



2026 TERM 3 EDITION 3

NEWSLETTER

Wednesday 12th August 2026



IMPORTANT DATES

Mon 24th August **F-2 Incursion
Bunji's Larr Program - Little Wombats**

Fri 28th August **Year 5 & 6
Puffing Billy Excursion**

Mon 31st Aug - Fri 4th Sep **HPS Book Week
Parade Friday 9am**

Weds 2nd September **2027 Foundation Student
Transition Session
2:15pm - 3:00pm**

Thurs 4th September **District Athletics**

Mon 14th Sep - Thur 17th Sep **Whole School Swimming**

Principal's Message



It's hard to believe we are already halfway through the term! Time is flying, and there is so much happening across the school. This newsletter is full of important updates, celebrations, and opportunities coming up, so I encourage you to take the time and have a read. Thank you for the continued support and involvement in making Hastings Primary such a vibrant and connected school community.

Our School Values

Caring ~ Respecting ~ Learning

Our school values of Caring, Respecting and Learning are at the heart of who we are as a school community. Our values guide the way we interact with one another, the choices we make and the expectations we hold for ourselves and others.

These values are more than words - they are the foundation for the culture we are continuing to build at Hastings Primary School. By living our values each day, we help create a school where every student and every member of our community feels a strong sense of belonging and has the opportunity to thrive.

Book Week - Literacy Festival is nearly here!

One of the most exciting weeks in our school year is almost here – Book Week 2026! At Hastings Primary School, Book Week is always a highlight for our students, staff, and families. We are already looking forward to our much loved Book Character Parade, where students (and staff!) bring their favourite book characters to life.

Book Week is also a chance to celebrate our students as authors and illustrators. Each day in classrooms, they are learning to shape ideas into stories, create pictures that bring those words alive, and share their work with others. Just like the published authors and illustrators we admire, our students are discovering the power of storytelling and the importance of imagination. We can't wait to celebrate Book Week together.

Tu Toa, Kia Kaha Stand Strong, Have

Strength

Mrs. Simone McDonald Principal



Emergency Evacuation Drill – Keeping Our School Community Safe

Later this term, Hastings Primary School will be conducting an emergency evacuation drill as part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our students, staff and visitors.

Emergency drills provide an important opportunity for our school community to practise what to do if it ever becomes unsafe to remain on school grounds. While we hope we never need to use these procedures in a real emergency, regular practice helps ensure that students and staff are familiar with the processes and can respond calmly and safely.

As part of the drill, students and staff will practise evacuating the school grounds and moving towards our designated off-site emergency assembly point at the Hastings Foreshore Reserve.

Please note that we will not be walking all the way to the Hastings Foreshore Reserve as part of this drill. Instead, we will practise the process of leaving the school grounds as a large group. Students and staff will exit via the Hodgins Road gate and then re-enter the school grounds via the Victoria Road extension carpark gate. We will not be crossing any roads as part of the drill. This will allow us to practise the movement and management of a large group safely and efficiently.

We will talk with students beforehand in an age-appropriate way so they understand that the drill is simply practice. We appreciate your support in reinforcing the message that practising emergency procedures is an important part of keeping everyone safe.

Please also keep an eye out for a Compass notification closer to the time, which will provide a reminder about the drill.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school's commitment to student safety and wellbeing.

Student Safety at Drop Off and Pick Up times

Student safety is our highest priority, and ensuring students are safely supervised and supported during drop-off and pick-up times is an important part of our duty of care.

With the wetter weather now upon us, we would like to remind all families to take extra care when arriving at and departing from school. If you have parked on the opposite side of the road from the school, you must come onto school grounds to collect your child. Students will not be permitted to cross the road independently, even if they are meeting a parent or carer on the other side.

Wet weather can significantly reduce visibility for both drivers and pedestrians, and roads can be particularly busy at the end of the school day. We all have a responsibility to ensure that students are not placed in a situation where they need to navigate traffic or cross the road without adult supervision.

Please allow a little extra time at pick-up and make arrangements to meet your child safely on the school side of the road.

No child should be asked to cross the road alone.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us keep safety at the forefront of our thinking, particularly during these colder and wetter months.

Mrs. Simone McDonald
Principal

2026 Parent / Carer Opinion Survey:

WE WANT OUR PARENTS / CARERS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!

Our school is conducting the annual Parent / Carer Opinion Survey offered by the Department of Education and is seeking your feedback. The survey is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of school climate, student behavior, and student engagement. The survey is optional, but we encourage and appreciate your participation.

Our school will use the survey results to assist in identifying areas for improvement and professional development needs in the school, to target school planning and improvement strategies.

The Parent / Carer Opinion Survey will be open online from Monday 17 August to Friday 18 September 2026. The link will be sent via COMPASS on the 17th of August.

The survey will be conducted online, only takes 20 minutes to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones.

The online survey will be available in English and 10 other languages including Arabic, Greek, Hakha Chin, Hindi, Japanese, Punjabi, Simplified Chinese, Somali, Turkish, and Vietnamese. Resources are also available in additional languages to assist parents / carers who speak a language other than English at home. Please reach out to your child's teacher, or the school directly for survey guides in your language.

Please speak to Mrs. McDonald if you would like more information.

Principals' Day 2026

Friday 7 August marks Principals' Day 2026, a special opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the outstanding contribution principals and assistant principals make to public education.

School leaders play a vital role in shaping positive learning environments where students, staff, and families can thrive. Their work extends far beyond the classroom, encompassing educational leadership, student wellbeing, community engagement, staff support, and the ongoing improvement of schools.

Today we recognise the dedication, resilience, compassion, and leadership demonstrated by principals across Victorian government primary schools.

We extend our sincere thanks to our school leadership team for their commitment to our students, staff, and wider community.



PRINCIPALS' DAY 2026

VICTORIAN PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION

VICTORIA State Government | Department of Education

Friday 7th August

Recognising the hard work and commitment of principals leading our schools and shaping young lives

CONNECTED UNITED EMPOWERED



Children's University

Our Children's University students have met every Wednesday with Mrs Willson and myself to explore ways they can build their learning hours. Students have been engaging with Learning Destinations, Portal activities, Children's University Facebook activities and a range of other learning opportunities beyond the classroom.

We are excited to share that gowning will be happening soon for students who are on track to qualify for graduation! This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate their commitment, curiosity and learning beyond the school day.

 **SAVE THE DATE!** The Hastings Primary School Children's University Graduation Ceremony will be held at Swinburne University's Hawthorn Campus on Monday 30 November.

Further details, including ceremony times and arrangements, will be provided in the official invitation sent to eligible graduating students closer to the date.

I can't wait to celebrate this fantastic achievement with our students and their families!

Attendance

Sometimes when a child is reluctant to come to school, there may be more going on beneath the surface. School avoidance is often a sign that a child is experiencing something that feels difficult, overwhelming or unsafe, rather than simply being unwilling to attend.

There can be many reasons for school avoidance, including anxiety, academic pressure or learning difficulties, friendship concerns or bullying, sensory overload, loneliness or feeling excluded, separation anxiety, or difficulty communicating their needs. Children may also feel socially and emotionally exhausted after managing worries or challenges throughout the school day.

At school, we want to work in partnership with families to understand what might be behind the behaviour and what support a child needs to feel safe, connected and ready to learn.

If you notice your child becoming increasingly worried about school, reluctant to attend, or experiencing big emotions around school mornings, please reach out to us. Early conversations can make a big difference. Together, we can explore what is happening and develop strategies to support your child's wellbeing, confidence and engagement with school.

Mrs Rebecca Legge
Assistant Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL REPORT

Michelle Aldridge

Yr 3 and 4 Secrets of Drawing Fossils

Our Year 3 and 4 students stepped into the world of dinosaurs and fossils during the fascinating Secrets of Eromanga: Drawing Fossils incursion on Wednesday.

Students had the exciting opportunity to meet palaeontologist Tim Richards, who shared stories from real fossil discoveries in Eromanga, Queensland. They learned what a palaeontologist does, how fossils are uncovered and studied, and asked thoughtful questions during a lively question-and-answer session.

In the hands-on drawing workshop with Nicole, students explored how scientists observe fossils from different perspectives before creating detailed scientific drawings. Working in pairs, they practised careful observation skills, examined the features of the model fossil 'Rex', compared it with modern-day animals, and investigated fossil evidence from multiple angles. The session

concluded with students reconstructing Rex's ancient environment using the clues they had discovered throughout the day.

This was a fantastic opportunity for students to combine science, observation, creativity, and critical thinking, and they thoroughly enjoyed learning from real experts in the field.

*Miss Michelle
Aldridge*

Michelle.Aldridge@education.vic.gov.au



STUDENTS of the WEEK



PA	Jordan T	Your practise is paying off, Jordan. You have been working especially hard on letter names and sounds, and you are showing great growth!
1/2A	Bailey P	Bailey, your planning for information writing is out of this world. You habe taken us into space and beyond. Way to go Bailey!
1/2A	Liara S	Liara, your enthusiasm is wonderful to see during our phonics lessons. You are doing an amazing job and being a great role model for others too. Way to go Liara!
1/2B	Kai B	For the incredible effort you have shown in your learning and for demonstrating resilience when things became challenging. Your willingness to learn from mistakes and continue trying your best is something to be proud of. Keep believing in yourself and remember that your hard work and peristence will help you achieve great things. Keep up the fantastic work, Kai!
3/4A	Zoey H	Congratulations on making it through to the final of the school section of the Lions Public Speaking Competition. You have displayed strong communication and leadership skills! Keep up the great work!
3/4A	Pheobe K	Well done for making it through to the final of the school selection of the Lions Public Speaking Competition. You have displayed growing confidence and communication skills! A great effort!
4/5A	Isabella O	Well done! Your hard work and dedication to improving your writing have been fantastic to see. Your should also be incredibly proud of the confidence and effort you showed when participating in the Lions Club Speech competition. Keep challenging yourself and sharing your ideas - you are doing an amazing job!
5/6A	Marlee S	Thank you for always trying your very best and for being such a kind and supportive friend. Your positive attitude and caring nature make you a wonderful role model. Keep up the fantastic work!

ASSEMBLY AWARDS

SPECIALIST SUPERSTARS



3/4A, Jacob Kalbfell, Matilda Goodacre, Ashton McLaughlin, Levi Kallio, Isabella Oakes

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD



Estelle Schlegel

Congratulations to this weeks award recipients!

Caring, Respecting and Learning

HOUSE POINTS



768
WARADA



658
WALLUM



619
BUNYA



480
MUMBAL

2027 Foundation (Prep) Enrolments Hastings Primary School

At Hastings Primary School, we are proud to be a welcoming and supportive community, and we look forward to beginning your child's learning journey with us in 2027.

Enrolments for Foundation (Prep) are now open, and we invite local families to apply through the Victorian Government's online system, [VicStudents](#).

If your child turns five by 30 April 2027 and you live within our school zone, we encourage you to submit your enrolment application using the link below.

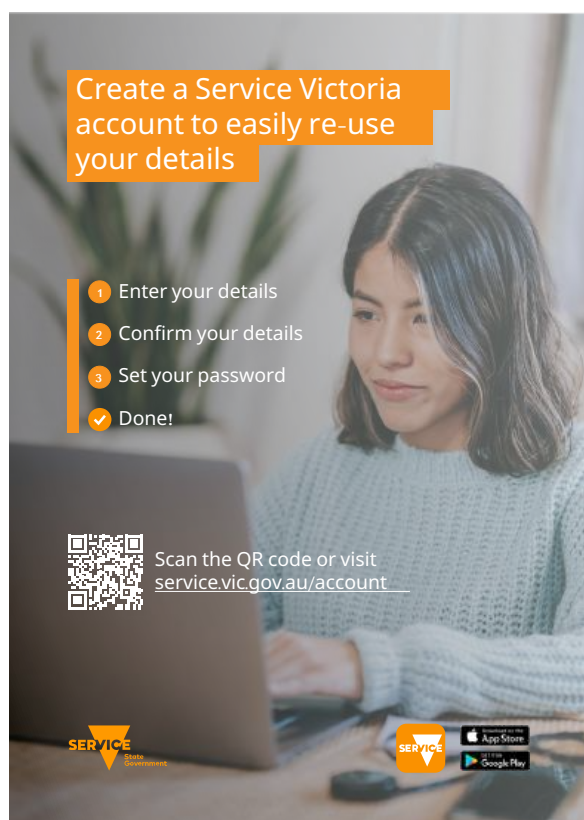
You can check your school zone via the Find My School website.

<https://www.findmyschool.vic.gov.au/>

2027 Digital Prep Enrolment

<https://students.educationapps.vic.gov.au/s/>

We understand that starting school is a big and exciting milestone for both children and families. If you have any questions or would like to visit and see our school in action, we would love to hear from you.



Create a Service Victoria account to easily re-use your details

- 1 Enter your details
- 2 Confirm your details
- 3 Set your password
- ✓ Done!

Scan the QR code or visit service.vic.gov.au/account

KEY ENROLMENT DATES	
20 th April 2026	Applications open
31 st July 2026	Applications close
3 rd -14 th August 2026	Families notified of enrolment outcomes
28 th August 2026	Final date to accept enrolment offer



2027 FOUNDATION TRANSITION



Come and Try Sessions - all welcome

Time: 2:30 pm - 3:00pm

Friday 5th June curriculum day

Friday 12th June

Friday 19th June

2027 Student Transition Sessions

Time: 2:15pm - 3:00 pm

Wednesday 5th August

Wednesday 2nd September

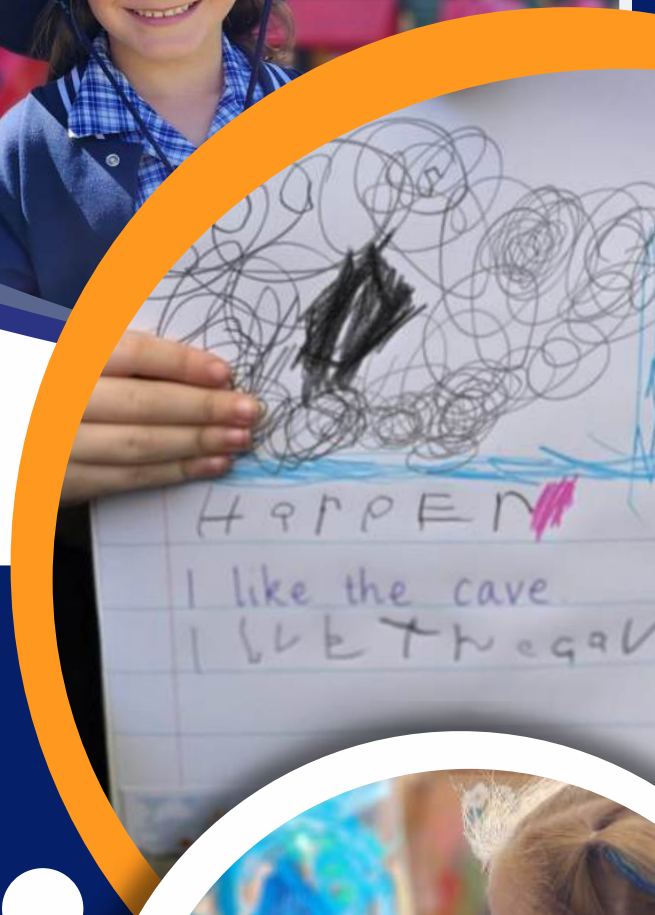
Thursday 15th October

Thursday 12th November

Statewide Transition

Time: 9:00am - 10:30am

Tuesday 8th December



5979 1517



hastingsprimary.vic.edu.au

**2027 TOURS
AVAILABLE NOW**

HASTINGS PS WINTER GEAR

SCARVES

STAY **WARM**.
SHOW SCHOOL **PRIDE**.

\$20

BEANIES

COZY **COMFORT**.
ALL **WINTER** LONG.

\$15

HASTINGS PS

HASTINGS PS

HASTINGS PS

HASTINGS PS



QUALITY GEAR
MADE TO LAST



SUPPORT OUR
SCHOOL



GET YOURS
TODAY!

📍 AVAILABLE FROM THE SCHOOL FRONT OFFICE!

All Aboard!

The Year 5 and 6 students
are going to

Puffing Billy

Friday 28th August 2026



Meet at school at 7:45 am



Participate in a guided STEM workshop at the Lakeside Visitor Centre and enjoy the natural surroundings.



Board Puffing Billy at Lakeside Station after lunch for a ~50 minute journey to Belgrave Station.



Depart on bus back to school from Belgrave Station to arrive at school for a 3:15pm dismissal.

WHAT TO BRING



Full school uniform



Sunglasses (especially for open carriages to protect from soot)



Packed morning tea and lunch



Water bottle



Students will not be able to make purchases at the cafe or gift shop.

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED
BY The Victorian State
Government, Department of
Education Strategic
Partnerships Program

STUDENTS PAY FOR
BUS TRAVEL ONLY! **\$25**



Permission and
Payment by
Tuesday 25th
August

A day of discovery, learning and adventure!

HASTINGS TEAMKIDS NEWSLETTER

Team
Kids

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

It has been another fun-filled fortnight at TeamKids, with children exploring, creating and using their imaginations in so many different ways!

Old Games, New Fun!

We brought out some classic board games that were new to many of our children. It was wonderful to see them learning the rules, taking turns, developing strategies and enjoying the challenge of games they may not have played before. From friendly competition to helping each other understand the rules, these games created plenty of opportunities for connection and problem-solving.

Exploring Cultures Through LEGO

Our LEGO experiences took us around the world! Children explored different cultures and countries by designing penguins inspired by country flags. They used their creativity to incorporate colours, patterns and symbols while discussing the different places and cultures represented. It was a fantastic way to combine imaginative construction with curiosity about the world around us.

The Possibilities Are Endless!

Our Home Corner has been transformed thanks to some wonderful recycled donations from our families and community. With keyboards, laptops and other non-working technology, the children's imaginations quickly took over! The space became everything from a spy headquarters to a busy workplace, with children taking on roles as workers, receptionists and even sending important "emails."

Rainbow Party Fun!

We also celebrated with a colourful Rainbow Party! The children had a wonderful time getting creative with face painting, with some choosing colourful designs while others transformed into their favourite characters and creatures. Our educators joined in the fun too, having their faces painted alongside the children. It was a fantastic opportunity to laugh, connect and celebrate together as a TeamKids community!

A huge thank you to everyone who donated! Your generosity has provided our children with new resources for imaginative and open-ended play. What may look like old or unused technology to us has become a world of possibilities for the children – encouraging creativity, communication, collaboration and dramatic play.

IMPORTANT DATES



THURSDAY 17TH AUGUST

Science Week



MONDAY 8TH AUGUST

Book Week



FRIDAY 18TH AUGUST

Mad Hatters Spring Tea Party (ASC)

TEAMKIDS CLUBS

ASC WEEK: 3/4

MONDAY

TUESDAY

SUSTAINABILITY



WEDNESDAY

S.T.E.M



THURSDAY

CULTURE



FRIDAY



Service Mobile: 0412146722

Office Phone: 1300 035 000

Service Email: hastingsps@teamkids.com.au

Office Email: info@teamkids.com.au