



# Heathcote Primary School

## News

Telephone: (03) 5433 3090

[heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

Issue No. 35

4th 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

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
Tuesday 30th January 2024	First day of Term 1

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,

Last Thursday we had volunteers from the Friends of the Bendigo Kilmore Rail Trail come and work with some of our students. We greatly appreciated their visit, as did the students involved! Looking after bikes and knowing what to do is an important part of riding safely, sometimes students don't know what to do to ensure their bikes are ready to ride. A big 'thank you' to Rob, Adrian, Sam and Di, we look forward to seeing them again.

**Cailen – “I understand better how important the right seat height is when I am riding.”**

**Alex C – “I found out about how to check for a hole in the tube.”**

**William – “I learnt how to change a tyre.”**

**Chase – “I didn't know you need to check and pump up your tyres each week.”**



**Reverse Advent – started December 1 in all classrooms!**

**Thank you to the families who have already donated an item to their classroom.** 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.



### **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 up 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.**

### **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.** During the day our students are participating in an African 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 for the last one of the year!

### **Garden Maintenance**

New forms were sent out last week to all families to find out which areas they would like to support the school with next year in our grounds. Gardening is the main area we need support with, if we don't have enough volunteers in this area we may have to swing people over from some other areas. We have had a great response earlier this year from a large number of families, we look forward to your ongoing support. Our new 2024 Foundation families are also being included on this roster.

Enjoy the week ahead.

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, 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 8<sup>th</sup> of December, 2023. Thank you and go crazy with your hair do!

Thank you for your support,

**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 we will be learning about split digraphs; this is when the 'e' at the letter word is changing the sound of the other vowel. We will have a new focus word each day... tape, kite, phone and cube. We will read, write and create a craft item based on each of our focus words.

In Maths we are learning a few different things... how to estimate, how to count large collections of items by breaking them into tens and ones, how to order 2-digit numbers and how to use a calculator. A bit of a mixture to revise concepts learnt throughout the year and calculators will be new learning.

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

This week in 1/2M our spelling focus is the 'tch' sound. It's been great to see so many of our students completing their homework each night, it really shows in their spelling tests!

In Maths this week we are continuing to learn about division as this has proved to be a very tricky concept. We are revisiting time, more specifically elapsed time and duration. Even though it is coming to the end of the year it is important that students are continuing to read each night.

**This week we have only had 7 (out of 20 students!!) consistently reading each night, lets try and bump it up to 20 out of 20 next week!**

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

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

In our literacy block we will be focusing on the trigraph 'tch' as in watch as part of our SMART Spelling. In Writing, we will have free choice writing where we will be able to revise what we have learnt across the year.

In Maths we will continue to learn about division and will be revising fractions.

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

Week 10 already! In Writing this week, we will be publishing our speeches onto cue cards. We will then be practising the delivery of our speeches in preparation for Thursday's presentations. We will be publishing more of our favourite pieces of writing. We will be sharing and responding to some Kids News articles in Reading.

In Maths, we will continue on with our revision and will begin our Financial Planning Maths Investigation - "A Day at Leisure Land". We look forward to putting up our Christmas tree!

## **High School Transition for our Grade 6 students:**

Starting secondary school means big changes: like new peers, more teachers, study and homework, and a new campus. And possibly catching a bus for many of our students! It's natural for children to have mixed feelings about starting secondary school. You can ease the transition by preparing your child practically and emotionally. Your child's friends do influence how your child feels about the move, but your support has stronger and longer-lasting effects. If you have any concerns about your child's upcoming transition to Secondary School, please get in contact with Megan – Wellbeing Worker for ideas and support.

### **Preparing to start secondary school:**

You can help to ease any worries your child has about starting secondary school by preparing your child in the months and weeks before term begins.

### **Practical issues:**

- Make sure your child goes to all transition and orientation programs in the last year of primary school.
- Involve your child in decision-making where possible. For example, you could discuss transport options to and from school.

Practise taking the route to secondary school together, to build your child's confidence about travelling

### **Feelings:**

- Talk with your child about what they're most looking forward to and what they're worried about. Listen when your child shares their feelings and worries about secondary school.
- Reassure your child that it's natural to worry about going to secondary school.
- Encourage your child to look at the positive side of the move to secondary school. For example, you could highlight the new extracurricular activities your child could try.
- Talk with your child about keeping in touch with old friends and making new friends too.

Share your own high school experiences or the experiences of friends and family.

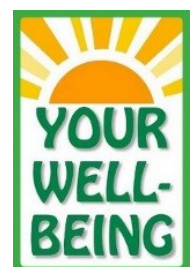
Resources for parents:

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/pre-teens/school-education/school-choosing-starting-moving/starting-secondary-school>

<https://headspace.org.au/explore-topics/supporting-a-young-person/transition-from-primary-to-secondary-school/>

[https://parents.au.reachout.com/common-concerns/everyday-issues/things-to-try-school-and-education/transitioning-to-high-school?](https://parents.au.reachout.com/common-concerns/everyday-issues/things-to-try-school-and-education/transitioning-to-high-school?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIqqeK27foggMVHA6Dax1OYgkQEAAAYASAAEgKaoPD_BwE)

[gclid=EAlaIQobChMIqqeK27foggMVHA6Dax1OYgkQEAAAYASAAEgKaoPD\\_BwE](https://parents.au.reachout.com/common-concerns/everyday-issues/things-to-try-school-and-education/transitioning-to-high-school?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIqqeK27foggMVHA6Dax1OYgkQEAAAYASAAEgKaoPD_BwE)



# READING AWARDS

150 Nights

Taj Barrett



175 Nights

Nate Moore

Riley Hawkins



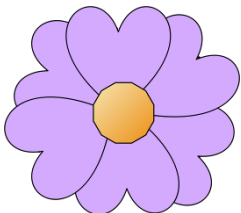
250 Nights

Jax Buccella



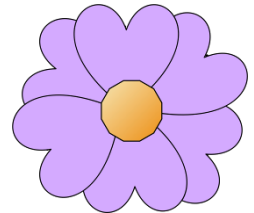
## *Kindness Ambassador Award*

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



**Ace Casey**

**Xander Ashen**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**Corey Fortunato**



# New School Bank Details

Account Name: Heathcote Primary School Official Account

BSB : 083 001

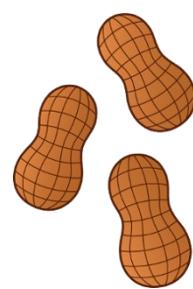
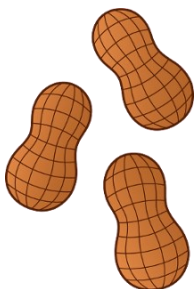
ACCTOUNT : 71 938 5618



## Be an Attendance HERO



Total number of students who had 100% attendance this	86 Students
Total number of students who were unexplained absences	<b>38 Students</b>
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





# CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP AWARDS



<u>TEAM-WORK</u>	<u>RESPECT</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>	<u>LEARNING</u>
Pippa Anderson	Riley Hawkins William Powers Nate Moore	Nate McNally Chase Harrison	Lewis Powers James Davitt Bridget Brown Logan Jolley Anthony Guichard Axel Nunn

## BRONZE LEVEL

Evelyn Nickels Jackson Andrews Noah Foster Elena Yeomans Abby Fisher Lucy Merrall Blair Hagan	Tauri Barrett Nate Moore	Evelyn Nickels Finley Jennings Jessica Wheeler Jackson Andrews Jayden Dillon Nathan Colbert Bryce Kilner Jason Bowles Elena Yeomans Amelia Eagle Lola Anderson Charlotte Burt	Laykin Francis Jackie Evans
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## SILVER LEVEL

			Reynald Villamor
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## GOLD LEVEL

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# Year 4/5 Bike Workshop







# 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](https://play.afl/auskick)





**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.



# 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.**

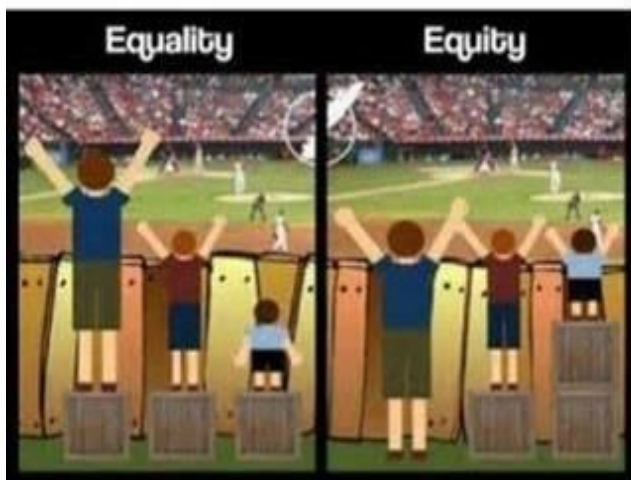


**SCHOLASTIC**  
**Book Club LOOP**  
for Parents

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](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:

