



Strathewen Primary School

Wednesday February 23rd 2022

Dates to Remember:

Friday 25th February- District Swimming Trials- for keen, confident swimmers gr 3-6

Monday 28th February- Red Balloon Day- thank you CFA- special student projects P-6

Tuesday 1st March- School Council meeting- Webex 4.30pm

Wednesday 2nd March- Volleyball session 2

Friday 11th March- Curriculum Day- NESST school group combined professional learning day for school staff

Tuesday 15th March- First Aid training evening for school staff- session 2- 4-7pm at Doreen- please arrange after school pick up 3.30 sharp or book children in for our OSHC program

Thursday 17th March- Grade 5-6 Leadership Day 1 at Panton Hill Hall

Friday 18th March- The World's Greatest Shave- special event at SPS

Monday 21st March- AFL coaching sessions P-6

Thursday 24th March- AFL coaching sessions P-6

Monday 28th March- AFL coaching sessions P-6

Tuesday 29th March- Family Egg Drop Night and Picnic Event- tentative date 5.30- 7.30pm

Thursday 31st March- SPS DAY IN THE SURF at TORQUAY- whole school event 8am-6pm

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

Tuesday 5th April- Drumming workshops for 4-6 and P-3 with Mind Beatz

Thursday 7th April- Drumming workshops once again, rehearsing performance items

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

Friday 8th April- final day of term 1- 2.30 dismissal

Maree has had everyone working on this year's 'Thank You CFA' display, which will be put up on display ahead of Red Balloon Day on Monday. We're sure you'll love to pop past the local brigade to check out what our students have been working on this year. We sincerely thank our local volunteers for all that they do, from fire prevention work and preparedness activities, to leading and supporting programs like our Bushfire Education Partnership and responding to fire and other emergencies both within our community and much further afield. We think you're all fantastic.

This week we welcome back Amelia and Eli, who have returned to SPS after their NSW adventures. It's great to see you back with us and settling back into life in Strathewen.

After this week, you might notice that Donna won't be here in the office on Thursdays and Fridays. You may know that Donna has always juggled two jobs, her role here as Business Manager and her position at Kinglake Forest Adventures Camp, where she has an admin role as well as her wedding events role. After this week, Donna will reduce her hours and only be with us on Wednesdays. Fortunately Deb began training as a back up Business Manager during 2021 and she will now take on some additional hours to support the admin role here. Coming up on Friday, Kylie will be teaching in the grade 4-6 room, while I have a day of personal leave.

We've managed a high level of student absences over the last week or so, as families have managed confirmed COVID cases and a range of coughs and colds. Thank you to all families for keeping unwell children at home. This assists us in preventing the spread of general bugs. After a week of daily RATs, Maree and I have returned to our regular twice weekly testing, which is a relief. We hope that everyone is recovering well and feeling a bit better. Here's hoping that we can avoid further positives in our little community. We're doing the best we can!

I have been chatting with our cleaner Shri this week. He is managing his very different life as well as possible and has begun treatment for Stage 3 brain cancer. We wish him all the very best on this journey. At the moment, he is being transported to the Peter Mac each day for radiation treatment, thanks to a team of friends and strangers who have put together a roster, as he is unable to drive. We have now transferred the \$1000 we raised into his bank. Shri was amazed and delighted to hear of our fundraising efforts and has gratefully accepted our support. Thank you to everyone who supported this collection.

Jane

Behind the Scenes:

- *We've had Brett with us again this week, painting out the pavement games area at the rear of the school. It's looking fantastic.*
- *Tony, our maintenance man, has been in moving bathtubs and preparing the parent pick up area for a jetwash and continuing with his car park linemarking*
- *A collection of student work has been sent off to Jetsetter, the online student magazine we subscribe to. Our students love to see their work in each edition.*
- *We've used some additional Sporting Schools funding to order some new soccer balls and volleyballs for the school*
- *School staff completed the first of two first aid training evenings at Doreen PS yesterday. We also spent quite a few hours at home working through the many learning modules ahead of the course. Our final training session is set for Tuesday march 15th.*



SHAVING EVENT- here at SPS on Friday March 18th

We have three senior students who have nominated themselves for the World's Greatest Shave this year. They are seeking sponsors from far and wide in their attempt to raise money for The Leukaemia Foundation to fund research, specialist support and make a change for people with blood cancer. It seems that we all know someone, young or older, who is currently dealing with a diagnosis of leukaemia, so this fundraising effort is quite personal for our team.

Mason, Eli and Oliver are seeking sponsors and making plans for the great shaving event. All sponsorship support is greatly appreciated.

Further details about the day will follow shortly.

TORQUAY- DAY IN THE SURF

We're getting organised for our big day out! The catering is being sorted, thanks to the Rotary Club of Torquay who will provide their BBQ trailer and equipment, their volunteer hours managing things and our food for the day. The Strathewen Bushfire Relief Company has generously approved our grant application for funding to support this day of well-being and adventure and the day is locked in. Permission forms have been sent home today, along with an information page, outlining what's needed for the day. Payment of \$25 per student is requested and this is required prior to the day of the excursion.

After two years of not being able to run this event, we're looking forward to seeing our little surfers in action once again.

Just a reminder that we only have one or two seats available for helpers on the bus, so car-pooling is recommended for any parents or grandparents planning on joining us for the day. We always kick off the surf session with some basic training on the sand with our experts. Wetsuits are provided for all and we love to have parent volunteers join the surf group in the water to provide extra assistance, particularly with the younger group. Please let a staff member know if you're planning to come along or meet us there, so that we can lock in catering numbers.

MUSIC: our percussion (marimba and drumming) group



and our weekly choir group with Rod



Aussie of the Month- kicking off in 2022- February award Monday

We have a special VIP joining us on Monday to present the very first Aussie of the Month award at SPS.

We'll have more details for you next week!

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

As we start back for 2022, 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.

SWIMMING 2022- Thank you to those families who have let us know about contributing to the cost of bus travel for a swimming program.

To date, we have had parents of 23 students confirm their willingness to contribute to the bus travel cost of this year's intensive swimming program. The full cost of lessons and pool entry will be covered by the school and the bus cost will be subsidised, resulting in a heavily reduced cost to parents. Grade 6 students will have all of their program costs covered under targeted Departmental funding for Year 6. For all P-5 parents who have not let us know, please confirm as soon as possible whether or not you're happy to contribute to swimming bus travel this year, so that we can move forward and book in our program for later in the year.



Our Prep reading group
this week

big **OSHC**
CHILD CARE

Just a reminder to make sure that parents have registered their children with our OSHC program so that in a last minute situation, before or after school care is accessible.

This week, we could smell the delicious breakfast pancakes being cooked for the crew before school and I'm told that instead of the afternoon outdoor picnic today, the gang are planning to enjoy a bit of a BBQ. Don't be surprised if you can smell the sausages sizzling.





At S.P.S. we focus on our school values and what they mean. We continually look at 'kindness' and the importance of being a good friend and a good person. Kindness is never wasted.

Our bear presentation recognises the following: friendliness, care, respect, responsibility, valuing difference and including others.

This week's Better Buddies Kindness Bear is awarded to Sarah, who not only takes time to support younger students and connect with them, but she has also been running a lunchtime gardening club with a team of volunteers. Congratulations Sarah.



CSEF - Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

Department of Education

The CSEF provides payments for eligible students to attend activities such as school camps, swimming and organised sport, excursions and incursions.

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card (examples- age pension, health care card, job seeker, newstart, sickness or special benefit etc) are eligible to apply. Families who are eligible can list more than one student on their application as long as the students attend the same school. Schools receive applications over terms one and two.

You can apply online for the CSEF or see us at the office to have a chat.

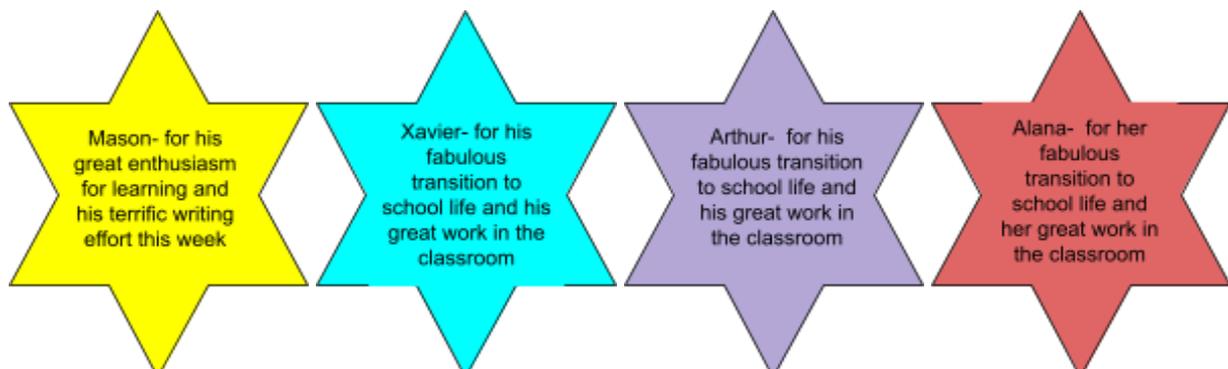
Uniform Orders

Do you need any uniform bits?

We will be placing an order for school uniforms at the end of this week, so if you're in need of any uniform items, please put your order in at the office.



Our star students this week are Mason, Xavier, Arthur and Alana



Our Volleyball program has begun...



our visiting coach Aidan will be with us each Wednesday for sports sessions, as our students are introduced to the game of volleyball



'Puff' was happy to see Sarah and Xavier delivering some juicy yellow dandelions flowers for him to munch on.

District Swimming Trials- Friday Feb. 25th at the Diamond Creek Pool

Good luck to our swimming team members:

Elly, Oliver, Sarah, Mary, Esmay, Ava, Arizona and Eli.

They're heading to the Diamond Creek Pool for the District Trials on Friday.

Junior School Council

My name is Logan Hunt and I am now the Newsletter Reporter for JSC. It will be my job this semester to keep you up to date with any JSC news.

This week in our meeting we decided to plan a Sundae Day. It's planned for tomorrow and the sundaes are \$2 for a delicious cup of creamy vanilla ice cream with (or without) chocolate topping and sprinkles. Remember to send along your \$2.

We sold out of all of our icecreams for Shri and the profits went towards the \$1000 we have given to Shri and his family to help them out.

In our meeting this week we also talked about playing fairly in games and how we need to remember that there are little people playing soccer with us too and they don't need us to boot the ball too wildly. Ms Hayward told us that we're getting some new soccer balls, so that will be good. Look out for more news next week.

Logan Hunt



**\$2 ice cream
Sundaes at school
tomorrow**