



Heathcote Primary School

News

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Issue No. 36

11h December 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

TERM 4 IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 12th December	Statewide transition day
Thursday 14th December	Year 6 Graduation afternoon tea, 4.30 and ceremony 5.00pm
Friday 15th December	African Drumming workshop and Assembly performances 2pm
Wednesday 20th December	Last day of Term 4, early dismissal 1.30pm
Tuesday 30th January 2024	First day of Term 1, welcome back to school cuppa in the Steph kitchen 9am-9.45am



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

www.heathcotenagambie.community

Community Bank
Heathcote & District



Dear Families,

Last week our Year 5 students presented their Leadership Speech to Year 3-6 students, staff and family members. Once again it was wonderful to see each student prepared to have a go, knowing there would only be three people voted in as our Leadership Team for 2024. This opportunity provided students with an example of trying your best, wanting something, but not always being successful, but recognising the process offers great learning along the way. We can't always win, but the experience is worth having as it helps us develop who we are as a person, a positive life lesson!



The three students who have been chosen as our Leadership Team for 2024 are George McFadzean, Jessica Toifl and Luke Anderson. For the first time we have appointed a Deputy Leadership Team member, this person will cover absences throughout the year. Lola Anderson has been voted into this role. Congratulations to these four students, they will represent our school well and be positive team members.

Thank you to our Leadership Team for 2023, Victoria Pese, Gemma Atkins and Jackie Evans, we have appreciated your organisation and commitment to the role. We wish them well as they start their secondary education journey in 2024.

Reverse Advent – started December 1 in all classrooms!

Thank you to the families who have already donated an item to their classroom. Christmas is a time of giving and receiving. This year at Heathcote PS we are having a 'reverse advent' operating in all classrooms, our focus is on giving to others in our Heathcote community. We are providing all donated goods to the Heathcote St Vincent's branch to provide hampers for our broader Heathcote community. We ask that each family donate one item a week to the box in their classroom, until Friday 15th December. Non-perishable goods would be greatly appreciated – food, small toys, books, Christmas items etc would all be very welcome. We look forward to sharing with our extended Heathcote community this Christmas.



End of year assembly

Our last assembly for the year is on Friday 15th December, we are starting at the earlier time of 2.00pm.

During the day our students are participating in an African Drumming workshop, they will be performing their learning from the day at assembly with our school community. In addition to drumming, the F-2 and Year 3- 4 and 4-6 students are presenting Christmas themed songs. Please come along and join in with us for the last one of the year!

Semester 2 Reports

Our Semester 2 Reports will be sent home on Friday afternoon. I thank staff for their time and effort in completing reports, it takes hours to assess, consider and then write for all students. Reports are completed in their own time after school and on weekends. I have read every comment made for every student and am pleased to note the accuracy of comments and care taken. Please take time to read these reports and see what your child is doing well and what they may need support with at home and school. Daily reading for all students F-6, learning Maths times tables, talking with your child about kindness and the respectful treatment of others are all part of their learning that can be supported at home.

Garden Maintenance

Please return your forms to school by Wednesday 13th December. The Library job is full, we have diverted some of the volunteers in this area over to the garden jobs. Gardening is the main area we need support with, if we don't have enough volunteers in this area we may have to swing people over from some other areas. We have had a great response earlier this year from a large number of families, we look forward to your ongoing support. Our new 2024 Foundation families are also being included on this roster.

Enjoy the week ahead.

Kate

Maintenance Roster December

Task	Families
Blower vac under all verandas and paths	Swansborough
Weed our new garden beds at the front of the school	
Weed the Stephanie Alexander garden beds	
Whipper snip around all fence lines/garden beds in the front garden/ Stephanie garden area	
Clean up the edging and weed around the school crossing, clean out the adjacent gutter	Scardetta
Rake soft fall to even it out under playground equipment	Foster
Weed coloured garden beds in the courtyard area	Houldsworth
Weed raised garden beds and whipper snip along fence line adjacent to the path leading up to the school from the carpark	
Car park, clean up any rubbish and ensure all bay markings, concrete posts are in place. Weed bed under the entrance sign.	
Weed outside the Office under the big trees and the small beds in front of the staffroom	
Tidying, returning, ordering and covering library books	Pavey Atkins Connolly



IN THE CLASSROOM

This week in the F/1 room...

This week we will begin winding down and will be completing lots of Christmas themed reading, writing, maths and craft activities. It is going to be very exciting and lots of fun! We will be learning about onomatopoeia. Onomatopoeia are words that represent sounds, e.g. Boom, meow, tick tock. We see lots of them in picture books. Can you find any in your picture books at home?

Don't forget we are collecting items for our 'reverse advent' calendar in our classroom. Thank you to those who have already donated a few things. Some suggestions of things you could donate are non-perishable food items, small toys, colouring books/pencils, Christmas decorations, etc. All donations must be new (not used). Each class is collecting items and everything we receive will be donated to St Vincent's in Heathcote for distribution. A wonderful way to give back at Christmas time!

This week in the 1/2M room...

This week in 1/2M we are doing all things Christmas!! We are going to be doing lots of revision, with lots of activities having a Christmas twist. It was great to see more of our students reading last week, it is important to keep some reading up over the holidays so students retain what they have learnt. We will be starting to send home student books and work, so be prepared to have lots of awesome things coming home! We have had a fantastic year, I am so impressed with the growth I have seen in all of our students. I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and we will see you all in the new year.

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

This week in 1/2MG we will continue to infer what the author means when reading a text. In our literacy block we will be focusing on the graph 'y' as in fly as part of our SMART Spelling. In Writing, we will have free choice writing where we will be able to revise what we have learnt across the year. In Maths we will be revising what we have learnt throughout the year and we will be completing some activities that are related to Christmas.

This week in the 5/6 room...

It's going to be a busy week in the 5-6 classroom. We're beginning the week with the presentations of our final project, a Free-choice Writing Project and our end of year Class Party. We're all looking forward to Transition Day on Tuesday. Year 6 students will be spending the day at Secondary School, very exciting and no doubt some anxiety! Graduation celebrations will happen on Thursday afternoon. We will spend the morning making preparations for this event and finalising our speeches. Through the week we'll also be involved in some Christmas activities.

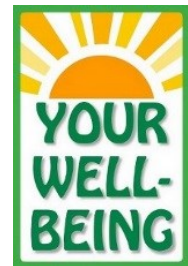
Modelling a positive mindset in the midst of change

As the school year draws to an end; many students will start to think about next year... Different classrooms, new classmates, a different teacher and perhaps some new routines to get used to! Change can be exciting; but it can also make children feel unsettled. Parents have an enormous role in how their child approaches 2024.

A positive parent will reassure their child that any new change will be a learning opportunity – an opportunity for new friendships to be fostered and a chance to learn from a teacher who will support and care for them. Parents should help to develop their child’s resilience – which is an essential skill necessary for adult life! Encourage your child to approach the new year with enthusiasm and reassure them that change can be positive.

Grade 6 Transition chat

On Tuesday, Megan spent some time with the Grade 6 students talking about their transition to high school. This session gave the students an opportunity to share about their excitement, worries or questions about high school. Each child was also given a handout to share with their parent/carer, so please check school bags! Over the holidays, we encourage parents to spend some talking through this transition information and allow your child to ask questions. It can also be useful for parents to share their own experiences of starting high school!



School Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF)

If you hold a current Healthcare card or a Centrelink pensioner card you may be eligible to apply for CSEF.

CSEF provides financial assistance for families to use for camps, excursions and school sports.

If you think you may be eligible please contact the school office.

READING AWARDS

125 Nights

Nathan Colbert

175 Nights

Cooper Pavey

250 Nights

Pippa Anderson

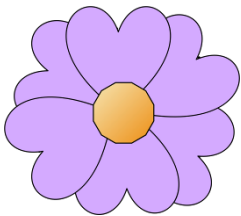
150 Nights

Zara Hagan

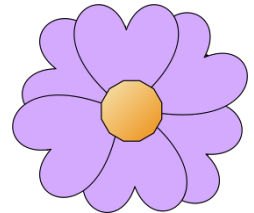


Kindness Ambassador Award

Students who consistently demonstrate acts of Kindness, compassion, and empathy towards others, promoting a positive and inclusive school environment.



Em-Rose Edwards-Scott
Bella Wallace



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Xander Ashen



George McFadzean

New School Bank Details

Account Name: Heathcote Primary School Official Account

BSB : 083 001

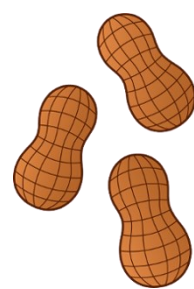
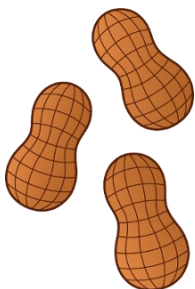
ACCTOUNT : 71 938 5618



Be an Attendance HERO



Total number of students who had 100% attendance this week	95 Students
Total number of students who were unexplained absences this week	48 Students
Number of times students arrived late to school this week	45 Students
Number of times students left early this week	8 Students
School absence rate target for 2023	10 days per student





CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP AWARDS



<u>TEAM-WORK</u>	<u>RESPECT</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>	<u>LEARNING</u>
Neleyah Guichard Jackson Callander	Charlotte Houldsworth Rhiannon Brown Malachi Macleod	Griffin Scardetta Nate Moore Kenzie Merritt	Zavier Rowe Hunter Gwin Samuel Reeve Laykin Francis

BRONZE LEVEL

Liam Houldsworth Indie Purchase Charli Jennings Matthew Swansborough Kenzie Merritt Harry Muscovich Dorian Macleod Rhiannon Brown Gemma Atkins	Lachlan Swansborough Aldane Nickels Alex Callander Lola Anderson	Fax Provost Charlotte Houldsworth Freddie McFadzean Kaylee Davey Koen Davidson Jessica Toifl Natalie Organ Liam grigg	Jackson Callander Fox Provost Wes Knight Xander Ashen Masie Dwyer Kenzie Merritt Victoria Pese Liam Grigg Jackie Evans
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SILVER LEVEL

			Ashley Brown Bella Wallace Hunter Connolly Blair Hagan Tauri Barrett George McFadzean Harry Muscovich Tori Malaszuk Victoria Pese Siobhan Patten Rhiannon Brown
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Assembly



Art Class



Art Class



Newsletter article: Schools in Category 3 on the Bushfire At-Risk Register and the Category 4 list.

This article has been developed for you to publish in your newsletter or on your website. Please feel free to edit the content as required. You can also repurpose this content to assist in communications to your school community.

This information has been developed to answer frequently asked questions regarding the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and Category 4 list and your school's closure on a Catastrophic fire danger day in your fire weather district.

*There are some sections in the text below where you can contextualise this for your school's unique circumstances, the **red text** indicates where you will need to add your own information.*

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 cleanup 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 **Northern Country 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 **Northern Country 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, 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.**

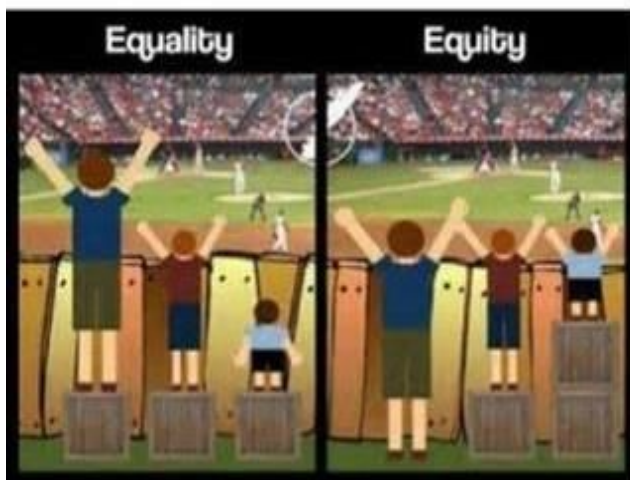


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for Parents

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Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for parents.
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www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP

GET IT ON
Google play

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:

