



# STRATHMERTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

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**Newsletter No.1**  
**February 4<sup>th</sup> 2022**

## 2021 Dates to Remember

- ⇒ **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February**  
Badge presentations@assembly 2:45pm
- ⇒ **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February**  
Whole school excursion to Cobram
- ⇒ **Wednesdays 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>**  
Prep rest days.
- ⇒ **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February**  
Breakfast Club in the Hall 8:30 am
- ⇒ **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>**  
School Council Meeting @ 7:00pm.

### Breakfast Club!!!

Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> February is the intended start date.

### Chaplain Chat 2021

It is great to be joining you as Chaplain of Strathmerton Primary School.

My name is Wendy Rowan and I live in Cobram after being on a dairy farm for 20 years near Numurkah. I have been a Primary teacher for many years, an English teacher at TAFE for migrants and refugees, and a Chaplain for 5 ½ years at a Shepparton School.

I am looking forward to working with the students and meeting you all soon.

Wendy.

### Confidentiality form

Please fill out the form with your details on it so we can update our records with any changes.

#### BUS REMINDER

It is important that parents let the school know when their child is not travelling home by bus. This is a Duty of Care situation.

### COBRAM EXCURSION

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD HAS PAID FOR THIS EXCURSION

**Strathmerton Primary School**  
**is excited to introduce**

 **School Stream**

**We ask all parents and carers to please download the app to your mobile devices.**

**This will be a new way of communication and will allow parents to complete excursion forms, see school events, get notifications of school events, report student absentees, direct messaging to our office and much more.**

**Downloading instructions will follow.**  
**Thank you**

## **From the Principal's Desk**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the 2021 school year, which we hope will be really exciting and productive for all our students, after last year's difficulties. A special welcome to our new Preps, who have settled in really well. Our current school enrolment is 103, which is pleasing.

### **NEW STAFF**

Mrs Joanne Paton is teaching our Year 5-6 class and is also a leader of curriculum, as Learning Specialist. Ms Sarah McCabe is the Year 4-5 teacher (currently replaced by Mr Tim Arnel, as she is on bereavement leave after the passing of her father), Mrs Estelle Anderson is our Art teacher. I know they will all be great assets to our school team.

### **SCHOOL CHAPLAIN**

I am excited to announce the appointment of Mrs Wendy Rowan as the School Chaplain, a position funded by the Federal Government through the National Schools Chaplaincy Program. Wendy's role is to provide welfare support and pastoral care to all our students, as well as their families. The NSCP program guidelines clearly state that Chaplains are **not** to preach or offer religious guidance, so Wendy is **not** a Religious Education instructor and will only be providing pastoral care. She will be available for students to talk to as a counsellor, and is skilled in assisting parents, carers and families as well. There is a consent form that all parents need to sign in order for Wendy to offer her support to your child if needed.

### **SCHOOL STREAM APP**

In order to make it easier for us to communicate with you, with notices, information and alerts, we have purchased the **School Stream** app to streamline the whole process.

On this app we can put all our permission notes for excursions etc. and you can sign them electronically and send them back (no more forgotten notices in the bottom of your child's school bag!). Our newsletter will also be posted there, as well as lunch order menus. You can also use it to record a student absence. Importantly, if we need to contact all our parents in an emergency situation, it will generate an immediate alert for everyone.

Leanne has posted information on our Facebook page, explaining how to download this app. Many parents have already joined, and I would encourage all parents/carers to take advantage of this great communication tool. We need everyone on it, to make it truly effective.

### **EXCURSION TO COBRAM**

Next **Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> February**, all students will travel to Cobram to participate in some fun, active sessions at Skillzone. Following those sessions, we are heading down to Thompson's Beach to eat a healthy lunch together, before travelling back to school. Our Parents and Friends Association will be providing fresh fruit for the children to enjoy, and we would ask that parents make a special effort to ensure that the lunch their child brings, also contains healthy options. This is to 'kickstart' a whole-school focus to the term's Quest theme, which is **Healthy Bodies and Healthy Minds**. We would request that every student attends.

## **BREAKFAST CLUB**

Strathmerton Primary is a **Breakfast Club** school, supported by **Foodbank Victoria**, who provide us deliveries of breakfast/snack produce twice a term. In addition, the local **Strathy Bakery** kindly donates loaves of bread each week. Last year, with all the COVID-19 turmoil, we weren't able to run too many breakfast mornings. We would like to re-commence our weekly breakfasts as soon as possible, but to do that we need your help. Michelle Hibberson coordinated and was on duty for the breakfast program previously, with great support from Hollie Barnes. Michelle now has work commitments that prevent her from participating this year, but Hollie is prepared to take over the role of coordinator. However, without parent volunteers to assist Hollie, it's a big task for one parent to manage. We intend to hold our weekly breakfasts on Fridays, commencing next week - **Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> February**. If you can assist, please contact the school or phone Hollie (0423 495 290), to register your interest. Your commitment would be from 8:20 - 9:10 on any Friday you can be available. This Breakfast Club initiative is an integral part of our welfare program, as many of our students arrive at school having had very little or no breakfast, and we all know a healthy breakfast is an important factor in setting each child up for a successful day. *If you can, please help.*

## **BADGE PRESENTATIONS AT ASSEMBLY**

Next **Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> February**, at our first official School Assembly, our School Captains, SRC members and House Captains will be presented with their leadership badges by Greg Brooks, our School Council President. As we are still limited by social distancing rules for indoor spaces, we intend to hold this assembly outside, so that all parents/carers are free to join us. The assembly will commence at 2:45 pm.

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

Nominations for School Council are being called for. We have one parent vacancy on Council for this year, so if it interests you, please come and see me at the office. Nominations close on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 4:00pm. The term of office on School Council is for two years and we have two meetings per term, usually on a Wednesday evening.

## **COVID-19 UPDATE**

The DET has issued a statement this morning, stating that all visitors on site at a school must be wearing a face mask, until further notice. Parents are welcome to come into school, but must now be wearing a mask.

## **POKEMON CARDS**

I wanted to remind parents and students that Pokemon cards are banned from school. We instituted this ban last year, and it seems some students have forgotten as they are appearing at school again. As a result we have already had accusations of theft, arguments between students and even physical altercations. I have no aversion to the cards or the kids' interest in Pokemon, it's just that unfortunately it leads to all the situations I mentioned above. Thanks for your support in this.

## **How to Download** **School Stream App**



### **iPhone iOS/ Mobile device**

1. Go to the App Store
2. Search for School Stream
3. Tap the FREE/GET button to the right of the School Stream listing
4. Tap the INSTALL button
5. Enter your Apple ID and password & OK
6. Wait for the install icon to change to OPEN & Tap the OPEN button
7. Accept push notifications, you will need to select OK
8. Start typing your school into the search Strathmerton Primary School & SELECT

### **Android Mobile Device**



1. Go to the Play Store
2. Search for School Stream
3. Tap the School Stream listing
4. Tap the INSTALL button
5. Tap the ACCEPT button
6. Wait for the app to install then tap the OPEN button
7. Start typing your school Strathmerton Primary School then SELECT
8. Tap the DONE button in the top left