Strathewen Primary School

Wednesday 14th August 2024

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Thursday August 15th- JSC Sausage Sizzle lunch

Sunday August 18th- Hurstbridge Wattle Festival

Monday August 19th- Kylie and Robin in classrooms, Jane and Diane attending Maths training afternoon

Tuesday August 20th- Bushfire Education Partnership- first aid training day for grade 3-6- 9.30-12.30

Wednesday August 21st- School Photos (school uniform required for this day)- photos from 9am

- **I am Mindful session- grade 4-6- 1:30-2:30**

Friday August 23rd- Book Week dress up day- Come as your favourite book character

Thursday August 29th- Father's Day Stall- Parents' Club

Thursday September 5th- Sugarloaf District Athletics Event at Willinda Park, Greensborough
(Strathewen Parents' Club operating the BBQ and sales at the track)

Monday September 9th- Backup day 'bad weather' for Sugarloaf District Athletics Event at Willinda Park

Friday November 8th- The much anticipated SPS- 'Colour Run' event

We acknowledge the traditional Owners of the land on which we stand and pay our respects to the Elders, past, present and emerging.
We honour and respect the histories, cultures, knowledge and perspectives of First Nations peoples
We value the guidance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as we support and create opportunities for the future custodians- the children
Let us always remember that First Nation children played, danced, sang and learned on this place they called home

Well, there has been plenty of action at SPS this week, with lots of great learning and activities across all year levels. It's National Science Week and everyone was involved in our Tuesday cross-age extravaganza. Thanks to Diane for her incredible effort. It was all hands on deck, but Di put the program together and planned everything. We had nine mixed age student teams rotating through a range of wild activities- you might have heard a bit about it all at home last night, or you might have seen a bit of food coloring on hands!

Our new ten pin bowling coach-led sessions, funded through our successful Sporting Schools grant for term 3, began on Monday. Coach Dylan led the way and we enjoyed bowling in the sunshine. Dylan will complete four coaching workshops with both grades this term.

Today we were joined by four fabulous year 9 students from Diamond Valley College for a student led morning of sports action. What great ambassadors they were for their school and what a terrific time our P-6 group had.

It's also Bullying No Way week and in Monday's Junior School Council meeting we shared a workshop focused on what bullying is and what we can do to support others.

Still to come, we have our JSC Sausage Sizzle lunch tomorrow. Once again, thanks to Nicole for organising the food supplies and thanks to families for getting orders in. We'll be cooking up a storm tomorrow.

I'll be taking some medical leave after Wednesday next week. I'll see how I go, but I may be on leave for two weeks. We have covered my days in the classroom, planning will be left and programs will continue as usual.

We have the much anticipated CFA first aid training day coming up next week. Thanks to Lisal and her incredible sourcing of funding support, the program will be fully subsidised. Our senior grade will be joined by the grade 3's for this important day of learning. We've already tabled a range of topics we believe are important for our young people to learn about. We'll be looking at the DRSABCD of first aid response, managing bleeding and snake bites, using a defib unit and plenty more, but we'd love to hear any further suggestions parents may have. Feel free to share your ideas with me and we can put them to our presenter. Lisal and I felt that having some understanding of first aid responses was important for our young people, particularly given where we live, and we hope to incorporate this program into our Bushfire Education Partnership moving forward.

We had our I am Mindful parent information session on Monday night, during which Stephanie introduced and explained useful tools included in the I am Mindful boxes. Thanks to parents and staff who joined in online for Monday evening's session with Steph. Parents of senior class students are encouraged to chat to their children about the classroom workshops and the use of mindfulness tools.

I hope you've had a chance to enjoy the sunshine

Jane

CHILD SAFE: *Strathewen Primary School is a child safe organisation which welcomes all children, young people and their families. We are committed to providing environments where our students are safe and feel safe, where their participation is valued, their views respected, and their voices are heard. Our child safe policies, strategies and practices are inclusive of the needs of all children and students. We have no tolerance for child abuse and take proactive steps to identify and manage any risks of harm to students in our environments. Child safety is a shared responsibility.*

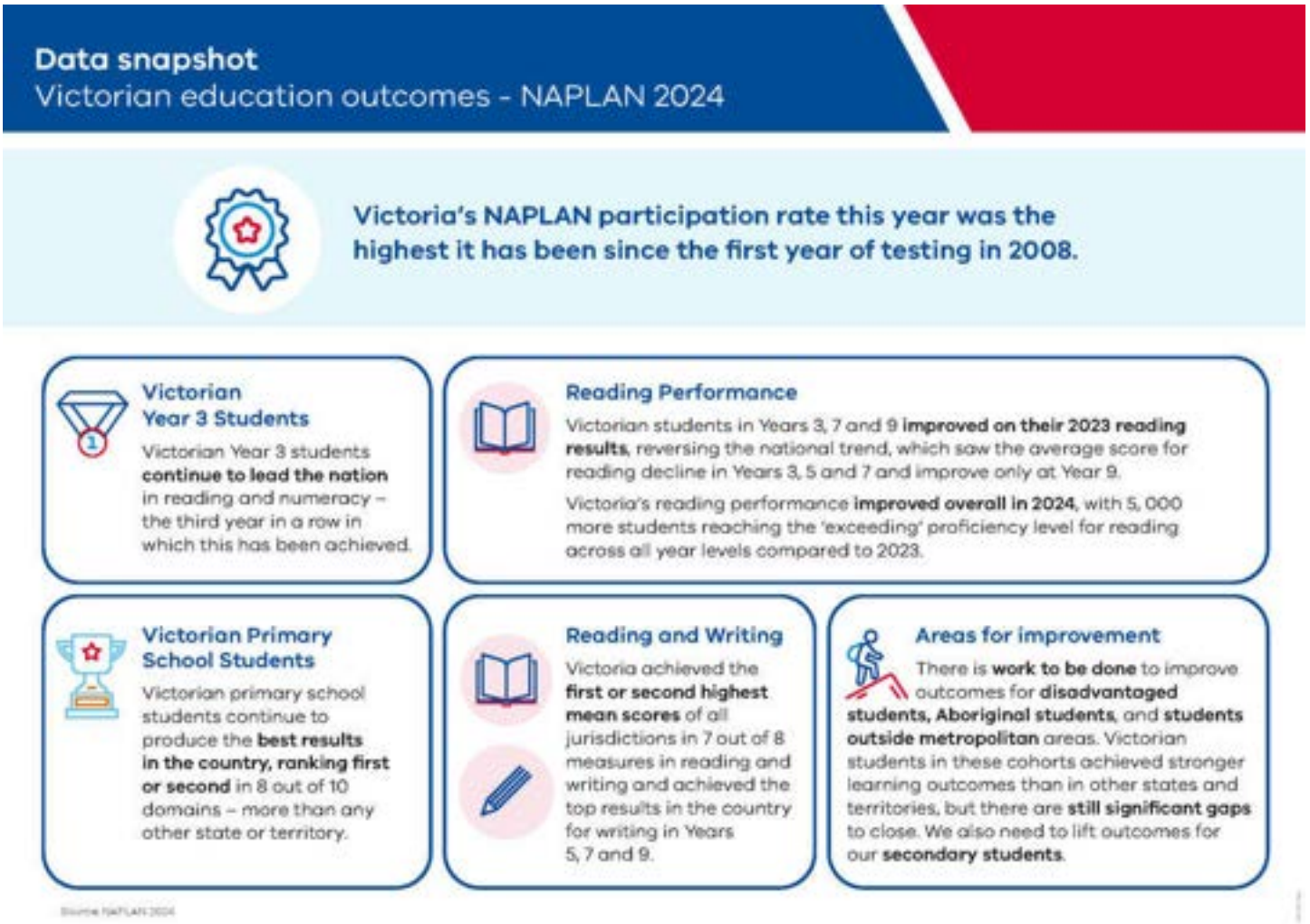
Sports morning with Diamond Valley College student leaders

Today we had a very exciting activity planned. It was a sports morning with the DVC kids. They were four students from year 9 and they were really keen to teach us a whole lot of new games. Luckily it was sunny and we got to get outside and learn different sports. Most of the sports included teamwork and we got pretty physical- running, chasing, trying to win (which might have involved some cheating) and to sum it all up, we had a really good time. It was nice to meet some of the Diamond Valley College students. We might see them again, if we have another Extreme fire danger day and have to relocate to DVC. Thanks to their teacher Kim, for bringing the kids out to have the morning with us.

Kayden

NAPLAN results for 2024

As our school families know, NAPLAN assessment is undertaken with students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia each year, providing a snapshot of learning performance across all schools. While we absolutely focus on our own school's performance data, it's interesting to have a look at the data for Victoria as a whole.



2024 Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey

Our school is conducting the annual Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey offered by the Department of Education and is seeking your feedback. The survey is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of school climate, student behavior, and student engagement. The survey is optional, but we encourage and appreciate your participation.

Our school will use the survey results to assist in identifying areas for improvement and professional development needs in the school, to target school planning and improvement strategies.

The Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey will be open online from **Monday 29 July to Friday 30 August 2024.**

The survey will be conducted **online**, only takes **20 minutes** to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones. Each family will be provided with a personalised PIN (one per household) and the link to access the survey.

Please speak to your child's teacher if you would like more information.

Junior School Council

Tomorrow we have our Sausage Sizzle Lunch happening. Thank you to Nicole Brown for sourcing our supplies and supporting our JSC fundraiser.

Camp Feedback

Following discussions at our School Council meeting this week, we'd love your feedback.

The cost of camp for families is always a major consideration when we're planning our week-long camp for grades 3-6 students and we work hard to keep costs as reasonable as possible. Costs for visiting attractions have gone up and accommodation and catering costs have certainly increased. Bus costs and have become significantly more prohibitive for our small group, hence the hire/drive option for us this year, which worked really well.

An increasing number of primary schools no longer offer an overnight camping program, but we have always strongly believed in the value of camps and the amazing opportunities they provide and we've continued to offer the week-long option.

As we have to plan well in advance to secure camp bookings at venues which cater for small schools, we're currently exploring camp options for 2025. With the cost of camp being of concern, we'd love to hear from you. Reducing the time away on camp from 4 nights to 2 nights would have the most impact on camp affordability. Please be sure to let us know your thoughts and preferences around the possibility of reducing the 5 day/4 night camp program to a 2 night option. Feel free to chat to Jane, Diane, Maree or Deb.

Topic 4: Problem Solving

Problem-solving skills are an important part of the coping repertoire. The classroom program provides a number of learning activities to develop students' problem-solving skills. The activities in the program assist students to develop their critical and creative thinking skills, and to apply them to scenarios exploring personal, social and ethical dilemmas.

Problem solving is a positive coping strategy: being able to solve problems helps us to cope with challenges.
In class:

- *We use learning activities to practise thinking critically and creatively to solve problems.*
- *We explore personal dilemmas as well as social and ethical issues.*

national science week 2024

This week it's National Science Week

As well as investigating the theme of species conservation in our classrooms this week, we enjoyed an afternoon round robin event exploring experiments galore.
This week, we've included one experiment you might like to try at home and we'll include more in coming weeks.
Here's a sneak peek at what we got up to yesterday.

MUSHROOMS IN SCHOOLS

Check out the mushroom action happening in the 4-6 room. It's nearly time for some mushroom cooking!

Science Week Activity 1

Rainbow Snake Bubbles

You will need

- *Empty plastic bottle*
- *Dishwashing liquid*
- *Old sock*
- *Rubber band*
- *Food colouring*
- *A dish of water*

What to do:

1. Make the snake by carefully cutting the bottom of the bottle (adults may need to help). Then place the sock over the end of the bottle and place a rubber band over it to secure it in place.
2. Wet the sock end with some of the bubble solution, then add a few drops of food colouring on to the end – then more colours!
2. Finally, dip the sock end in one more time and blow through the other end of the bottle – your rainbow serpent will start to grow…

What is happening?

The hydrogen atoms in one water molecule are attracted to the oxygen atoms in the other water molecules, making the bubbles attach to each other when they come out of the sock fabric. The bubbles are forming because of the air being blown into the soup solution. The air is getting trapped under the surface of the flexible soap skin, stretching it into a sphere shape.

On Monday, we had bowling with Dylan. He taught us some new techniques and played games with us. We had to focus on using three fingers, having our wrists forward and stepping forward with the opposite foot to bowl. We split up into teams and Louie and Sage were so good that they couldn't be on the same team. Ten pin bowling is amazing.
Ava

Behind the scenes...

- This week we've had the shutter repair tech out once again to sort out the shutter in the staffroom and we now have all shutters up and running
- Our resident wallaby has signs of being unwell (possible facial abscess). Murrindindi Wildlife Shelter staff have been contacted and visited and we're now waiting to spot him close to the building so that we can call them to come and catch him for assessment and treatment.

This week, we mentioned to students that a little bit of rubbish had appeared in our school grounds. We then had four junior students who stepped up and took it upon themselves to do a playground clean up at recess, before the whole school 5 minute blitz we had planned. What a great effort!

Internet Safety tips for Parents and Carers- Susan McLean, Cyber Safety Solutions

- If you have found inappropriate content about your child or one in your care on a website or are informed about this situation please contact the ISP and or Police or advise the parent to do so ASAP.
- Have a family internet contract and set house rules about what information your child can put onto websites or share with others.
- Be aware the majority of children WILL NOT tell a parent/teacher if bullied or harassed online for fear that they will lose internet access!!
- Make sure that your children understand that they will not get in trouble if they tell you about a problem.

PARENTS' CLUB

Our chocolate selling drive is coming to an end.

Only one full box of Freddos and an open box on the office counter left to sell

Please send money from sales or unsold chocolates back to school.

Preparations are underway for our Father's Day Stall on Thursday August 29th

Did you know that updating school policy documents is a continual process here at Strathewen Primary? Recent policies we have reviewed, updated or written include: the Student Wellbeing, Inclusion and Engagement Policy, Communicating with Staff Policy, Aboriginal Learning, Well being and Safety Policy, Inclusion and Diversity Policy and our Child Safe standards Risk Register

Copies of our policies are available on the school website: www.strathewenps.vic.edu.au

We also make hard copies available at the office on request.

Maths at Home

Copying patterns

Play clapping games where you clap a pattern and your child repeats the pattern. Ask your child to clap a pattern that you repeat.
Set the table together for a meal using a pattern such as plate and spoon, plate and spoon, plate and spoon.

Creating patterns

Create patterns with everyday items like toys and fruit.
Start with simple patterns and then create harder patterns such as one apple, two bananas, one apple, two bananas, one apple, two bananas.

Arthurs Creek Strathewen Fire Brigade

Come along to the Strathewen Cricket Pavilion
on Thursday 22nd August commencing at 6.00 pm

The fire brigade invite you to attend an evening where we are offering a slice of pizza and the following:

- Leave early bags for the summer fire season.
- Fire extinguisher change over, bring along your out of date extinguishers (older than 5 years) and we will replace it with a 1 kg dry chemical, ideal for kitchens & vehicles,
- Brief presentation on the use of extinguishers and an opportunity to use one
- We are also offering reflective property numbers, these should be attached to the entrance to your property so emergency services can find you more easily.

These items will be supplied to Strathewen residents at no cost.

HURSTBRIDGE WATTLE FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 25TH AUGUST

20 YEARS

WATTLEFESTIVAL.ORG.AU

FREE SHUTTLE BUS FROM DIAMOND CREEK & MERNDA

VINTAGE STEAM TRAIN
LIVE MUSIC
100+ MARKET STALLS
KIDS RIDES

20TH ANNIVERSARY | DRESS UP IN SOMETHING VINTAGE

Hurstbridge Wattle Festival

Jaybro

Community Bank Hurstbridge
Bendigo Bank

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