



Strathewen Primary School

Wednesday May 25th, 2022

Dates to Remember:

Thursday May 26th- Grade 6- invitation to attend the Nillumbik Shire Sorry Day event in Eltham

Friday May 27th- no interschool sport this week due to our host school being unavailable

Monday May 30th- Jane- attending Day 1 of the Statewide Principal's Conference in Melbourne

Tuesday May 31st- BIG SISTER program for grade 5-6 girls- 1:3-3:30pm

- **PARENT EVENING- Anxiety: What all parents need to know- 6-7pm- all parents, carers & grandparents welcome- please try to join us for this important event**

*Please note, we will be providing child supervision onsite for the evening, with Brooke, from Big Childcare, staying around to supervise a group upstairs. Students will be watching a movie on the big screen and have a light snack, while the adults meet downstairs.

Thursday June 2nd- Whole school wellbeing excursion event to Healesville Sanctuary- P-6

Friday June 3rd- JSC Hot Lunch Day- hot chips and potato cakes (payment and orders due in on Wed)

- **No interschool sport this week due to scheduled BYE for our team**

Monday June 6th- Whole school curriculum day- report writing- pupil free- check out the OSHC flyer for the day and remember to book in

Wednesday June 8th- Cybersafety Day- student workshops grade 3-6

and Cybersafety information evening event for parents and carers- save the date!

Friday June 10th- interschool sport grade 3-6 at St Andrews

Monday June 13th- Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

Friday June 17th- interschool sport grade 3-6 at Kangaroo Ground

Monday June 20th- BIG SISTER program for grade 5-6 girls- 1:30-3:30pm

Friday June 24th- interschool sport grade 3-6 at St Andrews

- **Last day of term 2**

Well we've certainly been in the thick of it this week. We're currently experiencing the largest number of confirmed COVID cases in our small school at any one time to date. Many of our families have a positive household member and at the time of writing this newsletter, we had 6 students isolating at home after testing positive over the last couple of days. In recent weeks we've had students testing positive for a second time this year, so we're certainly learning more about this virus. Unlike many schools, we had been fortunate enough to manage a slow trickle of COVID cases within our school community and minimal disruption to school operation, but it looks like it might be our turn to manage some difficult days. Hoping that all of our current sickies, whether it's COVID, flu or gastro, are on the mend and doing OK.

We're reminding students to continue to use hand sanitiser frequently and masks are encouraged and available for student use when indoors. Our ventilation systems are in place and we are maximizing air flow in rooms. All staff have continued to wear masks in the classroom over many months now and this has certainly made a difference. Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, Maree has tested positive this morning, so we are down further in staffing numbers. Replacing teacher absences has been a huge problem across the system for some time now, with many schools unable to cover classes. We were fortunate to be able to lock Kylie in for this week with our P-3 class and we thank her for readily stepping in to assist us. Diane is currently on leave. As many of you know, Di headed to Queensland late last week to spend time with her mum, who was unwell. Sadly, her dear mum passed away on Monday morning. Our thoughts are with Di and her family at this sad time.

Given our staffing challenges at the moment, we have had to cancel our pre-prep program for this week. I have also had to cancel our grade 6 attendance at the Nillumbik Sorry Day Event in Eltham tomorrow. We simply do not have the staffing capacity for additional programs and offsite activity at the moment. Here's hoping Kylie and I can remain negative and keep things going at this stage.

Don't forget we have our special evening event for parents, grandparents, carers and friends, coming up next Tuesday, May 31st. This is a great opportunity to learn from the experts as we take a look at supporting young people experiencing anxiety. I would strongly encourage all families to have a representative come along. We'll have a movie going upstairs, with our wonderful OSHC coordinator, Brooke, supervising children, so that the adults can meet down in the multi-purpose room. Please mark this date on the calendar and join us. The disruption to life as we knew it and the many challenges faced by children over the last couple of years have impacted well being for many young people and this is an opportunity to really learn about anxiety and how we can work together to offer the best support possible. I hope to see you there.

Take care

Jane

Next Tuesday...

Don't forget we have a special PARENT EVENING coming up here on Tuesday next week. We encourage all parents, carers, grandparents and friends (over 18) to come along and join us as we hear from Kritz, of the Big Sister Project. The session is open to everyone and we'd love all school families to have someone come along.

Student well being is a focus in all schools at the moment and this is a great opportunity to get together, to learn and support our young people.

The topic is

Anxiety: What all parents need to know

The session runs from 6-7pm and we'll finish off with a cuppa

We have the space to distance ourselves safely in the multi-purpose room and masks will be available for those who would like to wear one!

All parents, carers & grandparents welcome- please try to join us for this important event

Edendale Farm Presentation

What a lot of rubbish!

We were fortunate to have Carolyn Pickburn from Edendale Farm out with us last THURSDAY, to host a special workshop looking at our rubbish! She tipped out a whole bin full of rubbish and students were involved in sorting out items to reduce landfill. We looked at what can and can't go into the yellow lidded recycling bin and what can go into the compost, the worm farm or the green waste bin. We talked about what to do with e-waste, batteries, soft plastics and things that are still good, but not needed anymore. Thanks to Kylee for arranging this workshop. It was great. As we move forward with expanding our waste management at SPS, we'll keep you posted. We have many plans to bring to life!





THE
Big Sister
 EXPERIENCE

Just a reminder for Grade 5 and 6 girls, we have our second Big Sister session coming up on Tuesday next week (May 31st). We'll be looking at mental health and anxiety and managing social media. Our session is from 1:30 until 3:30 and it'd be great to have everyone on deck to work with Kritz. The parent evening follows that night and is open to all adults.



