

Wednesday October 6th 2021



Strathewen Primary School

Dates:

**Friday October 8th- Grade 3-6- Parks Victoria's Bird Biodiversity Webinar Event- 10am-10.45am
(see link in attachment to this email to access the webinar via Microsoft Teams)**

Return to school dates as they currently stand:

Monday 11th October- Remote Learning Packs available for pick up from 8.30am

Monday 11- 15th October- Remote Learning for all students

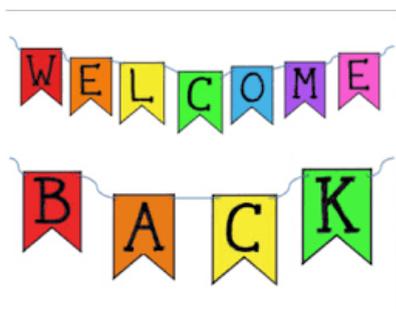
Monday 18, Tuesday 19, Wednesday 20- Prep students attend for onsite learning

Thursday 21, Friday 22- Grade 1 and 2 students attend for onsite learning

Monday 25, Tuesday 26, Wednesday 27- Prep students attend for onsite learning

Tuesday 26, Wednesday 27- Grade 3 and 4 students attend for onsite learning

Thursday 28, Friday 29- Grade 1 and 2 and Grade 5 and 6 attend for onsite learning



Welcome back for term 4. Not exactly what we had hoped and planned for, but here we are. Actually, as a small staff team we've become pretty good at planning for all possibilities and being ready for anything. We have two complete weeks of Remote Learning for all students to begin the term. I have listed the Victorian Government's staggered return to school plan above and this is in place for all schools in Metropolitan Melbourne. I have submitted a request for a variation to this plan, given our small school status and how we could manage the return here, but at this stage have had nothing confirmed. If there are any changes to how things will look at SPS from Week 3, you'll be the first to know!

Next week's Remote Learning packs for all grade levels will be at the front of the school, ready for pick up on Monday morning from 8.30am. The Book Tubs will be out too, so you can pick up some more home reading material. Please return this week's completed packs at pick up time, so that we can keep up with the correction of student work. In next week's pack you will find a collection of tasks marked 'Assessment'. These tasks have been selected by grade teachers to allow us to begin end of year assessment for report writing. This additional work will be in a separate pouch, clearly marked as Assessment Tasks. Please ensure that your child/ren complete these pieces of work without any assistance. If your child has difficulty with a particular section, please just mark it with an asterisk or leave it blank. Feel free to encourage children to work carefully and give tasks their best shot, but this work must be completed independently.

With students only returning to onsite learning full time in week 5 of the term, teachers are left with a very small window of opportunity to complete assessment and write end of year reports. Some additional assessments will be carried out here once we're back, but we will not be able to undertake our usual extensive testing regime. This semester's student work packs, completed during Remote Learning in term 3 and 4 and returned to school, will also form part of individual assessment this year.

Once again, 2021 has presented us all with many challenges. As a staff team, we are doing the very best we can to manage school operation, support learners, implement safety protocols and keep ourselves and those around us safe and well. Our school based staff are now all fully vaccinated. We're very pleased to say that

Maree, Donna and I, moving between home in Regional Vic. and school in Metropolitan areas, are no longer required to undertake twice weekly COVID tests as we've completed our double vaccination. Here at school we're adapting to the new normal, wearing extra layers as we're operating with doors and windows open wide to allow for additional air flow. The open classrooms approach will continue once students return. We're masked up all day everyday and like most people, we're certainly living very quiet lives. Even with our quiet lives, three members of staff were notified as Tier 2 contacts over the last two weeks, meaning we've had to isolate ourselves and await test results, which were all negative. Grocery shopping, picking up a brunch order and having a partner go to work have resulted in our possible exposure, so it's that easy. As we move toward a return to school, please do the right thing at your place, observe the restrictions we're living with and hopefully together we can be back with our students in the classroom right through to the end of the year without needing to manage a school based closure.

Take care
Jane



Sending lots of good wishes to Logan Hunt who is recovering after a buggy accident at home. With his surgery completed, we hope that he recovers soon. It was great to see him join the class webex meeting today from his hospital bed. Best wishes from all of us here at SPS

Parks Victoria's Bird Biodiversity Student Webinar for Grades 3, 4, 5, 6

10am-10.45am on Friday October 8th. We hope you can be part of this event.

We'll be joining our Parks Rangers to celebrate Australian Wildlife Week. We'll explore how we can be bird habitat heroes as we connect with scientist Tim Schwinghammer, Parks Victoria's Biodiversity Officer and Dr Holly Parsons, Birdlife Australia's Urban Bird Program Manager. The attachment to this newsletter email provides the access information for this event.



Our six hens are laying happily!
We have packs of fresh eggs for sale. All incoming funds will go towards purchasing chicken food, nesting straw and JSC.
\$2.00 half dozen pack
For sale here at the school entrance

High Ability Program

Congratulations to five senior students who have been invited by the Education Department to participate in the online High Ability Program this term.

Noah - English/Writing

Eli- Maths

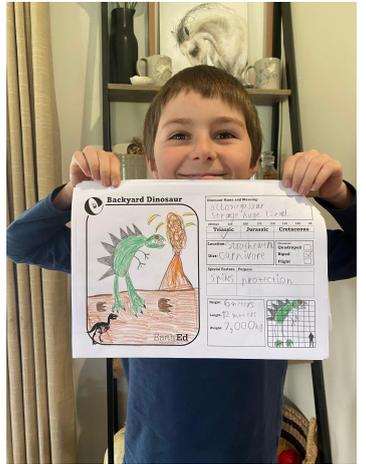
Mason- Maths

Oliver- Maths

Sarah- Maths

Well done team. Great effort.

Remote Learning in action



behind the scenes...

- Just a reminder that our next learning packs will be ready for pick up on Monday from 8.30am
- Over the term break we had extensive grounds work completed, managing tree and shrub growth as part of our bushfire season preparation works
- Our cleaning crew conducted the periodical school clean over the holiday break
- Thanks to Chris Miller, our roof/gutter inspection and clean also took place during the holidays
- Jane has been engaged in Year 6 to Year 7 transition discussions with secondary schools and providing schools with documented Transition Statements for members of our grade 6 team
- Diane and Deb kept up the care of our poultry over the break and we have plenty of eggs for sale
- At SPS we now have our very own EFTPOS machine, making payments to the school far simpler. You can now call Donna and pay over the phone! We encourage everyone to finalise their accounts as we head towards the end of the year.
- Donna continues to investigate possible providers for the set up of an Out of School Hours Care program at SPS next year.



Aussie of the Month

Purpose

Recognising and celebrating active citizenship that demonstrates inclusive Australian values in our primary schools

Values

Fair go- not just in how we apply ourselves but also providing opportunity for all

Mateship- generosity of spirit and compassion for those in need

Respect- of self, others, of our community and the environment

Inclusion- celebrating difference and the rights and freedoms we are all entitled to

At SPS we have registered to participate in the Aussie of the Month program, a primary civics and citizenship recognition program, which is delivered under the auspices of the Australia Day Council's National Network. The focus is to encourage and recognise students for their contribution to their community through a demonstration of Australian values as outlined in the Values for Australian Schooling and Curriculum framework. These are values outside of academic application, instead they're about active contribution to school, community and peer groups.

Each month, students will be nominated and one student will be selected for recognition with an award certificate and badge. We're hoping to invite special visitors along to present the award each month.

What do you know about our R.A.P working group?

A [Reconciliation Action Plan \(RAP\)](#) is a formal statement of commitment to reconciliation. Our school has formed a Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group. We plan to work together to develop a plan for SPS. Through this work we aim to promote reconciliation in education, while focussing on strengthening relationships, respect and opportunities in the classroom, around the school and with the local community. We'll keep the community updated as we move forward. If you have any questions about our working group, please contact Kate Fawcett.

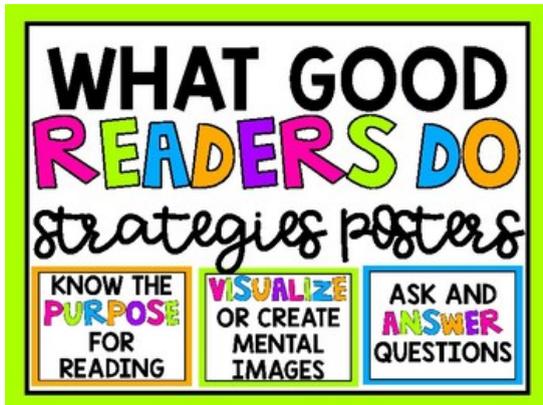
**Have you been keeping up the nightly reading at your place during Remote Learning?
Grade 3 - For Day 1 of their Reading Challenge,
students were asked to
show Mrs Phillips 5 different places they love to read**



Fantastic Harriet!



Wonderful effort Logan!



What Good Readers Do

- | | |
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| <p>Before reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read title - Look over text features - Set a purpose for reading - Activate background knowledge | <p>During Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visualize - Monitor comprehension - Make connections - Make and check predictions - Analyze characters - Reread confusing parts - Infer meanings - Ask and answer questions - Mentally paraphrase |
| <p>After Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reflect what you read - Paraphrase - Check predictions | |

Strathewen Primary School

Community Pantry

Take what you need ... Share what you can

A community pantry is a service that provides food directly to locals experiencing food insecurity.

Having a tight week?

Know of anyone who might need some assistance?

That's what our pantry is here for.

Some community pantries rely purely on local donations, ours is restocked thanks to the support of local agencies.

Our pantry was restocked yesterday and there's plenty there.

Community pantries operate on a trust system and encourage donors to give what they can, and recipients to take only as much as they need.

Be sure to spread the word.