to meet us there, as Lisal and I will be heading that way from opposite parts of the state. If we have a parent who is keen to transport a group of students to and from Ballarat on a Sunday and join us, I'd love to hear from you!

To finish off the term, I'd like to express my sincere thanks to all in our community. We have navigated some challenging times this semester and we're still standing. This has been the first uninterrupted (or at least fully operational) school semester since 2019, which is hard to believe. We continue to juggle positive covid cases and a range of bugs. Special thanks to our incredible staff team. Where would we be without you? The term break has come at a good time. Take care and we'll see you all back on deck in a couple of weeks.

Jane



*Our Canine Comprehension well-being support program has been booked in and we're really excited to have our grade 5 and 6 students taking part in these sessions in term 3. The grade 5 and 6 groups will work separately, with each group participating in a 40 minute session weekly over 8 weeks. School program consent forms and medical consent forms have been sent home for all grade 5 and 6 students today. If these could be completed and returned by Friday, to allow us time to send them on, that would be great.*

### **About Canine Comprehension**

*We are a group of passionate and experienced allied health professionals, social workers and educators who share a vision of creating more harmonious and positive approaches to learning which lead to calmer classrooms and healthy communities.*

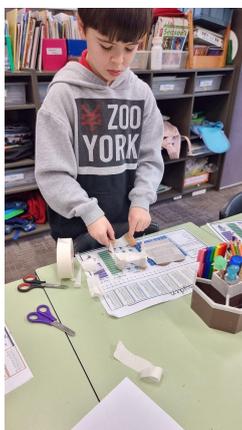
*The ability dogs have to positively engage people is well documented. Our animal assisted interventions have the ability to improve behavioural problems, increase emotional wellbeing, ease anxiety around learning difficulties, and support young people with autism spectrum disorders. We are also able to support those students who need a little extra help to get the most out of their education.*

*Canine Comprehension offers dog assisted learning interventions throughout Metropolitan Melbourne and Regional Victoria.*



*In the second last week of term our focus was all about applying our crisis skills to a given situation. In this case it was a Tsunami. Students in Grade P-2 designed and built structures that worked to help prevent or manage a Tsunami if it hit and these structures were incredible with floating infrastructure and buildings that helped water flow through. Grade 3-4s took their knowledge of crisis careers and developed structures and inventions to help out those careers, this resulted in waterproof laboratories, water mobile paramedic vehicles. The senior class gathered in groups and developed a plan of attack for dealing with the various stages of a Tsunami. They looked at the thinking processes of all those crisis careers and how they would manage Prevention, Response and Aftermath of a Tsunami. These teams would have an engineer, scientist and a health worker to help manage these stages and the designs were fantastic!*

*Chan*





**JSC**



*Well... that was fun!*

*Today we were joined by all sorts of great characters for our 'first name initial letter dress up day'. Check out the costumes!*



**performance**

Come along to SPS this Friday afternoon for a brief choir performance before the end of the school day. It's an early dismissal for the last day of term, so come along at 2pm, ahead of a performance at 2:10. We'll be in the amphitheatre if the weather is kind or the multi-purpose room if it's not. Rod will be leading our little choir, as they perform their songs for us all to enjoy.

# THE Big Sister

## EXPERIENCE

*On Monday we had our final Big Sister session for term 2.*

*We've been learning about self-care and body image, being kind to others, supporting the sisterhood and looking after other girls instead of being mean or hurting girls' feelings. We created a wheel each about our lives and thinking about the positives and we learnt all about the 'friend-o-meter' and what a healthy friendship is and what an unhealthy friendship is. We've still got a session to go, which is all about going to high school. Working with Kritz has been really fun and interesting. It has given me ideas on how to work out hard things and situations.*

*Mary*

*The Big Sister Experience sessions felt a bit weird at the start until we got to feel comfortable and we all started talking. Kritz helped me get more confident in my life. She had lots of good ideas about how to deal with friends when things get a bit rough. I didn't miss a single session and I'm happy I didn't. We talked about cyber safety and how you don't have to be best friends with everyone. You can be the 'ripest, juiciest peach' but there's always going to be someone who doesn't like peaches. Big Sister was really worth it.*

*Esmay*

*The Big Sister Experience gave us girls a chance to learn about what's right and what's wrong when you think about being a friend. Kritz didn't use the word 'bullying', she used the term 'keeping on being mean on purpose'. She talked about being able to stand up for yourself, especially if a situation gets tricky and we all had to think of a special response to have ready to say if we feel uncomfortable or don't like the way our friends are behaving. We covered lots of serious stuff, but we had fun too.*

*Yvie*



**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

**5 WEEKS TO GO!**

Our camp is coming up in around only 6 weeks- the information, itinerary and permission forms have been sent home. If your forms are still sitting on the bench, please send them back in as soon as possible.

