



Heathcote Primary School

News

Telephone: (03) 5433 3090

heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Issue No. 31

6th November 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

Monday 6th November	Pupil Free Day - no students on site
Tuesday 7th November	Melbourne Cup holiday - no students on site
November date tbc	Year 4-5 Bike workshop and ride
Friday 10th November	Assembly - Guest speaker
Friday 17th November	Kinder transition morning 9am - 10.30am Assembly Year 1-2M presenting
Monday 20th November	Alpha Production
Wednesday 22nd November	School Council meeting 5.30pm
Friday 24th November	RACV Safety Day - no assembly
Friday 1st December	Kinder transition morning 9am - 10.30am Assembly - Special guest
Friday 8th December	Crazy hair day - gold coin donation Assembly - F-1 presenting
Tuesday 12th December	Statewide transition day
Thursday 14th December	Year 6 Graduation afternoon tea and ceremony
Friday 15th December	African Drumming workshop and Assembly performances
Wednesday 20th December	Last day of Term 4, early dismissal 1.30pm

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

www.heathcotenagambie.community

Community Bank
Heathcote & District

 Bendigo Bank

Dear Families,

Welcome Back Ms Ballantyne

A warm welcome back to Ms Ballantyne. We hope you have enjoyed your time on leave and are looking forward to being back at school for the remainder of the term and for the remainder of your time here working with us at Heathcote Primary School. There are 6 and half weeks to go and still lots of work to do and learning to be done. We are excited to have you back!

Thank You Mrs Sexton

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to Mrs Sexton for taking on the teaching role in the F/1 classroom during Miss Childs' time as Acting Principal. Mrs Sexton has done an amazing job keeping the ball rolling in the F/1 classroom. The students have loved having her as their teacher and staff have enjoyed having her working as part of our fantastic team. We are sure to see Mrs Sexton around the school again soon.

Curriculum Day

We hope you have enjoyed a longer weekend with the curriculum day on Monday, followed by the Melbourne Cup public holiday. Staff were busy working on site on Monday . They completed lots of work on curriculum documents and other important resources in preparation of 2024.

Medications

If your child needs to take medication or vitamins whilst at school please bring it to the office and staff will support your child to administer it. Parents will need to sign a medication authority form for staff to administer. Students with asthma or anaphylactic plans that we have copies of are allowed to keep their medication in their bags or classroom. All other medication must be handed into the office.

Thank You from Miss Childs

I would like to finish off by extending a big thank you to all of the staff, students, parents and community members that have supported me and made my time as Acting Principal very enjoyable and rewarding. Although I am very excited to get back into my classroom and spend the remainder of the year kicking goals with my amazing F/1 students, I have truly enjoyed my time in this role. It has been great to gain more of a perspective into the role that Ms Ballantyne has in our school and to be reminded of what an amazing team of staff we have working together with a common goal of developing the academic, social and emotional growth of all of our students. Thank you all so much!

IN THE CLASSROOM

This week in the F/1 room...

A big thank you to Mrs Sexton for teaching our class for the last few weeks. I am super excited to be back in my class this week and to see all the wonderful growth my students have made.

This week our focus word is 'swan', we will be learning about letters making alternate sounds, for example in the word 'swan' the letter 'a' is making an /o/ sound. Can you think of any other words where the letter 'a' is making an /o/ sound? We will be reading and writing about some fantastic swan stories including Swan Lake and the Ugly Duckling. We will also be learning facts about swans. Did you know that swans in Australia are black!

In maths this week we will be completing some maths assessments on Essential Assessment. We will also be revising our number knowledge through lots of fun tasks and games.

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

This week in 1/2M we are finishing up our unit on time and also beginning to look a little bit at transformations (flipping, sliding and turning shapes).

In writing we are going to be looking at persuasive texts. It is great to see so many of our students completing their homework each night. Please also remind your students to bring their reading journal in each day to be checked, it is getting close to the end of the year but it is important students are still practising their reading.

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

This week in 1/2MG we will be continuing to work on summarising the important information from a text we have read.

In our literacy block we will be focusing on the digraph 'ze' as in sneeze, as part of our SMART Spelling and in Writing we will be learning how to write a persuasive text.

In Maths we will be learning about volume where we will be comparing and ordering different objects in terms of volume (how much space they take up).

This week in the 4/5 room...

Week 6 will be a short one as we mark the mid-point of the term. In Maths, we will continue to work on Chance, Data and Graphing. We will look at some "Kids News" articles in Reading. In Writing, we will choose a visual narrative prompt to guide our story writing. As always, we also look forward to our kitchen session.

This week in the 5/6 room...

In Mathematics we will continue learning about Volume & Capacity.

In Reading will be focusing on responding to questions related to a News article and in Writing we will continue revising our skills in Narrative Writing.

Girls in STEM

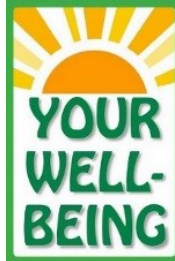
The Girls in STEM program is run by The Discovery Centre to mentor and encourage girls in year 5 & 6 to participate in and foster an interest in STEM careers. As part of the Girls in STEM program, Charli and Kenzie were to deliver STEM lessons to other classes at school. Unfortunately, Kenzie became ill, so Charli was very brave to teach STEM to two junior classes and two senior classes on her own. Gemma and Tarkyn were so kind to assist Charli.

Charli taught the junior classes coding using bluebot robots, and the senior classes using sphero robots. All classes really enjoyed their lessons and it's a credit to Charli that she was able to share her expertise with her fellow students. Well done Charli!



A reminder about medication:

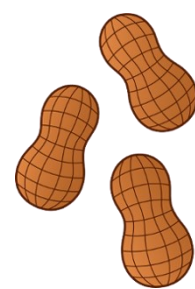
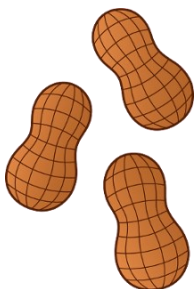
Heathcote Primary School has a policy and set of procedures regarding medication being brought to school. Can all parents and carers please familiarise themselves with this policy, which is available on the school website. The policy outlines specific information relating to medications and is important that correct procedures are followed by students and parents.



Be an Attendance HERO

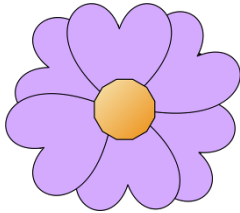


Total number of students who had 100% attendance this week	86 Students
Total number of students who were unexplained absences this week	38 Students
Number of times students arrived late to school this week	27 Students
Number of times students left early this week	8 Students
School absence rate target for 2023	10 days per student



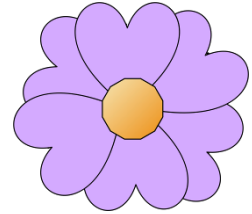
Kindness Ambassador Award

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



Occy Hicks

Rhiannon Brown



Tori Malaszuk

READING AWARDS

125 Nights

Hunter Gwin

Occy Hicks

150 Nights

Sammy Reeve

175 Nights

Pippa Anderson

200 Nights

Lachlan Swansborough

Jett Thompson





CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP AWARDS



<u>TEAM-WORK</u>	<u>RESPECT</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>	<u>LEARNING</u>
Charli Jennings Harry Dellar	Jett Johnson Reynald Villamor Brianah O'Keefe Ace Casey	Siobhan Patten Noah Foster	Taj Barrett Evelyn Nickels Masie Dwyer Pippa Anderson

BRONZE LEVEL

George McFadzean Willow Anderson Lola Anderson Lilah Moore Savannah Thompson	Rachel Toifl	Hunter Connolly Nate Moore Rachel Toifl Riley Hawkins	Koen Davidson Ellana Miller Malachi Macleod Jackson Andrews Elena Yeomans
--	--------------	--	---

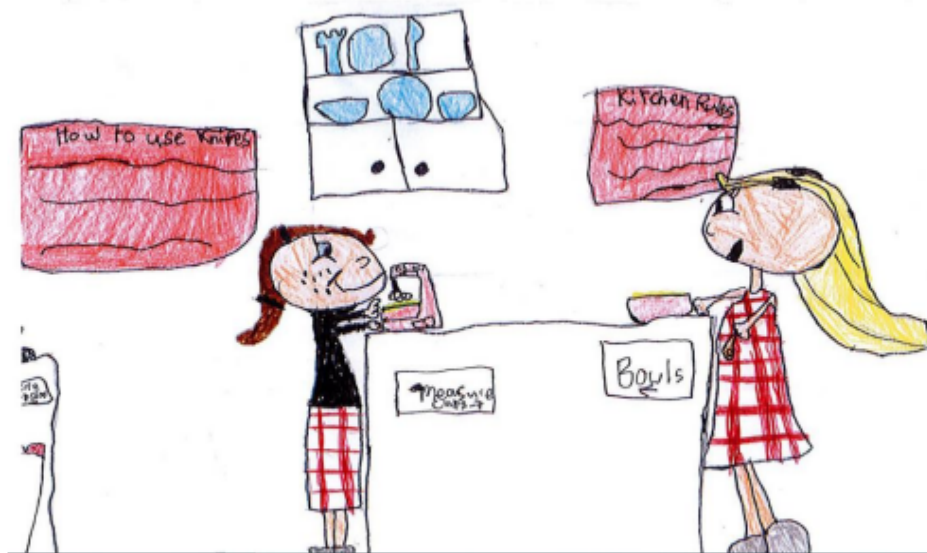
SILVER LEVEL

--	--	--	--

Hockey



Foundation Transition Dates



Heathcote Primary School – Foundation 2024

Dear 2024 Foundation Families,

Along with state wide processes, Foundation transition is scheduled to commence in Term Four. It is important for students to enjoy their Kindergarten year, however in Term 4 it is great to get an introduction to school to allow students to feel comfortable when starting in 2024. We are always excited to welcome prospective new students and their families into our school community.

Our transition dates this year provide an opportunity for your child to come along and have some fun in our Foundation classroom. Our 2023 Transition dates are –

Friday 3rd November

Friday 17th November

Friday 1st December

children will be in attendance on these dates between 9.00 and 10.30am.

On arrival for your first transition, please come to the Office and we will take you over to the Foundation room. After your first session, you are welcome to go straight over to the classroom. Children will need to bring a piece of fruit, a broad brimmed hat and a water bottle for their time at school. Children can be picked up from the classroom at the end of the session.

The state-wide transition morning is on the 12th December between 9.00 and 11.45am, this session provides students with an opportunity to have a play in the playground with other students. At the conclusion of this session, 11.45am, we will have an informal information session for families whilst their children play.

If you have any questions, please call the school on 5433 3090.



Information NIGHT
Thursday 7th of December 2023
5-30PM UNTIL 6:30PM

A warm invitation is extended to all prospective students, Parents and Guardians.

Welcome: Mary Parker and Josh Speechley.

Introduces Debbie Oliver (Principal)

- Seymour College – Vision and Values. Debbie Oliver (Principal)
 - Transition: Preparing for a new school
 - Christy Rilen (Assistant Principal)
 - Outline of the Year 7 program
 - Derek Rimes (Assistant Principal 7-12)
 - Introduction to compass
 - Year 7 Rubicon Camp
 - Rubicon representative
 - Introductions
 - Senior School Campus Manager Ricky Webster
Year 7 Co-ordinator Ben Tarran & Amanda McLaren
 - Literacy Leader Tegan Hansen
 - Numeracy Leader – Tracie Baker
 - Wellbeing Nick Dundon & Kirsty Hare
 - Administration Janet McKenzie
 - Inclusive Education Kristy Luckman Larnaye Osborne
Defence transition mentor Kelly Quigg
 - IT James King & Mark Pace

School Walk and Talk Tour

Tea and Coffee in the Staff Room

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



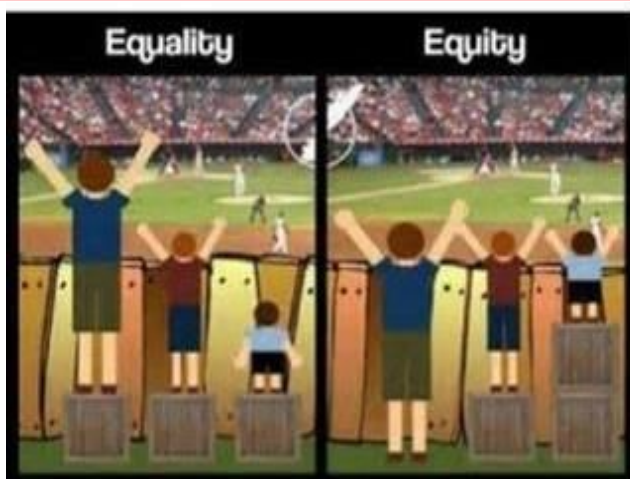
**Remember
WATER
only in your drink
bottle at school.**

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

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:

