



Strathewen Primary School

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Wednesday March 3rd 2021

Dates to Remember:

Swimming Program- whole school- bus pick up at 9.45am
Thursday March 4, Tuesday March 9

Thursday March 4th- **No Pre-Prep** this week due to our school swimming program (resume 11/3)

Friday March 5th- Curriculum Day- Pupil Free Day- Small Schools Combined Day

Monday March 8th- Labour Day Public Holiday

Tuesday March 9th- Prompt 3.30pm pick up for all students required after school today, as staff need to head off to commence First Aid certification updates commencing at 4pm at Doreen PS.

Monday March 15th- School Review- Day 1

- 'Pillowcase Project'- grades P-6- Red Cross workshop with whole school

Wednesday March 24th- School Review- final day

Wednesday March 31st- SPS Family Easter Picnic and Egg Drop Event- 5.30pm-7.30pm at school

Once again this year, S.P.S. students managed to publicly acknowledge their thanks to the many wonderful CFA volunteers within our community. February 28th is Red Balloon Day each year and it provides the opportunity for us to express our gratitude and let our local brigade members know how much we appreciate their work. Maree and Mel led the teams this year, as they completed two bright banners which were displayed at the CFA building in Arthurs Creek and in a prominent position in Strathewen. Thanks to Jess and Zac for allowing us to hang our banner on their fence! And thank you to our wonderful CFA volunteers.



"Hi to all the students and teachers at SPS. I would just like to say thank you all very much for the fantastic signs that you made for the CFA. It was very pleasant to see the great work and effort that has gone into them"
Friend of SPS, Darren Bradshaw, CFA member

Tomorrow sees our students head off for their second last swimming session at the Eltham Leisure Centre, with the one final make-up session happening on Tuesday. There is plenty of action in the pool and some great progress being made across the year levels, whether it involves endurance, stroke technique or building overall confidence in the water.

Just a reminder that we have a curriculum day coming up on Friday, with no one being in attendance here at school. Staff will be kicking off a day of professional learning at Bridges in Hurstbridge, along with over 100 colleagues from our North East Small Schools' Team. We will be focusing on the Respectful Relationships Program, which is being implemented across all schools in Victoria this year. Respectful Relationships is an initiative to support schools and early childhood education settings promote and model respect and equality. It also supports educators to teach our children how to build healthy relationships, resilience and confidence. The program has been fully implemented across our school and Friday will provide further professional learning for school staff. We'll also be meeting in our Professional Learning Teams in the latter part of the afternoon, setting the agenda for meetings ahead in 2021.

Monday is Labour Day, and a public holiday, so there will be no school and then we're back for Tuesday and our final swimming day. The celebration of Labour Day has its origins in the eight-hour day movement, which advocated eight hours for work, eight hours for recreation, and eight hours for rest. Now that sounds mighty appealing!

Next Tuesday, March 9th, we will have all staff needing to leave school as close to 3.30pm as possible, as we're all heading to Doreen PS to complete our Level 2 First Aid training updates. We will be working from 4pm-7pm and will need to be settled in and ready to commence training at 4. Please make arrangements to ensure that you have your child/ren organised for a prompt pick up on Tuesday. We will need to have the school closed up and all students outside at the Parent Pick Up Area at 3.30 to allow us travel time. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Enjoy the long weekend

Jane

The S.P.S. Family Easter Picnic and Egg Drop event is coming up. Have you been working on creating an 'Egg Drop Contraption' at home?

SWIMMING



Leadership Day

At our Leadership Day we had a special guest speaker, named Maya Dove. Maya used to go to Ms Hayward's old school at Middle Kinglake and she was one of her preps. Maya has a disability and she said it was OK to use that word. She got her first wheelchair when she was only 2 and of course it was pink! Maya has no use of her legs and restricted use of her hands, she is considered to be quadriplegic, but she has enough use of hands to manage her wheelchair and to even drive her car. Maya talked about her life and how her disability has meant lots of challenges for her. She told us that her parents never treated her any differently and gave her the opportunity to try everything. Because she wasn't treated like a precious princess, she was determined to give everything a go and her brother and sisters enjoyed lots of adventures with her. When Maya was in prep, Ms Hayward organised for her to try wheelchair basketball and she wasn't sure about it, but ended up loving it. She played for years, until she got sick of the ball hitting her in the face and she tried wheelchair racing instead. She has been to Europe, competing in wheelchair races and then she took off on a big European trip by herself. Going to Paris had always been her dream and she got there. We'd describe Maya as independent, determined, strong, funny and inspirational. She's never let her disability stop her from doing what she wants. She has a beautiful dog, who knows to keep away from her wheels. She has a job and she goes to university. It was really interesting to hear Maya speak. Hearing her speak gave us a chance to understand more about disability and she really taught us about being resilient and never giving up.

Emily, Mary and Oliver



During our Leadership Day, we did some workshops on different parts of Leadership, such as 'Running a Meeting', 'Planning a Project', 'Public Speaking' and 'Working as a Team'. There were 174 grade 5 and 6 kids there, it was a big day. The workshops were great for making you work together and teaching you to be a good leader. We rotated through the four different exercises, two before recess and two before lunch. After the workshops we had pizza for lunch and had a play on the oval. In the afternoon, Maya was our guest speaker. We got to meet people from different schools and hear about what they do for leadership in their schools. We met people who will be going to the same high schools as us. It was a busy day with lots of activities. There were opportunities to meet people and learn about leadership. It was a fun day and we've got Leadership Day 2 later in the year, when we travel around and visit other schools. Our job as leaders is to plan and deliver our special projects for 2021.

