Welcome to another week of news from Heathcote PS!

CHANGE IN SCHOOL FINISH TIME FOR 2016

A study of student wellbeing data collected by our teachers throughout the year has shown that many of our students respond better to shorter break times throughout the day, so we have gained School Council and the Education Dept. permission to reduce the length of our break times, which will mean that the school day finishes 15 minutes earlier each day. Our students will have a 30 min break at 11.00am, and another 30 min break at 1.30pm.

This will mean that our school day will finish at 3.00pm, instead of 3.15pm starting from 28th February, which is our first day of school for 2016.

VOLUNTEER HELPERS

As the end of the year comes closer, I would like to say a big thank you to all the people who have kindly volunteered their time to help out at school throughout the year.

Our volunteers have helped out in lots of different ways including hearing students read, assisting in our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program, helping out at working bees, working with groups of students in the SRI program, assisting with fundraising and Parents Club events, mowing the lawns and keeping our yard tidy, uploading our notices and newsletters to our Website and lots of other little, but very important, things throughout the year.

Thank you all so much for your assistance and for volunteering your time and energy to help make our school a better place!

Kind regards,
Cindi Bruechert
bruechert.cindi.l@edumail.vic.gov.au

2016 SWIMMING PROGRAM

Our 2016 Swimming Program will start on Monday 8th February and the cost per child will be approx. $55. A Permission Notice will be sent home early next week.
CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

Congratulations to our Civics and Citizenship Award winners from last week:

Miss O'Neill's Grade
- Emily A
- Kyle B

Mrs. Parry’s Grade
- Alexis K
- Sienna M

Miss Somerville’s Grade
- Ashton E
- Harrison F

Mr. Clayton’s Grade
- Cordell L-C
- Austin C

BOOK CLUB

Thank you to all the families who have placed Book Club orders during 2015. We have accrued a total of $200 in reward points. More free books for our classrooms and the Library.

LOST LIBRARY BOOKS

There are still several library books that have not been returned. If you have received a Library notice, please have a good look at home for your overdue library book. **Invoices for the replacement cost have been sent home and need to be paid to the school asap.**

PARENTS CLUB NEWS

**Icy Pole Sales:** Icy Poles will be sold this Friday lunch time. Cost 50 CENTS each. This is the last day of icy pole sales for this year.

*Thank you to the families and staff who have donated icy poles or the money to buy them. We sell 2 bags of icy poles each lunch time, which is approx. $24.00 of fundraising each week.*

The students enjoy them especially on a really hot day, quite refreshing.

If you are able to help out with any of our fundraising activities please contact Julie or Kylie Allison or Kerry or Susy in the office.

SENIOR UNIT POOL CELEBRATION

Wednesday 16th December from 12 noon to 3.00pm, Senior Unit are celebrating the end of the year at the Heathcote Swimming Pool. A notice went home on Friday 4th December. Please return the form with payment for your student to participate in this unit activity.

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

**Reminders:**

- KK gifts (Grade 5/6)
- End of term celebration for Senior Unit. Please return the notes as soon as possible.

**GRADE 5/6**

Grade 5/6 students have been working on Ecosystems as a unit of study this term. Parents or guardians are invited to view the students’ diorama of an eco system. Please feel free to come into the office at any time where they will be on display from Monday, 14th December.

---

**Junior Unit News**

**TRANSITION SESSIONS:** We have now concluded the Transition Sessions for our 2016 Foundation Students and we look forward to seeing them all again next year. All students will commence the school year on Thursday, 28 January. Foundation Students only be required at school on the Wednesdays in February when they are required for assessments with their teacher.

---

**2016 Booklists**

Year level booklists were sent home last week. These will need to be returned to school by 14 December. Please read the instructions carefully and speak to Kerry or Susy if you have any questions.
Heathcote Community Games 2016

Inaugural Fun Run: Sunday, 21st February 2016
2km run/walk, 5km run, 10km run on the O’Keefe Trail
Entries open: 15 November 2015
How to enter: Online  www.athleticsbendigo.org.au
Hard copy entries available t Heathcote Community House
or Todd Property.
For more info:  Sandra  0417 350 911
Brad       0419771 475

FOUND:  A sum of money found near
the school ground. See Kerry in the of-
&ace if you think this may be yours.

Found:  Nail polish. See Kerry in the
office.

REGISTRATION DAY—WEDNESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY
6.00PM TO 7.00PM.
Football registrations (via Sporting Pulse) available online now for 2016.
BARRACK RESERVE OVAL
HIGH STREET, HEATHCOTE.
FURTHER INFO CONTACT JESS: 0403 063 167
OR KAY: 0412 476 177

Calling on the singers and songwriter
youth of the Heathcote and district region

The Heathcote Community Games is on again on the last week-
end in February next year... and we need a theme song! Tania Mal-
avesi has kindly offered to mentor a group of enthusiastic chil-
dren to develop the children’s thoughts and hopes for the Games
into an uplifting song, to be recorded and performed by the chil-
dren.

Please email (doug@dougbruce.com.au) or text (0477863258)
Jodie if your child is interested in joining this group. We will be
looking to have the first meeting at the Heathcote Community
House around 4pm in the last week of school and a couple over
January (missing a meeting if your child is out of town for any of
the days is ok).

This should be a positive and fun way of connecting the children
of Heathcote and its surrounding regions and we do hope you will consider supporting your
child’s involvement.

Jodie Doyle
HCG organising committee member
Why We Have Rules and Boundaries

Why do you think we have rules and boundaries? Do you want rules and boundaries? The reason why we have rules and boundaries is because if we didn’t the world would be such an unsafe place for everyone. And no one wants an unsafe environment.

If you think about it what if you were in an unsafe environment. You would probably feel insecure, scared and in danger. So don’t just think about yourself here think about what other people feel too.

We have boundaries and rules because if we didn’t you would get embarrassed, manipulated and people would just think that they run the world. I know that if we didn’t have rules and boundaries I would not want to be there and you wouldn’t either.

As I have clearly stated, we DO need to keep rules and boundaries. Unless, of course, you want to be unsafe and scared for the rest of your life?

I know I don’t.

A Rocket Writing Piece by April Taylor (Grade 6)

HEATHCOTE ESTATE

Heathcote Real Estate is asking any families who wish to donate FOOD products to “families in need” to drop by their office and leave a donation under their Christmas Tree.

HEATHCOTE PS Christmas Raffle

We will have our Christmas Raffle again this year. We are asking for donation of Christmas goodies for our Hamper.

Raffle prizes will include a beautiful yellow bicycle (donated by Ray White Real Estate), a Christmas Hamper and a Bistrot outdoor setting (donated by Bunnings of Bendigo).

Tickets will be $2.00 each and the raffle will be drawn on the night of our End of Year Basket Tea and Concert, Thursday, 17 December.

Please return tickets to the office by Thursday morning.

SAKG PROGRAM

WANTED: If anyone has a good sized fridge they no longer need, we really need an extra fridge in our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen. Please see Cindi or Michele if you are able to help.

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

The Junior Unit do not require any more boxes this year. Thank you.
This is a photo of our visit to the Hostel yesterday.
Dear families, Christmas is a time of joy and excitement, but can also a time of sadness and worry for many. Be kind to yourselves over this time and seek support when you need it.

St. Vinnies, 155 High Street, Heathcote, ph. 5433 2549 offers a range of services and is open Wednesday’s 9am to 12.30 (social cuppa and lunch day) and Friday’s 10am to 12.30. They close on the 16th Dec and reopen on the 13th of Jan. You can go there direct or come see me first to help identify the best service to suit the particular need.

Blessings and warmest wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Megan (Chaplain) J

HEATHCOTE CHILDCARE

Come and tell us what family and children’s service you think Heathcote needs

Mandalay Resources is funding Community Child Care Association (CCC) to do a Feasibility Study for an Early Childhood Education and Care Service in Heathcote. CCC wants to hear some first hand stories about community needs and aspirations for the provision of local early childhood and family services.

We want to hear what children’s and family programs and services you would like to have available in Heathcote and why, how they would make a difference to you, your child’s and your family’s life in the next few years, three to five years and five to twenty years.

Come to the Heathcote Primary School at 2.45pm—3.15pm on Monday 14 December to tell us what you think, what your experiences have been and what having long day care, outside school hours care and other family and children’s services in Heathcote could mean for you.
Heathcote Primary School

Christmas Raffle

1st Prize: Bicycle
2nd Prize: Hamper
3rd Prize: Bistro setting

$2.00 per ticket.

Name:  .............................................

Phone: ...........................................

Drawn: Thursday 17th December 2015

Heathcote Primary School

Christmas Raffle

1st Prize: Bicycle
2nd Prize: Hamper
3rd Prize: Bistro setting

$2.00 per ticket.

Name:  .............................................

Phone: ...........................................

Drawn: Thursday 17th December 2015

Heathcote Primary School

Christmas Raffle

1st Prize: Bicycle
2nd Prize: Hamper
3rd Prize: Bistro setting

$2.00 per ticket.

Name:  .............................................

Phone: ...........................................

Drawn: Thursday 17th December 2015

Heathcote Primary School

Christmas Raffle

1st Prize: Bicycle
2nd Prize: Hamper
3rd Prize: Bistro setting

$2.00 per ticket.

Name:  .............................................

Phone: ...........................................

Drawn: Thursday 17th December 2015

Heathcote Primary School

Christmas Raffle

1st Prize: Bicycle
2nd Prize: Hamper
3rd Prize: Bistro setting

$2.00 per ticket.

Name:  .............................................

Phone: ...........................................

Drawn: Thursday 17th December 2015

Heathcote Primary School

Christmas Raffle

1st Prize: Bicycle
2nd Prize: Hamper
3rd Prize: Bistro setting

$2.00 per ticket.

Name:  .............................................

Phone: ...........................................

Drawn: Thursday 17th December 2015