



## Strathewen Primary School

Wednesday February 2nd 2022

### **Dates to Remember:**

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February- Pre-Prep program begins- 9am-11am sessions for pre-schoolers**

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February- Red Balloon Day- thank you CFA- special student projects P-6**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March- Curriculum Day- NESST school group combined professional learning day for school staff**

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March- Grade 5-6 Leadership Day 1 at Panton Hill Hall**

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March- Family Egg Drop Night and Picnic Event- tentative date 5.30- 7.30pm**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April- Whole school Italian Carnivale Day- a great day is planned, more details to follow**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April- Drumming workshops for 4-6 and P-3 with Mind Beatz**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April- Drumming workshops once again, rehearsing performance items**

**- Family Night at the Strathewen Hall- Drumming Performance and BBQ 5-7pm**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April- final day of term 1- 2.30 dismissal**

**WELCOME BACK!**

Welcome back everyone. We've enjoyed an extremely smooth start to the term and our classrooms are happy and busy places. It is wonderful to see our students returning to school so pleased to catch up with their friends and ready to learn. As you'll see in the 'Dates to Remember' we have lots of great highlights coming up this term, including an Italian Carnivale Day, drumming workshops and a performance at the hall and our Egg Drop Event. We'll keep you posted with information and updates as we lead up to these dates.

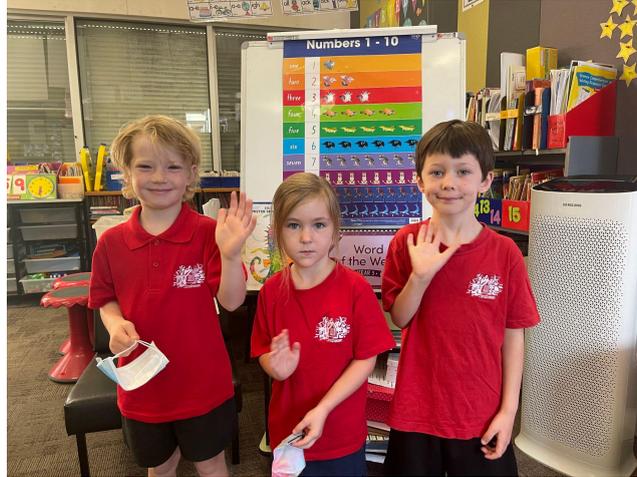
We were fortunate to have received our boxes of Rapid Antigen Tests with enough tests for students and staff and these were distributed on Monday. Thank you to our many families who have put their tests to use. There is plenty of discussion among the students about their testing procedure and their negative results! I know that administering the test is a bit of a process, but we're all working hard and doing what we can to manage risk at SPS and the RATs allow for that extra level of screening.

As your children may have told you, we had an unwelcome visitor inside our building last week as we were preparing for the new term. Our carpet cleaners were onsite and managed to spot a young snake, relaxing in the cool, behind the couch in the school entrance area. Diane kept watch for quite a while, as our usual snake catcher wasn't available and we were looking for another contact. During this time, our visitor decided we'd disturbed his peaceful life enough and wiggled out the door and off along the path into the garden. Yesterday, another young snake was found dead in the lower playground area, possibly injured and dropped by a bird. So, we know we have snakes around. On both Monday and Tuesday afternoon, we ran snake safety information workshops with the whole school. We looked at the many species of venomous snakes we have in Australia, staying safe and what to do if you meet a snake and snake bite first aid. We'll be doing some work on our snake bite bandaging skills in coming days and we have purchased additional 'snake bite kits' for the school.

Your children may have mentioned that our wonderful cleaner, Shri, is not well. His wife called last week to let me know that he had been diagnosed with a brain tumour, following several weeks of headaches over the break. After an MRI, Shri was immediately admitted to the Royal Melbourne Hospital and had his first major surgery on Friday and further surgery on Monday. We are very worried about our team member and friend and

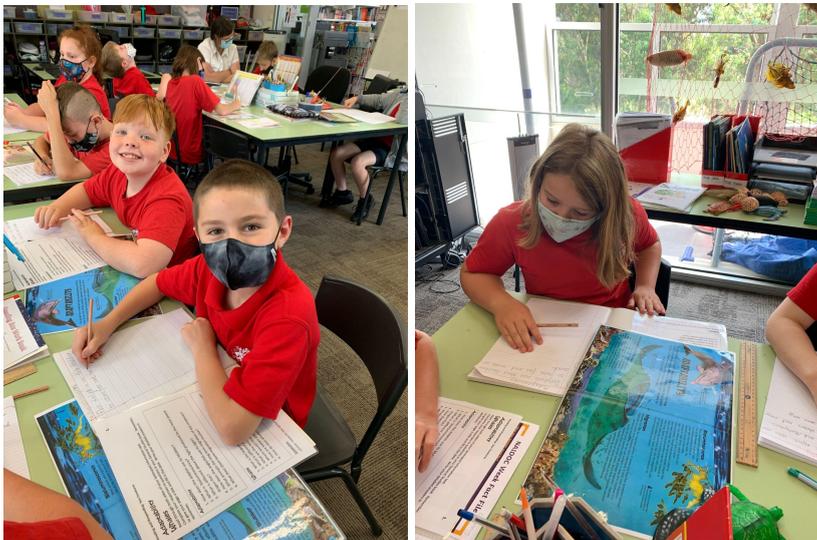
we're hoping to help him and his young family out in any way we can. Shri, his wife and little son are a long way away from their family support network in Sri Lanka. Today we have heard that he will be starting chemotherapy soon. We are collecting funds to assist with family expenses while their regular income is affected by his illness and this will be delivered directly to Shri's wife and their little son. Thank you to those who had already heard this news and sent along a contribution to our 'Shri Bucket'. We're hoping for some good news and sending all our love to Shri and his family. He's a very healthy young man, so here's hoping for a speedy recovery.

Jane



*Welcome to our new prep students.*

*They have settled into the junior room with ease and seem to be enjoying busy, happy days at school.*



*Our Grade 4's have taken the move into our senior classroom in their stride and settled in beautifully. Well done team.*

## **Behind the Scenes:**

- We've had the plumbers out this week to check on some drinking taps and pipes and we've got a few things needing replacement as current pipes have perished. Work will be finished soon.
- Our electrician was onsite yesterday replacing another round of fluorescent light tubes, checking the problematic electrical box on our lizard Puff's enclosure and dealing with a hand dryer in the boys' bathroom which has a mind of its own. Again, parts are being ordered and our jobs will be sorted next week.
- We've had our favourite cartoonist, Brett Cardwell, of Cardytoons fame, out with us today, beginning some touch up work on the outdoor painted pavement games
- Chan is not in for STEM sessions this week, we're hoping to kick off the program in week 2
- Jane and Diane have been working on a classroom work booklet to ensure that a week-long program is ready to go in case of teacher absence. We have been advised to anticipate staff

needing to isolate as contacts, or testing positive over the coming weeks. We're doing all we can to stay safe, but our books will be ready for use in case a replacement teacher is needed and an alternate program needs to run.

- Our Air Purifiers are in use and we're delighted with how quiet and compact they are.
- Our Sporting Schools volleyball coaching sessions will commence on Wednesday February 16th for all students.



*Our OSHC program is up and running. The space looks fantastic and our coordinator, Jayde, has everything sorted and set up ahead of the sessions each day. The Multi-purpose room smells delicious each morning, as breakfast is sorted and there is plenty happening in the afternoons. This is a fabulous service for our school and we're so happy to be able to offer out of hours care for our families.*

*Remember to make sure you have registered your child/ren so that you're ready to go if a last minute need arises.*

## Reminders

- Hats are required for all outdoor activities this term.
- Ready to heat, microwave safely packed lunches can be sent along to school.
- The fridge in the Project Space is there for students to use to keep yoghurts, milk, juice, salads etc fresh.
- Our pie warmer is used each day, for named, ready to heat items for lunch.
- Masks are required for students in 3-6 and recommended for our P-2 group.
- We have regular 'fresh air' mask breaks during each teaching block.

## SWIMMING 2022

With the changes to parent payment policies, we are exploring how we are able to provide our usual intensive swimming program again this year.

Learning to swim is part of the curriculum and it is expected that all students are able to swim by the end of grade 6. We have received funding specifically allocated towards providing a grade 6 swimming education program, which will mean their program costs will be fully covered.

We have also been able to allocate some additional swimming funds to offset the cost for our P-5 parents. Unlike many metropolitan schools who have access to public transport or nearby swimming facilities, we need to travel to and from our swimming sessions by bus, and this is a major part of the cost of our program. Our intensive swimming program, providing 6 sessions in the pool run over two weeks, costs around \$100 per student in total. This year, our grade 6 group sessions will be cost free for parents and we'll be able to run at a reduced cost for all other grade levels, only charging part of the bus travel cost per student. If you have a student in the P-5 group, we would love your feedback in regard to this. We're working as hard as possible to ensure costs to our school families are kept to a minimum. Are you happy to pay a contribution towards the subsidised cost of the bus travel for your child/ren?

# Annual privacy reminder for 2022

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy.

Please take time to remind yourself of our school's collection notice, found on our website. For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents](#). This information is also available in ten community languages.



Today our new grade 3 students joined the senior grade for their first cross-age BTN sessions with Mrs Galvin. There was some terrific work going on...