Parent's Club 'GUESS THE LOLLIES IN THE JAR'

The challenge is on!
Pay \$2 for a guess for a chance to win
Call in at the office to check out the great prize



In the garden with Kylee last week we looked at some of what we're growing in our school garden.



Grade 3-6 Phillip Island Camp August 1st- 5th

Just a reminder that camp is coming up early next term for our group of 28 students in grades 3-6.

Our itinerary is closely based on last year's planning and details are being finalised. Permission forms and cost details will be sent home soon. The anticipated cost per student is over \$500, so a payment plan is recommended to make this manageable for families. Feel free to see Jane for more information or pop in and have a chat to Deb or give her a call if you need help to organise a payment plan.



J.S.C. HONEY DRIVE 2022



Our label has been designed! Yesterday the 4-6 class members designed a new honey pot label and voted for their favourite. This year, Yvie's great label will be on our buckets of honey.

1kg buckets of delicious Arthurs Creek Honey- \$20

We're raising funds to support JSC projects and some of funds will go towards covering the grade 5-6 leadership extension camp in term 4
If you need another order form, let us know.

Outstanding Booklist Payments for 2022

Last year all school families were contacted regarding how we would proceed with organising student booklist supplies for the coming year. All families agreed to have the school purchase student booklist requirements for 2022 and to pay this once the school year began.

As first term comes to an end we are following up on this, reminding families that payment for each child's booklist is required. If you're unsure of whether your payment has been made, please check with Deb or Donna at the office.



here at Strathewen Primary School

Just a reminder that our Out of School Hours Care program will be operating on our next pupil free day this term (June 6th). Brooke is planning a special program for this day.

An attachment outlining the program planned for the upcoming school holiday period has been sent out to families today. The program looks fantastic. This school holiday program is open to SPS students and students attending other schools nearby. Remember to book in online.

LOST PROPERTY from Drumming Night

Did you leave something behind at the drumming night event at the Strathewen Hall last term?

Are you missing an adult sized blue denim jacket?

If so, we have it. It was picked up by 'Drummer Dave' at the end of the night and he's posted it back to us. We're hoping to return it to its owner.

BEHIND THE SCENES

- Today Jane and Deb will be attending an online training course for schools on Asset Information Management, from 9.30-11.30am
- Yesterday the senior students spent some time setting up the animation film studio space downstairs in the multi-purpose room, ready for Jimmy's work with our grade 5-6 group as part of the Strathewen-Arthurs Creek Bushfire Education Partnership
- Thanks to James Price for hauling our sack of chicken pellets up to the henhouse and getting the girls sorted yesterday afternoon.
- Our new heating/cooling system for the project space has been ordered
- Once again this week we've had Margie in helping with reading in the P-3 room and it was great to have Kylee in working with gardening groups on Thursday
- Sarah continues to do a wonderful job selling eggs for JSC, which is great

ALL-STAR STUDENTS!

Our Star Students this week are Hunter, Zoe, Arthur and Ellie

Hunter- for his persistence with maths work this week, as the only grade 4 in the classroom. Great work Hunter.

Zoe- for always being ready to step up and assist others and for her wonderfully positive attitude to friendships and school life

Arthur- for his wonderful work this week and his willingness to give everything a go.

Ellie- for her terrific effort, as our only grade 1 in class this week. Great independent work and fantastic time management Ellie!



Interschool Sport- let's take a look at netball...





Week 3- interschool sport
We enjoyed a great morning when our
combined team played Arthurs Creek PS.
Check out the netball action!
Thanks again to our drivers and helpers.



Cyber Safety

Wednesday June 8th

With Susan McLea of CyberSafety Solutions

Here at SPS (time to be confirmed for evening session)

Save the date!

An evening workshop with an expert in the field.

Parents, grandparents, carers and friends are welcome. Open to SPS adults and the wider community.

Adults only- no under 18's to attend

Spread the word, invite your adult neighbours and friends to join us.

Susan is an expert in this field and we are extremely fortunate to have her joining us for the day.

- Trusted Education Provider – eSafety Commissioner
- Member – National Centre Against Bullying (NCAB)
- University Certificate in Child Safety on the Internet – University of Central Lancashire UK
- Protecting Children Online Certificate – Fox Valley Technical College USA
- Protecting Children Online Training Program – Internet Crimes Against Children USA (2007/2012)
- Teaching Digital Citizenship Training NetSmartz USA 2015
- ASIST – Certificate in Suicide Prevention Education
- Certificate IV Workplace Training and Assessment

*Please note, we are hoping to provide supervision for children upstairs while the parent session takes place



Anxiety: What all Parents Need to Know

***SAVE THE DATE! Here at SPS- Tuesday May 31st- 6-7pm
All adults welcome!**

An informative workshop founded on research and life experience. Learn tools to support your young person through anxiety and everyday stresses they may be facing.

All parents, carers and grandparents are invited to come along for this evening event. The session is not suitable for under 18's and we are currently investigating the possibility of providing a supervised movie session upstairs for children to support parent/carer attendance.

Anxiety is a concern in our young people. We'd love to have all families represented at this session, as we work together to provide the best possible support for our children.

Here at SPS- Tuesday May 31st- 6-7pm

Brought to you by The Big Sister Experience

(supervision of children onsite will be available- Brooke, from our OSHC program, will be supervising students upstairs with a movie and a light snack, while we meet downstairs in the MP room)



Waste Free Lunch Challenge

The challenge was on last week and we finished up with the senior class weighing in with 29g of landfill waste and the junior grade weighing in with 84g. And so... the trophy returns to the big grade for now! It has been great seeing the transformation in so many lunchboxes- less and less rubbish is being loaded into the collection boxes. Many students are proudly chatting about how they're packing their own lunches and snacks, using containers and really thinking about their choices. Once we have our soft plastics collection point set up, there will be even less going into our red bins.