Strathewen Primary School

Wednesday 10th December 2025

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Thursday 11th December	Christmas Excursion – Greensborough Movies – 9.30am KFC Carpark
Tuesday 16th December	Grade 6 Big Night Out.
Thursday 18th December	LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS – KRIS KRINGLE – 2.30pm Finish
Friday 19th December	Student Free Day

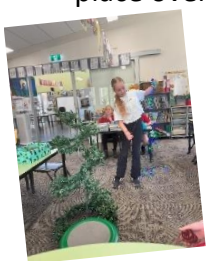
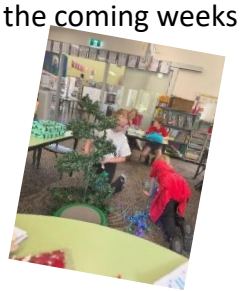
We acknowledge the traditional Owners of the land on which we stand and pay our respects to the Elders, past, present and emerging.
We honour and respect the histories, cultures, knowledge and perspectives of First Nations peoples
We value the guidance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples 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

We hope you enjoyed the fun of concert night on Friday. We certainly had some enthusiastic characters up on stage . Our youngest performers can certainly draw in the crowd! What a terrific effort from all of our students, learning their lines and movements, taking to the stage, performing for an audience and being part of something special. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the night. It's certainly a big team effort. Deb's costumes were terrific once again and made the show. We managed to load up and transport lots of the smaller concert equipment back to school on Friday night, but huge thanks to Deb and Darren who returned to the hall on Saturday to load up the big gear and get that sorted. We definitely had quite a collection of stuff to move around.

On concert night, I was particularly proud of our grade 6 graduates, who delivered their thoughtfully written speeches with such confidence. They're certainly ready to head off to begin Year 7. Today, I've been hearing all about their transition day experiences. They're an excited bunch, looking forward to the big move in 2026.

As you've no doubt heard, like most local schools, we've had our share of bugs doing the rounds recently. In addition to the head colds and infections we've seen lately, COVID has joined us as we head into the Christmas run up, with several students, several parents and now staff finding themselves testing positive. We hope to have Diane and Maree back with us soon. As much as we love regular student attendance and encourage it, thank you for keeping unwell children and those testing positive, at home, to assist us in limiting the viral spread. With December so full of events and action for us all, I'm sure no one is keen to find themselves unwell or missing out on adventures as they isolate to protect others. Unfortunately, due to the current bugs in our midst, our wonderful Nancye has had to cancel today's traditional day of Christmas shortbread making with the junior students.

We're delighted to have had our shutter technician in today, tackling the problematic fire shutters ahead of the fire season. Further bushfire preparedness work will take place over the coming weeks as part of our annual plan.

We're still covering regular learning programs in the classrooms as we finish off curriculum work, but the much anticipated work on Christmas boxes has begun. The rooms are decorated for the festive season and KK gifts are appearing under the trees. The excitement is building. We have the annual Christmas excursion coming up tomorrow. Just a reminder that we're meeting along the back fence of the car park behind KFC in Greensborough at 9.30am tomorrow. As usual, students are required to wear their red tops, as school uniform is compulsory for the day. Everyone will need to bring along their morning tea and drink, a suitable bag to carry shopping items safely home and spending money for any planned Christmas shopping. A shopping list is a good idea. Our movie begins at 10.30 and our pre-ordered lunch at Schnitz will follow. I know that many parents are planning to meet us in the shopping centre in the afternoon, but if you're planning for an end of day pick up, please remember that it's at 3.15pm from the rear of the KFC car park.

As I finish my principal message for today's newsletter, I'd like to let our community know that I will be taking an extended period of leave from the beginning of next year. On a personal level, this year has been a tough one and I'm continuing to work through many challenges. Life administration can be hard work! Having spent just on two decades here as the teaching principal at SPS, I've experienced everything; fabulous highlights, amazing successes and achievements, wild adventures, incredible friendships, hilarious moments and on the flip-side, absolute heartbreak. Leadership in a small school setting is definitely a 'lifestyle choice', as it's an all consuming role and there's never a dull moment. I've been honored to work alongside the most dedicated staff and community for so many years, but after a great deal of thought, I know that it's time to step back for now and take some time out. The Acting Principal position was recently advertised, and I have been advised that the successful applicant, Jane McLeod, has been appointed to the acting principal role, joining SPS from the beginning of term one. I'm sure we're all looking forward to meeting Jane and welcoming her to our great little school. If you have any questions, feel free to catch up for a chat.

Jane

Aida for giving lots of detail in her writing task.

Alana for overcoming nerves to perform well at the concert.

Nash for his great Christmas artwork and being helpful in the classroom.

Aiki for being organized and using class time well.

Devina and friends put on a wonderful pancake breakfast Monday morning.

Do you have any spare 5c coins hanging around? We'd love you to add them to our silver coin tube collection in the hallway, so that we can plan a special challenge this term.

Final fundraiser for 2025

Guess the value of the coins in the tube

Thanks to Marley, our coin tube is overflowing with silver.

It's time for a little competition. 50c per guess- Guess how much money is in the tube. The closest guess wins a special prize.

Place your guesses at the office on Deb's special grid.

Our Parent's Club Christmas Raffle prizes are looking great.

At this stage, we have 8 terrific prizes on offer. There are three major hamper prizes and a collection of additional prizes to be won.

It's not too late to add your donation to the box, all additions welcome.

We'd love every family to sell their book of tickets and contribute towards this final fundraising effort for 2025. Extra tickets are available at the office if you're on a roll with the selling.

What a wonderful night!

Behind the Scenes:

- Hayden from SS Shutter Supplies came and inspected all our shutters, replacing batteries and fixing shutters that do not work. He will be back in 2026 to replace a motor for a shutter in the staffroom.

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.*

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.

STRATHEWEN LANDCARE MEMBERS ONLY

Log Splitter available for hire!
Borrowing donation: $20
Pick up Strathewen
Questions and bookings can be made via emailing **enquiries@strathewenlandcare.org.au**

👉Not a member - Join NOW!! by clicking on the following link - **https://www.nillumbiklandcare.org/strathmember**

BUSHFIRE SAFETY INFORMATION SESSION:
Thursday 11 December 2025

What makes a "bad bushfire day"?

A bad bushfire day is a culmination of climatic effects. Rainfall, soil moisture, temperature, humidity, and most critically, wind.

Most summers will have a number of bad bushfire days, usually declared as Total Fire Ban days. These are declared when the climatic conditions produce a Fire Danger Index which is 50 or over (on a scale of 0 – 100). These conditions generally result in Fire Danger Ratings of EXTREME.

A general rule of thumb is that you should consider your bushfire plan on days where the temperature is over 30deg, windspeeds over 30km/h, and humidity below 30%. The 30o--30km/h--30% rule. On such days, bushfires that start are difficult to control and might spread across the district, damaging fences, houses and threatening lives. Houses that are poorly prepared for bushfires are at significant risk, and people caught in the open during the fire (travelling on roads or moving stock) are at extreme risk.

Days of CATASTROPHIC fire danger rating occur when climatic conditions are extreme. Generally after a number of years of drought (very low soil moisture), heat wave temperatures for days, humidity below 10%, and wind speeds above 60km/hr (gusting to 80+km/hr). On such days, fires that start and not contained quickly will become uncontrollable and spread across the landscape. All buildings and houses will be at serious risk, and only those that are very well prepared (vegetation clearances, water supply, pumps, hoses, sprinklers) and actively defended by a number of people, might offer safety. Unless you are very well prepared, the safest option is not to be in the area (leave early in the day), or have a guaranteed bushfire safe place (bushfire bunker or similar) near you house.

So what is your and your family's plan for bad bushfire days?

Come along to our last community bushfire safety planning session for this year and talk with local experts about how you can plan for your own bushfire safety.

This coming Thursday 11 December at 7.00pm.
Peter Avola Memorial Pavilion, Strathewen Recreation Reserve

Brought to you by Strathewen Landcare Group and Arthurs Creek and Strathewen Fire Brigade.

We look forward to seeing you there,

Regards,

Kerry Smoljko

Secretary - Strathewen Landcare Group

enquiries@strathewenlandcare.org.au
https://www.nillumbiklandcare.org/strathewen

Nillumbik Landcare Network

MERNDA

10th March 2026

Certificate III in

School Based Education Support CHC30221

Embark on a flexible and rewarding career where you can make a meaningful impact on the lives of children with additional needs.

prace

www.prace.vic.edu.au

Certificate III in School Based Education Support CHC30221

Education Support is a flexible and rewarding career where you can work in the classroom to support students with additional needs.

Prace delivers an industry driven and dynamic learning experience to ensure you are job-ready with the skills employers are looking for. With the guidance of expert teachers in a friendly and supportive classroom, you will develop the skills to:

- Support students with additional needs
- Support literacy and numeracy skills
- Contribute to planning educational programs
- Support the health, wellbeing and safety of students

You will participate in excursions, workshops and gain insights from industry guest speakers.

Pathways
Graduates are in demand and work in a range of educational settings, including primary and secondary schools and schools for children with additional needs. Graduates work as education assistants, teacher's aides and support workers.

Entry requirements
Aged 18 years and over. Moderate computer, email and internet skills. Plus digital technology access. English LLN skills at an industry entry standard.

How to enrol
Call 9462 6077 to arrange a pre-enrolment interview.

Nationally Recognised Training | Learn Local

Location
Mernda Social Support Centre located at:
Mernda Village Community Centre
70 Mernda Village Drive, Mernda

Dates and duration-TBC
10 Mar 2026 - 20 Oct 2026
(Includes a workshop on Friday, 16 Oct 2026)
26 Sessions
2 Workshops
100-hour placement

Days and times
Tuesdays
9.15am - 3.15pm
(Classes will not run on public or school holidays)

Study Mode
Face-to-face in a classroom, self-directed offsite tasks and research, remote teacher support sessions, practical placement and industry/ assessment workshops

Fees
Gov. subsidised:
Concession $90
Full $450
Non-subsidised $5850
^Special consideration may apply
Plus $10 Service & Amenities fee

Course commencement is subject to variation, sufficient enrolments and eligibility requirements. Prace encourages individuals with disabilities to participate in our programs and activities.

This training is delivered with Victorian and Commonwealth

prace
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