



Heathcote Primary School

News

Telephone: (03) 5433 3090

heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Issue No. 34

27th 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

Thursday 30th November	Year 4-5 Bike workshop
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

Community Bank
Heathcote & District

 Bendigo Bank

Dear Families,

Lisa Chesters popped into our school last Thursday to see how money we had received via a grant application had been utilised at our school. The money was used to top up the number of laptops in our Year 3-6 bank along with the installation of a shade sail in our court yard. We appreciated the money made available through a federal grant to increase our resources, thank you!



Brain Food to support learning!

Classroom teachers have noticed a large number of students not bringing sandwiches/wraps/fruit etc to school for their meal break times. There appears to have been an increase in the number of chocolates, lollies etc in lunch boxes. Our Healthy Foods policy asks families not to send in lollies, chocolates etc to school in lunchboxes. The types of foods our children eat have a significant impact on their ability to sustain focus when engaging in learning activities. Please support your child to engage in learning by sending along a sandwich/wrap etc to sustain them through the day. We would appreciate chocolates and lollies not being sent to school on a daily basis. Thank you for your support.

As a lead in to the end of the year, staff have asked that candy canes are not to be consumed at school, if they are provided with a card, children will be asked to take them home to eat.



Reverse Advent – starting December 1 in all classrooms!

Christmas is a time of giving and receiving. This year at Heathcote PS we are having a 'reverse advent' operating in all classrooms, our focus is on giving to others in our Heathcote community. We are providing all donated goods to the Heathcote St Vincent's branch to provide hampers for our broader Heathcote community.

We ask that each family donate one item a week to the box in their classroom, until Friday 15th December. Non perishable goods would be greatly appreciated – food, small toys, books, Christmas items etc would all be very welcome. We look forward to sharing with our extended Heathcote community this Christmas.

End of year assembly

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

During the day our 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. Please come along and join in with us.

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

A few of the garden beds in the front Stephanie garden are very overgrown, as we head into our summer break it would be wonderful to have these tidy and less inviting for snakes! Please check the garden maintenance roster to see when you have volunteered to help out. Thank you for your support!

Have a great week.

Kate

Junior School Council

On behalf of the Junior School Council, we have organised a fundraiser to donate money to Sunshine Bendigo. A volunteer group that provides support to families in need. Also, they distribute pre-owned and new nursery equipment to families in need of support. This fundraiser will be a "Crazy Hair Day." If your child would like to participate, we are requesting a gold coin donation. This event will be held on Friday 8th of December, 2023. Thank you and go crazy with your hair do!

Thank you for your support,

Dorian and Jackie,

Junior School Council

Maintenance Roster December

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



IN THE CLASSROOM

This week in the F/1 room...

This week in reading and writing our focus word is 'light'. We will be learning about the trigraph 'igh'. We will learn that the word light has two different meanings and will write about these. We will read a story about a little firefly that has no light and will write a retell of the story. We will also be making some stained glass Christmas lights to begin decorating our classroom.

In Maths our number focus is more/less. We will start by looking at numbers that are 1 more/1 less and then learn how to identify numbers that are 10 more/10 less. Later in the week we will move onto fractions, focusing mainly on quarters. We have a very fun activity planned which involves planning, cooking and eating food that is in quarters. Yum!

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

This week in 1/2M our spelling focus for the week is 'ng' as in song. It's great to see some of our students completing their homework each night, well done. We are continuing to learn about poetry and will begin to work on creating our own. In Maths this week we are continuing to learn about division. This has proved to be a very tricky concept for us, but we are continuing to work on sharing things equally. We will also be revisiting time, specifically looking at duration.

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 'ng' as in song as part of our SMART Spelling and in Writing we will continue to learn about poetry.

In Maths we will continue to learn about division and will begin a new topic of duration. We will continue to practice writing using different strategies to solve division problems and we will also be ordering events in terms of how long they take.

This week in the 4/5 room...

We look forward to meeting Sergeant Holly Lembke on Monday morning. Holly is coming to introduce herself to the students of the Senior Unit. She will talk about being a positive community member, speaking up when something doesn't feel right, and cyber safety.

In Writing, we will continue to work on our Leadership speeches, and we will also continue to look at what makes a good speech in Reading. In Maths, we will be revising Fractions, Decimals and Percentages.

This week in the 5/6 room...

In Mathematics we will be revising our knowledge of fractions, decimals and percentages. We will also continue our study of Mass.

In Reading we will be revising our comprehension skills and in writing we will continue our work on leadership and graduation speeches.

READING AWARDS

150 Nights

Layla Scott
Zelda Pinnington



175 Nights

Bryce Kilner
Alex Callander

275 Nights

Imogen Jennings

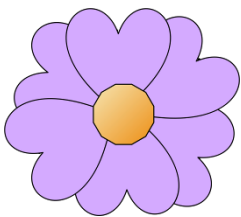
200 Nights

Timoci Tagiwasa

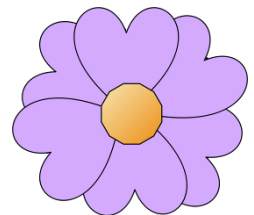


Kindness Ambassador Award

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



Amelia Eagle
George McFadzean



Storm Barmby

Nate Moore

Shalena Rowe

Hunter Gwin

Layla Perl



New School Bank Details

Account Name: Heathcote Primary School Official Account

BSB : 083 001

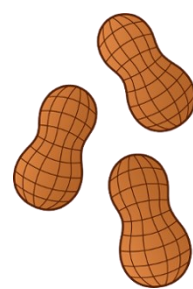
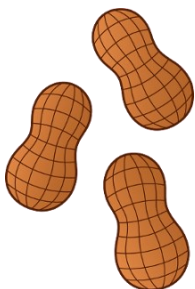
ACCTOUNT : 71 938 5618



Be an Attendance HERO



Total number of students who had 100% attendance this week	92 Students
Total number of students who were unexplained absences this week	39 Students
Number of times students arrived late to school this week	32 Students
Number of times students left early this week	22 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>
	Charlotte Burt Bella Wallace Cooper Pavey Angelo Gallagher Tahryk Turner Jai Gales	Storm Barmby Jessica Wheeler	Jackson Andrews Corey Fortunato Kynan Taylor Maciek Jackowski

BRONZE LEVEL

Nate Moore Harry Dellar Blair Hagan Rachel Toifl Reynald Villamor Maciek Jackowski Hunter Gwin Ashley Brown	Occy Hicks Ace Casey	Griffin Scardetta Noah Foster Savannah Thompson Teddy Thomson Nate Moore Liam Houldsworth	Zelda Pinnington Amelia Eagle Evelyn Nickels Finley Jennings Jayden Dillon Nathan Colbert Riley Hawkins Teddy Thomson Ben Jordan Freddie McFadzean Natalie Organ Tahryk Turner Noah Barrett Storm Barmby Jax Buccella Nate Moore
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SILVER LEVEL

			Harry Dellar Occy Hicks Tauri Barrett
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GOLD LEVEL

Ana Shreeve			
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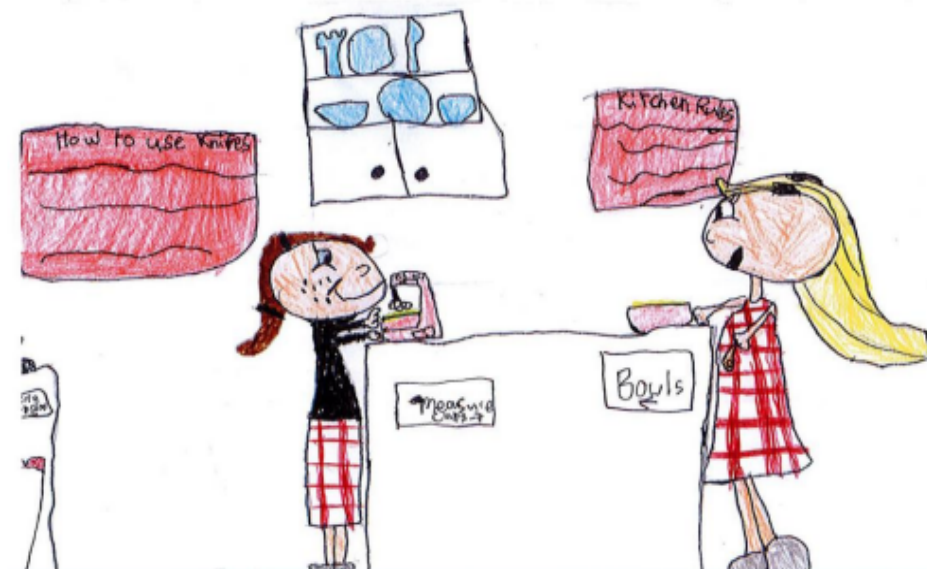
1/2 MG



Enjoying our new shade sail



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.



Holiday Camps

2024

DATES

Malmsbury Camp: Monday 8th - Friday 12th January

City Camp - Monday 15th - Friday 19th January

MALMSBURY

Located in an idyllic bush setting in Central Victoria

- High Ropes Activities
- Canoeing & Swimming
- Archery & Orienteering
- Night Walk, Movie Night, Trivia

CITY

Located in the heart of the Melbourne CBD

- Big Bash & Aus Open
- Pool & Beach
- Melbourne Zoo & Museum
- Eureka Skydeck, Movie Night, Trivia



TRANSPORT

Malmsbury: Doxa facilitated bus transport provided from Melbourne & Bendigo

City: Doxa facilitated bus transport provided from Traralgon / Pakenham & Bendigo

COST

Our holiday camps are FREE.

Holiday camps are funded by our amazing donors and philanthropic ventures.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Email: info@doxa.org.au

Phone: (03) 9046 8200



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



REMINDER: HAVE YOU REGISTERED?

NAB AFL Auskick is a community run program that relies on the honesty, involvement and support of all people involved. A key part of your participation at Auskick is to ensure you are registered on our registration platform.

It is important you are registered for the following reasons:

- 1** This ensures your Auskick Coordinator knows who you are and knows how many kids to plan for and equipment to provide at each session
- 2** Registrations have the following key benefits
 - a. Insurance for any injuries sustained during play
 - b. Awesome goodies in your AFL Club colours as well as the essentials such as a footy, pump and footy cards
 - c. The option to become a Junior Member at your favourite AFL Club completely free of charge and attend selected Toyota AFL Premiership Series AFL Games and NAB AFLW Games
 - d. Exclusive offers from AFL partners
- 3** Lastly your Auskick Centre receives equipment funding and other support based on each individual registration

Register via the QR code below
or visit play.afl/auskick



BIG SUMMER READ

JOIN. BORROW. READ. WIN!

December 1 - January 31

Register for the Big Summer Read at <https://plv.beanstack.org> or visit your local library to find out more.

Goldfields Libraries
Public Libraries Victoria

BIG SUMMER READ

JOIN. BORROW. READ. WIN!

at Goldfields Libraries this summer

CREATIVE COLOURING CHALLENGE
0-8 years: art pack
9-12 years: art pack

MAJOR PRIZES
0-8 years: \$100 book voucher
\$50 Smiggle voucher x2
9-12 years: \$100 book voucher
\$50 Smiggle voucher x2
13-18 years: \$100 book voucher
\$100 EB Games voucher

BRANCH PRIZES
\$20 book voucher

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.**

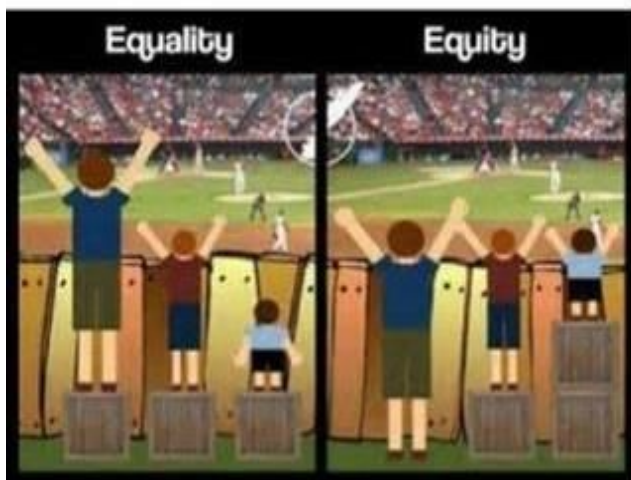


SCHOLASTIC
Book Club LOOP
for Parents

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:

