



**STRATHMERTON**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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**SUPPORT EACH OTHER**



**TRY YOUR BEST**



**ACT SAFELY**



**RESPECT**

**Newsletter No.4**  
**Mar 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

## 2024 Dates to Remember

- **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March**  
Whole School Aths Carnival  
12pm
- **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March**  
NAPLAN Testing G3 &5
- **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March**  
NAPLAN Testing G3 &5
- **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March**  
School Council 7pm
- **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**  
Whole School Aths Day Nathalia
- **Mon-Wed 25-27<sup>th</sup> March**  
G6 Workshop Ulupna Island
- **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March**  
Last day of Term 1 (early dismissal 2.30pm)  
Easter Hat Parade 9.30am  
Quest Expo. 10.30am  
Disco

## **STRATHMERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**



**WE NEED YOU**



**RESEARCH SHOWS HOW CHILDREN'S  
LITERACY IMPROVES WHEN THEIR  
PARENTS/CARERS ARE INVOLVED IN  
SCHOOLS!**

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

**FAMILY MEMEBERS TO LISTEN TO  
READERS FOR MORNING LITERACY**

**PLEASE CONTACT LEANNE WITH WHAT  
MORNING SUITS YOU!!**



## **BUS REMINDER**

It is important that parents let the school know when their child is not travelling home by bus. Please phone the office so we can take them off the bus list.

## **DISTRICT ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**

NATHALIA RECREATION RES.



**22ND  
MARCH  
9.45AM-2PM**

## **LUNCH ORDERS**

Lunch orders will be on Wednesdays and Fridays.  
Please see Compass and Facebook for the price list.

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

### **Whole School Athletics Carnival**

Tomorrow we will have our Whole School House Athletics Carnival. This will start at approximately 12pm and finish around 3.15pm. Students are allowed to wear their house colours. The afternoon will run like the District Athletics Sports Carnival on the Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March with students participating in their age/class groups, rotating around the various athletic sports. All are welcome to come watch and cheer on!

### **District Athletics Carnival**

District Athletics Sports is on next Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Students will need to be there by 9.45am to assemble prior to the first events. We ask that parents transport their child/ren to and from the sports if they can. For those parents/carers who can't attend, we have organised a bus to deliver students to and from the sports. The bus will leave school at 9:00am and return by 2:30pm. Please let Leanne know if you wish your child/ren to travel on the bus. Normal before and after school bus runs will occur on Friday for students that require it.

### **Lions Club Catering**

Thank you to all the Grade 4/5 families that supplied food for the Lions Club catering last Wednesday. A big thanks to Amy, Ella and Macy Carter for helping to serve and do the dishes during the night. The catering raised \$285 for our school! The next Lions Club catering date will be announced soon, and we will be looking to the Grade 2/3 families to help with food and/or serving.

### **NAPLAN**

Our Grade 3 and 5 students have completed 2 of their NAPLAN tests, Writing and Reading. The other 2 tests will be conducted next week on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> (Conventions of Language) and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> (Numeracy). Catch up days for those students that have missed tests will be run on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Attendance**

Regular attendance at school not only has an enormous impact on student achievement, but it also helps them to build social relationships and increase their sense of belonging and well-being. Irregular attendance, including being late, means that they will often miss out on new learning. If your child/ren are absent for a particular reason, please upload it on the school management system Compass.

### **School Council**

We are still looking for one more parent/community member to come and join our School Council. If you would like to know more about this or are interested in filling the position, please contact me.

### **Communicating to the school community in an emergency**

Our school has been identified as being at risk of grass fires and is rated a Category 4 school. Due to this, if our area Northern Country is forecasted to be a Catastrophic fire danger rating the school will be closed. This is a department requirement and part of their Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy. On Catastrophic predicted days the school buses will also not run. Families will be notified in the case of a Catastrophic predicted day through the school management app. Compass and on our Facebook page when information is released. For more information, I have attached the Department of Education's school preparation sheet.

### **Hot Cross Buns**

The school's major fundraiser this term is the Baker Delights Hot Cross Bun drive, run by our Parents and Friends committee. We can earn \$2 for every 6-pack of hot cross buns ordered. The due date for hot cross buns is the 19<sup>th</sup> of March. If you need a new form, please see Leanne at the office. Hot cross buns will be delivered on the Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> of March and we will post of Facebook and Compass when they are ready to be picked up.

Jo Paton

## SRC Easter Raffle

To assist the SRC, we are asking families to bring in items for the Easter Raffle which will be drawn on the day of the parade. Items that you can donate include Easter eggs or other Easter themed items. These donations can be dropped at the office, (for Mrs Bramich to taste test lol) preferably before the Tuesday of the last week of term (26<sup>th</sup> March). The SRC students will organise raffle tickets to be sent home with the eldest child of each family. We encourage you to sell these to family members, friends, or yourselves to be in the running to win prizes on the last day of term. Tickets are \$1 each. We greatly appreciate your support.

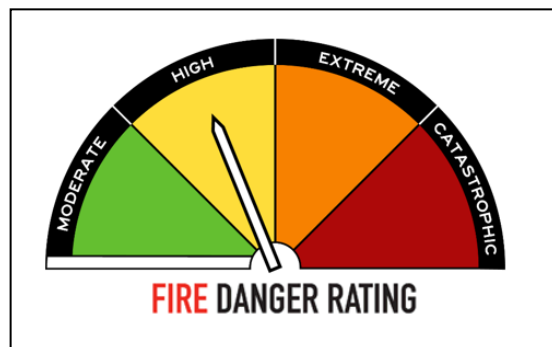


# Schools in Category 3 on the Bushfire At-Risk Register and the Category 4 list.

## 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 reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat, including clearing gutters and our facility's grounds.

## ***What does this mean for our school?***

**Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a Category 4 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 Compass SMS and Facebook Page.

**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 relocated, undertaking learning from home and/or 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