Strathewen Primary School

Wednesday 29th January 2025

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Tuesday February 4th- The Song Room begins for semester 1, with Dan joining us once again

Thursday February 6th- Pre-Prep begins for 2025- 9am-11am sessions for pre-schoolers

- **Principal NESST meeting, followed by Sugarloaf Sports Meeting- pm**

Tuesday February 11th, Thursday 13th, Tuesday 18th, Thursday 20th, Thursday 27th and Tuesday March 4th- Intensive swimming program for the whole school

Tuesday 18th February- School Council meeting- final meeting for the current council

Tuesday February 25th- Sugarloaf District Swimming Trials for keen and capable swimmers (3-6)

Wednesday 26th February- School Review day 1

Wednesday 5th March- School Review day 2

- **Division Swimming Finals for qualified swimmers**

Thursday 6th March- Gr 3-6- Science webinar workshop- 'Interesting Insects'

Monday 10th March- Public holiday- Labour Day

Tuesday 11th March- NESST- Small Schools' Combined Curriculum Day- pupil free day

Wednesday 12th March- NAPLAN begins for years 3 and 5 (NAPLAN window until 24th March)

- **Senior students- author workshop whole day writing event**

Thursday 13th March- no Pre-Prep this week due to NAPLAN

Tuesday 18th March- Super Science and Arts workshop day at Diamond Valley College- grade 4, 5, 6

Wednesday 26th March- Cardytoons- a morning of cartooning workshops with Brett Cardwell

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

Welcome back for term 1. We've had a terrific first day, with some very keen learners getting straight back into the swing of things and ready to go. Deb had our book bundles sorted, classrooms were organised and set up and everything was in place for day one. Thanks to our terrific staff team for the holiday hours spent at school and at home preparing for the year. I think our first staff meeting was held on the 6th of January!

We've had a range of service teams and trades out on site during the break and the grounds are looking good.

Unfortunately we won't have Chan with us on Wednesdays for a few weeks, as he was injured in a scooter accident on his overseas adventure during the holidays. Thankfully he's now home and receiving treatment as he rests and heals some broken bones. We wish him all the best for a speedy recovery and look forward to his return.

Rod will join us again from next Friday to continue his Italian and Music program and we have Dan back with us again from Tuesday, to kick off the Song Room program for semester one.

Parent information and permission forms for our upcoming swimming program have been sent home today. The lessons, with specialist coaches at the Eltham Leisure Centre, will run over six days. We'll be travelling by bus from school, leaving just after 9.30am and returning to school before lunch. Please check with a staff member if you have any questions about our intensive swimming program. The Victorian Curriculum for Physical Education aims for all students to be able to confidently swim 50m by the end of grade 6 and by offering a school-wide program each year, this is what we work towards. The sessions will also feature a water safety and water rescue component. It's always amazing to see the improvement in water confidence, swimming technique and endurance over the course of our intensive sessions. Our swimming program is heavily subsidised with funding specifically for swimming education through the Education Department, with parents only required to pay for the bus travel cost.

On Friday this week, we'll have Brett Cardwell, the cartoonist responsible for the artwork around our grounds, joining us to pressure wash the pavement games in the back courtyard, so they'll be ready for repainting.

We're all looking forward to a great term together.

Jane

School Saving Bonus

All parents will by now have received an email from the Education Department regarding the School Saving Bonus of $400 per enrolled student.

All families are advised to access this email, click on the 'school activities' tab and click 'next', which will then prompt you to click on the amount of $400 and submit.

If there are any problems, please don't hesitate to pop in and see Deb, she has already assisted quite a few parents with the process.

Welcome to our new Foundation students.

They were straight into the action in the P-2 classroom, working on phonics on their first day of school.

Topics areas we work on as part of the
Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships program

Topic 4- Problem-solving

Students learn a range of problem-solving techniques to apply when confronting personal, social and ethical dilemmas. They engage in scenario-based learning tasks to practise their problem-solving skills in relevant situations.

Beginning again next week... our star students will feature every Wednesday

At S.P.S. we encourage all students to wear school uniform, as it certainly makes life easier.
Though not compulsory, school uniform is required for excursions and special events, so everyone needs to have one.
Deb will be putting in a new order for additional uniform items on February 7th. Please see her at the office if you need anything.

Behind the Scenes

- Our arborists were onsite during the break to complete tree and grounds work as part of our required bushfire preparedness program, ensuring we meet safety requirements
- Our gardener and his team managed to fill a skip with garden waste, as they pruned, weeded and cleaned up ready for the new term
- The Cubbyland picket fence is being sanded back, ready for a repaint
- Our electrician, Paul, was onsite this morning, replacing many failed fluoro tubes in learning spaces. With these tubes being phased out in the near future, we're looking at having LED panels installed in a staged approach.
- Today, we had a visit from Brett Cardwell, of Cardytoons, long term friend of SPS, author, illustrator, cartoonist and much more. Brett is looking to repaint some of our faded pavement art and we're also hoping to lock him in for some cartooning workshops with students this year.
- During the break, Jane met with Lisal to plan out this year's Bushfire Education Partnership Program. There will be plenty for our grade 5-6 students to look forward to.
- Our cleaner, Nipun, led the team over the break, completing a 'deep clean', so we'd be looking good for the start of the year.
- Deb has done an amazing job de-cluttering our meeting room and sorting out our Lego trolley to add to the Lego Lab.
- We've worked hard to clean out and revamp the outdoor learning space, rearranging art supplies and setting the area up for the year. It looks great.
- With our many dry and hot days, it has been a team effort to ensure that our fabulous Kitchen Garden has survived and thrived over the summer. We're looking forward to gardening with Isabella again this year.

Child safety and wellbeing at Strathewen Primary School: information for families and the school community

Strathewen Primary School is committed to providing an environment where students are safe and feel safe.

Our child safety framework includes policies, codes and procedures that explain how we support and maintain the safety and wellbeing of our students and protect them from harm. These documents are available on our website: http://strathewenps.vic.edu.au/

We are also committed to continuous improvement of our child safety framework. We are currently reviewing our child safety policies and practices to ensure they are up-to-date and effective.

Our students and families are important partners in this process. We welcome your feedback or ideas on ways we can improve our approach to child safety and wellbeing.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact Jane Hayward, our school principal on 9714 8278.

Did you know that our Junior School Council collects and returns cans and bottles through the 10c Cash for Containers program?
Deb regularly returns our bags/boxes of collected cans and bottles and we've already raised $24 this year.
If you're not collecting and returning your own eligible containers, we'd love to have them.
JSC funds go towards chosen student leadership projects each year and also support the educational sponsorship of Cinta and Mang Adi in Bali.