Wednesday August 11th 2021

Strathewen Primary School

Dates:

Thursday August 12th- Keeping Our Young People Safe Online- POSTPONED

Monday pm August 23rd- Wednesday pm August 25th- CFA Anglesea Camp grade 5-6

Friday Aug. 27th- Grade 5-6 Basketball Hooptime Day at Diamond Valley Stadium, Greensborough

Wednesday September 1st - District Athletics trials for keen grade 3-6 students

Monday September 13th- Friday September 17th- Grade 3-6 Camp- Phillip Island

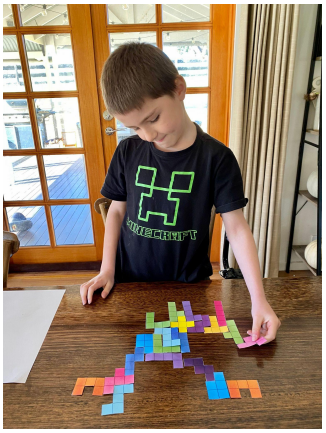
Thank you to everyone in our school community who has once again stepped up to manage and support home learning, prepare and deliver home learning programs, adapt to the very changeable landscape of life during a once in one hundred year pandemic and look after our young people. Announced today is a seven day extension to the current lockdown and restrictions for metropolitan Melbourne, which means another week of learning from home. These are challenging times for us all. We can only hope that restrictions will soon be lifted and our school days will again be onsite. It has been wonderful to see how our students have engaged with growing confidence in daily webex meetings. These meetings provide us with a vital tool for maintaining connectedness to the classroom, teachers, learning programs and of course, friends. To closely monitor student engagement, individual wellbeing and to record daily student 'attendance' during Remote Learning, schools are required to make contact either directly with students online meetings or with the parents of students who are not joining in daily class webex sessions or connecting with the school in any other way. As soon as the timeline for any changes to the current lockdown is confirmed, we'll notify all families. We're working on our next one week learning pack which will be ready for pick up from 8.30am on Friday this week. This pack will contain learning materials for Friday through to Thursday, August 19th. At pack pick up time, please return previous home learning materials,, complete or not, to allow for correction and follow up, dropping them off in the tub provided.

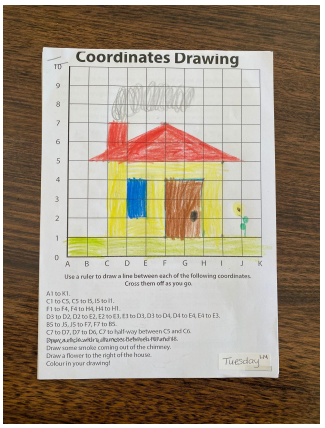
Obviously, our planned Cybersafety event for parents with Susan McLean has been postponed and once we're back in action, we'll advise everyone of the new date. In the meantime, both Jane and Diane have signed up for an online training session with Susan next Thursday night.

While we were all working away madly here and getting ourselves sorted for another run of Remote Learning, it turns out that last Friday was Australian Primary Principals Day. Thank you to everyone for the lovely post on our school Facebook page, it was greatly appreciated. Thanks also for the special treat bag which was sneakily left at the school entrance this morning, we happily shared delicious biscuits for morning tea.

We hope to see everyone soon. In the meantime, take care and be sure to reach out for support when it's needed.

Jane





Remote Learning in action

More of Anthony's fantastic concrete artwork here at school. Our waratah is finished and looking fabulous. A couple of beautiful sunflowers have appeared along the wall and are a work in progress, the poppies have certainly popped and some more mysterious faces have appeared in the Fairy Garden. Thank you to Anthony for his great work.

What do you know about our R.A.P working group?

A Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is a formal statement of commitment to reconciliation. Our school has formed a Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group. We plan to work together to develop a plan for SPS. Through this work we aim to promote reconciliation in education, while focussing on strengthening relationships, respect and opportunities in the classroom, around the school and with the local community. We'll keep the community updated as we move forward. If you have any questions about our working group, please contact Kate Fawcett.

behind the scenes...

- Yesterday afternoon our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Working Group for Strathewen Primary School held an inaugural meeting via Zoom. Thanks to all who have volunteered to be part of this working team.
- On Thursday last week, we carried out an emergency evacuation drill which involved relocating to our outdoor safer onsite place - the sports court
- Anthony Brady has continued with his incredible work here at school. Our waratah looks fantastic and the poppies and newly added sunflowers are amazing.
- Our gardener Renate was at school over the weekend, clearing overgrowth along pathways
- Donna and Jane have continued working on the timing of events and bus pick ups as the itinerary for our Phillip Island camp for grades 3-6 is locked in
- Last Thursday afternoon, Jane completed the three hour online training with Swinburne Uni, for implementing NAPLAN online in 2022. Maree will undertake her training shortly.
- Donna has ordered some new safety signage for around the school, as identified during our recent Essential Safety audit- some new and some updated
- Some new concrete fairy stools have been ordered for our Fairy Garden to replace the painted logs we've been using.

Camp Update- Phillip Island 2021

Our itinerary is looking great. We're set to be exploring Phillip Island for the last week of term, heading off on Monday morning and returning to school on Friday afternoon. From Churchill Island, the Penguin Parade and Amaz'n Things, to Seal Rocks, the Antarctic Experience, Clip and Climb, the Koala Conservation Centre and plenty more. We'll be bike riding, hiking, climbing, exploring, adventuring and enjoying. A detailed itinerary, permission and medical forms and packing lists will be sent home soon. With School Council agreeing to subsidise camp for all students attending, the total cost per student for camp week is $550. As suggested throughout last semester, quite a few families have been making payments towards camp costs throughout the year, which is great. The school is required to make the full payment of camp costs prior to our departure and as a result, families are asked to ensure that accounts are finalised before September 13th. If your household is experiencing financial hardship, please take some time to discuss this with Jane or Donna so that we can establish a payment plan.

CFA Anglesea Camp

Fingers crossed we'll be set to take off on Monday the 23rd of August for our leadership program at Anglesea. The itinerary remains the same, with our departure set for after school on Monday and our return set for Wednesday afternoon. Monday night we have some work on our short films planned, then after an early start on the beach on Tuesday morning, we'll spend the day at the local CFA building working with Jamie McKenzie on the much anticipated workshop sessions. We'll be managing 'home life' with a family of 13 children and 2 adults, cooking and keeping house for ourselves. After another early morning on the beach and some finish off activities on Wednesday, we'll make our way back to school. Medical forms completed for our earlier camp booking remain valid, unless there has been a change of health treatment or record for your child. The updated permission form for each student was sent home last week and will need to be completed and returned as soon as possible.

Aussie of the Month

Purpose

Recognising and celebrating active citizenship that demonstrates inclusive Australian values in our primary schools

Values

Fair go- not just in how we apply ourselves but also providing opportunity for all
Mateship- generosity of spirit and compassion for those in need
Respect- of self, others, of our community and the environment
Inclusion- celebrating difference and the rights and freedoms we are all entitled to

At SPS we have registered to participate in the Aussie of the Month program, a primary civics and citizenship recognition program, which is delivered under the auspices of the Australia Day Council's National Network. The focus is to encourage and recognise students for their contribution to their community through a demonstration of Australian values as outlined in the Values for Australian Schooling and Curriculum framework. These are values outside of academic application, instead they're about active contribution to school, community and peer groups.

Each month, students will be nominated and one student will be selected for recognition with an award certificate and badge. We're hoping to invite special visitors along to present the award each month.

We made a start on the classroom war on waste challenge just before lockdown and we'll pick up from where we left off when we're back on deck. We're collecting all wrappers and landfill packaging for a two week period and we'll be weighing each collection. Our usual sorting of 'scraps' takes place and this means that anything we can use in the worm farm, compost bin, chicken scrap bucket and recycling is used or disposed of elsewhere, leaving only the 'landfill' rubbish and this is what we're trying to reduce. Once we have another week back at school, we'll see which classroom is able to take possession of the War on Waste trophy for the fortnight.

What does a Zero Waste Lunchbox look like?

The typical healthy zero waste lunch is packed in a lunch box or bag. The food is put in **reusable** containers rather than wrapped in disposable packaging, a drink is in a refillable bottle and all containers are resealable so that leftover food and drink can be saved for later.

Nude Food is a fantastic opportunity to educate our children about how their actions can impact the environment and their health. Focussing on the positive message of 'nude food = a healthy body + a healthy planet', we want our students at SPS to be empowered to choose healthy, rubbish free food for their lunches and snacks..

We're trying to work towards a lunch box which only includes foods that leave no packaging at the end of the day. Pop the sandwich or bread roll into a named lunchbox and use small containers for any snack foods and of course, pack a reusable drink bottle. The only thing left at the end of our lunch eating time should be an apple core, crusts or other left over food remnants – which will be sorted to go to our chooks, the worm farm or the compost bay.

Bushfire Resilience Inc. (BRI) is a local community organisation whose aim is to provide bushfire information to households based on science, experience and best practice. This will enable households to acquire knowledge, and by being better informed, empower them to make better decisions in preparing for, and responding to the threat of bushfire.

BRI's primary target audience is the Nillumbik community, however we also want to engage with surrounding at-risk communities.
bushfireresilience.org.au

bushfireresilience.org.au/promo provides information you can choose to use

Webinar 3 19 August 7.30pm
Your physical and emotional preparation
An expert panel including Dr Rob Gordon will provide vital information on how to look after yourself, family and friends in the event of bushfire.

Webinar 4 1 September 7.30pm
Triggers to take action
Hear from Dr Kevin Tolhurst and an expert panel what you should consider when developing your bushfire plan and knowing when to take action on high-risk fire days.

Webinar 5 **1**5 September 7.30pm
Your sheltering options
Dr Raphael Blanchi from the CSIRO and an expert panel will explain why the best-laid plans sometimes do not work out. What are your survival options if this happens to you?

Strathewen Primary School

Community Pantry

Take what you need ... Share what you can

A community pantry is a service that provides food directly to locals experiencing food insecurity.
Having a tight week? That's what our pantry is here for.
Some community pantries rely purely on local donations, ours is restocked thanks to the support of local agencies. Community pantries operate on a trust system and encourage donors to give what they can, and recipients to take only as much as they need.
At SPS we are proud to provide this service to our local and wider community.