



Heathcote Primary School

News

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Issue No. 22

14th 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

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

Dear Families,

Our Year 6 students had a great day visiting a range of businesses last week as a part of their Passions and Pathways program. Students were able to visit Sonara, students were excited to be able to taste their Corn Chips straight out of the oven! Next stop was Lansell Homes where they got to see how houses are built. Final stop was Munari wines, a local business involved with Passions and Pathways. Students had a great day observing different workplaces in action, a big thank you to all businesses involved, Passions and Pathways staff, our students for asking some great questions and staff for supporting students on the day. We love our involvement in Passions and Pathways and hope the program secures funding to support their operation next year.

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

www.heathcotenagambie.community

Community Bank
Heathcote & District



Excursions – part of our curriculum

Last week our trip to Earth Ed in Ballarat went very well, students enjoyed the robot work they engaged in. Disappointingly we had a number of students who chose not to attend or didn't turn up on the morning without letting us know. To staff the day according to our returned consent forms we needed to employ a Casual Relief Teacher (CRT), a significant cost to the school. Due to the number of students who didn't attend we need not have employed a CRT.

Please ensure your child attends all excursions, if your child is unwell on the morning, please email the school. Your support with this request will be greatly appreciated.

DET Parent/Carer Opinion Survey

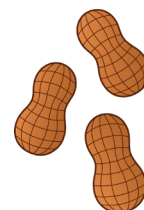
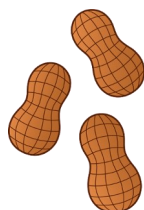
Last week each family received a DET survey, this is conducted each year across the state to seek feedback from families about their schools, a feedback report is provided back to individual schools. We would value each family filling in the survey and returning it to school by **Friday 18th August**. 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, please contact us. Your support in completing this survey is greatly appreciated.

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.

Enjoy your week.

Kate



IN THE CLASSROOM

This week in the F/1 room...

This week our focus word is 'duck'. The word duck has a digraph in it, 'ck' a digraph is when two words make one sound. Encourage your child to look for digraphs when they are reading. We will be reading information and books about ducks as well as writing our own duck facts!

In Maths this week we will be learning about addition. We will revise how to add two groups of concrete materials together, we will mainly focus on building mental strategies such as counting on from the biggest number and learning our partners to ten. We will revise our learning about chance; events that are possible, impossible, likely or unlikely to occur. We will be learning about data; what is data? Why do we collect it? How do we collect it?

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

This week in 1/2M we are working on capacity. This will involve students looking at different containers, estimating how much each container might hold etc. We are trialling a new 'literacy block', this will mean reading and writing are more integrated. During this time we are beginning a new approach to teaching spelling, it is called SMART Spelling. Students will have a spelling list they will be working on each week, you can support your child at home with these words (and focus spelling pattern) each day.

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

This week in 1/2MG we will continue our 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 our literacy block we will be focusing on the digraph 'th' as part of our SMART Spelling and then we will be learning how to write an explanation. In Maths we will continue learning about place value and complete our topic of capacity.

This week in the 3/4 room...

In week 6, we will be focusing on chance, data and graphing in Maths. We are introducing SMART Spelling into our literacy block, learning about digraphs and trigraphs, focusing on the digraph 'er'. We will continue our topic of Rights and Responsibilities, learning about how we can help our community around us!

This week in the 4/5 room...

It's hard to believe that we have passed the half way mark of the term already! The National Gold Education Incursion will be a fantastic way to begin Week 6 on Monday morning. We look forward to attending "The Great Debate" being presented by the Year 5/6 Class on Thursday. In Maths, we will be developing our understanding of the 'Order of Operations' and BODMAS. We will also be exploring 'Chance, Data & Graphing'. In Writing, we will be completing a Literature Review, and in Reading we will continue to refine our summarising skills.

This week in the 5/6 room...

In Mathematics we will be assessing our learning of Subtraction and completing an Essential Assessment Test. We will be developing an understanding of probability by exploring and predicting outcomes.

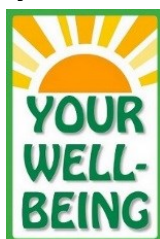
In Reading we will be learning how to identify persuasive techniques in text and in Writing we will continue preparations for The Great Debate which will take place on Thursday morning.

In Respectful Relationships we will be learning about the qualities that make a good leader.

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence: Friday 18 August 2023

In the lead up to the National Day of Action against Bullying, parents and carers are encouraged to have conversations with their children about bullying and violence. Parents and carers have a key role alongside the school in preventing and responding to bullying. Understanding the definition of bullying is the first step in talking about how to prevent and respond to bullying with your child. The Bullying No Way! website has excellent resources for families to look over, including information regarding online bullying: <https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/resources/fact-sheets/fact-sheets-for-families>

The Bullying No Way! website also features a “Be Kind Online” animation video series which encourages children and young people to block content, report it, and support each other if they see or experience cyberbullying. The series communicates to children that it is important they know that they are not alone and help is always available.



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



25 Nights

Reynald Villamor

100 Nights

Taj Barrett
Lewis Powers

125 Nights

Jett Thompson
Bryce Kilner

75 Nights

Lilah Hicks



175 Nights

Jackson Andrews



CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP AWARDS



TEAM-WORK

George McFadzean

RESPECT

Ace Casey
Logan Jolley

RESPONSIBILITY

Matthew Swansborough
Lachlan Swansborough
Xander Ashen
Chase Harrison

LEARNING

Amelia Eagle
Noah Foster
Will Jordan
Tarkyn Langdon
Wesley Knight
Hazel Cannon

BRONZE LEVEL

Lewis Powers

Charlotte Houldsworth
Zara Hagan
Samuel Reeve
Xander Ashen
Charlotte Burt
Koen Davidson
Freddie McFadzean
April Muscovich

GOLD LEVEL

Rachel Toifl
Ava Thompson
Benjamin Jordan
Tauri Barrett
Kaylee Davey

Be an Attendance HERO



Total number of students who had 100% attendance this week	101 Students
Total number of students who were unexplained absences this week	32 Students
Number of times students arrived late to school this week	24 Students
Number of times students left early this week	8 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 1st 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.

Wanted Tall boy/ clothes dresser



A Tallboy / clothes dresser is needed for one of our school families who recently had a house fire. If you have one that is in good condition and are happy to donate it to a family in need, please get in contact with:
Nicole – 0409 274 753



Jett Thompson

Bella Wallace

April Muscovich

Evelyn Nickels

Ellana Miller



Parents, Carers and Community Members
are invited to

The Great Debate



Date: Thursday August 17th

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!

Year 5/6 Earth Ed Excursion



Year 6 Passions and Pathways



Year 6 Passions and Pathways



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!*

Big Life Journal

PRAISE



FOR

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

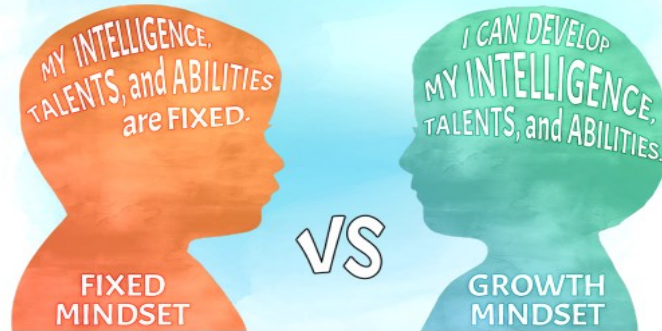
NOT FOR

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



FAILURES AND MISTAKES = LEARNING

SAY

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

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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?"

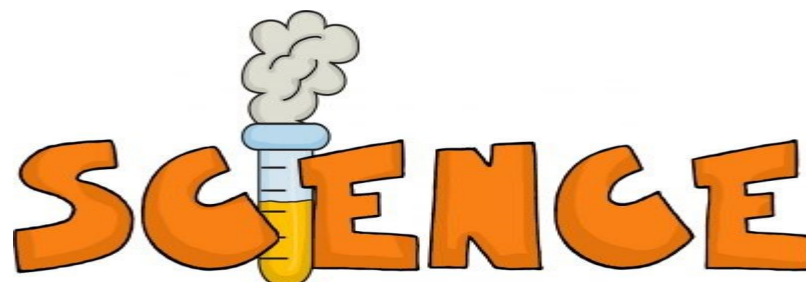
Colouring Competition

The Community Bank Heathcote & District are honouring Science Week this year by holding a colouring competition for children in our local primary schools.

Three children from each participating school will be selected to win a fabulous \$50 savings account with them.

If you would like a colouring sheet please call past the school office to collect one.

We will return them to The Community Bank Heathcote on Friday the 18th of August.



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**



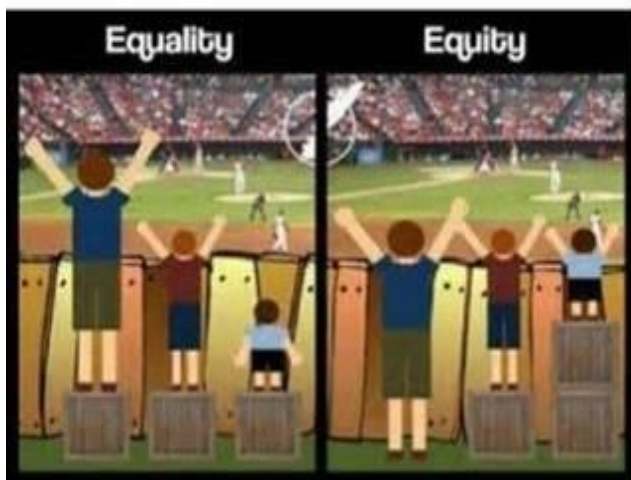
**only in your drink
bottle at school.**

SCHOLASTIC
Book Club LOOP
for Parents

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Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for parents.
To order and pay for Scholastic Book Club by credit card visit:
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:

