Strathewen Primary School

# Tuesday 27th February 2024- EARLY EDITION

**Wednesday February 28th- Relocation to DVC due to Extreme FDR**

- **Red Balloon Day- Thank you CFA**
- **Division Swimming Trials for qualifying swimmers- at the Northcote Pool**

**Friday March 1st- group of senior students- online workshop 'Writing a Narrative' full day working virtually with author presenter**

- **Breakfast Club with Zach from 8am**
- **JSC fundraiser Milkshakes at lunchtime $2**

**Wednesday 6th & Thursday 7th March- Parent-Teacher catch up afternoons time slots from 4pm to 6pm**
**Friday March 8th- NESST (Small Schools) group curriculum day- pupil free day at SPS**
**Monday March 11th- Labour Day public holiday**
**Tuesday March 12th- School Council meeting- first meeting of new council**
**Wednesday March 13th- NAPLAN testing begins for grades 3 and 5 - Writing assessment day**
**Thursday March 14th- Breakfast Club with Zach (running on a Thursday this week)**

- **NAPLAN Reading assessment day**

**Friday March 15th- Grade P-3- Kids Helpline online workshop 'Friendship'**
**Monday March 18th- NAPLAN- Language Conventions assessment day**
**Monday March 18th- Sunday March 24th- Harmony Week**
**Tuesday March 19th- Egg Drop Event and Family Picnic Evening at school**
**Wednesday March 20th- NAPLAN- Numeracy assessment**
**Thursday March 28th- Last day of term 1- dismissal 2.30pm**
**Friday 29th March- Good Friday public holiday and the beginning of the term 1 break**

**Important Information for school families**
**School arrangements for tomorrow, Wednesday February 28th 2024**

Please be advised that as a Fire Danger Rating of Extreme has been declared for our Local Government Area, Nillumbik, we will be relocating all school operation to Diamond Valley College tomorrow in accordance with our Emergency Management Plan and Departmental guidelines.
We will meet students at the entrance to the Community Stadium, next to DVC and we'll walk them to our space for the day. We will be working in the same area as last week, so students will be familiar with their surroundings and we'll again have our own designated bathrooms adjacent to our space.
Again, Jane's phone number will be the contact for the day if you need to reach us.
No hot lunches tomorrow. Please send along lunch, snacks and a refillable drink bottle.
At the end of the school day, pick up will be at 3.40pm, meaning that traffic from both the college and the adjacent primary school will have cleared and our parents can park at the front of DVC in the bus zone for pick up.
We managed this process extremely well last week and the college is ready for us once again.
If your family decides make alternate arrangements for tomorrow, please let us know.
Thank you

To begin our newsletter this week, a huge thank you to everyone who managed last Thursday's 'Relocation Day' so well. Thank you to our staff team, who pulled together, as always, to ensure a smooth transition to a day off-site and provided a safe and calm environment for our students. As it turns out, we were all enjoying a social dinner together in Whittlesea on Wednesday evening when the decision was made to call

the pre-emptive closure, so after quickly finishing our meals, Deb and I headed back to school to manage the messaging and implementation of our procedure. To our parents and families, thank you for working together and helping us to manage the day. Receiving prompt confirmation from all families to acknowledge receipt of our school SMS certainly made things easier at this end. Deb and I now have the process down pat.

Our students were fantastic! With the swimming session going ahead as planned, our day was a busy one, but our young people took the changes in their stride and we enjoyed a very settled and 'normal' day. Feedback from students has been extremely positive, with comments like, 'I felt like we were on camp' and 'this feels like an adventure'. Our pre-prepared off-site learning box was put into action and we had our 'classroom' up and running in no time. The staff at DVC made us very welcome, with a large separate learning space, our own toilet facilities and a designated outdoor time. Every staff member greeted us with a smile, our space had balloons in it to add some colour and they even provided supa doopers at the end of the day. Catching up with some past pupils and SPS friends was a bonus. Given the extreme heat, when we got back from swimming, we opted for a range of indoor team games and some quiet board game time during the lunch break, rather than heading outside.

Having had our Relocation Plan approved and in place for many years, last week was the first time that we'd ever had to put the plan into action and operate off-site. We now know we can do it and we've made some tweaks to things, including the 3.40pm parent pick up at the end of the day to allow for the high school buses to have moved off and the adjacent primary school crowd to have dispersed. Who would have thought we'd be back into Relocation mode less than a week later? Our late fire season may present us with further challenges, but we're certainly able to manage an Extreme FDR in our Nillumbik Local Government Area.

Jane

**Junior School Council**

Don't forget we have our
Milkshake Day on Friday March 1st
$2 milkshakes available at lunchtime

# GARDEN CLUB

*We've been keeping everything going with regular watering during this hot weather and our new plants are looking good.*
*We'll need a new birdbath since our sneaky wallaby broke the dish on our terracotta set up.*
*Tara has managed to get us sorted with stakes and pots, so that we can build our bean teepees.*
*Ava managed to pick a lovely little pot of tiny red tomatoes today and we've got some zucchinis ready to pick.*

## BEHIND THE SCENES

- Our garden Ryan was here over the weekend, weeding, whipper snipping, mowing and sorting out some pesky blackberries
- Thanks to Tara who has donated the long garden stakes we needed, as well as the additional large plastic pots we were looking for. Our bean tipis, or teepees, will be taking off in no time.
- Maree has been working away behind the scenes to have everything set up and ready to go for this year's NAPLAN testing for grades 3 and 5 in March

## *Relocation can be fun…*

the SONG ROOM

CREATIVE KIDS
BRIGHTER KIDS

Part 2 of our Song Room session with Dan this week. Keyboard, marimba, djembe, ukulele and songwriting teams in action

Wesley leading the pitch wave and Jude demonstrating the actions for do-re-mi

Felix- for his fantastic effort in the swimming pool this week. What a champ!

Aida- for her terrific swimming effort in today's session and her great torpedoes!

Harriet- for her great work in class, especially her terrific Maths effort. Well done!

Jacob- for his excellent work ethic and his enthusiasm for learning.

RESILIENCE
RIGHTS &
RESPECTFUL
RELATIONSHIPS

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.

**Help-seeking:** Help seeking is a coping strategy that involves seeking technical, instrumental, social or emotional support from other people. Learning activities in this topic area are designed to help students discuss the importance of seeking help and providing peer support when dealing with problems that are too big to solve alone. This helps to normalise and de-stigmatise help-seeking behaviour. Scenario-based activities help students identify situations in which help should be sought, identify trusted sources of help and practice seeking help from peers and adults.

# Family Picnic and Egg Drop Event

*Students are encouraged to put their STEM skills to use as they work to create their Egg Drop Contraption*

When: Tuesday March 19th- 5.00pm- 7.00pm

Where: Here at school!

What do you need:

1. An Easter Bonnet for the parade (if you're joining in and we'd love to have a good crowd!)
2. An 'Egg Drop Contraption'- made at home to safely transport a fresh hen's egg from the upstairs balcony to the concrete pathway below
3. Bring along your Family Picnic for dinner- whatever you choose and a picnic rug
4. Bring along drinks for your family
5. Come along and have fun with your friends and neighbours

## Breakfast Club with Zach is happening again this Friday, March 1st.

*Come along and start the day enjoying a social pancake breakfast with friends.*
*Drop off from 8am at the downstairs multi-purpose room.*
*Students need to be signed in by a parent/carer on arrival.*
*We'll all head upstairs for class at 8.45am*

Congratulations to our SPS swimmers who took part in the District Trials on Friday. Well done Brock, Ellie, Fred, Marley, Kayden and Ava.
Our intensive swimming program continues and we're really seeing some skill development. We enjoyed a great hour in the pool today and everyone worked hard with their instructors. We had quite a few friends nod off for a snooze on the bus trip back to school.
We have our final session on Thursday.