Strathewen Primary School

Wednesday 15th November 2023

Thursday November 16th- Prep Transition for students enrolled for prep in 2024 - 11.30-1pm session 4
November 17-19- Foggy Mountain Art and Music Festival- Kinglake
Thursday November 23rd- Prep Transition for students enrolled for prep in 2024 - 11.30-1pm session 5
Sunday November 19th- Foggy Mountain Combined Schools Community Concert
Thursday November 30th- full day concert rehearsal at the Strathewen Hall
Friday December 1st- SPS End of year concert at the Strathewen Hall
(rehearsal during the school day at the hall- early pick up 2.30pm)
Tuesday December 5th- SPS 'Garden Party' celebrating special women in our world- as part of the Nillumbik Shire's 16 Days of Activism Grant program
Wednesday December 6th- Grade 6 Big Night Out (please note change of date)
Tuesday December 12th- Year 7's for 2024 have their transition day
Thursday December 14th- Whole School Christmas Excursion event! Movie, Lunch, Shopping
Friday December 15th- Christmas Raffle prizes drawn- Parent's Club end of year fundraiser
Tuesday December 19th- last day of school for students 2023

We've had some highs and a bit of a low so far this week. On a positive note, have you seen how wonderful our grounds look? Thank you to everyone who came along and gave up a couple of hours to join our Working Bee on Sunday morning. With so many pitching in, we got through a huge list of jobs and made a big difference to the grounds. I had a nice early start at the farm, watching the sun come up on the Elmore Road on my way down and it was great to see so many people arrive to help out. Special mention must go to our young people. Spreading sand, weeding, carting garden waste, sweeping, pruning, clearing… they were terrific.

Thank you to:

- Nicole and Jacob
- Steve, Matilda and Jack
- John, Quinn and Scarlett
- Fern, Logan and Alana
- Linda, James, Oliver, Zoe and Wesley
- Hollie, Kayden, Ellie, Jude and Leo
- Rachel, Anthony, Xavier, Brindabella, Huxley and Tarix
- Katie, Brad, Nash, Maisie and Banjo
- Diane and Maree

We had quite a full agenda to get through at our School Council meeting yesterday afternoon, as we looked at the indicative budget for 2024, approved planning for upcoming events and activities and discussed future fundraising plans.

Unfortunately we had some fox action here at school overnight and we have lost all of our lovely hens. It has been a sad day. Our next task is to try and find the access point for the fox attack, to see about dealing with protection. We're all very disappointed, particularly Diane, our girls' primary carer.

Jane

Frozen ice tubes on sale at lunchtime,
while stocks last
50c each

BEHIND THE SCENES

- Today, Jane met with the new cleaning company for a further building walk-through to plan out cleaning arrangements for January
- Bianca has begun prepping and painting our concert backdrop, which is very exciting
- Our resident prep handyworker, Jude, joined Deb outside at lunchtime today blowing and sweeping out the swale drain up near the chicken pen.
- Jane attended the term 4 Respectful Relationships cluster meeting at Greensborough on Monday afternoon, where the focus was on school audits and action plans
- Concert rehearsals are in full swing and students are encouraged to work on mastering their lines at home each night.
- We're awaiting a visit from a playground mulch company to organise topping up our soft fall areas
- End of year testing is happening in both classrooms at the moment, as we continue with semester 2 report writing

Respectful Relationships
Education in Schools

The Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships Program will focus on 8 key areas, these are Emotional Literacy, Personal Strengths, Positive Coping, Problem Solving, Stress Management, Help Seeking, Gender and Identity and Positive Gender Relationships.

The Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships teaching and learning materials have been developed by experts from the University of Melbourne's Graduate School of Education, based on evidence from reputable research bodies and leading authorities including:

UNICEF
VicHealth
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing
UNESCO

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Lest We Forget

On Friday, a defence force member and school parent, James, came into our classroom and he talked to us about his experiences. He spoke about places like Afghanistan and Iran and other places he'd worked in. He showed us photos and a video about the Scottish remembrance poppy company. James brought in a few pieces of his gear. He showed us his Medical kit, his dress uniform with shiny badges, a bulletproof vest, his different hats, a book of photos from Iraq, some maps, including a silk map for pilots to use. Remembrance Day is the 11th of November and at 11am we stop and we share 2 minutes of silence to remember the people who have served their country, during not only the first world war, but all wars we've been involved in. We remember those who lost their lives and all those who have served and been affected by war. War always brings sadness. It is important for us to learn about world war history and Australia's war history and to learn from our mistakes.
Lest we forget
Fred and Kayden

STEM

This week we got stuck into understanding the internet.
We looked at how search engines search and how we can use them to find websites.
In the junior grades we were challenged with using key words to search for things online and found there are shortcuts to find specific items we are after. We also explored how to type professionally using a typing club login online.
The senior students explored how to locate and identify a reliable and unreliable internet source. We then had a bunch of fun developing our own trustworthy and dodgy websites.

D-A-S-H

Dynamic activities, Active Voices, Safe communities and Healthy engagement

This week in our DASH session we had a forest fire fighter, a wildlife animal rescuer and two police members with us. We did our warm up games, acting out emotions and feelings. The word of the week was empathy and we talked about that. We kept working on our topic projects and worked with our visitors to get down to finding out the problem that's actually causing the problem in the area we'd decided to work on.
To finish off the session we went out to see Jonno's surprise and he'd brought along his Mercedes Unimog and we all had a chance to use the hose and explore the machine.
Arizona and Van

Parent's Club Christmas Raffle

How is your ticket selling going?

Thank you to those families who have sent along their great donations.
These will be used to create additional Christmas Hampers for our end of year fundraising raffle..
If you are able to grab some festive treats or suitable items to add to our collection, we'd be most grateful. Deb is managing the collection box at the office and she'd love to see you. Check out the fabulous hamper and a sample of the four gourmet produce boxes we have had donated.
Our prizes are looking great! If you'd like extra raffle tickets, just see Deb.
Thank you all

Parent's Club Fundraiser- this Saturday November 18th

Running the BBQ at the Diamond Valley Motorcycle Club end of year event in Strathewen

It's a busy time of year, so huge thanks to the volunteers who will be giving up their time to help out on the BBQ at Apted's farm this Saturday. The BBQ will be operating from 7am through to 3pm!
Thanks to Angela and George for this great fundraising opportunity right here in Strathewen.
If you haven't been in touch, but would like to join the crew and offer up some time on Saturday, please let Rachel or Deb know.
Enormous thanks to the following volunteers: Hollie, Rachel, Quinn, Johanna, Kate F, Adam, Mel, John, Scarlett, April, Nicole F and Darren B.
Here's hoping for a great day.

Foggy Mountain
KINGLAKE EST.2014
MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL

This Sunday it's time for our SPS kids to hit the stage at the Foggy Mountain Festival. The combined schools' performance kicks off at 2pm, but if you get there early, there will be plenty to see and a BBQ to enjoy.
The whole weekend is full of great events, including a family a bushdance on Saturday night. Our students have work featured in the Art Show.
We'd love to see as many students as possible in their red SPS t-shirts, ready to join the band on stage at the Kinglake Community Centre.

Our star students this week are Xavier, Ava, Quinn and Logan M. Congratulations on your terrific effort.

Xavier- for his fabulous effort during concert rehearsals and his great voice projection!

Ava- for her enthusiasm during concert rehearsals, her great expression and some terrific singing too!

Quinn- in recognition of the great support he shows for younger students and his enthusiasm during concert rehearsals

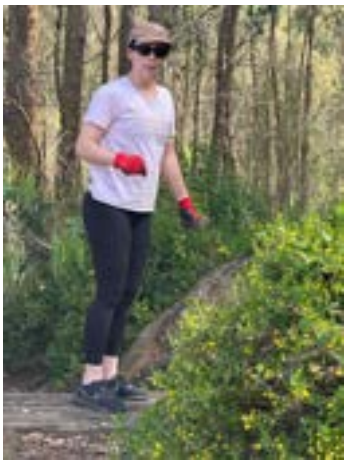
Logan M- for his fantastic work mastering lines and getting into character as we prepare for our school production

You're Invited!

As part of the annual 16 days of Activism event, we have been fortunate to receive grant funding from the Nillumbik Shire for a very special day to be held at SPS on Tuesday December 5th.
We will be celebrating WONDERFUL WOMEN IN OUR WORLD!
Students will be meeting some fabulous guests throughout the day, as we focus on intergenerational storytelling from some wonderful women. At 2pm we'll be celebrating the day, with a Garden Party afternoon tea and a little music and invite everyone to join us. Mark the date in your diary and keep an eye out for more information in coming weeks.

The United Nation's international campaign 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, takes place each year from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) until 10 December (International Human Rights Day).

working bee
Thank You



As the PResident of our Junior School Council, I would like to thank every adult and child that came along to the Strathewen Primary School working bee on Sunday. We got heaps done, including 'operation devastation' in the vegetable garden area, getting rid of all the overgrowth and unwanted weeds. The area looks so much bigger now and we've beds ready to plant out. I brought in some zucchini seedlings today and we'll be planting them tomorrow. All the new sand has been spread in the long jump pit and the Cubbyland sandpit and everyone loves it. The whole school looks really good. Thanks for spending your Sunday morning here at school.

Zoe

It's Not Ok To Be Away

Attending school on a regular basis is vital for all students in Prep to Grade 6 so that they can access all they need to learn throughout their 7 years of primary schooling. This attendance is related to curriculum, in that if the students have a high absence rate, their immersion in the curriculum is severely reduced.

Students need to stay home if they're unwell and we understand that family holidays sometimes fall during term time, but it's the 'other' absence days that we can work on together. Student absences are common in 2023 and are a major area of concern in many schools.

In the 'good old days' it used to be hard to get a day off school. Now it seems to be easy, maybe too easy?

The wider school community, parents and students need to fully understand the impact of missing too many school days.

If a student has a day off, once a fortnight, this would add up to 20 days in a school year (there are approximately 40 weeks in a school year). 20 days is the same as missing a tenth of a school year. This would be equal to missing a full year of schooling before Year 10.

School Student
Broadband Initiative

An Australian Government initiative
powered by nbn

To support students that do not have access to internet at home, the Australian Government has committed to providing up to 30,000 families with free **nbn**-powered broadband internet at home for one year.

You may be eligible for the School Student Broadband initiative (SSBI) if you:

- Have a school-aged child
- Have no active **nbn** connection or have not disconnected in the last 14 days
- Live in a premise that is serviced by the **nbn** network.

Scan the QR for more information.

To check your eligibility:

Contact the National Referral Centre on 1800 954 610
(Mon–Fri, 10am–6pm AEDT)

www.anglicarevic.org.au/student-internet

Callback and webchat functions are also available via the website.

Translating and Interpreting Services are available.

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