Eli, Mason and Yvie





In classrooms this term, we're focusing on our school values and what they mean. We've been looking at 'kindness' and the importance of being a good friend. Thanks to a lovely donation of 'Better Buddies' bears, we'll be recognising students for their actions in helping to create a friendly and caring school environment.



Our bear presentation recognises the following: friendliness, care, respect, responsibility, valuing difference and including others. Our Better Buddies Kindness bear is awarded to Logan Hunt, for his thoughtfulness and willingness to help others in the classroom. Congratulations Logan.

BEHIND the SCENES

- Arrangements are being made for both the grade 3-4 and the 5-6 Hooptime basketball days in July and August. We're hoping to enter two teams for each day of competition at the Diamond Valley Sports Complex.
- Our application for a Sporting Schools funding grant has been submitted for Term 2 and we're looking at running a basketball skills program
- Thanks to Oliver, Sarah and Harvey for spending time pumping up all of our sports bin balls this morning
- This week, we've moved bikes, offered up a couple of our large preschool computer set ups 'free to a good home', we've sorted sports equipment, tidied the Village and lots more.
- Donna has sorted and distributed uniform orders
- Today we were visited by a regional manager to discuss the drainage and rock fall issues in our school basement.



*There's always a friend or two to be found
in our school yard.*



Thank you to Eden, Brock and Noah for their great work scrubbing our bikes from the basement on Friday. Well done team!

PARENTS' CLUB

EASTER RAFFLE- CALL FOR DONATIONS

Have you dropped off your contribution for our Easter hampers? Thanks to everyone who has already managed to donate.

Last year wasn't a great one for our Parents' Club on the fundraising front, so here's hoping we can build on that in 2021. We're planning to hold our annual Easter Raffle event this term. It would be great if families and friends could send along a contribution for our raffle hampers. Remember, donations don't have to be chocolate and Easter goodies, we could put together a gardening basket or a gourmet hamper. All contributions will be put to good use for our baskets. (If you have a spare basket or two you're not using, we would be happy to take them off your hands) Please drop off donations at the office and we'll get sorted with our raffle tickets soon.

We're also hoping to run our Family Easter Night and Egg Drop event again this year, on Wednesday March 31st. Instead of the usual BBQ and shared buffet, this year we're planning a Bring Your Own Picnic event. Each family will be able to bring along their choice of picnic dinner and drinks for their crew. We'll still be running the favourite events- the Egg Drop, the Easter Bonnet Parade, the Egg Sports and of course, the Egg Hunt. Pop the date in your diary.

Thank you

IN THE *village!*

Thanks to Mary, Emily and Sarah who spent some time this week 'spring cleaning' the Village and getting it ready once again. They've since had some helpers setting things up and adding to the decor.



The Strathewen Star Students
this week are... Jacob, Siana, Oliver and Chase



Jacob- for his terrific work in all subjects and his enthusiasm for learning new things

Siana- for her great effort with work and for being such a wonderful and caring friend

Oliver- for his fantastic participation and involvement at our Leadership Day

Chase- for his consistent work effort and his willingness to assist others



Junior School Council

The Leadership Day workshops: planning a project, working together as a team, running a meeting and public speaking, were inspiring for us, helping us to become superior leaders. The guest speaker, Maya Dove, who came after lunch, inspired us to look at disability differently and to do what makes us joyous and to work hard to do what we need to do to accomplish our goals. We worked hard and our bounty was pizza for lunch, which helped to fuel our performance and keep us going forward.

We have a JSC ice cream day planned for next Wednesday the 10th of March- bring along \$2 for an ice cream. We're still working on filling our silver coin tube- if you have any spare coins, feel free to drop them in.

Oliver and Mason

The Red Cross Pillowcase Project- coming up at S.P.S. on Monday March 15th

Children are positive change agents- this is evident each year when we implement our Bushfire Education Partnership Project. Disaster resilience is the ability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, adapt to and recover from the impact of emergencies. Practical skills that contribute to disaster resilience can be learned and practised. Children who participate in disaster resilience building activities have been shown to be better equipped to deal with an emergency.

Research also suggests that educating children in disaster preparedness plays a part in creating a culture of preparedness and resilience in the community as a whole. Children are positive change agents within their families and their communities. If given the opportunity to participate, they can make a very real and positive difference before, during and after an emergency.

The Pillowcase Program

The Pillowcase Program was originally inspired by events during Hurricane Katrina in the US. While evacuating campus, students of a local University used pillowcases to carry their cherished and basic possessions. After hearing this, American Red Cross staff developed the concept of using a pillowcase as an emergency kit. The program quickly grew into a preparedness education program that has since become known as the Pillowcase Program. S.P.S. was one of the pilot schools for the initial project some years ago and we thought it would be great to run the session once again.

Delivered by Red Cross volunteers and staff, the workshop encourages children to be active participants in their own emergency preparedness. The content is useful for all kinds of emergencies and includes activities to highlight the importance of being prepared. Pillowcase helps to reduce real and imagined fears and has successfully built children's stress management skills.

The program is usually aimed at students in Years 3 and 4, but we'll be running the session across the whole school. The one hour workshop involves engaging discussions and interactive activities to help students:

- Understand and discuss the importance of being prepared
- Prepare their mind for the thoughts and feelings that may arise before, during and after an emergency
- know what to pack in an emergency kit

Each student is then given a pillowcase to decorate and take home, to start their own personal emergency kit.



Family Picnic and Egg Drop Event

When: Wednesday March 31st 5.30pm- 7.30pm Where: Here at school!

What do you need:

1. An Easter Bonnet for the parade (if you're joining in!)
2. An 'Egg Drop Contraption'- made at home to safely transport a fresh hen's egg to the ground
3. Bring along your Family Picnic for dinner- whatever you choose and a picnic rug

4. Bring along drinks for your family

5. Come along and have fun with your friends and neighbours

