

Wednesday August 25th 2021



Strathewen Primary School

Dates:

Friday September 3rd- tentative date for return to onsite schooling

Monday September 13th- Friday September 17th- Grade 3-6 Camp- Phillip Island

Friday September 17th- last day of term 3

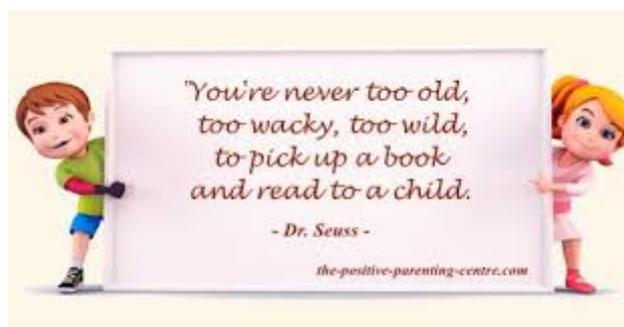
Wednesday October 13th- Sugarloaf District Athletics Sports day at Willinda Park

Wednesday October 20th- Sugarloaf Aths- washout day

Thursday October 28th- Regional Athletics Sports day for qualifying competitors- Meadowglen



Book Week is here and we hope that you're all managing to enjoy some time with a good book this week. Via Webex we've had a bit of a book character dress up session, an ongoing quiz about books and of course we've continued sharing some books in our class meetings. All the research shows that daily reading for young people is vital in not only developing their reading skills and confidence, but their comprehension, the development of their vocabulary and writing skills, their understanding of how language works and knowledge of the world around them. Teaching our children to read and enjoy books is the greatest gift we can give them.



Last Thursday an email was sent out to all school families which contained information and a link to a Survey on Out of School Hours Care (before and after school care) use at SPS. We are investigating our options for next year. Thanks to everyone who completed the survey. If you haven't had a chance to respond, it's not too late, hop on line and give us your thoughts. The survey really only takes a minute or two. Donna and I have been working with regional staff on the grant application process. We have collated survey data, sought School Council endorsement, a budget plan has been developed and our grant application has been completed and submitted. We're now completing the process of seeking interest from outside providers in anticipation of running a future program. If successful, our school will be funded to set up and operate an OSHC program over what is considered to be the establishment phase of the next three years. This will mean that we will have a third party provider running a pay per use before and after school care and a school holiday program here at SPS in 2022. We have our fingers crossed.

As Remote Learning continues, thank you to our school parents and carers for supporting our young people with their daily learning from home. This continues to be a very challenging time for everyone. Supervising and assisting children as they work on their daily tasks is hard going. Keeping up the enthusiasm and positivity isn't easy. Preparing packs, maintaining a connection with our class members, engaging students from a distance, supervising students onsite, adapting to a continually changing landscape at what is often very short notice and not having a busy, happening classroom and direct contact with students, is hard going for teaching staff. In the absence of an approved COVID vaccine for children, there is serious concern about the ongoing spread of the Delta variant in young people in recent Victorian outbreaks. Schools have featured heavily in the exposure site listings, often being identified as the source of virus spread. We want everyone to stay safe. Here's hoping that we see numbers improving, with vaccinations going up and daily case numbers coming down and some resulting positive changes soon, so that we can safely return to school. In the meantime, I encourage you all to keep an eye on the updates and, as hard as it is, to operate within the lockdown rules. We're fortunate to live where we do, surrounded by open space, a rich environment, loads of natural beauty and fresh air. Despite playgrounds and parks being closed, our kids can still get outside and run and play and explore. Please limit your non-essential movement for now. We all have places we'd love to be, things we'd love to be doing and people we'd love to see, but unfortunately we just have to wait a little longer.

Take care
Jane

Learning Packs- next week's learning packs will be ready for collection from school at 8.30am on Friday. Please drop off completed packs at this time.

Those Who Read Succeed!

Please talk to your child about the book they are currently reading and foster a love of reading culture at home.

Why read 20 minutes at home?

<i>Child A</i> Reads:	<i>Child B</i> Reads:	<i>Child C</i> Reads:
20 minutes per day	5 minutes per day	1 minute per day
3,600 minutes per school year	900 minutes per school year	180 minutes per school year
1,800,000 words per year	282,000 words per year	8,000 words per year

The average word count for a typical novel is anywhere from 70,000 to 120,000 words

Between 15 and 25 books a year!



3 or 4 books a year



Less than one book per year



Want to be a better reader? Simply read!

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.

***Remote Learning in action...
keep the great photos coming***



Special Remote learning Event for all students- an excursion from home

Serendip Sanctuary

This Friday, August 27th we will be taking part in two fantastic learning opportunities. Both grades will be joining a special webinar in a set timeslot to enjoy some time with the team at Serendip Sanctuary.

We'll be learning about Serendip Sanctuary's habitats and wildlife. Serendip is part of the Western Plains and is home to unique grassland and wetland animals and plants. Students will have close encounters with the animals and learn how Serendip rangers protect these species.

Grade 4,5,6 have the 11am session time- simply access the session using the teacher webex code used daily

Grade P, 1, 2, 3 have the 10am session time, again using the teacher webex code for P-3 webex meetings

Serendip Sanctuary is located at Lara, in the You Yangs, Victoria, and looks like a wonderful place to visit once restrictions are lifted. Hope online and check out Serendip Sanctuary.

behind the scenes...

- NAPLAN 2022 teacher training continues, with Maree and Jane working to complete extensive modules online
- Photos of some great pieces of student artwork have been sent off to Jetsetter magazine, an online reading resource we use in our classrooms
- Renate has been onsite here at school completing required work tidying the upper hillside area of the grounds ahead of the summer months
- Our arborists visited last Friday to review the bushfire preparedness works we need to have done before the end of the year
- Jane and Donna completed the grant application process for the establishment of an Out of School Hours Care program at SPS. The documentation for the tender expression of interest for outside providers has been completed and will be loaded onto the school website.

Camp Update- Phillip Island 2021

At this stage, we're planning on our week long camp going ahead. If we're back on site on September 3rd and the metropolitan lockdown is lifted, then we'll be set to head off for the last week of term 3. Our camp venue at The Island Accommodation, sees us with our own entry to the camp building, our own bathrooms, dining areas, bedrooms etc, on our own level of the building, with no shared facilities, which is inline with health recommendations. Of course, if the lockdown for metropolitan Melbourne is extended, we will not be heading away on camp this year. We're continuing to run with our planning, cross our fingers and remain positive.

The camp permission form for all grade 3-6 students, along with the medical forms, packing list and the camp week itinerary are attached. The risk assessment has been completed, a visit to the island to check out all movement detailed in our program has been conducted and we are set. The itinerary is terrific and we're packing loads of great activities into our five days away.

With School Council agreeing to subsidise camp for all students attending, the total cost per student for camp week is \$550. As suggested last semester, quite a few families have been making payments towards camp costs throughout the year, which is great. The school is required to make the full payment of camp costs prior to our departure and as a result, families are asked to ensure that accounts are finalised before September 13th. If your household is experiencing financial hardship, please take some time to discuss this with Jane or Donna so that we can establish a payment plan.



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.



Book Club is open and home delivery is available!
scholastic.com.au/LOOP

Our bookclub is running a little differently during lockdown. Use the above link to access bookclub online to browse catalogues and place orders

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.

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.



Bushfire Resilience Inc. (BRI) is a local community organisation whose aim is to provide bushfire information to households based on science, experience and best practice. This will enable households to acquire knowledge, and by being better informed, empower them to make better decisions in preparing for, and responding to the threat of bushfire.

BRI's primary target audience is the Nillumbik community, however we also want to engage with surrounding at-risk communities.

bushfireresilience.org.au

bushfireresilience.org.au/promo provides information you can choose to use

Webinar 4 1 September 7.30pm

Triggers to take action

Hear from Dr Kevin Tolhurst and an expert panel what you should consider when developing your bushfire plan and knowing when to take action on high-risk fire days.

Webinar 5 15 September 7.30pm

Your sheltering options

Dr Raphael Blanchi from the CSIRO and an expert panel will explain why the best-laid plans sometimes do not work out. What are your survival options if this happens to you?