



# Heathcote Primary School

## News

Telephone: (03) 5433 3090

[heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

Issue No. 21

7th August 2023

*At Heathcote PS we value... Respect Learning Teamwork Responsibility*

*We acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of the Taungurung people and we pay our respects to their Elders, past present and emerging.*

### IMPORTANT DATES

Monday August 7th	Earth Ed excursion all Year 5-6 students
Thursday 10th August	Year 6 Passions and Pathways excursion
Wednesday 23rd August	School Council 5.30pm
Friday 25th August	Book Week parade, 9.10am parade
Monday 28th August	Professional Practice Day—no students on site
Friday 1st September	“Busking for change” Casual clothes day
Thursday 7th September	Year 6 Passions and Pathways excursion
Friday 15th September	Last day of Term—early dismissal 2.00pm

We've returned over \$1.5 million to the Heathcote & District community!

[www.heathcotenagambie.community](http://www.heathcotenagambie.community)

Community Bank  
Heathcote & District

 Bendigo Bank

Dear Families,

Our Foundation students celebrated being at school for 100 days last week, slightly over the 100 number by Friday! Having taught from Foundation to University, my favourite year level to teach has always been Foundation, so much growth and enthusiasm can be observed over the year both socially and academically. Being part of this first primary year level is very special. Thank you to Miss Childs for making it a lovely celebration for our students.

### **Michele**

Michele has been an integral part of the Stephanie Alexander program at Heathcote PS for the past 11 years. She has provided a wonderful program for our students with passion, enthusiasm and creativity. The golden rule of always trying the food put in front of you has enabled students to develop their tastebuds and explore a variety of food. Michele has decided to retire from her position with us at the end of the year, she will be greatly missed from our team! Michele is looking forward to travelling and spending time with her family and some time for her to explore some new creative pursuits. We have greatly valued Michele's contribution to our students, staff and school community, not only in the kitchen with students but also providing food for our community events. We wish Michele well exploring a new chapter in her life, we will all miss her dynamic presence in our school.

Michele will be handing over the reins of our Stephanie program to Brooke. Brooke has been filling in for Michele in recent times and has demonstrated her passion working with food and our students. Brooke will be completing some Stephanie Alexander training to support her in this role and be talking with Michele a lot before the end of the year! Dave will be working in our Steph garden and with Brooke to ensure the gardening component of the program is in good hands.

### **Home reading journals**

We thought we would put a reminder in for all our new families regarding our home reading expectations and the use of reading journals. Children across Foundation to Year 6 are expected to read at home each day and have their reading journal signed at home, parents/carers can also make a comment in the space provided. Children are expected to bring the journal back to school each day signed, by an adult. Some of our older students are also required to write in their journal a small reflection on the book they have read. At school students select a new book each day (unless they are reading a novel) from their book box to take home. Students usually have time reading their new books at school along with some familiar books, it is particularly important on specialist days that students remember to change their books as they don't see their home room teacher much on that day. Familiar reading is important to develop fluency, phrasing and expression as the reader isn't working hard on using strategies to work out unknown words. Sometimes teachers/ES staff will initial the journal, however the main purpose of the journal is to be a home reading record that staff can see how often children are practicing/enjoying their reading at home. Staff complete a Guided Reading session with students each week to keep a check on what strategies children are using or neglecting in their reading.

### **DET Parent/Carer Opinion Survey**

Today, each family will be sent home an opinion survey. DET conducts this survey each year across the state to seek feedback from families about their schools, a feedback report is provided back to individual schools. We would value each family filling in the survey and returning it to school by **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August**. Returning your survey by this date will ensure we can package them up and return all copies received to Melbourne. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact us. Your support in completing this survey is greatly appreciated.

Enjoy your week.

**Kate**

# IN THE CLASSROOM

## This week in the F/1 room...

Last week we celebrated our 100 days of school party!! It was super BRIGHT and FUN!!

This week our focus word is 'frog'. We will start the week with a fun oral retell of the story 'Five Speckled Frogs'. We will also have a focus on rhyme this week and will read a very funny rhyming book called 'Oi Frog'. Our writing this week will have a rhyme focus, what rhyming words can you think of for frog? How about snake?

In Maths this week we will continue learning about Place Value (Tens and Ones) and begin learning about 3D shapes. Can you see any 3D shapes at your house? Any spheres, cubes, rectangular prisms?

## This week in the 1/2MG room...

This week in 1/2MG we will begin our new focus of thinking critically about the texts we read. We will think about why a character chose to do what they did and why the author emphasised this. In Word Work we will be learning about the different sounds of the letter 'u'. In Writing we will be completing our focus on narratives and will continue to have a go at writing our own stories.

In Maths we will continue learning about place value and begin learning about capacity.

## This week in the 4/5 room...

In Week 5, the Year 5 students will visit Earth Ed in Ballarat. They are bound to have an excellent day, after the Year 4 students thoroughly enjoyed their excursion last week. In Maths, we will be looking at 'Order of Operations' and 'Chance, Data & Graphing'. As always, we will participate in open-ended problem-solving tasks in our Friday Maths session. In Writing, we will be introduced to the Smart Spelling program. Specifically, we will look at graphs, digraphs and trigraphs, as well as syllables and vowel sounds. We will also have a handwriting focus this week. In Reading, we will be refining our summarising skills.

## This week in the 5/6 room...

In Maths we will be developing an understanding of probability by exploring and predicting outcomes. In Reading we will be continuing our focus on reading with expression.

In Writing we will be consolidating and expanding our spelling knowledge and developing our handwriting skills. We will begin working on the debates we'll be presenting in Week 6.

Year 6 students will attend the Passions and Pathways Roadshow excursion on Thursday.

# Mental Health Service for Adults: Head to Health Bendigo

HEAD TO  
HEALTH

1800 595 212

We find the mental health  
support that's *best for you*

headtohealthvic.org.au  
Head to Health is a collaborative initiative of Victoria's Primary  
Health Networks funded by the Australian Government.



Finding the right services for yourself can be hard. Head to Health is a new service to Bendigo which helps you find and access services that meet your needs - including free and low-cost mental health services where appropriate. Whether you want to feel happier, sleep better, feel calmer, or get support to live with a diagnosed condition, Head to Health can connect you with tools and services that can help. The hub is based in Bendigo and can help you navigate mental health services and make an informed choice about what's best for you.

If you've been thinking about seeking support for your own mental health, I would encourage you to look at the website <https://www.headtohealth.gov.au/> or call 1800 595 212 to make an appointment at the Bendigo site.

## Junior School Council

The Junior School council were alerted to an excellent fundraising opportunity for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) by Ms Somerville this week and have decided to help run it in our school. It is called Busking for Change and is a new annual fundraising activity developed by ILF Ambassador Josh Pyke to engage primary students in a joyful multi-literacy activity incorporating song, music, movement and language. Simply put, schools learn a song and raise funds for the ILF. The ILF works in over 400 remote Communities to provide them with new, culturally relevant books, develop familiarity and engagement with books for children under five, and support Communities to write, illustrate and publish books in languages they speak at home.

Here's how it works:

- Students commit to learning to play, sing, or dance to a song
- Students gather support/donations from their friends and family
- Once students master the song, they 'busk' or perform their rendition collectively or individually to their friends, family, school, or post a video online.

Our students will be performing their rendition at our school assembly on September 1st. Students will be able to wear casual clothes on that day too. HPS's Busking For Change fundraising page can be found at

<https://buskingforchange.ilf.org.au/o/heathcote-primary-school>

All donations will be very gratefully received.



# READING AWARDS



## 50 Nights

Dorian Macleod  
Rhiannon Brown  
Victoria Pese

## 100 Nights

Alexander Callander  
Sammy Reeve  
Gemma Atkins

## 150 Nights

Mandy Young  
Jessica Toifl

## 75 Nights

Zelda Pinnington

## 125 Nights

Lachlan Swansborough  
Bella Wallace

## 175 Nights

Kenzie Merritt  
Jessica Wheeler



# CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP AWARDS



## TEAM-WORK

Freddie McFadzean  
Rachel Toifl  
Angus Thomson  
Griffin Scardetta  
Tahryk Turner

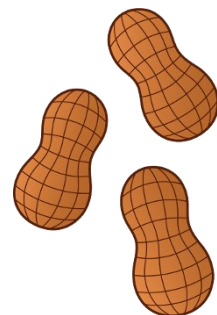
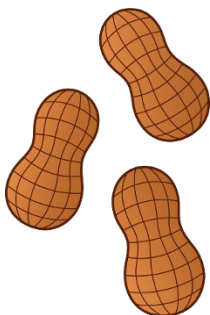
## RESPECT

Pippa Anderson

## RESPONSIBILITY

## LEARNING

Neleyah Guichard  
Natalie Organ  
Dorian Macleod  
Mark Jackowski  
Bridget Brown  
Timoci Tagiwasa



# Be an Attendance HERO



Total number of students who had 100% attendance this week	99 Students
Total number of students who were unexplained absences this week	<b>34 Students</b>
Number of times students arrived late to school this week	<b>13 Students</b>
Number of times students left early this week	11 Students
School absence rate target for 2023	10 days per student

## Child Safe Standards

All Victorian schools follow DET guidelines and policy around the provision of a Child Safe environment. All of the Child Safe policies were updated across Victoria from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022. Heathcote PS and their school community are committed to providing a child safe and friendly environment, where students are safe and feel safe.

Our child safety and wellbeing policies located on our website, based on DET policies, outline the measures and strategies in place to support, promote and maintain the safety and wellbeing of our students in the following areas: Bullying Prevention, Child Safety and Wellbeing, Child Safety Code of Conduct, Child Safety Responding and Reporting Obligations Policy and Procedure, Complaints, Digital Learning, Student Wellbeing and Engagement, Volunteers and Visitors Policy

As part of our school community, parents/carers have a role in promoting and maintaining child safety and wellbeing at Heathcote PS, we welcome and encourage your feedback. If you have any comments or questions in relation to our child safe policies and practices, please contact the Office.

# 100 days of School



# 100 days of School



# Passions and Pathways

Tash from Lansell Homes came in to speak to the Year 6 students as part of our Passions and Pathways program. Tash presented a Powerpoint of photos and talked about her role. Our students were highly engaged and asked many questions. They will be visiting an onsite building of a house during their Roadshow Excursion next Thursday. Very exciting!



Parents, Carers and Community Members  
are invited to

# The Great Debate



Date: Thursday August 17<sup>th</sup>

Time: 9:15am

Location: H.P.S Gallery

We would love you to come along and support our Year 5-6 class presenting their debates, six teams debating three topics.

Please let us know if you can come!

# PARENT'S GUIDE TO A GROWTH MINDSET

*Your brain is like a muscle. When you learn, your brain grows.  
The feeling of it being hard is the feeling of your brain growing!*



## PRAISE



### FOR

- EFFORT
- STRATEGIES
- PROGRESS
- HARD WORK
- PERSISTENCE
- RIISING TO A CHALLENGE
- LEARNING FROM A MISTAKE

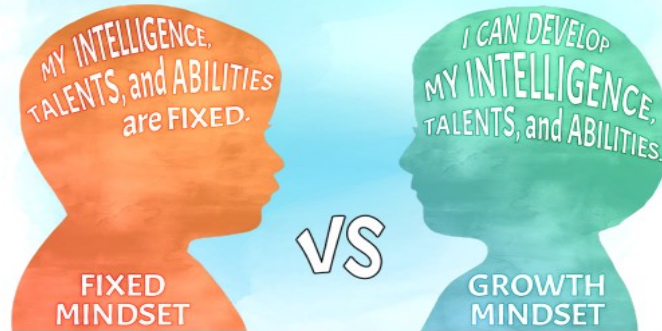
## NOT FOR

- TALENT
- BEING SMART
- BORN GIFTED
- FIXED ABILITIES
- NOT MAKING MISTAKES

## THE POWER OF "YET" SAY

- "YOU CAN'T DO IT YET."
- "YOU DON'T KNOW IT YET."
- "IF YOU LEARN AND PRACTICE, YOU WILL!"

# BRAINS can GROW



VS

## FAILURES AND MISTAKES = LEARNING

### SAY

- "MISTAKES HELP YOU IMPROVE."
- "YOU CAN LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES."
- "LET'S SEE WHAT OTHER STRATEGIES YOU CAN TRY."

## RECOGNIZE YOUR OWN MINDSET

BE MINDFUL OF YOUR OWN THINKING AND THE MESSAGES YOU SEND WITH YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS.



## ASK

- "WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY THAT MADE YOU THINK HARD?"
- "WHAT NEW STRATEGIES DID YOU TRY?"
- "WHAT MISTAKE DID YOU MAKE THAT TAUGHT YOU SOMETHING?"
- "WHAT DID YOU TRY THAT WAS HARD TODAY?"

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## Comfortable talking to your kids about technology and the internet?

A ThinkUKnow cyber safety and security presentation will take place on

**DATE: MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST @ 6PM**

**LOCATION: TOOBORAC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**RSVP: FRIDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> August**  
[Tooborac.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Tooborac.ps@education.vic.gov.au) OR  
 (03)54335225

**The session will cover:**

- What young people SEE, SAY and DO online
- The challenges they may face
- How to report and get help if things go wrong

Visit [www.thinkuknow.org.au](http://www.thinkuknow.org.au) for more information about online safety and security.

OUR PARTNERS
 



## Schools in Category 3 on the Bushfire At-Risk Register and the Category 4 list.

### School preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, to prepare for bushfires and grassfires, schools and early childhood services complete a range of activities.

The Department of Education runs an annual fire risk assessment of schools and early childhood services. They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 4) and are published on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR).



All schools and early childhood services listed on the BARR and Category 4 list will also close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district.

When the Bureau of Meteorology provides public fire danger rating forecasts or fire weather warnings, they use fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries. Our school is in the **Northern Country fire weather district**.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and complete a bushfire clean up in Term 4 each year to prepare for the threat of fire.

### *What does this mean for our school?*

**Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a Category 3 school.**

Our school will **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating in the Northern fire district**.

### *What is the department's policy?*

The department's [Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy](#) requires all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 list to close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

### *When will our school be closed due to Catastrophic fire danger?*

Our school will **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating in the Northern fire district**.

Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day. Any information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by email.

**Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, even if the weather forecast changes.**

This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

Families are encouraged to action their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. **On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

***What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?***

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters and emails, by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed due to elevated fire danger or closed due to a Catastrophic fire danger. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#).
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are actioning your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to [them about bushfires](#) and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can find more information on emergencies, warnings and preparedness actions here:

- VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

# DRINK BOTTLE



**Remember  
WATER**

**only in your drink  
bottle at school.**

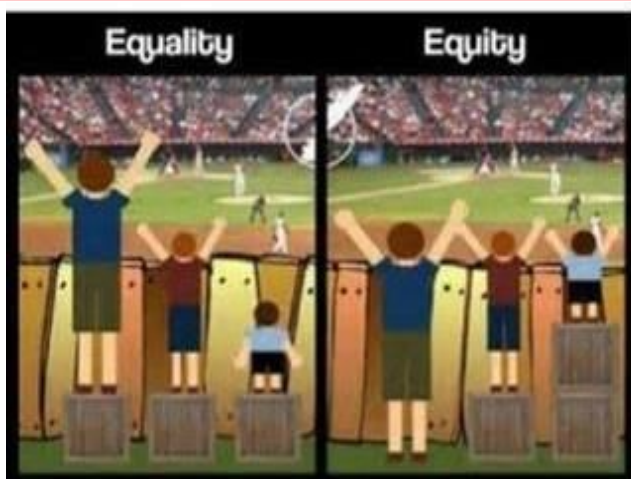


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for Parents

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To order and pay for Scholastic Book Club by credit card visit:  
[www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP](http://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP)

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Download on the  
App Store



## PROTECT

Everyone has the right to be safe and be protected from abuse.

No one should behave in a way that makes you feel unsafe or afraid, including anyone in your family, anyone at school or anywhere else in the community.

Tell a teacher or any adult at your school if you feel unsafe.



**Please check your child's hair.**



REMEMBER  
ONCE A WEEK,  
TAKE A PEEK

### FOUR STEPS TO LICE-FREE LIFE:

