



# Heathcote Primary School

## News

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Issue No. 33

20th 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 20th November	Alpha Production (normal school times)
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, 4.30 and ceremony 5.00pm
Friday 15th December	African Drumming workshop and Assembly performances 2pm
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](http://www.heathcotenagambie.community)

Community Bank  
Heathcote & District

 Bendigo Bank

Dear Families,

Please see information below regarding concerns we currently have for our students, we have a number of students who are accessing highly inappropriate material and engaging in unacceptable verbal treatment of other students. Please monitor and supervise your child's use of devices, knowing what they are using, who they are 'chatting' to and placing restrictions on student access will encourage appropriate use.

### **Social Media**

The school has become aware of our some of our students, particularly in the senior cohorts becoming more active on social media, gaming, internet use and socialisation apps on phones out of school hours. Negative interactions are being carried over into the classroom and playground. Apps including Snapchat, Smeagle, TikTok, Whisper, Kik and **Holla can be unsafe for children if parental controls are not in place.**

It is critically important that Parents/Carers are aware of what their children, particularly primary school children, are accessing online and what apps are on their devices. Sometimes, these apps can be hidden in folders away from the main screen. We encourage all parents and carers to have open discussions with their children about the types of social media and platforms that are appropriate for their age and urge you to frequently monitor device use of your children. **Furthermore, it is necessary for parents to implement strategies and device controls to protect their children online.**



Some of our children have viewed and passed on highly inappropriate material of a pornographic nature. If children have been exposed to inappropriate content, please ensure they feel comfortable sharing this with you or with a trusted adult. It can be confronting for children to be exposed to multimedia which can be violent, threatening or involve nudity. There have been multiple reports across the cohorts of our children accessing inappropriate video's, sharing these between friends and engaging in apps that connect them locally and to strangers around the world via video calls. A residential address has been shared online which greatly concerns us.

If you are concerned about your child's technology use and would like to come in and speak about developing strategies to support your family, please get in contact with Megan Lynch – Wellbeing Worker. **We are very concerned about the amount of misuse of devices at the moment and the potential for harm of our students.** Seeking out support to help parents/carers understand the risks their child may be exposing themselves or others to, is important. Accessing support online on appropriate sites is a helpful way to develop your knowledge. If you would like online support, there are some great webinars, video's on how to implement parental controls on devices and other useful resources available through:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

<https://cybersafetyproject.com.au/families/>

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/grown-ups/family-life/media-technology/parent-technology-use>

Please access these links to develop your own understanding of how you can support your child to safely navigate a digital environment.

### **End of year assembly**

**Our last assembly for the year is on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December, we are starting at the earlier time of 2.00pm.**

On this day the students are participating in a Drumming workshop, they will be performing their learning from the day at assembly with our school community. In addition to drumming, the F-2 and Year 3- 4 and 4-6 students are presenting Christmas themed songs.

### **Absences**

We have a large number of student absences that are unexplained. **One of the outcomes from our School Review was for the number of unexplained absences at our school to be reduced, they have been very high and are of concern to both DET and our staff.** Thank you to the parents/carers who do ring, email or log onto SENTRAL to tell us why their child is not at school. All absences are reported to DET by the school each week, being able to explain why students are away is an important part of our attendance management. **Please ring, email or log your child's absence on SENTRAL, this will be a priority for our school next year. Your support will be greatly appreciated.**

### **Garden Maintenance**

Thank you to the families who have completed their jobs, we greatly appreciate your support. We will start listing the families who are on each month in the newsletter to help remind families which month they are on. The maintenance list is also on the Office glass door along with the map of our garden beds. The roster continues all year, we will be looking for new families to join us in 2024.

Have a great week.

Kate

# Maintenance Roster November

Task	Families
Blower vac under all verandas and paths	Swansborough
Weed our new garden beds at the front of the school	Muscovich
Weed the Stephanie Alexander garden beds	Moore
Whipper snip around all fence lines/garden beds in the front garden/ Stephanie garden area	Merritt
Clean up the edging and weed around the school crossing, clean out the adjacent gutter	Lowe
Rake soft fall to even it out under playground equipment	Burt
Weed coloured garden beds in the courtyard area	Patten
Weed raised garden beds and whipper snip along fence line adjacent to the path leading up to the school from the carpark	Dillon
Car park, clean up any rubbish and ensure all bay markings, concrete posts are in place. Weed bed under the entrance sign.	Connolly
Weed outside the Office under the big trees and the small beds in front of the staffroom	Villamor
Tidying, returning, ordering and covering library books	Houldsworth Lowe Swansborough



# IN THE CLASSROOM

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

In English this week our focus word is 'hair', we will be learning about the /air/ trigraph. Can you think of any words with this trigraph in it? We will be reading and writing about hair. We will also complete some sequencing tasks to work on our retelling.

In maths we are looking at number patters. We will also continue learning about positional and location. We will be extending our knowledge to locating items on a grid. We will be trying really hard to master our left/right directions as well.

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

This week in 1/2M we are continuing to work on division in Maths. This will involve beginning to look at division as repeated subtraction, and using arrays to model division problems. In Writing this week we will be working on poetry. This will involve reading different poems and trying to create our own using rhyming words, along with writing our own acrostic poems.

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

This week in 1/2MG we will be learning to infer what the author means when reading a text.

In our literacy block we will be focusing on the digraph 'oy' as in toy as part of our SMART Spelling and in Writing we will be learning about rhyme and poetry.

In Maths we will continue to learn about division and transformation. We will continue to practice writing division as arrays and we will also be working on flipping, sliding and rotating shapes.

## **This week in the 3/4 room...**

This week 3/4 are writing and presenting a debate on multiple topics. They will choose their groups, research their argument and write their debate.

In reading, the children are focusing on clarifying the meaning of words. We will make sure to use cues around the page to help us find the meaning.

In Maths, the children are applying their multiplication and division knowledge to fractions and decimals, converting between the two. In Kitchen inquiry, the children are researching famous people and creating PowerPoint presentations to present to the class.

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

It's hard to believe that it's Week 8 already! We look forward to enjoying the Alpha production of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" on Monday. In Reading, we will be looking at examples of excellent speeches. This will lead nicely into this week's Writing task of leadership speech writing for the Year 5 students. Year 4 students will be writing a speech about what they would do if they were Principal for the day. All students will have the opportunity to present their speeches in Week 10.

In Maths, we will be revising Fractions, Decimals and Percentages. We will also learn about Mass, Volume and Capacity.

## IN THE CLASSROOM

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

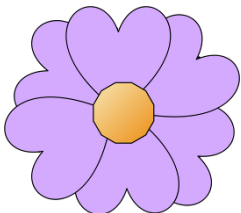
In Mathematics we will be learning to compare and convert between fractions, decimals and percentages. We will also be learning about the difference between Mass and Weight

In Reading and Writing we will be learning about what makes an effective speech and begin our Leadership and Graduation Speeches.

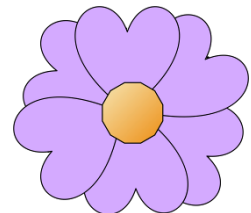
We are looking forward to the Alpha production on Monday and we will be finalising tasks for our Natural Disasters Projects.

## *Kindness Ambassador Award*

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



Layla Scott



Reynald Villamor



Cooper Pavey

Sammy Reeve

Alex Callander



# New School Bank Details

Account Name: Heathcote Primary School Official Account

BSB : 083 001

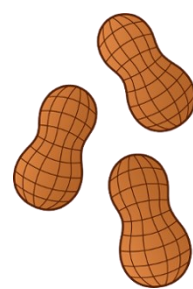
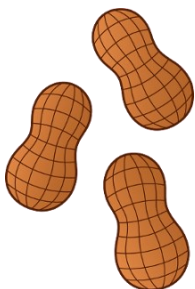
ACCTOUNT : 71 938 5618



## Be an Attendance HERO



Total number of students who had 100% attendance this	84 Students
Total number of students who were unexplained absences	<b>28 Students</b>
Number of times students arrived late to school this week	<b>39 Students</b>
Number of times students left early this week	7 Students
School absence rate target for 2023	10 days per student





# CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP AWARDS



<u>TEAM-WORK</u>	<u>RESPECT</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>	<u>LEARNING</u>
Jason Bowles Alexander Callander	Jessica Toifl	Indie Purchase Ellie Fortunato Fox Provost Liam Houldsworth	Lachlan Davitt Liam Grigg Evelyn Organ Kaylee Davey Neleyah Guichard

## BRONZE LEVEL

Tauri Barrett Ellana Miller Abby Fisher Hunter Connolly Imogen Jennings Aldane Nickels Masie Dwyer Ace Casey	Imogen Jennings Ashley Brown Ana Shreeve	Hunter Connolly Occy Hicks Ana Shreeve Ace Casey	Masie Dwyer Xander Ashen Cooper Pavey
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## SILVER LEVEL

			Lucy Merrall Rachel Toifl Pippa Anderson
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# READING AWARDS

### 50 Nights

Harry Dellar

### 100 Nights

Hazel Cannon

### 125 Nights

Reynald Villamor

### 150 Nights

Reynald Villamor

Noah Foster

Jayden Dillon

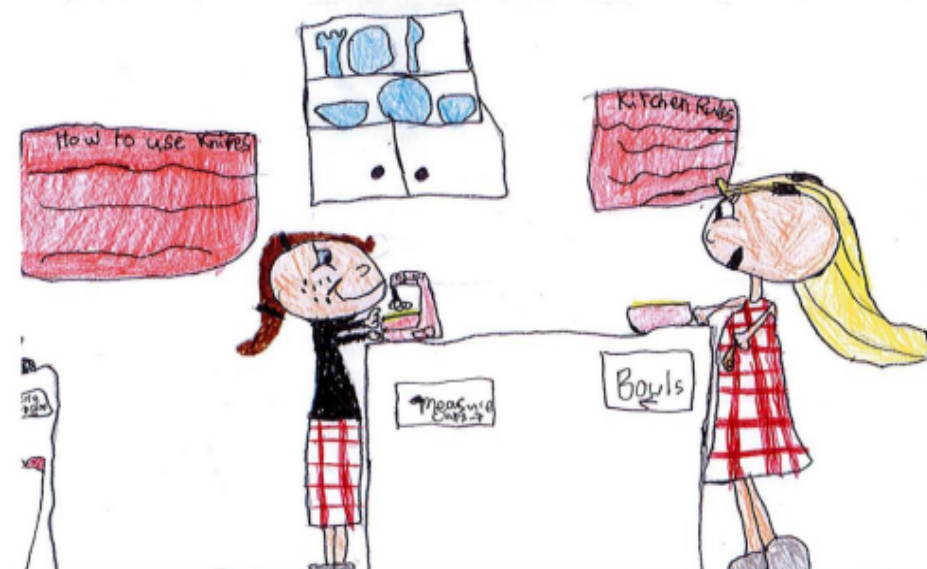


### 200 Nights

Freddie McFadzean

Liam Burton

# 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 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

# Remembrance Day





**Information NIGHT**  
**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> 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.**

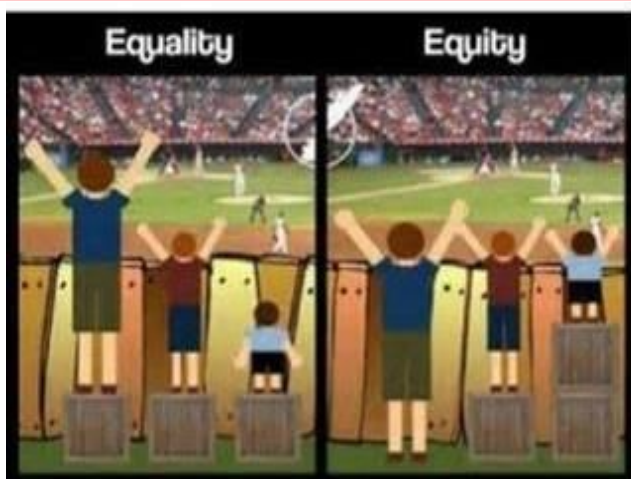


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[www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP](http://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP)

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:

