



Heathcote Primary School

News

Telephone: (03) 5433 3090

heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Issue No. 37

18th December 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.



TERM 4 and Term 1 2024 - IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday 20th December	Last day of Term 4, early dismissal 1.30pm
Monday 29th January	Pupil Free day, no students on site
Tuesday 30th January 2024	First day of school for all students
Wednesday 7th February	Foundation day at home— individual appointments for testing
Friday 9th February	Smile Squad returning
Wednesday 14th February	Foundation day at home—individual appointments for testing
Wednesday 21st February	Foundation day at home—individual appointments for testing
Wednesday 28th February	Foundation day at home—individual appointments for testing
Monday 4th March	Year 5-6 camp in Melbourne, 9.30am departure
Wednesday 6th March	Year 5-6 return from camp—2.15pm pick up from school Foundation day at home—individual appointments for testing
Monday 11th March	Labour Day Public holiday— no students on site
Wednesday 13th March	Naplan Starts
Friday 22nd March	Ride to school day (TBC)
Thursday 28th March	Colour run (TBC) Last day of Term 1, early dismissal 2pm

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

www.heathcotenagambie.community

Community Bank
Heathcote & District

 **Bendigo Bank**

Dear Families,

Last Thursday our Year 6 students along with their family and friends attended our 2023 Graduation ceremony. Our new Year 6 Leadership Team were also in attendance, their first official role! It was lovely to have our students speak about their primary school years and what they were looking forward to next year, well done Year 6. Looking at their slideshow took us all back to the little people they were on arrival into our Foundation class, a lovely reminder. Thank you to staff for their preparations for the event, as always their time and effort are appreciated.



Reverse Advent Donations – a very big thank you!

A very big thank you to all of our families who donated items to our 'Reverse Advent' school activity. Brook and I took all of the items donated to the Heathcote St Vinnie's last Friday. They asked us to pass on their thanks to each of you and to wish you all a very happy Christmas! Great to see the students giving to others in our community, thank you! We have it down on our calendar for next year.

Thank you Michele and Miss Mountjoy

A very big thank you to Michele for her enormous contribution to our school community over many years. Enjoy your next journey Michele, you will be missed. Miss Mountjoy is taking 12 months leave from HPS, have a wonderful time in 2024, we look forward to you being back in 2025!

Last newsletter....

My last newsletter at HPS! For nearly 8 years this has been a weekly occurrence in my week, often scrambling to get things to Brooke on time. Thank you to our school community, students and parents/carers for their support in these past years. Over the past 8 years we have seen enormous growth in our school numbers (from 62 to 138), developed calm classroom learning environments, implemented a school wide behaviour management approach, completed numerous grounds work, developed new instructional models, revamped our DT supplies, received over \$100,000 through grant applications, worked hard on improving student outcomes, supported student wellbeing, continued to recruit new team members to an amazing staff team and many, many more things....

I am looking forward to my world being less consumed by work, to be a Principal the way I believe it needs to be implemented, the role consumes your world. I am looking forward to working as a School Reviewer, Relieving Principal and whatever else may come my way from DET. Finally, to our amazing staff, they have become my work family who I greatly care about. I will miss you all, I know we already have plans to catch up and look forward to when this happens!

Heathcote PS, it has been a very special part of my life, thank you.

Enjoy the upcoming Christmas break with family and friends, stay safe.

Kate

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Occy Hicks

Neleyah Guichard

Hazel Cannon

Aldane Nickels

Willow Anderson

Emily Thompson



Jessica Wheeler

Caitlyn Liverton-Kirk

Wesley Knight

Sebastian Paterno

Maciek Jackowski

Tauri Barrett

Angelo Gallagher

Noah Cook

Alex Ager-Wicks

Noah Foster

Masie Dwyer

Ana Shreeve



BRONZE LEVEL

TEAM-WORK

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

LEARNING

April Muscovich

Mason connolly

Jax Buccella

SILVER LEVEL

Nate Moore

Angus Thomson

Reynald Villamor

New School Bank Details

Account Name: Heathcote Primary School Official Account

BSB : 083 001

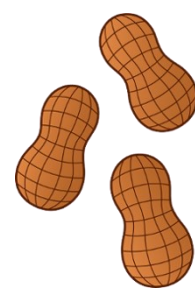
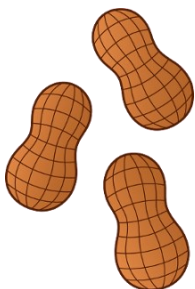
ACCTOUNT : 71 938 5618



Be an Attendance HERO



Total number of students who had 100% attendance this week	81 Students
Total number of students who were unexplained absences this week	56 Students
Number of times students arrived late to school this week	29 Students
Number of times students left early this week	10 Students
School absence rate target for 2023	10 days per student



SPORTS EQUIPMENT LIBRARY



FREE WITH LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP
3 WEEK LOAN
BORROW UP TO 4 ITEMS PER CARD



Families can access the Sports Equipment Library at no cost using their library membership at the **Heathcote Library**.

Tue 9am-12pm
Thu, Fri 9am-5pm
Sat 9am-12pm

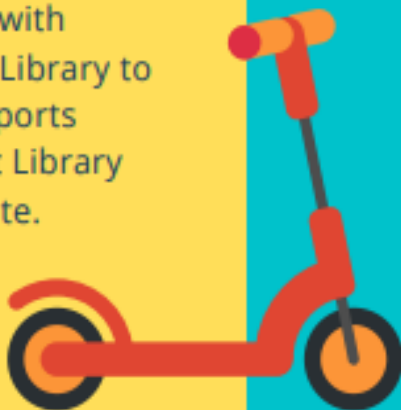
EQUIPMENT YOU CAN BORROW

Skateboard
Scooter
Balance bike
Tricycle
Basketball
Netball
Basketball ring
Cricket set
Tennis racquet
and more.



The City of Greater Bendigo has partnered with Goldfields Library to deliver a Sports Equipment Library in Heathcote.

The Sports Equipment Library is a wonderful opportunity for children between the ages of 0-17 years to be able to borrow sports equipment at the Heathcote Library for up to three weeks. The Sport Equipment Library is funded by VicHealth through the Local Government Partnership.



African Drumming



African Drumming



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.**

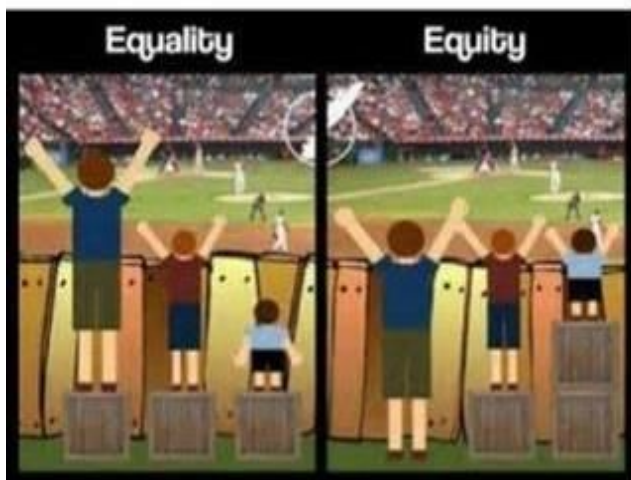


SCHOLASTIC
Book Club LOOP
for Parents

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:

