

Wednesday November 3rd 2021



Strathewen Primary School

Dates:

Thursday November 4th- Prep Transition Session 1 for our incoming 2022 students- 9am-1pm

Thursday November 11th- Prep Transition Session 2

Thursday November 18th- Prep Transition Session 3

Thursday November 25th- Prep Transition Session 4

Thursday December 2nd - Prep Transition Session 5

Tuesday December 7th- Grade 6 to Year 7- Transition Day- all secondary schools

**Wednesday December 8th- Grade 6 Graduation- afternoon event at school 5pm-6pm at school
(more information to follow- grade 6 families save the date!)**

Thursday December 9th- Whole School- Christmas Special Day at school- special lunch & movie day

Tuesday December 14th- Grade 6 Big Night In- afternoon activities, dinner and evening at school

Friday December 17th end of term- 2.30pm dismissal

This is officially our first week back with all students onsite, although with the public holiday it's certainly not a 'normal' week. It's great to see and hear our classrooms humming along. Our doors and windows are open, ensuring great ventilation. Our students are being given outdoor breaks every 30 minutes or so, allowing them to take off their masks, stretch their legs, grab a drink and recharge. We've taken time out to engage in guided meditation sessions in the multi-purpose room, as we focus on mindfulness and self calming strategies. Music and singing are back on the agenda, which is great. We had the majority of our students here on site on Monday and managed to get a solid morning of lessons in before the surprise of a movie afternoon, allowing everyone to sit back and relax.

After a very wild start to the day on Friday, we all made it safely to school. My detour via the Melba Hwy certainly extended my usual 20 minute trip to school. Again today, we're experiencing strong wind gusts and there are still fallen trees to navigate on our roads and trees and branches coming down. Please take care out there. I think it's time I invested in a chainsaw to carry in my ute!

Take care

Jane



Thank you to all school families for the lovely messages and special treats on Friday in recognition of World Teachers' Day. Everyone really appreciated the kind gesture.

Returning to onsite learning at school- some tips

While our children were at home engaging in Remote Learning, many of them wished they were at school. They missed the classroom, they missed their friends, they missed their teachers, they missed playtime, they missed everything that was part of their usual school life routine. That said, remote learning continued for weeks and weeks and many of our children settled themselves into a home learning routine and got into the swing of things. They realised that some aspects of being at home weren't too bad. Laid back mornings,

working in PJs, having a leisurely cooked breakfast, snuggling with the dog, the cat, the chooks, the guinea pigs... Many families have kept unusual hours during lockdown and it's hard to get back to the old 'normal'. The return to the classroom has been another change to manage. We're back together sharing an indoor space, re-establishing friendships and social networks, adapting to the pace of classroom learning etc. Some degree of hesitation, concern or anxiety is to be expected.

- talk to your young person about how they're feeling. Reassure them that it's perfectly okay to be finding the return to onsite learning a bit strange or challenging. Try to be positive about the school day- over dinner ask them what the best thing was about the day they've had.
- try to establish your regular school life routine once again. Having a good night of rest helps everyone to cope with the day ahead. Having an agreed bedtime or time for 'lights out' is a good idea. Kids need a good sleep to be well rested before a school day. If sleep is an issue, explore good sleep hygiene tips such as- relaxing before bedtime, setting up a bedtime routine, keeping regular sleep and wake times, minimising noise and light distractions, limiting screen time close to bedtime and removing all technology from bedrooms.
- promote exercise and outdoor time. Many of our children have spent significant time online during remote learning and reducing technology use can be tricky.

If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to contact us and have a chat. Our children have coped with two very unusual and challenging years (we all have) and we're here to support them as they settle back into school life.



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

Our girls are laying beautiful eggs, perfect for all your breakfast or baking needs. Any money raised through selling eggs goes directly towards covering the cost of chook food, straw etc. Help to support our wonderful school chook program and buy some eggs. If you have any spare egg cartons at home, we'd love to take them off your hands.

Some final Remote Learning photos...





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.

Strathewen Primary School Bushfire Emergency Management Planning

A question for all school families...

In the event of a day of EXTREME fire danger for our area, when our Relocation Plan would be enacted and we'd be operating from Diamond Valley College, would you plan to send your children to school or plan to enact your own home bushfire plan? In working with prospective student numbers on an EXTREME day, it would be helpful for us to have an idea of what your plans are.

School Uniform Orders

We will putting through an order for school uniform items for 2022.

If you would like to order new school jumpers, polos, t-shirts, hats etc, please give Donna a call (Wed, Thurs, Fri) or send your orders and payment through to the office by

November 12th

Thank you

behind the scenes...

- Donna is collecting uniform orders, so if you need anything for 2022, please let her know
- Maree has spent a day setting up our On Demand testing programs so that we're ready for some end of year assessment
- Our incoming prep group for 2022 begin transition with us tomorrow from 9am through to 1pm
- Donna and Jane continue to work with an interested service provider planning for our proposed Out of Hours School Care program for 2022 (Before and After School Care)
- Our school gardener Renate has been in, working to cut back the spring grasses and tidy up



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.

Strathewen Primary School

Community Pantry

*Take what you need ... Share what you can
Do you know anyone needing a little help at the moment?*

Did you know the evidence shows that across the Nillumbik-Banyule area there are approximately 13295 currently experiencing food insecurity?

Agencies have recorded a 380% increase in food provision in our area since 2019/20.

Having a tight week? Know of anyone who might need some assistance?

That's what our pantry is here for.

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.



This week was the first week back! We continued with our animal unit and got stuck into some scientific observations and research. To do this we got outside and observed the world around us and practiced patient observations. The older students had a crack at researching their threatened species and finding out interesting and exciting things about them. Safe to say we had lots of fun and it was awesome being live again!



S.P.S. Supporting the Diamond Valley Gift Appeal 2021- we'll have a box set up at the school entrance for easy drop off

Bring some joy to those in need by donating to the Diamond Valley Gift Appeal this year. We're collecting donations at SPS- unwrapped new toys for 0-5 year olds, gift vouchers, special Christmas food items etc. Help us make Christmas a little brighter for those in need.



We're back into the swing of nightly reading. Home Reading Diaries are checked every day. Encourage home reading at your place. Great readers read every day!

GOOD READERS

- Think when they read
- Use their reading strategies
- Ask lots of questions
- Talk about books
- Practise reading
- Read fluently
- Take care of books
- Enjoy reading books
- Share books with their friends

SCHOLASTIC
SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUBS

READING EVERY DAY...

- ...**CREATES** lifelong readers.
- ...**TEACHES** children to find adventure, ideas, and answers through books.
- ...**STRENGTHENS** relationships and creates memories as a family activity.
- ...**OPENS DOORS** through which children can learn about themselves.
- ...**BUILDS** a diverse vocabulary and strengthens fluency in reading.
- ...**ALLOWS** a child's imagination and creativity to blossom.
- ...**GIVES** children the tools needed to become successful students.
- ...**TAKES** the "scary" out of reading in the classroom.
- ...**HELPS** children make connections to new places, people, and concepts.
- ...**AWAKENS** children to the world around them.

READ
Every Day
Lead a Better LIFE

Remember to read for **20 minutes** each day!

Reading Time	Words per Year	Hours by 6 th Grade
1 minute per day	8,000	42
5 minutes per day	282,000	212
20 minutes per day	1,800,000	851

and You'll have read for...