

Wednesday November 10th 2021



Strathewen Primary School

Dates:

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

Thursday December 16th- final day for students- 1.30 dismissal- short day, no lunch at school

Friday December 17th end of term- pupil free day- pack up

We're enjoying our first full week back in the classroom and I must say it's lovely to have a sense of normality once again. There's nothing quite like being able to work directly with students!

The return to class is going smoothly and our days are very settled and calm. We're continuing with regular outdoor breaks for a drink and a few minutes of mask free time throughout the learning sessions each day. We've been working on plans for our final weeks of the year, attempting to schedule in events and activities. Our Badminton sports sessions for all year levels kicked off today and we're looking forward to a great program over coming weeks.

Take care

Jane



Great news! On Monday we were formally notified that we had been successful in applying for funding to support the establishment of our Before and After School Care/ Out of Hours School Care program for 2022. We were fortunate to have this grant opportunity offered to us to assist with staff workload and family support. This grant will enable us to engage our outside provider to set up and operate a program here at SPS for the first time in the school's history. Being a very small school, we would only have a small group of students using the service each day and our grant funding will mean that the running costs of service provision can be topped up to make the service viable. Donna and I have been working behind the scenes, liaising with both the provider and the Education Department preparing for each step involved in the process. This will mean that from term 1 in 2022 parents and carers will be able to access Outside Hours School Care for their children here onsite each day. This program will also provide a School Holiday Program and full day care on curriculum days. This will be a user pays system, with families booking in and paying the gap, after the subsidised rate is calculated, for care directly with the service provider. The Government childcare subsidy is available on a sliding scale to all families to assist with costs. For school staff, having volunteered our time over many years to support working families by supervising students each day before and often after school, this will mean a huge change for us, as we won't be on duty with students entering the school until 8.45am. Information about our new OSHC program will be sent home as soon as we finalise the operating agreement. The service will also offer some great after school activities for students, with specialist sports afternoons, craft events, science workshops and lots more. Our young people will have the chance to be booked in to stay

on after school with their friends for a range of great activities. With the set up and preparation work going ahead over the next few weeks including the purchase of extra equipment, multi-purpose room space organisation, service registration, security access etc, we're aiming to be ready to go for the start of the school year. There will be information packs coming home to each family very soon and a special meet and greet event is planned.

Our early morning student supervision system is available for working parents as usual.

Just a reminder that while we are still supervising students before the school day officially starts at 8.45am, please ensure that if you require care, you have booked your child in for an early drop off and signed them in at the front entrance if they are arriving prior to 8.45. Thank you to the many families who keep us in the loop so that we know how many students to expect. We have quite a few regular bookings and we're ready for them each day, but booking in is a requirement. This service is provided to assist working parents and carers needing to head off to work earlier than regular school hours permit. We are required to have a record of who is onsite prior to school hours as part of our emergency management plan, so parental sign in is essential. We would also encourage parents not requiring this service for work or special circumstances to drop off their children for the usual school start time no earlier than 8.45. It's great that everyone seems to want to be at school as early as possible, but for staff trying to organise their working day it is difficult to get much done in the hour before school starts if we have a full crew onsite who don't really need to be here.

COVID - Update Information regarding visitors onto school sites

Parents and carers who enter school buildings must also have had at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine and must have had two doses of COVID-19 vaccine by 29 November 2021 or have a valid medical exception with the following limited exceptions:

- when attending to administer medical treatment to their own child when the treatment cannot be administered by the school
- when attending to collect their child who is unwell and cannot leave the school building unaccompanied by their parent/carer.
- when attending for a momentary period that does not involve any sustained contact with staff or students, for example, to collect a completed art project or similar.

Parents and carers attending any event or activity inside a school building including, but not limited to tours, graduations, kindergarten transition, whole of school events are required to show evidence of vaccination. Meetings and other discussions (such as Student Support Group meetings) with parents and carers who do not meet vaccination requirements should be held virtually.

Parents and carers attending school sites for drop off and pick up who do not enter school buildings do not need to comply with vaccination requirements.

Any parent / carer who needs to access an early childhood education and care service (including OSHC) via the main entrance of a government school building is required to check in using the Victorian Government QR Code Service but do not need to show their vaccination status.

External providers who use or hire school facilities outside of school hours must ensure that use aligns with the Open Premises Directions including vaccination requirements.



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.



bush foods garden



What an amazing effort!

Over the weekend a little band of volunteers got busy and preparing the space for our Bush Foods Garden. Watch this space...

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...

- On Demand testing has begun, as part of our end of year assessment program
- Our Badminton program for all year levels has commenced. with both grades enjoying an indoor session this morning
- Jane attended a small schools Principal breakfast meeting at 7am today
- Donna and Jane attended a Zoom meeting with our OSHC provider this morning to work through documentation and the agreement for 2022
- Both Jane and Donna will be taking part in separate OSHC planning meetings with the Education Dept this afternoon and tomorrow afternoon, as we move towards completing the next steps in the process of establishing a service here at SPS
- Huge thanks to Doug McKinnon (Deb's dad) for reattaching the log rail in our school fence adjacent to the parking area
- Thank you to Kylee, Sarah, Nicole, Kate, Ray Ray, Anthony, Xavier (and bub) for the amazing 'pop up working bee' over the weekend, preparing the space for our Bush Foods garden.



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

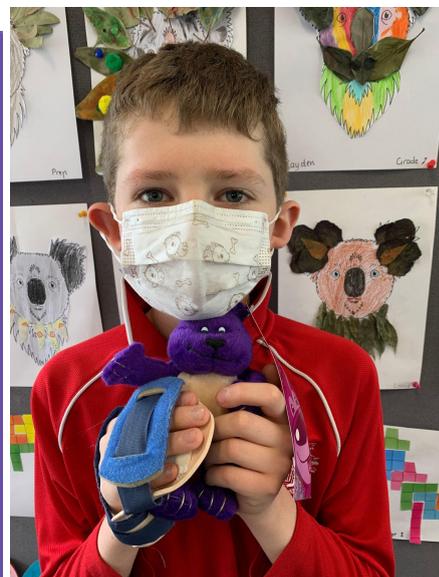
At SPS we have registered to participate in the Aussie of the Month program, a primary civics and citizenship recognition program, which is delivered under the auspices of the Australia Day Council's National Network. The focus is to encourage and recognise students for their contribution to their community 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.

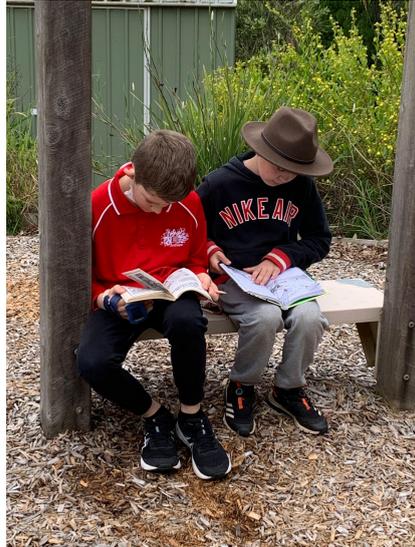
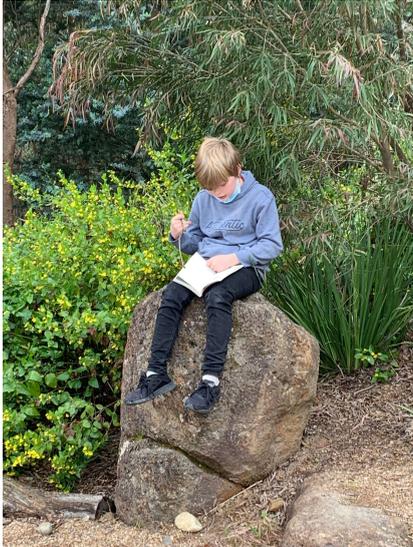
Each month, students will be nominated and one student will be selected for recognition with an award certificate and badge. We're hoping to invite special visitors along to present the award each month.



In our classrooms this term, we're focusing on our school values and what they mean. We're continuing to look at 'kindness' and the importance of being a good friend and a good person. 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 Logan for his care of others, his willingness to step up and assist class mates and his sense of fairness. Congratulations Logan.





*A bit of
independent
reading outside
in the fresh air
for 4-6*



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.

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.



Our star students this week are Sage, Christian, Mary and Jacob. Congratulations to you all.