A deposit of \$50 per student is required with the return of the consent forms. The total cost of our camp is \$583 per student, which comes in at \$116.60 per day covering all transport, accommodation, meals and activities. Full payment for the cost of camp is required prior to departure.

### August 1st- 5th

The itinerary, permission form, medical form and packing list have been sent home today. Feel free to chat to Jane if you have any questions regarding camp.



*Congratulations to our two 'Aussie of the Month' recipients for June. Arizona and Zoe have shown great initiative in researching and planning the proposed 'Healing Garden', which is soon to become a reality. We had our local CFA Captain Warren join us on Tuesday to make the presentation to Zoe and then we caught up with Arizona today. Congratulations- we're looking forward to seeing your great plans come to life.*



## 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.

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

*If you need another order form, let us know.*

## Outstanding Booklist Payments for 2022

We still have a handful of families needing to finalise payment for their student booklists for 2022. In term 4 last year, all families agreed to opt in to having the school proceed with the purchase of student supplies for 2022 (work books for various subjects, stationery items, reading diary etc) and agreeing to cover this through a follow up payment to the school. Deb will be making contact with families to remind them of this outstanding payment. If you don't hear from us, your payment has already been made. If you are experiencing financial difficulty, please have a chat to Jane and we can arrange a payment plan.

**big**  
CHILD CARE

## 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

- Huge thanks to the wonderful Darren Bradshaw who came in to school over the weekend and cleaned out our chickens' nesting house and added in loads of fresh straw
- We've recently had a few trades people onsite, checking out our faulty shutter systems, ahead of building work commencing soon to get things sorted
- We have a plumber visiting tomorrow to sort out a drainage problem in the downstairs bathrooms (thanks to Deb and Brooke for saving the day!)
- Our server room split system unit has packed it in after all these years of non-stop temperature control and we have our service tech visiting tomorrow
- Thanks to Margie for joining us again this week to help out with reading in the junior classroom
- Thanks to Kylee, who led volunteer senior students in a rubbish bin 'audit' last week!

## ALL-STAR STUDENTS!

Our Star Students this week are Matilda, Quinn, Mason and Yvie

Matilda- for her great attitude to learning, concentrating so well on her work and completing all her classroom tasks

Quinn- for his terrific effort with all of his Maths work in class and his determination to master new skills.

Mason- for his fantastic perseverance and positive attitude when working to solve some challenging Mathematics tasks.

Yvie - for her fabulous effort in all subject areas this term and for being a great support to others



RANDOM ACTS OF  
**KINDNESS**



**Awesome Effort!**

# [Diamond Creek Bluelight Community Sentiment Survey](#)

**To all children, and parents of children aged 8yrs to 13 yrs**

The Diamond Creek Bluelight Disco has been in operation since 1992 with many parents who once attended the dances when a child returning with their children. The association has been able to donate several hundreds of thousands of dollars to youth programs and sporting clubs over the 30 years of operation. Owing to the Covid 19 restrictions we have not been able to hold the disco events for the last two years. Planning is underway to re-introduce the disco events. Each event requires considerable funds to cover costs of hall hire, insurances, volunteer's police checks etc. Prior to the Covid 19 restrictions we observed reduce patronage to the discos to a point the event was just covering costs. We are keen to gauge the level of community support and expected patronage to the dance events when they are re-scheduled.

There are eight (8) dances events each year for the Diamond Valley youth aged 8 years to 13 years. They are held on two Friday evenings each term from 7.00 pm to 10.00 pm. Once the children have paid and passed through into the hall, they remain under the care of the volunteer off duty Police and CFA until a parent or guardian come into the hall and collect them. There are no pass outs.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZFLLJ5F>



We're seeing plenty of change here at SPS. We're now placing all soft plastics in a special container to be collected and delivered to either Coles or Woolworths to be recycled into things such as the long lasting Replas outdoor furniture like we have at school. Most of our landfill waste from lunchboxes has been soft plastics, so we're really keen to see what our end of week tally looks like on Friday!

Working to keep soft plastics out of landfill and out of our waterways is important and this is our way of making a difference.



Don't forget to save your aluminium cans to drop off at the collection point 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 we encourage everyone in the local and wider community to collect their cans and add them to our bale for recycling.

