

Strathaird Primary School News

18/2/2026

Edition 2



VISION STATEMENT AND MISSION

To empower students to strive for personal achievement, embrace challenges and develop the skills and values that enable them to become lifelong learners and engaged responsible citizens in an ever changing global society.

Strathaird



Primary School



Contact Us:

20 Sherwood Road
Narre Warren South, 3805

PO Box 4124
Narre Warren South, 3805

9705 3800

Strathaird.ps@education.vic.gov.au

www.strathairdps.vic.edu.au

Principal Page

CURRICULUM DAY

Friday 6 March is a student free day, therefore students will not come to school on that day. Staff will be working with a Consultant to continue updating their knowledge and practice in the teaching and learning of Numeracy.

LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY

Monday 9 March is a public holiday for Labour Day.

School will return on **Tuesday 10 March**.

NAPLAN DATES 2026

NAPLAN will take place for Years 3 and 5 during the week Wednesday 11 March with testing on Writing, Reading, Conventions of Language and Numeracy. Our students are well prepared for NAPLAN so hopefully students will be feeling happy, calm and ready to do the best they can. *Please see information on pages 4 and 5. Information is available from the Office in other languages.*

TAC ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION

Congratulations to our new Prep families on completing the first three weeks of school! We know this is a big transition, and we're so proud of how the students (and parents and carers) are settling into school life. As you and your child continue to establish your daily routines, it's a great time to revisit the safe travel tips and resources available through the TAC's Safe Migration Project. These practical tools are designed to help families travel safely to and from school, whether you're walking, cycling, scootering, or driving. Here's what you can do: Watch the short, engaging video that shows the many ways children get to school and highlights the importance of making each journey safe. Watch the <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWFBPh33pMQ>

Read the fact sheet (available in multiple languages) for practical, easy-to-follow safe travel tips for parents and carers, available here [The Safe Migration Project - Starting Primary School | Road Safety Education](#).

At Strathaird Primary School, we're committed to supporting the safety of every child in our school community.

PANCAKE DAY

The school will be holding a special Pancake Day on Tuesday 3rd March. This is a special treat, a free event, for our students organised by the School with the help of some parent volunteers. Students will have a choice of a plain pancake, or lemon and sugar, jam or maple syrup topping.

Please see Free Pancake Day note in the Compass feed.

Principal Page

SCHOOL COUNCIL

There are 4 two year terms available on School Council. These positions need to be filled, can you please help us?

The School Council is involved in many aspects of the school including approving policies and monitoring finance. School Council members need to attend eight meetings over the year and most positions are for two years. We encourage parents to please consider nominating, I feel sure you will find it a positive and rewarding way to contribute to the School.

Important update

From this year, parents, carers and community members will need a valid Working with Children Check (WWCC) before they can nominate for School Council. If you're thinking about putting your hand up, now is the time to apply.

The process and timeline for School Council elections is outlined below. If you have any questions, please contact me at School.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2026

All government schools in Victoria have a School Council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within state-wide guidelines. In doing this, a School Council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

This year there are **four Parent Member vacancies (two-year terms)** on School Council.

- * The election process will commence with a call for nominations from **Monday 23rd February**.
- * Nomination forms can be obtained from the School Office.
- * Nominations close and are due to the School Office by **4:00pm on Monday 2nd March**.
- * The list of candidates will be posted outside the School Office on **Wednesday 4th Mar**.
- * If there are more nominations than vacant positions, a ballot process will take place. Ballot Papers will be distributed to all families on **Tuesday 10th Mar**.
- * All Ballot Papers must be received by the closing of the Ballot at **4:00pm Monday 16th March**.
- * Counting Ballot and Declaring Poll will take place on **Tuesday 17th March**.
- * The first meeting of the newly appointed School Council will be held on **Tuesday 24th March**.

Important Parking Reminder

We have received several complaints from local residents regarding a vehicle parked in a  **No Standing zone** this morning, blocking a nearby street. The vehicle was parked near the child care centre on **The Common**, with the driver leaving the vehicle unattended, **resulting in no other vehicles being able to enter or exit the street**.

We kindly remind all families to please be respectful of local residents and other road users when dropping off or collecting children.

For everyone's safety, ensure you park only in **designated and appropriate parking areas**.

Also, please be aware the Council are regularly patrolling school streets and if you are parked where you shouldn't be they WILL fine you.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our school community safe and considerate.

Principal Page

NAPLAN 2026

Information for parents and carers



Why do students do NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students have the opportunity to undertake.

As students progress through their school years, it is important to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum, and allows parents and carers to see how their child is progressing against national proficiency standards.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with more information about students' educational progress.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working, and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

Your child will do the NAPLAN tests online

Online NAPLAN tests are designed to provide precise results and are engaging for students. The tests are tailored (or adaptive), which means that each test presents questions that may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses. This helps students remain engaged with the assessment.

Tailored testing allows a wider range of student abilities to be assessed and measures student achievement more precisely. A student's overall NAPLAN result is based on both the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions challenging; they may be taking a more complex test pathway.

All Year 3 students will continue to complete the writing assessment on paper.

What does NAPLAN assess?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum.

Students sit assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The questions assess content aligned to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.

All government and non-government education authorities contribute to the development of NAPLAN test materials.

To find out more about NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au.

Participation in NAPLAN

NAPLAN is for all Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. ACARA supports inclusive testing, so all students have the opportunity to participate in the National Assessment Program.

Information on adjustments available for students with disability who have diverse functional abilities and needs is provided in the [National protocols for test administration](#).

Schools should work with parents, carers and students to identify, on a case-by-case basis, reasonable adjustments required for individual students with disability to access NAPLAN.

To help inform these decisions, you may consult the National protocols for test administration (linked above), [NAPLAN public demonstration site](#), the [Guide for schools to assist students with disability to access NAPLAN](#), and our [series of videos](#) where parents, carers, teachers and students share their experiences in using NAPLAN adjustments.

In exceptional circumstances, a student with a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background, may be granted a formal exemption.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on adjustments for students with disability or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

Principal Page

What if my child is absent from school on NAPLAN test days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule.

What can I do to support my child?

Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN. You can support your child by letting them know that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and reminding them to simply do their best. Some explanation of NAPLAN is useful to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the tests. However, it is not necessary for parents and carers to do this. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of services by coaching providers.

See the types of questions and tools available in the online NAPLAN assessments at [NAP – Public demonstration site](#).

How is my child's performance reported?

NAPLAN results are reported against proficiency standards. There is a standard for each assessment area at each year level. Proficiency standards provide clear information on student achievement. They are set at a challenging but reasonable level expected of the child at the time of NAPLAN testing, based mainly on what has been taught in previous years of schooling.

Student achievement is shown against 4 levels of proficiency: Exceeding, Strong, Developing and Needs additional support.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be provided by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school. If further assistance is required, you should contact your relevant state or territory test administration authority. ACARA cannot provide individual student reports.

How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students, parents and carers use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help identify students who need greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas of need to improve teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review the effectiveness of programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see information about the performance of schools over time at [myschool.edu.au](#).

Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at [nap.edu.au/TAA](#)
- visit [nap.edu.au](#)

To learn how ACARA manages personal information for NAPLAN, visit [nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy](#).

NAPLAN timetable

The NAPLAN test window is 9 days. This is to accommodate schools that may not have the capacity to complete the tests in a shorter time frame. **The NAPLAN test window starts on Wednesday 11 March 2026 and finishes on Monday 23 March 2026.** Schools **must** schedule the tests as soon as possible within the testing window, prioritising the first week.

Test	Scheduling requirements	Duration	Test description
Writing	Year 3 students must do the writing test on paper on day 1 only. Years 5, 7 and 9 writing tests must start on day 1 (schools must prioritise completion of writing on day 1, with day 2 only used where there are technical/logistical limitations).	Year 3: 40 min Year 5: 42 min Year 7: 42 min Year 9: 42 min	Students are given an idea or topic called a writing stimulus (or prompt) and asked to write a response in a particular genre (narrative or persuasive writing).
Reading	To be completed after the writing test.	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts, and then answer related questions.
Conventions of language	To be completed after the reading test.	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 45 min Year 7: 45 min Year 9: 45 min	Students are assessed on spelling, grammar and punctuation.
Numeracy	To be completed after the conventions of language test.	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Students are assessed on number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability.

Theircare



Enrol for before and after school care now ...so you're ready when life happens!

Whether you're working, have an appointment, or something unexpected comes up, TheirCare supports parents with outside hours school care that's easy to book, inclusive and fun for kids.

- * Welcoming educators that your kids know and trust
- * It costs nothing to enrol, you won't pay unless you book a session
- * Care can cost as little as a few dollars per session (after CCS)
- * Flexible care to support busy families
- * Fun, engaging activities and nutritious snacks
- * Social interaction and time spent with friends
- * Part of your school community, contributing over \$20M to schools across Australia

Enrol today - it takes just a few minutes. Click [here](#) or scan the code to get started.



www.Theircare.com.au 1300 072 410



Theircare



One less thing to worry about later with Before and After School Care at Theircare

Even if you don't need before or after school care right now, enrolling your child means it's there when you do.

Work runs late. Meetings pop up. Appointments happen. Kids get invited places. Life moves fast, and having care already set up makes those days so much easier.

The good news? There's no catch.

- ***It costs nothing to enrol***
- ***You won't pay unless you actually book a session***
- ***Care can cost as little as a few dollars per session (after CCS)***

So you can enrol, be prepared, and only use it when you need it.

Your child will be with caring educators, doing fun activities, and spending time with friends in a safe, familiar space.

It only takes a few minutes to set up and future you will be glad it's done.

👉 [Click here to enrol](https://theircare.com.au/families/)

<https://theircare.com.au/families/>

TheirCare

Your TheirCare Support Team



Strathaird Primary School TheirCare

☎ 0447 006 196

✉ strathaird@theircare.com.au



Joanne Tyrrell

Area Manager

0403 109 537

joannet@theircare.edu.au

Your Area Manager oversees the services in your region. You will see them in your service once every 2 weeks. They work closely with your Coordinator to ensure they are well supported in all areas, and are your first contact should you need anything.

Maria King

Operations Manager

0448 673 807

mariak@theircare.edu.au

Your Ops Manager is a member of our broader operations team, and their role is to ensure that we live up to the expectations of each school community.



Jessica Carnell

Senior Partnerships Manager

0438 501 882

jessicac@theircare.edu.au

Your Partnerships Manager looks after all our schools in your state. They will continue to be available to chat throughout the life of the partnership if you ever need.



Jacob Schuster

National Operations Manager

0499 003 446

jacobs@theircare.edu.au



Michael Abela

Chief Executive Officer

0412 877 460

michaela@theircare.edu.au

Customer Service

1300 072 410

info@theircare.com.au

Our Customer Service team at HQ is ready to help with any of your family's enrolment, booking, billing queries. Our Customer Service team also assists parents with feedback, both challenges and celebrations.

CSEF Applications



Department
of Education

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's financial circumstances and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS and EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school excursions, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or support an out of home care student you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid directly to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is \$400 for all school students.

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments:** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances:** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>



Term 1 2026

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

FEBRUARY

16th	17th	18th	19th	20th JNR Assembly
23rd	24th Gr 5 Body Investigation Incursion	25th	26th Gr 5 Body Investigation Incursion	27th SNR Assembly

MARCH

2nd March District Swimming Clean up Australia Day	3rd Pancake Day	4th	5th	6th Curriculum Day - No School
9th Labour Day - No School	10th	11th Grade 6 Camp Naplan	12th Grade 6 Camp Naplan	13th SNR Assembly Grade 6 Camp Naplan
16th	17th 2nd Hand Uniform Stall	18th	19th	20th JNR Assembly Gr 3-6 Cross Country
23rd	24th School Council Meeting 6.30pm	25th	26th Gr 5 Camp Full Payment Due GRIP Leadership Conference	27th Gr 5 Camp Documents Due SNR Assembly

Principal Page



Strathaird has moved from Sentral to Compass in 2026.

It is very important that all parents are using COMPASS.

You should have received a login, password and instructions.

If you would like to learn about Compass before then, please check out these links:

[Parent Compass App - YouTube](#)

[A guide for parents & families | Compass Education AU](#)

If you watch the YouTube videos, please watch 1, 3, 4, 6 and 8 as these are the ones relevant to our school.

Parents can download the Compass app for our school to start receiving notifications.

Prep news



First term in Prep

This term, the prep students have been working very hard and have settled in to the routines of school beautifully. They are showing amazing skills and have made some wonderful friendships already.

We are so proud of everything they have already accomplished and they too should be proud of the efforts they have put in and how hard they have been working.

We have been learning some of our sounds, numbers to 10, how to read words and sentences and we have been making some crafts in our writing sessions for us to talk about and write about. Here are some snapshots from first term of our wonderful prep students.



SUSTAINABILITY NEWS



Rubbish Free Lunches.

It is great to see SO MANY students having a rubbish free lunch every day. We are seeing lots of healthy and delicious lunches and many parents putting in a great effort to make sure their children's lunch is rubbish free. Those students with rubbish in their lunch boxes are remembering to take it home.

Some easy lunchbox ideas include cut up fruit and vegetables like carrot, celery and cucumber (some children even have a little container of dip!) Other foods include sandwiches and wraps, with NO CLINGWRAP, rice and pasta dishes. Thermos flasks work well for hot foods like chicken nuggets and rice.

Don't forget that clean silver foil from lunches can be placed in the blue recycling bin and ANY food scraps can go in the green waste bin with the green lid.

Recycling Updates in the community

Recycle old footwear at Rebel Sport



Recycle blister packs at Chemist Wearhouse or Blooms chemist



SUSTAINABILITY NEWS



Clean Up Australia Day is on Sunday, 1st March, 2026!
Together, we can make a big, positive impact on our environment - one piece of litter at a time!

Isn't it amazing to think that what was started thirty-five years ago by Ian Kiernan, AO – just an “average Australian” with a simple idea to make a difference in his own backyard – has now grown into the nation’s largest community-based environmental event. It’s held every year on the first Sunday in March, bringing local communities together across the nation.

Over the years, more than 23-million wonderful volunteers have stepped up, pulled on their gloves, and donated their time to improve the environment.

Registration for Clean Up Australia Day is free for communities and schools (businesses pay a small fee) and includes a free Clean Up kit with everything you need to run a safe and impactful event – including our public liability insurance cover.

Clean Up Australia Day has a huge impact each year. These are the results from 2025

 2,154,254 Volunteer hours	 4,405 School Clean Ups
 1,930 Business Clean Ups	 1,077,127 Volunteers
 16,320 Sites	 9,985 Community Clean Ups
 251 Councils Supporting	



COMMUNITY

Community Clean Ups include individuals, friends, family, faith-based groups, local community youth groups, councils, and more!

Strathaird Primary students will have the opportunity to participate in Clean Up Australia Day at school on Monday March 2nd. If you would like to get your family involved, click the link below to register for a community clean up.
<https://www.cleanup.org.au/register-a-clean-up/>



Meet some of the 2026 Marine Ambassadors!

The role of the Marine Ambassadors are to educate the school community about ways to protect Marine life. The work with the Dolphin Research Institute in the "i see, i care" programme.

Name	Amelia Kaczynski
My favourite ocean animal is	Seahorse
	Why I wanted to be a Marine Ambassador
	to build awareness about water and sea animals.
	What I hope to achieve as an Ambassador
	to build awareness about water and sea animals.

Name	Christopher Taylor
My favourite ocean animal is	Whale Sharks
	Why I wanted to be a Marine Ambassador
	Because I love water & marine life and I just want to know more about it.
	What I hope to achieve as an Ambassador
	I want to know as much as possible about water & marine life.

Name	Zoey Fleming
My favourite ocean animal is	Turtles
	Why I wanted to be a Marine Ambassador
	I wanted to be a Marine Ambassador because I want to help protect sea animals.
	What I hope to achieve as an Ambassador
	I hope I can help to raise awareness about sea animals.

Advertising

KIDS KARATE

(5 YEARS & OVER)

(Strathaird Community Centre)

Monday: 6.00pm to 7.00pm

- * Learn Self Defence *
- * Gain Confidence, Awareness Focus, Keep Fit.
- * Learn Respect, Discipline *
- * Affordable Fees *
- * **FIRST LESSON FREE** *



Call : [0418 809 808](tel:0418809808) for all Info.

Open Evening

Wed 4 March, 5:00pm - 7:15pm
All new and prospective families welcome!



Scan to book

Open Day
Principal
School Tours
9:30am &
12:00pm



(03) 8795 9400

hpsc.vic.edu.au

Play Junior FOOTY 2026

PRE-SEASON ON NOW

COME & TRY

SWEENEY RESERVE,
NARRE WARREN
WEDNESDAYS 5-8PM

REGO NIGHT

WEDNESDAY
11 MARCH, 6-9PM
B'BALL COURT @
STRATHAIRD PRIMARY

From 1 April we return to Strathaird Reserve.

NarreSouthSaintsJFNC.com.au

More info, contact Jaz on 0493 776 856 or email registrar.nssjnc@gmail.com

I trust my feelings – I ask for help when something doesn't feel right.



Dusty the frilled neck lizard

Remember to:

Listen to your body clues.

Close the screen if something doesn't feel right.

Ask a trusted adult for help.

Meet Dusty's friends

They have an important online safety message for you too!



River the sugar glider



Wanda the echidna



Billie the bilby

I am responsible – I protect my personal information.



Wanda the echidna

Remember to:

Protect your personal information.

Use apps and games for your age.

Look after the devices you use.

Meet Wanda's friends

They have an important online safety message for you too!



River the sugar glider



Dusty the frilled neck lizard



Billie the bilby

I investigate – I question what I see, hear and do online.



Billie the bilby

Remember to:

Make good choices when you're online.

Be curious and ask questions.

Know when time's up online.

Meet Billie's friends

They have an important online safety message for you too!



River the sugar glider



Dusty the frilled neck lizard



Wanda the echidna

I show respect – I am kind and caring to others.



River the sugar glider

Remember to:

Always show respect online.

Take turns and share when playing online.

Ask others before taking or sharing their photo or video.

Meet River's friends

They have an important online safety message for you too!



Billie the bilby



Dusty the frilled neck lizard



Wanda the echidna

Important Parent Resources

PROTECT

Everyone has the right to be safe and be protected from abuse. No one should behave in a way that makes you feel unsafe or afraid, including anyone in your family, anyone at school or anywhere else in the community. Tell a teacher or any adult at your school if you feel unsafe.



It's everyone's responsibility. Adults at school must listen and respond to concerns about child abuse. If you suspect abuse of any child or young person, you have a responsibility to report it, even if you are not sure.

Further information & resources
www.education.vic.gov.au/protect



Attendance

Please ensure your children are at school on time. Students should be at their class by 8.50am ready to begin class by 9am.

If your child is absent, please notify the school through the Parent Portal on Compass or call the admin on 9705 3800.

Every Minute Counts

Minutes late each school day	Days lost
5 minutes	• 3 days lost
10 minutes	• 6.5 days lost
15 minutes	• 10 days lost
20 minutes	• 13 days lost
30 minutes	• 19 days lost

But I was only a BIT late?



In a school Year

Honesty

We are truthful in what we say and do, people can rely on us and trust us .



Responsibility

We make good choices and are accountable for our actions .



Strathaird



Primary School

School Values PROGRAM



Respect

We value people's worth and qualities and treat them in a polite and friendly manner.



Compassion

We care about others, we treat them with kindness and we help people when they are in need .