

# Spotswood Primary School

## Newsletter

Term 3 Week 6 • Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024



"Where everybody is somebody"



Dear families,

### Camp

I am writing to you from Phillip Island this morning where we are enjoying the final day of our Year 3/4 camp. I arrived on Wednesday afternoon in time to join our group at the Penguin Parade and have had a great time. We have been so fortunate to have experienced ideal weather conditions over our three days and students have been able to participate fully in all the exciting activities we planned.

As the principal of Spotswood Primary School, I experienced an enormous sense of pride throughout the camp as I was continually approached by the camp staff, the penguin parade staff and the activity staff who wanted to comment on what a lovely school we have. They recognised how well our students supported and encouraged each other, how willing they were to help out in duty groups, their good manners and the positive and genuinely warm relationships between staff and students. Wow. I felt like a proud parent and wanted to let you know how great your kids are.

I'd like to also thank staff for their enthusiasm on camp and their many hours of thoughtful and careful preparation which ensured it was such a positive experience for all. Thank you also to the staff back at school who have been flexible this week with extra yard duties and a changed timetable to make sure everything ran smoothly. I'm sure you will join me in wishing them a relaxing weekend!

### Strategic Plan

At our recent School Council meeting, we endorsed our new Strategic Plan 2024-2028. Families may remember that we underwent our school review earlier in the year. The review gave us the opportunity to reflect on what was working well at Spotswood and what we see as the key goals and strategies to focus on moving forward.

The school review identified our key highlights as:

- School Leadership
- Wellbeing priority
- Community Connection
- PLC (Professional Learning Community) Link School

They focus areas identified for moving forward were:

- Embedding a culture of high expectations for all learners
- Embedding whole school pedagogical practice
- Building staff knowledge of the new Victorian Curriculum 2.0
- Embedding our SWPBS (School Wide Positive Behaviour Support) framework
- Embedding a Multi-Tiered System of support

Our new Strategic Plan Goals are:

**Goal 1** Optimise the learning growth and achievement of every student

**Goal 2** Enhance student engagement, wellbeing and inclusion

The Strategic Plan offers a broad overview of the work we will undertake. Each year we will develop an Annual Implementation Plan to drive our work. You will find the Strategic Plan on our website here

<https://www.spotswoodps.vic.edu.au/school-strategic-plan/>

## NAPLAN 2024 Results

At our School Council meeting last week we presented a summary of our NAPLAN 2024 data. Our results are a pleasing reflection of the impact of our PLC (professional learning community) approach to planning, assessment and teaching practice.

The tables below are a summary of the percentage of students achieving strong or exceeding level in NAPLAN. It also shows a comparison to similar schools and state data. Similar schools are categorised as those that have a demographic and socio-economic status that reflects the same kind of community as Spotswood Primary.

### Year 3 students achieving strong or exceeding level in NAPLAN

	Spotswood	Similar Schools	State
Reading	<b>91%</b>	81%	69%
Writing	<b>93%</b>	87%	78%
Spelling	<b>71%</b>	66%	61%
Grammar & Punctuation	<b>71%</b>	66%	55%
Numeracy	<b>87%</b>	78%	65%

### Year 5 students achieving strong or exceeding level in NAPLAN

	Spotswood	Similar Schools	State
Reading	<b>90%</b>	86%	73%
Writing	<b>84%</b>	81%	73%
Spelling	<b>73%</b>	73%	67%
Grammar & Punctuation	<b>68%</b>	75%	64%
Numeracy	<b>69%</b>	79%	67%

This information helps us identify areas to focus our improvement on and where to prioritise our resources moving ahead. For example, an immediate impact for us is to broaden our intervention program to include a greater focus on numeracy.

## Staffing News

Yesterday I shared the news with staff and families of 5/6M that Ms Gabe Mullins has accepted an Assistant Principal position at Kingsville Primary School to start next term. This promotion is an acknowledgment of Ms Mullins leadership and we congratulate her on this next step in her career.

As a Learning Specialist at Spotswood Primary School, Ms Mullins has led the professional development of staff in inquiry curriculum, coordinated staff teams, whole school events, camps, excursions etc. The students who have been in Gabe's classes over her time at Spotswood will be grateful for the impact she has had on their growth and learning and I know many families will be sad to say goodbye. I'm sure you will join me in congratulating Ms Mullins on this exciting opportunity.

## Pupil Free Day – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Families are reminded that our final Pupil Free Day for this year will be held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Staff will be spending the day engaged in some professional learning about our wellbeing priority in the new Strategic Plan.

Kelly Club is available for families who may need care and supervision for their children that day.

## Slow Food Market

The market is back again tomorrow. How quickly a month flies by!

## Father's Day Activity

Next week students will have the opportunity to create a small gift for the fathers and other special people in our families. You will find a payment request on Compass to cover the cost of this activity.

## Book Week

Book Week is an exciting time at Spotswood Primary School. This year we will celebrate Book Week in Week 8 with activities taking place on Wednesday 4th September and Thursday 5th September.

### Wednesday:

Book Week Performance (sessions for Prep to Year 6)

### Thursday:

Book Week Dress Up Parade (9.10am on the basketball court)

Book Week Activity Rotations (11.30am - 1.30pm)

Please provide permission and payment via the Compass portal for your child to participate in the Book Week activities.

Jackie Green  
Principal

## Curriculum Update – Term 3 Week 7

Prep	
Reading	<b>WALT</b> predict what the story is about <b>WALT</b> ask and answer questions related to the text before, during and after reading
Writing	<b>WALT</b> write short informational books <b>WALT</b> select interesting information to include in a piece of writing
Spelling	<b>Revision Week</b> all sounds/ letters and common words as covered in the previous 4 weeks -car, king, tray, shark
Maths	<b>Number and Algebra</b> Pattern: Sort and classify familiar objects, and copy, continue and create patterns with objects and drawings
SWPB / Respectful Relationships	Help Seeking: Don't drop the ball game.
Grade 1 / 2	
Reading	<b>Mentor Text:</b> Range of Informative texts. Focus: Answering questions from a text (think and Search Questions)
Writing	<b>Genre:</b> Informational <b>Skills:</b> Dictionaries and vocabulary
Spelling	<b>Spelling Focus:</b> ir as in shirt
Maths	<b>Time:</b> recognise and read the time represented on an analogue clock to the hour, half-hour and quarter hour
SWPB / Respectful Relationships	<b>Respectful Relationships</b> Activity 4: Using personal strengths to resist gender stereotyping
Grade 3 / 4	
Reading	<b>WALT: Literature Circle Practise</b> Creative Connector Year 3: identify implied meaning connecting ideas in different parts of a text. Year 4: describe literal and implied meaning connecting ideas in different texts.
Writing	<b>WALT:</b> Plan a text that entertains and informs.

Spelling	<b>Spelling Focus: ti</b> as in station
Maths	<b>Measurement and Geometry:</b> Shape and Space
SWPB / Respectful Relationships	SWPB review
<b>Grade 5 / 6</b>	
Reading	<b>Reading Skills:</b> -evaluate the quality of illustrations or graphics and share opinions -use knowledge to infer the important information in a text
Writing	<b>Genre:</b> Hybrid (Narrative & Information) <b>Focus:</b> Refine & Produce Continuing to work on picture book publications Endpapers, front and back cover, blurb, dedication page, publishing page, author page  <b>Focus:</b> Illustration Analysing types of illustrations Experimenting with different forms of illustrations Illustrations/collages for our picture books
Spelling	<b>Prefixes /au/ as in sauce/auto</b> Smart spelling grid and spelling activities throughout the week
Maths	<b>Focus:</b> Fractions
SWPB / Respectful Relationships	Father's Day activity



Justin Canny  
Assistant Principal

## What's Happening In Our Classrooms

### Prep – Maths – Sharing

In Prep we are currently learning about sharing in maths. Students have been exploring different strategies to help us to share objects equally into different sized groups. Sometimes we choose to share one at a time and other times it is better to share with small groups. We have also been exploring the concept of equal and how we can check that our sharing is fair. Students have practised sharing with a range of materials such as counters, blocks, icy pole sticks and cookies (paper ones not real cookies unfortunately!).



Arthur & Hugo



Henry & Oscar





Nate & Bodhi



India & Ruby

Melanie Voigt  
Prep V Classroom Teacher

### Year 1/2 – Time!

The 1/2s are currently learning about time! Last week we spent some time learning about the days of the weeks and months of the year. This week it was time to learn how to tell the time. Earlier in the week we spent some time carefully creating our own analogue clocks to assist us in our time telling!

If you have a child in 1/2 be sure to ask them about half past and even see what they can tell you about quarter past!





Tianne Ball  
1/2B Classroom Teacher

### **Year 3/4 – Phillip Island Camp**

This week most of the Grade 3/4 students have spent time down on 'The Island' enjoying the sights and bravely participating in some thrilling activities. There were many 'Ooohs and Aaahs' as we watched the delightful and determined Little Penguins march up the beach to find their rookeries. In contrast there were screams of delight as the children and some of the teachers flew through the air on the giant swing. Overall a fabulous time has been had as the students investigated pond life, learnt archery, tried not to get wet in the canoes and worked together as a team to blitz the initiatives course!

Tracey Kelly  
3/4K Classroom Teacher



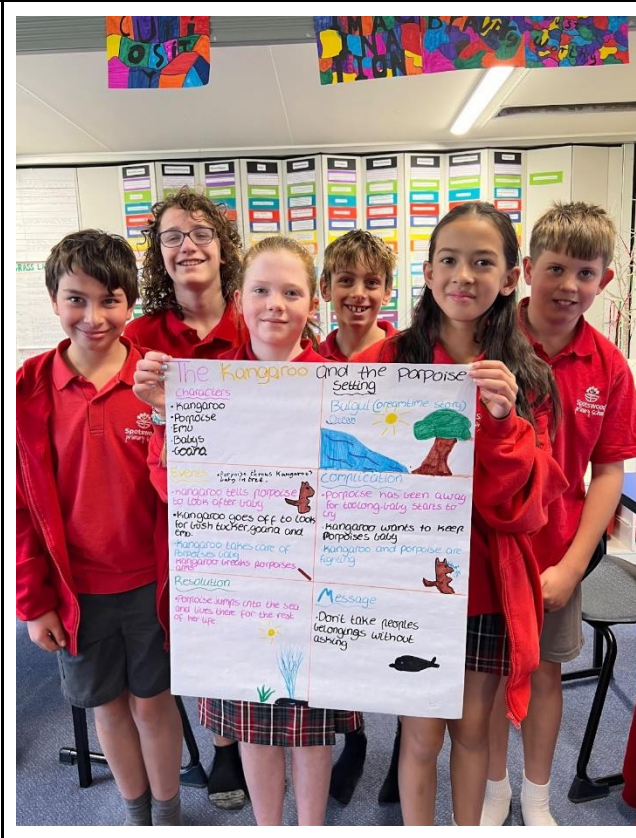
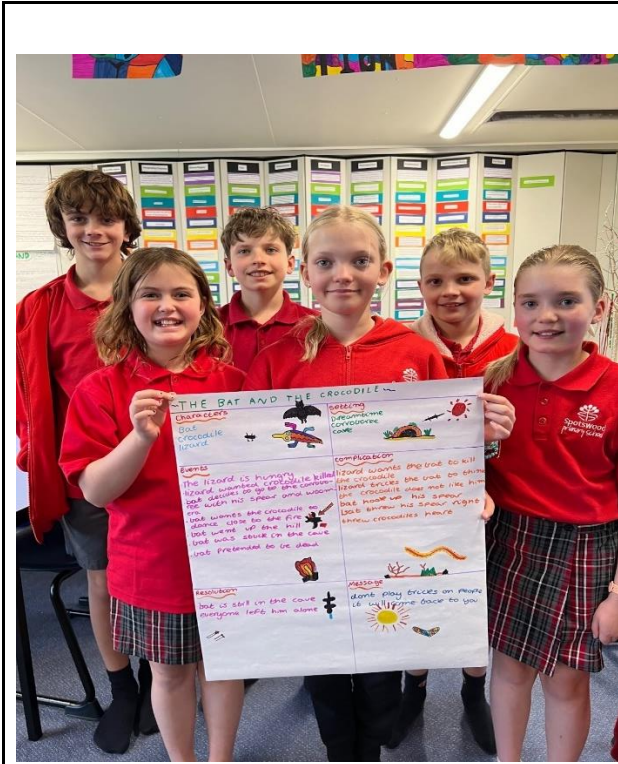






## Year 5/6 – Reading – Dreamtime Stories

In Years 5/6, students read Dreamtime stories as mentor texts to explore symbolism, and storytelling traditions. Through these narratives, they learned to understand the structure of these stories as cultural transmission, an explanation of natural phenomena, and a teaching of moral lessons. In groups, students analysed story structures, noting how sequences of events—introduction, events, conflict, resolution—shaped each story's message. Symbolism, often seen through animals, landscapes, and nature, became a key focus, helping students uncover deeper meanings and messages.



Gabrielle Mullins  
5/6M Classroom Teacher and Learning Specialist



## Specialist – House Sports Day

After watching the athletes strut their stuff on the track in Paris over the previous weeks it was the Spotty Primary School students turn to take centre stage on Friday at our annual House Athletics day. What a joy it was to watch our students run, jump and throw their best efforts throughout the day while decked out from head to toe in their house colours. All of our students were so well behaved and gave their all in each of the different events, which makes them all winners!

Our wonderful staff were supported on the day by a group of Year 11 students from Emmanuel College who did a great job convening the different field events on the day.

A group of 40 grade 3-6 students will now represent our school next Friday at the District Athletics day, so good luck to all of them.

Only thing left to do is to tally the scores and find out which house will be the champion this year, with the big announcement being made at our Assembly on Friday the 30th of August.

Chris Lamb  
PE Teacher



















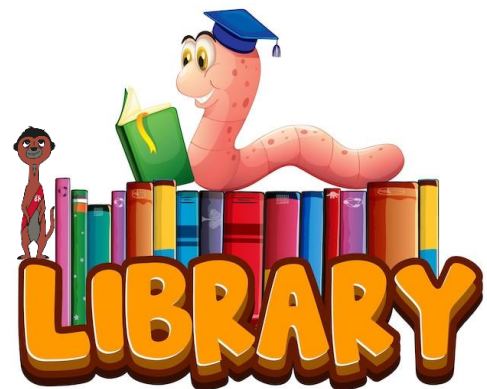
## Library News

### Request for Parent Volunteers in the Spotty Library

The Spotty Library is seeking some new parent volunteers, who can help us with maintaining our collection of beautiful books and keeping the library an engaging place for our students to develop a love of reading. Our current volunteers have been doing a fantastic job, but unfortunately some of them need to move on at the end of the year. Therefore, we're looking for some fresh faces who would be willing to help with jobs like:

- Tidying the bookshelves and displays
- Returning books in the library system
- Re-shelving books
- Cataloguing
- Book covering
- Weeding out old/ unwanted / damaged books and removing them from the library system

If you are able and willing to help out, please contact Emily Matheson by email at [emily.matheson3@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:emily.matheson3@education.vic.gov.au)



To:

Leon, Morris, Sonny, Ned D, Atticus, Emilia, Zoe Y, Marlow H, Django, Daniel S, Lennox C, Harry M, Lottie, Lucy, Hagir, Jack Power, Millie B, Isabelle G

## Dates To Remember:

- Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August ..... Slow Food Market (9am – 1pm)
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August..... State Schools Spectacular Rehearsal (Melbourne Town Hall)
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August..... Altona District Athletics Day (Newport Athletics Track)  
Assembly (3.15pm)
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September..... Pupil Free Day (no children at school)
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September ..... Book Week Performance
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September ..... Book Week Dress Up Parade (9.10am)  
Book Week Activity Rotations (11.30am)  
Sushi Day
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September ..... Assembly (3.15pm)
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September ..... Division Athletics Day  
Finance meeting (5.30pm)  
School Council meeting (6.15pm)
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September ..... State Schools Spectacular Dress Rehearsal (John Cain Arena)
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September ..... State Schools Spectacular Dress Rehearsal (John Cain Arena)  
Assembly (3.15pm)
- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September ..... State Schools Spectacular Performances (John Cain Arena)
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September ..... Year 3-6 Auslan Incursion
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September ..... Footy Day  
Spotty National Week of Deaf People signing performances (2.15pm)  
Last Day of Term 3 (2.30pm dismissal)
- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September ..... Slow Food Market (9am – 1pm)
- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October ..... Art Show