



# Heathcote Primary School

## News

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Issue No. 18

17th July 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

Friday 21st July	Gym onsite F-2
Wednesday 26th July	School Council 5.30pm
Thursday 27th July	Earth Ed excursion Year 3-4, information to follow
Friday 28th July	Gym onsite F-2
Monday 31st July	Pupil free day - no students on site
Friday 4th August	Gym onsite F-2
Monday August 7th	Earth Ed excursion Year 4-5, information to follow
Thursday 10th August	Year 6 Passions and Pathways excursion
Wednesday 23rd August	School Council 5.30pm
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



Dear Families,

Welcome to Term 3, we hope you enjoyed your break. My partner, John, and I had a lovely catch up with our son and his partner in the Northern Territory. They are working on an extremely large cattle station this year and experiencing a whole new way of living and working. It was lovely to see them both and to see what their world is all about. On the way home, we loved visiting Kings Canyon, Uluru and Kata Tjuta, stunning to see these iconic places in person. A big thank you to Miss Childs for taking on the Acting Principal role in my absence, I appreciated her stepping up into the role and know she will have done a wonderful job.

The year is moving along very quickly, we have completed a great deal this year with a lot more to come! Our school continues to steadily grow, we now have 134 students, since 2016 when we had 62 students we have continued to grow steadily. If you see new students and their families around our school community, please say hello and make them feel welcome. Please continue to ensure your children read at home on a daily basis, listening to your child and talking with them about what they have read is very important in supporting their reading development. Please sign their reading journal each day to indicate they have been reading. Reading is at the core of a great deal of learning, without a strong reading ability success in Maths is often hampered.

#### **Foundation enrolments due!**

DET have changed the timeline for Foundation enrolments, they are due into us by the end of July. If you have a student starting next year in Foundation and have not completed an enrolment form, please drop into the Office and pick one up. If you know of anyone who is sending their child to Foundation next year at our school, please remind them about enrolment. Knowing our enrolments greatly supports our planning for 2024. Thanks for your support!

#### **Passions and Pathways – Year 6**

Our Year 6 students had their first excursion for the Passions and Pathways program. This program provides opportunities for students to start thinking about future study/employment pathways. Last week they visited LaTrobe University and Bendigo TAFE to see the range of courses offered. Students enjoyed the day.

Some thoughts from students on the day.....

**Jackie – “I enjoyed going to the tech part of LaTrobe University and playing with the robots.”**

**Dorian – “I enjoyed learning about the range of jobs you can do. I want to be a Marine Biologist.”**

**Bella – “It was interesting! I enjoyed the robots and finding out what jobs are out there.”**

**Gemma – “I enjoyed going the tech part of the University, we met Mr Claytons brother.”**

#### **Victorian Space Science Education Centre (VSSEC) – Year 6**

Today our Year 6 class are visiting VSSEC, this facility is located in Melbourne. It is a specialist STEM learning facility, have a look online at the range of activities provided. Our students are participating in two programs, ‘Expedition to the M.A.R.S Base’ and ‘The Size of your Sol’ – we are looking forward to finding out about their day. A very big thank you to Dave for finding this FREE program and FREE bus trip to Melbourne, well done Dave! Over the years our teachers have always looked out for a range of free programs and free travel, this supports our community in getting students to a range of events and activities without any costs.

## We need your help....thank you for your responses!

Thank you to the great number of families who have volunteered their time to help out in the garden and around the school. We appreciate families taking the time to help out at their child/ren's school, thank you. We have seen work undertaken over the past few weeks, it is greatly appreciated. If you would like to sign up for the roster, please contact the Office.

## Encouraging independence and arriving late

A number of our students are not carrying their own bags to class or completing their classroom jobs independently. Please let your child carry their own bag and complete their jobs independently, creating independence helps your child on a daily basis. Thank you for your support.

If your child arrives after the bell, please say goodbye in the Office, your child can pick up a late pass and head over to the classroom. If they are upset a staff member will support them to get over to the room.

## Attendance

Please make sure your child is at school, all day every day! We understand students get ill and need a day or so at home, however we still have a number of students with significant absences. Please help your child to get here on time, all day every day. Continued absences impact greatly on student learning and our teacher's opportunity to plan, teach, engage with and assess students. Apart from that, we miss them when they are not here with us!

## *'Only missing a few minutes of school.....'*

He/She is only missing just....	That equals....	Which is.....	and over 13 years of schooling that's...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly <u>Half a year</u>
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40 mins per week	Over 2.5 Weeks per year	Nearly <u>1 year</u>
Half an hour per day	Half a day per week	4 Weeks per year	Nearly <u>1 and a Half years</u>
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 Weeks per year	Over <u>2 and a Half years</u>

*Did you know your child's best learning time is the start of the school day?*

*That's when every minute counts the most!!*

# ***EVERY DAY COUNTS!***

Have a great week.

Kate

# IN THE CLASSROOM

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

Welcome to Term 3! It is wonderful to be back in the classroom and I am very excited to see lots of learning and growth this semester.

In English we have started learning a focus word each week. With each new word we revise the sounds, practise the letter formation of these letters, change the sounds in the word to make new words (cat, cut, can, rat) , make rhyming words (sun, run, fun), cut and paste a sentence of the week, and many other activities. We focus our reading and writing around this word as well. This week our word is 'dog'. We will be reading a range of fiction and non-fiction books about dogs. In reading we will be writing facts about dogs and writing a retell of some of the stories we read.

In Maths this week we will be learning how to skip count by 10's (5's and 2's for extension). We will be continuing our learning about Mass. Last week we began our learning about Mass by introducing the words 'heavy' and 'light'. This week we will learn how to measure mass by hefting objects and using a balance scale.

Our Inquiry topic this term is Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Students will learn about the importance of each of these words and how they can help. This week we will be learning about the three bins, rubbish, recycle and organics. Students will learn what goes in each bin and will practise sorting pictures of rubbish into the bins.

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

This week in 1/2M we are working on retelling stories in Writing. This will include reading different stories and using both words and pictures to retell the story.

In Maths we are continuing to work on using and understanding place value, including using MAB to make different numbers. We are continuing to work on Mass and understanding weight. It was fantastic to see so many students reading over the holidays, we have had lots of reading awards, well done! We have had a wonderful start to the term, I look forward to seeing it continue.

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

We have had a fantastic start to Term 3 in the Year 4/5 room! In Week 2, we will be working on Addition & Subtraction in Maths and learning about Angles & Lines. We will continue our study of Persuasive techniques in both Reading and Writing. In particular, we will be focusing on 'Passionate Speeches'. We will begin our new Inquiry unit on 'Civics and Citizenship". Week 2 will bring our eagerly anticipated involvement in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program.

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

In Maths we will be learning how to identify and draw straight, right, acute, obtuse and reflex angles, using a protractor. In Reading we will be learning how to identify persuasive techniques in text and in Writing we will be developing our skills in delivering a persuasive speech.

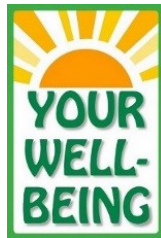
Year 5 students will continue working on their study of Civics and Citizenship and Year 6 students will continue working through activities related to the Passions & Pathways program.

## A Word on Wellbeing: Term 3 – Welcome back!

As we start Term 3, getting back into the swing of routines can be tough! We hope that everyone had a good break and are looking forward to what term 3 has on offer. School can provide a sense of routine and predictability throughout the year, which can help create healthy habits that promote a sense of wellbeing. Without routine and structure, it can become difficult for some children to find the motivation to keep up healthy habits like quality sleep, healthy diet and physical activity. We encourage all families to model a positive mindset towards the new term and support their children to keep up the good work!

### **DRUMBEAT PROGRAM**

Our Drumbeat Program concluded in the last week of Term 2 with all 8 participants receiving their certificates. Each person did a fabulous job of learning a new skill, getting to know new students and learning about rhythm and harmony. The students decided to do a small performance for the 4/5 and 5/6 classes on Wednesday 21st June and we enjoyed listening to the songs/beats they had learnt over the term. We are hopeful to run this program again in the future. Well done to all 8 Drumbeat graduates!



Abby Fisher

Finley Jennings

Jessica Toifl

Zelda Pinnington

Charlotte Burt

Lucy Merrall

Bridget Brown



## 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 a school assembly in September, with the date to be confirmed. Students will be able to make a gold coin donation to wear casual clothes on that day too, with funds raised also going to ILF. 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.

## Junior School Council

On behalf of the Junior School Council, we would like to enquire if any family members would like to speak about their career or the part they play in our local community. We have had speakers from our community in the past and feel it is time to invite locals into our school again! This will take place during assembly at 2:30pm on a Friday. To volunteer for this event, please contact the school via phone: 5433 3090 or the school email:

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

Kind regards,

Bella and Dorian on behalf of JSC



# READING AWARDS



## 25 Nights

Evelyn Organ  
Mark Jackowski  
Angus Thomson

## 100 Nights

Layla Perl  
Pippa Anderon  
Brianah O'keefe  
Lola Anderson  
Willow Anderson

## 125 Nights

Liam Burton  
Logan Jolley  
Malachi Macleod

## 75 Nights

Corey Fortunato  
Ellie Fortunato  
Liam Houldsworth  
Masie Dwyer



## 150 Nights

Lucy Merrall



# CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP AWARDS



## TEAM-WORK

Charlotte Houldsworth  
Ashley Brown

## RESPECT

Taj Barrett

## RESPONSIBILITY

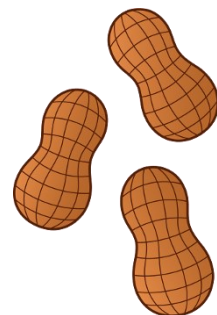
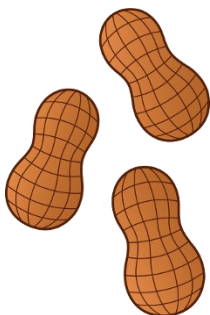
Em-Rose Edwards-Scott

## LEARNING

Kenzie Merritt  
Angelo Gallagher  
Nathan Colbert  
Mason Connolly  
Hunter Gwin  
Ellana Miller  
Malachi Macleod

## BRONZE LEVEL

Ashley Brown  
Alexander Callander



# Be an Attendance HERO



Total number of students who had 100% attendance this week	92 Students
Total number of students who were unexplained absences this week	<b>28 Students</b>
Number of times students arrived late to school this week	<b>16 Students</b>
Number of times students left early this week	11 Students
School absence rate target for 2023	10 days per student

## Junior School Council Fundraiser

Last Term we raised \$451 from our casual clothes and sausage sizzle day. All proceeds went to Very Special Kids, an organisation paying for accommodation and providing support for parents of terminally ill children.



## 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

# Passions and Pathways



# Passions and Pathways



# Passions and Pathways



# DRINK BOTTLE



**Remember  
WATER**

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

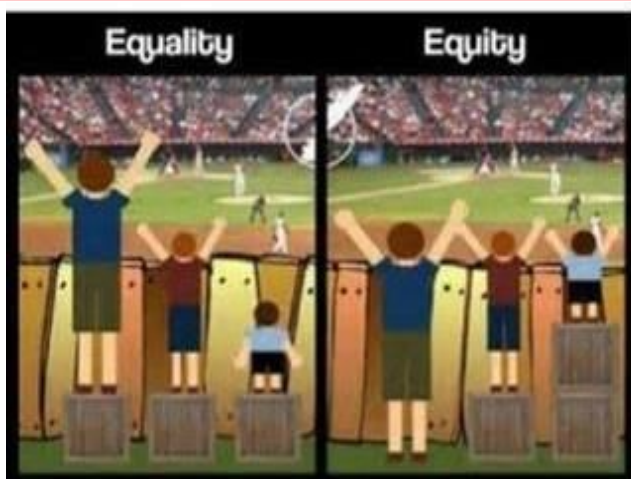


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## PROTECT

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:

