



STRATHMERTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ph: 58745295 Fax: 58745537

Email: Strathmerton.ps@education.vic.gov.au



**SUPPORT EACH
OTHER**



**TRY YOUR
BEST**



**ACT
SAFELY**



RESPECT

Newsletter No.20
July 14th, 2022

2022 Dates to Remember

- **Friday July 15th**
Skateboarding session
- **Monday 18th July**
Lions Club Speaking
- **Thursday 21st July**
Puberty classes 5/6
- **Friday 22nd July**
African Drumming
- **Thursday 28th July**
Puberty classes 5/6
- **Friday 29th July**
Lightning Premiership at Yarrawonga
- **Friday 19th August**
Glasses for kids
- **Tuesday August 30th**
Bushwahzee
- **Friday 16th August**
Last day of term 2.30pm finish
- **Monday 3rd October**
Term 3 starts

Lightning Premiership

This is being held in Yarrawonga this year a list of times will be sent home early next term.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at school is an extremely important indicator of student performance. The Department of Education and Training suggests that even as few as 5 or 6 days absence in a school year can have an adverse effect on a student's progress. The Department monitors the absence rate of students across the State and will contact schools to discuss their attendance strategies, where that rate is unsatisfactory. Strathmerton Primary has always had a high level of attendance, however it's disappointing to note that we have a large number of 'unexplained absences' at the moment, where the child is not at school and we haven't been informed why. We know that currently there is a great deal of 'flu-like' illness in the area, but in most cases the parents/carers have either let us know through the Schoolstream app, or phoned the school. When we haven't seen a student for a number of days and haven't been able to make contact, we become quite concerned. There is no excuse for a student to be absent from school without explanation. If your child is absent from school, please let us know, as every 'unexplained absence' is recorded against their name.

'It's not OK to be away.'

From the Principal's Desk

Welcome back to Term Three everyone. With all our Year 5/6's off on camp in Ballarat, it certainly makes it very quiet out in the yard. Mrs Paton tells me that all the campers are going well, although Ballarat can be a chilly place to visit in the winter.

THE LAST DAY OF TERM TWO

What a success this day turned out to be, with lots of parents joining us for our Quest Expo. The wellbeing activities conducted by the staff after recess, were an enormous success, as was the 'sausage sizzle' lunch, all of which made for a fun way to finish off the term. Thanks to Jamie Ciccone and Michelle Carmody for cooking the BBQ.

COVID-SAFE REQUIREMENTS FOR SEMESTER TWO

The Department has briefed all schools on COVID-safe requirements for the remainder of the year.

- RAT tests will continue to be provided to all families as required.
- Whilst the wearing of masks is not mandated, the Department strongly recommends their use. Disposable masks are available at school for any parent who would like their child to wear one.
- Air purifiers continue to operate in each classroom to reduce the incidence of air borne particles.

There is no longer a requirement that students/staff have to undertake twice-weekly testing as a routine. However, tests should be administered if the person is feeling symptomatic, or in a situation where the person is a close contact of a positive case. They then must return a negative test each day for five days, to continue to come to school. Luckily, Strathmerton Primary has no identified cases at the moment – touch wood! Don't forget to inform us if your child tests positive.

Now that the Government is providing free flu shots, I would advise that you and your children make a booking, as this flu season is going to be really severe.

SKATEBOARDING SESSION

This Friday, we have the second of our Skateboarding sessions, with each class having a workshop with the expert skateboarders who will travel up from Melbourne.

AFRICAN DRUMMING

Next week, on **Friday 22nd July**, we have the **African Drumming** incursion visiting. Each class will have an hour's workshop, where they will hear more about the music and dance of West Africa, as well as learn how to play their own drum (djembe). It will be a fun and informative introduction to our term's theme, and I hope every student is able to participate. The information and consent form are posted on our Facebook and Schoolstream sites. The cost of this workshop performance is \$10 per child.

FOODBANK SUPPLIES

Our Breakfast Club supplies come courtesy of the wonderful Foodbank organisation working in conjunction with the Education Department. We order supplies direct from Foodbank (it's a bit like a virtual supermarket). A new feature is the opportunity to order **family food packs** that contain some basic food staples (long-life milk, cereal, spreads, tinned fruit, soups and prepared meals), to support all our families who are struggling with cost of living pressures at the moment. If you would like to receive a family food pack, please let me know and I'll order one for you. It will all be done confidentially.

Geoff Weppner.