



Heathcote Primary School

News

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Issue No. 23

21st 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 at 9.10am
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

Community Bank
Heathcote & District



Dear Families,

Last week our Year 5-6 class presented their debates in front of the Year 3-4 and 4-5 classes and a number of parents/carers. It was great to see so many interested family members come along to observe the students in action, thank you for coming. Students had worked in teams researching their topics, as a team they chose their speakers to represent the group. It can be challenging to stand up in front of a large number of people, well done to all students who spoke. Over the past couple of years, we have seen students develop their debating skills, facts are now being used to support arguments and the use of rebuttal is growing. Developing an ability to research topics that can support a point of view is a valuable skill, the ability to fact check information in our world today is becoming increasingly important. Looking at facts from both points of view and then shaping your own opinion is an important skill to nurture and develop. Thank you to Miss Somerville and Miss Bri for guiding the students during the class focus on debating and persuasive writing, the results demonstrated growth in their skills whilst providing positive examples to our younger students.

Hats!

With only four weeks left of term, a timely reminder that hats will be back from the start of Term 4. It's time to find your child's broad brimmed hat at home, please make sure hats have a name on them and send them back to school. We use broad brimmed hats at our school to ensure the best sun protection for our students, please make sure your child has their hat ready to go. As per our Sun Smart Policy, no hat means no play!

DET Parent/Carer Opinion Survey

Surveys were due back last Friday. Thank you to the families who have returned their surveys, it is appreciated. If you have one at home ready to come back, please send it in as they will be posted early this week.

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 practising/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 'car'. The word car has the digraph 'ar' in it, a digraph is when two words make one sound. We will be pretending to be pirates and searching for treasure whilst reading and writing lots of 'ar' words. We will also be reading and writing about cars.

In Maths last week we changed our focus to number lines. The students did a great job understanding and using number lines. This week we will be learning about addition. We will revise how to add two groups of concrete materials together but will mainly focus on building mental strategies such as counting on from the biggest number and adding on a number line. We will revise our learning about chance and data and will extend our knowledge by learning about graphs. We will be collecting and graphing data about what colour cars drive past our school as well as a yummy smartie graphing task.

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

This week in 1/2M we are continuing to trial our 'literacy block'. I am happy to say it is going well and the students are adjusting well. Feel free to ask your students about our spelling words for the week, I think they would be more than happy to tell you some of our words and try and spell them.

In Maths this week we are beginning to look at data, including collecting data and displaying it in different ways. Please remind students about the importance of speaking kindly. Our manners in the last week have really dropped off, and it is important for students to get some reminders.

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

This week in 1/2MG we will be completing 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 'ow' as part of our SMART Spelling and we will continue learning how to write an explanation.

In Maths we will be learning about friends of 10, eg 6 and 4, and adding using number lines and statistics.

This week in the 4/5 room...

In Week 7, we will be exploring the features of descriptive text during our Reading lessons.

In Writing, we will be using our five senses to enhance our own descriptive pieces. Practising this skill helps us to add detail to our writing in a variety of genres.

In Maths, we will continue to refine our understanding of the 'Order of Operations'. We will also move on to our new topic of 'Volume and Capacity'.

In Inquiry, we will be learning about the three levels of Government in Australia, and what each is responsible for.

This week in the 5/6 room...

In Mathematics we will be learning how to apply formal written methods to solve vertical multiplication equations. We will also be learning how to collect data and present the findings in a Pie Graph.

In Reading we will be learning to identify and analyse descriptive language techniques used in a text.

In Writing we will be learning to independently and effectively use descriptive language to describe settings, characters and events, creating a clear and engaging picture in the reader's mind.

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.

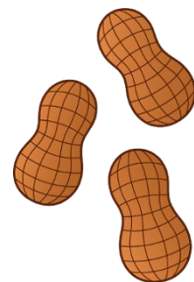
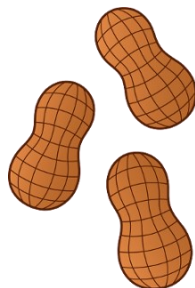
Here's how it works:

- 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

50 Nights

Aldane Nickels

100 Nights

Noah Foster

Jason Bowles

Corey Fortunato

Ellie Fortunato

Layla Scott

150 Nights

Lachlan Swansborough



CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP AWARDS



TEAM-WORK

Cailen Ruck

RESPECT

Ellie Fortunato

RESPONSIBILITY

Finley Jennings

Willow Anderson

LEARNING

Lewis Primmer

Conroy Maller

Zara Hagan

Liam Houldsworth

Jason Bowles

Jett Johnson

Rachel Toifl

Harry Dellar

BRONZE LEVEL

Rhiannon Brown

Ana Shreeve

Maciek Jackowski

Lucy Merrall

Be an Attendance HERO



Total number of students who had 100% attendance this week	83 Students
Total number of students who were unexplained absences this week	34 Students
Number of times students arrived late to school this week	17 Students
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 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.

Book Week

HPS will be celebrating Book Week on Friday, August 25th. Students are encouraged to come to school dressed up as a character from a favourite book. Costumes do not have to be complicated or expensive! Googling ['simple book week costumes for kids'](#) might provide some inspiration.



Artwork by Matt Ottley

We invite families to join us for our parade at 9.10am. Following the parade, students will participate in activities based on some of the books short-listed for the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year awards. Keep an eye out for photos in next week's newsletter!

Year 5/6 Debate

Students worked in groups to prepare for a debate. Ms Ballantyne and Miss Bri were invited to be the adjudicators. We were extremely proud of all the students on their outstanding effort. All teams were very well prepared and showed great enthusiasm and excitement during the entire process. Topics debated were *'Technology is making us lazy'*, *'Learning outdoors is more beneficial than learning inside a classroom'* and *'Zoos should be banned.'*



Gold Education program

Leigh and Wendy visited the 4-5 and 5-6 classrooms on Monday to discuss their jobs at the Fosterville Gold Mine. They presented a slide show that showed pictures of the mine and they discussed the weight of gold. The students had many questions for our guest speakers. Students got the opportunity to experiment with small pulley systems.



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



Taj Barrett

Matthew Swansborough

Kaylee Davey

Jax Buccella

Callum Cassidy



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
- 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

VS

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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SCAN ME

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be a health/concession card holder;
- Be in receipt of a Centrelink Payment
- Be studying or have a child in school
- Have some regular income from work
- Be 18+ years old



State Schools' Relief

Provides school uniforms and shoes to those that are unable to afford them.



SCAN ME

Eligibility Criteria

- Situations include but not limited to:
- Unemployment
 - Health issues/illness
 - Financial difficulties
 - Independent living and/or homelessness
 - Natural disasters
 - Bereavement
 - Domestic and family violence



Camps, Sports and Education Fund

Funding to attend activities like:

- school camps or trips
- swimming and school-organised sports programs
- outdoor education programs
- excursions and incursions

\$125 per year for eligible primary school students
\$225 per year for eligible secondary school students.



SCAN ME

Eligibility Criteria

- Parent must be a health/concession card holder;
- Or families on protection/bridging visas, or seeking asylum;
- Or children in out of home care



Computerbank

Low cost refurbished computers that include various programs including word processing, Google Chrome and PDF Maker



SCAN ME

Eligibility Criteria

- Concession/Health Care Card holders
- Students
- Asylum seekers

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.**

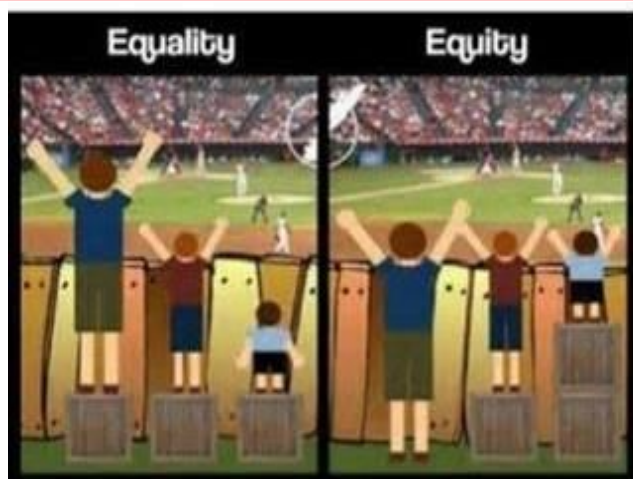


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PROTECT

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:

