



Heathcote Primary School

News

Telephone: (03) 5433 3090

heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Issue No. 15

28th May 2025

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.

2025 - What's Happening?

Week 6	Tuesday 27th May	Tennis lessons (whole school)
	Wednesday 28th May	STEM Excursion (Grade 3/4 small group)
Weeks 7 & 8	Tuesday 3rd June	Tennis lessons—last session (whole school)
	Wednesday 4th June	Foundation—Grade 2 Reading Information Session 3:15pm—4pm (further details coming)
	Thursday 5th June	SWPBS Family Forum @ 2:30pm—3pm
	Tues. 3rd June— Wed. 11th June	Somers Camp (Grade 5/6 students)
Week 8	Monday 9th June	Public Holiday—no school
Week 10	Monday 23rd June	Winter Sports Gala Day (Grade 5/6 students)
Week 11	Friday 4th July	End of Term 2. Early Dismissal @ 2pm

2025 - What's Due?

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Heathcote Primary School
Respect ~ Learning ~ Teamwork ~ Responsibility

CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

<u>TEAMWORK</u>	<u>RESPECT</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>	<u>LEARNING</u>
Leo Jack H	Hazel P George	Bethany Willow Mark	Storm Freddie Angelo Ashley Lewis Lachlan D Matteo
<u>BRONZE LEVEL</u>			
Jaydy Jayden Wesley Occy Zelda William P	Jack R	Noah Ba Charlotte D Occy Logan	Evelyn O Freddie Bridget Jayden Riley Charlotte B Elliott Kadir Reynald
<u>SILVER LEVEL</u>			
			Heidi Indie
<u>GOLD LEVEL</u>			
Indie			

CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

Leo - Teamwork Award for co-operating with and including others.

Willow - Responsibility Award for being a great role model for other students.

Mark - Responsibility Award for demonstrating responsible behaviours.

Jack H - Teamwork Award for working positively with others.

Hazel P - Respect Award for being polite and well-mannered to other people.

Storm - Learning Award for being willing to take on new challenges.

Olivia - Respect Award for being polite and well-mannered to other people.

Freddie - Learning Award for being ready to learn from others.

George - Respect Award for being polite and well-mannered to other people.

Angelo - Learning Award for reflecting on learnt skills.

Lachlan D - Learning Award for staying focused on learning.

Ashley - Learning Award for reflecting on learnt skills.

Lewis - Learning Award for being prepared to have a go.

Bethany - Responsibility Award for demonstrating responsible behaviours.

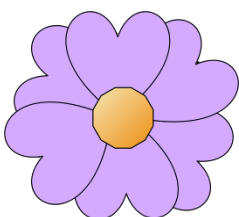
Matteo - Learning Award for being prepared to have a go.

Awards are presented at our weekly whole school assembly on Friday.

****Assembly now starts at 2:15pm****

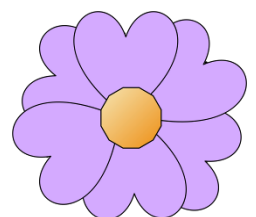
Kindness Ambassador Award

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



Emma - We have seen you give up something that you want so that someone else can have it.

You are a good friend and great role model.



READING AWARDS

50 Nights

Matilda

Timoci

75 Nights

Logan J

Jackson A

100 Nights

Jessica

Yahya



Zayden
Bethany
Noah Ba



*Students have the option of wearing casual clothes to school on their birthday
(or the closest school day to their birthday if their birthday falls on the weekend or in the school holidays)*

Principal's Report

It is always lovely to hear positive feedback from the community about our students. This week, a group of Grade 3/4 students travelled to Bendigo for a STEM excursion. Upon their return to school, the bus driver made a special mention about the excellent behaviour and manners demonstrated by students. Congratulations and thank you to our students for demonstrating the school values and representing Heathcote PS so well. I also heard from staff attending that at the end of the day, two students made an extra effort to thank them for organising the excursion. Excursions require considerable preparation, planning, risk assessments and organisation before any student steps foot outside the school grounds. I too extend my thanks to Dave for organising this opportunity for students and to Linda for supporting on the day alongside Dave.

Our whole school tennis lessons have been in full swing (pardon the pun!), with our last lesson scheduled for next week. My thanks go to Larissa for her work securing funding for this opportunity and to all staff for supporting students to attend. Thank you also to our Foundation families for dropping students off at the courts in the morning to save our smallest legs from needing to walk both to and from the courts. Our school crossing 'STOP' sign made the trip to tennis but sadly became lost and never made it back to school. A spot of creativity in the form of a modified STOP sign is temporarily being used. If anyone spots the real sign in Heathcote, we'd be very grateful if you could please help it return to HPS.

We will soon bid a sad farewell to Miss Hailey as she relocates interstate. We will miss Hailey's enthusiasm, friendliness, humour and organisation. On behalf of the HPS community, I thank Hailey for the strong connections she builds with students and the support she provides to both students and staff. Best wishes for your adventure!



Our Grade 6 leaders have been working on a delicious project. They are putting the finishing touches on a plan for a hot lunch day. Working in collaboration with a local business, they have been working through the many steps involved in bringing their plan to life. There have been phone calls, emails, meetings, food options explored, allergies and dietary requirements considered and a menu drafted. We are proud of their initiative, teamwork, persistence and leadership. Stay tuned for more details!

Earlier this year, we invited staff, students and families to complete a survey related to **School Wide Positive Behaviour Support** (SWPBS), specifically current behaviours and desired replacement behaviours.

We received 139 student responses, 65 responses from families and 77 staff responses. Our SWPBS Coach analysed all responses with a focus on the desired behaviour. As a result, the behaviour matrix below was created. This matrix will form a key part of our SWPBS work.

Families are invited to attend a SWPBS Family Forum with our SWPBS coach on Thursday 5th June at 2:30pm. The forum will provide an opportunity to meet our coach, learn more about SWPBS, the matrix and ask questions.

Learning			
	Always	Inside	Outside
Respect	We use an appropriate voice	We follow classroom expectations	We leave nature in nature
	We use manners and kind words	We walk	We share our spaces
	We follow instructions		
	We keep our hands and feet to ourselves		
Teamwork			
	We are inclusive	We participate	We choose teams fairly
	We pack up		We determine and play by the rules
	We share		
Responsibility	We wait our turn		
	We use equipment for its intended purpose	We use resources for their intended purpose	We return our equipment
	We arrive on time		
	We look after school property		
	We place rubbish in the bin		
	We use our 'calm down' strategies		

What is SWPBS?

SWPBS (School-wide Positive Behaviour Support) is an evidence-based framework designed to help schools create positive, safe, and fair settings where students and teachers can thrive. It focuses on teaching and encouraging positive behaviour, supporting all students, and providing extra help to those who need it. By doing this, SWPBS helps improve behaviour, wellbeing, and academic success.

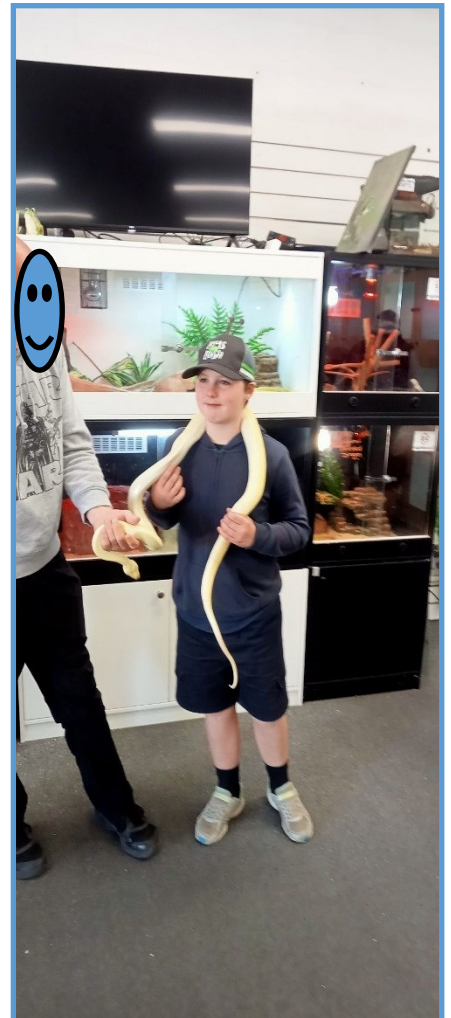
The impact of SWPBS in Victoria

A November 2023 external evaluation found a positive relationship between effective SWPBS implementation and better outcomes for schools and students. These included:

- students' sense of connectedness
- respect for diversity
- inclusion
- effective classroom behaviour
- students feeling supported by an adult at school
- reduced bullying
- management of bullying
- staff confidence in working together effectively
- suspension days.

Source: <https://www.vic.gov.au/SWPBS>:

Boys to the Bush



A Real Schools Partnership What you might see?

QUICK SUMMARY

1. Restorative practice is an alternative to adversarial methods
2. Focuses on repairing harm and restoring relationships
3. All parties have input
4. Encourages students to take responsibility for their actions



A warm greeting to all our parents and carers. We're thrilled to share some really exciting news with you. Your school has made the important decision to partner with us at Real Schools and what we're doing in this article is sharing some of what this exciting journey is going to be about.

When we work with schools our job is to walk alongside staff, students and the parent/carer community to enhance all the great things

that are already happening in the school. And when we've been talking to your school leaders recently there's already so many amazing things that happen across your school community. What this partnership will do is further elevate that work. But there's also some things that we'll be focussing on that will help us develop the culture at your school.

And that's about how we work together with the key stakeholders in the school – our staff, our

students and our parent/carer community. The way that we're going to do this work together is through what we call our partnership model. The partnership works over a three-year period and every year we'll be supporting your whole school community to be able to get the gains that you want and of course deserve.

In each year of partnership, we will facilitate a professional learning day with all your incredible staff. There will then be an in-class support day where we will be in your classrooms modelling, co-teaching and providing feedback to your amazing teachers. Additionally, we want parents on this journey as well, so each year we facilitate a parent information session, along with articles, newsletter inserts, short videos and social media posts to keep you up to date with the partnership journey. These are designed to

build your understanding of the great work that your school will be doing to support and guide our most precious resource – your children – but also to provide practical tips for parents to utilise in the home environment.

***Restorative practices
are about explicitly
focussing on building
strong relationships
with all our
stakeholders (staff,
students and parents)
across our school***

Now, you may be asking what is the focus of this work? Well, it's around building a restorative school community through a framework our CEO and Founder Adam Voigt has designed which is called RP2.0. We're going to unpack this further in future articles, but just to give you a little taste, restorative practices are about explicitly focussing on building strong relationships with all our stakeholders (staff, students and parents) across our school and leveraging those relationships for amazing things to

happen in terms of not only the social-emotional development of your child, but also in terms of their learning outcomes.

In addition to that, what we want to do through this partnership is help your child to be able to take responsibility for their actions. What we all want is for them to grow into great citizens who put back into their community. We do all of this by working restoratively which, when an incident occurs, allows a focus on the harm that may have been caused, the damage that may have resulted to the relationship to be repaired, and then, focusing on moving forward in a harmonious and supportive environment.

So it's an exciting journey that we've got in front of us.

If you'd like to find out a little more, we encourage you to go to our website – realschools.com.au to start to explore some of this work that we're embarking on together. You'll also receive full access to the membership section of the website through a username and password that your school will provide.

We look forward to working with you as this journey unfolds.

*Information repeated
from previous newsletter*

Heathcote Primary School

Family Information Session (onsite and online)

Save the Date—Term 3, Tuesday 19th August @ 7pm

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Information repeated
from previous newsletter

Mental Health in Primary Schools

Children's mental health is fundamental to their development and learning. Good mental health means having a positive sense of wellbeing, coping with challenges and being able to realise individual potential. Unfortunately, not all children experience good mental health. Schools are an ideal platform for promoting children's mental health, and the MHiPS (Mental Health in Primary Schools) program in Victoria aims to equip primary schools with the resources and expertise to address student mental health and wellbeing. One of the avenues for this is the Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader role, which commenced this year at Heathcote Primary School.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader role

A Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader (MHWL) in schools is a qualified teacher who focuses on implementing a whole-school approach to mental health and wellbeing. The role involves building staff capacity to identify and support students with mental health concerns, coordinating targeted support for students, and establishing clear pathways for referrals. Essentially, MHWLs are responsible for creating a positive and supportive environment where students can thrive both academically and emotionally. It is important to note that this is not a clinical role and not designed for direct intervention. At our school, Ms Sergi is in the MHWL role.

Resources to help support children's mental health and wellbeing.

The Children's Wellbeing Continuum is an evidence-based tool developed to support conversations around children's wellbeing. The tool provides a snapshot of a child's social and emotional wellbeing at a point in time.

The Continuum has four anchor points that range from "Good" through to "Coping", "Struggling" and "Overwhelmed". By enabling parents, teachers and service providers to more easily discuss and reflect on wellbeing, the Continuum can support health literacy, and early identification and action when children are struggling.

The Children's Wellbeing Continuum



The [Raising Healthy Minds app](https://raisinghealthykids.net.au) by raisinghealthykids.net.au has published an animation video to help showcase what the Continuum is and how it can be used to support children's social and emotional wellbeing.

If you have any questions about this role, resources that are available to support children's mental health or would like to talk to someone about any concerns you have regarding your child's wellbeing, please contact Ms Sergi by phone or email, Concetta.sergi2@education.vic.gov.au

TERM TWO 2025

0-11 YEARS PARENT SUPPORT AND EDUCATION SESSIONS

The Loddon Children's Health & Wellbeing Local will be offering weekly education sessions related to mental health and wellbeing for parents of children 0-11. These are available in person. The session is run by a lived experience parent and mental health clinician.

Sessions are open to any family with children 0-11.

Why join in?

- Meet and mix with other parents.
- Talk to mental health staff about your child.
- Ask any practical questions you have about parenting at the moment.
- Gain support for yourself as a parent.

Where: Activity Room 2, Downstairs, Bendigo Library, Hargreaves St,
BENDIGO 3550 **Note the *dates are in an upstairs room at the library.**
Use the lift to find us.

Dates and topics: Thursdays

*Apr 24th	1pm face to face	Sleep issues
May 1st	1pm face to face	Stop the tech
*May 8th	1pm face to face	ADHD What is it and how can I help?
*May 15th	1pm face to face	Managing big feelings
May 22nd	1pm face to face	Parent wellbeing
May 29th	1pm face to face	Anger in kids
Jun 5 th	1pm face to face	Anxiety in kids
Jun 12th	1pm face to face	What is autism and how can I help? Presented by Daniel
*Jun 19th	1pm face to face	Setting limits and family rules
Jun 26th	1pm face to face	Building social skills

If you have any questions, please contact Annette Clemments on 1800 433 977.

Book in here: using the QR code or email icfhwlocals@bchs.com.au





Heathcote Primary School has a Private Group page on Facebook. We currently have 104 members. If you would like to become a member of the group, search for Heathcote Primary School and request to join. Each request is approved individually. For the safety of our students, there are three questions to ensure that only people directly connected to HPS become members. Requests are usually approved within 48 hours. However, if we are unsure of the connection to the school, there may be a delay whilst we do some research. We may also decline the original request and seek further information. Please don't be offended—our intention is to make sure we can identify each person as it is a Private Group. We ask that no images are shared / screenshot.

*Information repeated
from previous newsletter*



Heathcote Primary

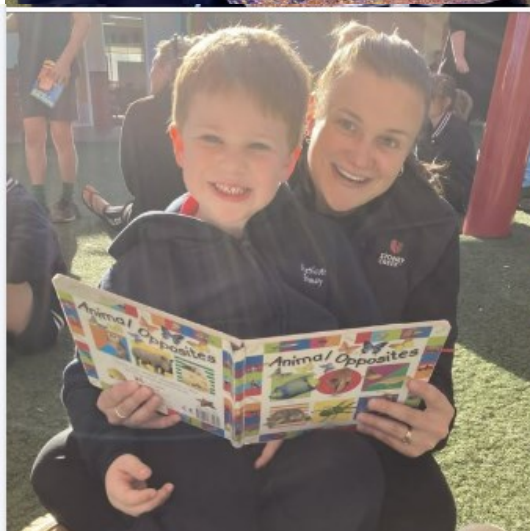
Admin



Rising contributor

12 May at 22:21 · 🌐

We started the week with a morning tea in honour of Mother's Day and all the mums, carers and special people in our students' lives. The weather was on our side and morning tea was followed by shared reading outside. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us today. We hope you enjoyed it!



Reminders

Information repeated
from previous newsletter

Annual privacy reminder for our school community

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#) and the [Schools' Privacy Collection Notice](#).

Our [Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy](#) describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn. A copy is available on the website and hard copies from the office.

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education](#) safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school.

Insurance Reminders from Department of Education

The Department does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Parents/carers of students, who do not have student accident insurance/ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance or transport as well as any other transport costs.

Private property brought to school by students, staff or visitors is not insured and the Department does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage. This can include mobile phones, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. As the Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property, students and staff should be discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

Photographing & Filming Students We Need Your Help Please

We have a number of students whose images cannot be shared publicly. As a school community, we have a combined responsibility to keep our students safe, including protecting their identity and image.

With this in mind, we need your help...

We are asking families to please wait until the end of assembly to take photos / film their child/ren (instead of during the assembly).

Plans are underway to create a special location with a fancy background that students can have their photo taken after assembly with their certificate. This means that families will be guaranteed an opportunity to take a photo with only their child in the photo.

We know that no images of other children are taken deliberately and it can be hard to avoid having other students in the photo of your own child. By providing a separate location, the risk of having other students in the photo is reduced.

Thank you for your support of this request at recent whole school events. We were very grateful for your co-operation supporting this change.

Thank you!

Reminders

Information repeated
from previous newsletter



We have made the switch
to Compass!



Apple Store



Google Play Store

Download the Compass app today and
contact the school for your personal log in
details.



Heathcote Primary School

Respect ~ Learning ~ Teamwork ~ Responsibility

Community

Events

Information repeated
from previous newsletter



START PLAYING

LEARN THE BASICS, FIND YOUR FEET AND MAKE A BUNCH OF NEW FRIENDS AT YOUR LOCAL WOOLWORTHS NETSETGO CENTRE.

PLAY NETBALL

Woolworths net set go

Come join us!

Starting Thurs 13th March

Every Thurs (4.45–5.45 pm)

Heathcote Tennis courts

*Mariah's
Musicians*

facebook.com/mariahsmusicians

MUSIC LESSONS AVAILABLE WITH MARIAH MCCARTHY

Guitar, piano, ukulele and voice lessons
Private & shared available

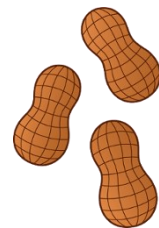
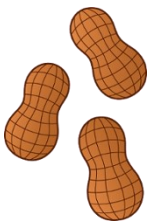
Enquire now -
mariahsmccarthy@gmail.com

School Bank Details

Account Name: Heathcote Primary School Official Account

BSB: 083 001

ACCOUNT: 71 938 5618



Peter from St Vincent de Paul would like to remind our community that Vinnies can provide food vouchers and help with school costs for uniforms and excursions.

Heathcote Vinnies

155 High Street, Heathcote

Open Wednesday and Friday

10am to 12:30pm

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.

DRINK BOTTLE



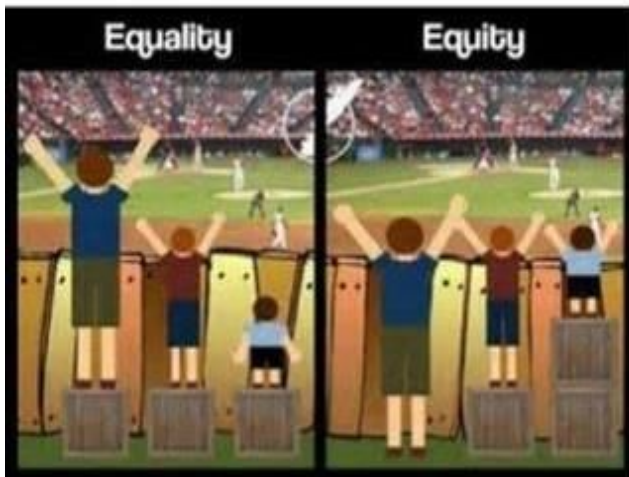
**Remember,
only WATER
in your drink
bottle at school.**



SCHOLASTIC Book Club LOOP for Parents

LOOP is the Scholastic Book Club
Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for parents.

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



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 for any unwelcome visitors. If hair is
shoulder length, please be sure to tie it up as a preventative strategy.**



REMEMBER
ONCE A WEEK,
TAKE A PEEK

FOUR STEPS TO LICE-FREE LIFE:

