Strathaird Primary School News

02/09/2026

Edition 14

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

EST' 2005

Primary School

School Values

Honesty Respect Responsibility Compassion

Contact Us:

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9705 3800

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Principal Page

FATHERS DAY STALL

A huge thank you to Sarah McKenzie, Brooke Bontemps, Dee Marion, Simone Doufexis and Michelle Reid for running our Father's Day stall and Sharon McMahon for all the effort she has put into overseeing the stall. Without these wonderful people we wouldn't be able to run these events. The excitement for our students says it all, they absolutely love purchasing a gift for their dad's and trying to keep it a secret until Sunday.

WISHING ALL THE FATHERS A HAPPY, EXTRA SPECIAL DAY ON SUNDAY 😊

PARENT OPINION SURVEY

This is a friendly reminder for one parent per household to please try to complete the Parent Opinion survey by Friday 18 September, as your feedback is an important part of understanding school experiences and shaping improvement.
For those parents who have already completed the survey, thanks so much :)

Friday 18th September is the last day of school before the holiday break. School finishes at 2.30 p.m.

BOOK WEEK PARADE

A big thank you to students who dressed up and/or bought their favourite book to school last Friday. It was a wonderful celebration of books and the SYMPHONY OF STORIES - how different books, characters, voices, and genres come together like instruments in a grand orchestra to create one rich, harmonious, and magical reading experience.
A big thank you to the amazing parents who supported their students to join in the spirit of Book Week. A big thank you Hayley Harkin and Jodie Kaur for organising this great event.

Our school rules and e-scooters

*No e-scooters are to be ridden to school by students.

*Parents or older siblings, 16 and above, can walk e-scooters on to school grounds to pick up other students but they must observe the road rules by carrying a helmet, not carrying a passenger, for example.

*No siblings under 16 can bring an e-scooter on to school grounds to pick up students.

Are e-scooters legal in Victoria?

Yes, but to legally ride an e-scooter, you must:

- be at least 16 years old
- wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet
- ride at no more than 20km/h
- use a compliant e-scooter
- use flashing or steady front and rear lights, if riding at night or in low light
- follow Victorian road rules.

Principal Page

Principal Page

Term 3 2026

SEPTEMBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
31st Swimming Grade 1, 2A, 2B and 2C Book Week Fathers Day Stall	**1st** Fathers Day Stall Gr 6 Lightning Prem	**2nd**	**3rd** Bookclub Due today	**4th** District Athletics SNR Assembly
7th	**8th** School Council Meeting 6.30pm Marine Ambassadors Excursion Swimming Prep, 2D, 2E	**9th**	**10th** Prep Information Night 6pm-7pm	**11th** Purple Day JNR Assembly
14th Divisional Athletics	**15th**	**16th** Canteen Closed Gr 1 Art Show 3.15pm - 3.45pm Swimming Prep, 2D, 2E	**17th**	**18th** Last Day Term 3 - 2.20pm Finish Footy Parade No Assembly

SUNSMART®

Don't forget your Hat

From the 1st of September don't forget to wear your hat every day.

We are a sunsmart School.

Term 4 2026

OCT

5th School Returns today	**6th**	**16th**	**17th**	**18th** SNR Assembly

Student of the Week

Week 6

Prep A	Paramvir	For working hard and doing some amazing writing. You have being doing a superstar job Paramvir, well done!
Prep B	Ainaz	For using your blending skills to write full sentences. Well done!.
Prep C	Wafa	For using your sounds and blending skills to read tricky words! Great Work!
Prep D	Evelyn	For working hard to sound out unknown words during Reading. Well done!
Prep E	Sofia	For her continued enthusiasm for everything we are learning. Keep up the hard work!
1A	Ava	For being a great thinker and sharing her ideas about patterns! Great work!
1B	Bonnie	Well done on writing a fantastic artist statement! Keep up the amazing work!
1C	Rayan	For adding new descriptive words to his writing! Well done Rayan
1D	Zeke	For an amazing effort with your reading! Keep it up Zeke :)
1E	Brock	For working hard to stay focused and avoid distractions during learning time.
2A	Harfateh	For working hard through the writing process of your narrative!
2B	Ojas	for working though the writing process to create a wonderful Kamishibai story!
2C	Atena	For working hard during Reading sessions!
2D	Nawid	For learning the days of the week!
2E	Max	For working hard on his maths skills!
3A	Yahya	Amazing work on his information report!
3B	Nadim	For his amazing work in all areas this week!
3C	Vihaan	For working hard on your multiplication facts!
3D	Dustin	For putting in a huge improvement in his pre-write assessment on spiders. You included some amazing facts and great subheadings!
4A	Jowakou	For making good choices in the classroom and staying focused!
4B	Ethan	For challenging yourself during our Maths sessions!
4C	Kody	For being a self-manager and ensuring he stayed focussed and on task. Well done!
4D	Amitoj	For her excellent homework this week! Amazing!
4E	Cedric	For his kindness and helpful nature in the classroom!
5A	Makayla	For being inclusive toward her peers in and out of the classroom
5B	Karanvir	For consistently participating in class discussions, confidently sharing ideas, and working well independently to complete learning tasks.
5C	Roya	for consistently presenting beautiful work and taking pride in everything they do.
5D	Yevin	
5E	Will	For having a go at challenging himself in Maths.
6A	Colin	Colin has shared great ideas and contributed well to his group's Market Day activity.
6B	Jerry	For using great monitoring skills during Guided Reading
6D	Irfan	For pushing yourself in your learning and always trying to achieve your best.

Student of the Week

Week 7

Prep A	Lucas	For working super hard and doing such a great job listening for sounds in words. You are a superstar!
Prep C	Zoey	For showing kindness and care towards your classmates. Well Done!
Prep D	Melisa	For working hard to sound out unknown words during Reading. Well done!
Prep E	Lucas	For working hard to learn his letters and sounds. You are on your way to amazing reading. Well done!
1A	Alicia	
1B	Mohsin	For doing such a wonderful job following the swimming routine! So proud of you!
1C	Ayla	For always being helpful and showing self management skills
1D	Azaan	For an amazing effort with your sounds and reading! Well done Azaan :)
1E	Jenna	For showing independence and getting organised quickly at swimming.
2A	Millie	For being an active helper with your peers in maths!
2B	Chloe	for her amazing effort during reading this week!
2C	Muzammil	For his focus during independent activities!
2D	Elyas	For learning the months of the year!
2E	Rahil	For working hard on summarising non-fiction texts!
3B	Sarina	For trying her best during maths this week!
3C	Ebrahim	For working hard with his long vowel sounds in spelling!
4C	Faiva	For always being a polite and considerate student.
5C	Ali	for noticing when others need support and offering kindness and care.
5E	Shayan	For making better choices with his learning and behaviour.
6B	Zoe	For writing a very descriptive response to a picture prompt.
6C	Moeimalae	For showing compassion and taking care of others.
6D	Amelia	For showing care and compassion towards others and being a thoughtful classmate.

School Values Awards

Congratulations to the following Students

Week 6

Prep A	Nithvik
Prep C	Seyon
Prep D	Serena
Prep E	Ava
1A	Sadaf
1B	Sartaj
1C	Taahaa
1D	Zaynab
2A	Willow
2B	Cody
2C	Hoyaar
2D	Elyas
2E	Sinoli
3A	Motaser
3B	Dariosh
3C	Neil
3D	Daneil
4A	Ava
4B	Elektra
4C	Chloe
4D	Emerald
4E	Ikramullah
5A	Montel
5B	Sofia
5D	Jaiwanth
5E	Aarohi
6A	Sibtain
6B	Ethan
6D	Amelia

Week 7

Prep A	Jahan
Prep C	Aubrey
Prep D	Elijah
Prep E	Sadie
1A	Aayan
1B	T'Leyni
1C	Sama
1D	Zeke
2A	Zoha
2B	Imran
2C	Kora
2D	Emma
2E	Mobina
3B	Mia
3C	Ava
4C	Oliver
5C	Axel
5E	Kayleigh
6B	Zahra
6C	Noah
6D	Alivia

Respect

Compassion

Responsibility

Honesty

Wellbeing Page

Connection: The Currency of Every Relationship

A father recently told me his relationship with his twelve-year-old son was fragile and becoming fragmented. “What’s wrong with my son?” he asked me. Then came the list: the attitude, the grunting, the closed bedroom door. “He doesn’t even want to join us for meals anymore”, he explained.

I hear a version of this question constantly. What’s wrong with my toddler? My eight-year-old? My teenager? We worry about our relationships a lot – and for good reason. Relationships are at the heart of our wellbeing. When relationships feel good, we tend to feel good. When a relationship is rocky, we feel rocky.

Rather than discuss this father’s list of concerns, I asked how much connection was in their relationship.

“We talk all the time,” he responded. Then he went straight back to his son’s “problems”.

I stopped him. “That’s not what I asked. When you talk, what are you talking about? How involved is he in the conversation?”

He considered it. “He just grunts. It’s usually me talking at him.” Then, in a moment of candour, “And it’s mostly me telling him what to do or what I think is wrong with him.”

What is connection?

Connection is feeling seen, heard, valued, and accepted. Every child knows when they have it and when they don’t – from the two-year-old at your knee to the sixteen-year-old behind the closed door.

Here’s the counter-intuitive bit, and it’s also potentially the uncomfortable bit:

Focusing on connection requires us as parents to take a level of responsibility for our child’s behaviour.

But surely their behaviour is on them, you might be thinking? But think this through with me.

When you’re with someone with whom you have a strong connection, does that make you a better person or a more challenging one? We tend to do better when we’re around people who make us feel better. Our children are no different. When children don’t feel seen, heard, valued, and accepted, they chase it – in clumsy, unhelpful ways. The whining of a four-year-old, the backchat of a nine-year-old, the stony silence of a fourteen-year-old: much of what we call challenging behaviour is really a badly worded connection request (or demand).

In our relationships, we load up on correction and direction. Connection receives short shrift. But just as dollars are the currency of our economy, connection is the currency of our relationships – and it buys more behavioural change than any consequence chart, lecture, or grounding ever will.

Wellbeing Page

Connection runs on attention

Our children don't experience our love. They experience our attention. *To a child, they're the same thing.* And children can tell the difference between a parent who is in the room and a parent who is present – one is a body on the couch, half-listening, phone in hand, while the other is a person whose eyes are on them, whose face responds to theirs, who actually heard the thing they just said.

The quality of your attention shapes the quality of your relationships. Which is to say, the quality of your attention shapes the quality of your life – and your child's.

Connection runs on timing

The brain's receptivity fluctuates. When our kids are hungry, tired, or emotional, they're closed for business. High emotions, low intelligence. So we connect in the calm moments, and we save the hard conversations for when the window is open. The best times are the giggly Saturday breakfast with chocolate milkshakes as a treat, the side-by-side car ride, the 9.30pm kitchen chat when your teen finally wanders in and starts talking. When that door opens, drop everything (quietly) and step through it.

What connection looks like at every age

Under five, love is spelled T-I-M-E, and time is spent on the floor. Ten minutes, phone in another room, letting them lead the play. No teaching, no agenda. Just you being there in the moment with your child.

In the primary years, connection means entering their world. Perhaps it's the Minecraft build, or you grab a netball or frisbee and throw it. It's being willing to guess which dinosaur is which. Gah! Twenty seconds of genuine interest in the thing they care about, offered consistently, changes everything.

With teens, connection goes sideways. Eye contact can feel like interrogation, so connect shoulder-to-shoulder, like when you're driving, cooking, walking the dog. Be available at inconvenient hours. And keep the ratio honest – if most of your words are correction and direction, the connection account is overdrawn.

A connection audit

If things have gone a little wonky at your place, try four questions:

- When have my connections been strong?
- What helped my child feel seen, heard, valued, and accepted?
- What's getting in the way of good connection that's in my control?
- What's one thing I can work on this week to build better connection?

Connection – feeling seen, heard, valued, and accepted – can be tricky. Life is challenging. But it's the foundation of better relationships and happier lives. And it starts with the next ten minutes.

Wellbeing Page

Assembly Reminders:

Last week we celebrated **Education Week**, and what a better way to celebrate than with our fabulous **Book Character Parade** today!

A huge thank you to all the parents, carers and staff who joined in and supported this wonderful event. It was fantastic to see so many creative and colourful book characters around the school. We hope everyone enjoyed celebrating our love of books and reading together!

A big thank you to our wonderful Strathaird community for your incredible support of our **Daffodil Day Fundraiser**.
Firstly, thank you to students who raised **around $600** through their donations, while our staff raised a further **$300**.
Wow! What a generous community we have here at Strathaird! Thank you Miss Waters and JSC for this fun day too and for making the fundraiser such a success.

Coming Up

🏊 **Swimming Program** continues for Grade 1 & 2– This week and next week.
🏃 **Grade 6 Lightning Premiership** – Tuesday 1 September.
🎁 **Father's Day Stall** – Next week, Monday to Wednesday.

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

Core Energy Biodiversity Water Waste

ResourceSmart Schools

What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the collection of all the different types of life found in any one area. It is the trees and grass that grow there, the animals that call them home and even the microorganisms, like bacteria, that live on the plants and animals. Biodiversity is all these things living together to create an ecosystem, which allows life to thrive. **And every part of it is essential.**

Australian biodiversity

Here, in Australia, scientists have identified more than 1.75 million species of plant, animal and microorganism, and the odds are, there are many more, as yet unidentified life forms, living among us. Australia's biodiversity is unlike any other in the world, with 46% of our birds and 69% of our mammals unique to this country.

Grade 4 Update

This semester in Sustainability, Grade 4 students are learning about biodiversity. They are researching different habitats to discover the wide variety of plants and animals that live within them. Students are also investigating how living things depend on one another for survival by creating food chains and food webs.

The Grade 4 students have enjoyed exploring the school grounds and identifying areas that support and encourage biodiversity. At Strathaird Primary, we are continuing to enhance these spaces by planting new shrubs and trees and establishing habitats, such lizard lounges, to provide shelter and resources for local wildlife and encourage greater biodiversity.

Daffodil Day

FRIDAY 21ST AUGUST

A huge thank you to our wonderful Strathaird Primary School community for supporting our Junior School Council's Daffodil Day fundraiser for the Cancer Council.

It was fantastic to see so many students and staff getting involved by wearing yellow and helping to raise awareness and much-needed funds for this important cause.

Thanks to the generosity of our students, families and staff, we are thrilled to announce that we raised an incredible $900!

We are so proud of our Junior School Council for organising and supporting this event and of our entire school community for showing such wonderful compassion and community spirit.

Every donation, big or small, has helped make a difference. Thank you, Strathaird, for helping us turn a sea of yellow into $900 for a great cause!

Special Events

Strathaird

Est 2005

Strathaird Primary School
20 Sherwood Road
Narre Warren South VIC 3805
03 9705 3800
Strathairdps.vic.edu.au

Prep Information Night
Thursday 10th September 2026
6:00pm - 7:00pm

An opportunity to come and hear more about Prep at Strathaird Primary School and find out how you can be involved in 2027.
Open for all to attend.
An information pack will be handed out on the night to all families who have completed their enrolment.

The information night will be held in the Eco Cabin.

Please enter the school through the Community Parade Gate 3. Walk through the basketball courts towards the Eco Cabin Building.

📱 COMPASS TIP FOR PARENTS

Never Miss an Important School Update!
🔔 Turn on Compass Push Notifications

Stay up to date with school news, attendance messages, Sickbay attendance, events and important alerts by enabling push notifications in the Compass App.

1. 📲 Open the **Compass School Manager** app.
2. 👤 Tap **More** (☰) in the bottom-right corner.
3. ⚙️ Select **Settings**.
4. 🔔 Tap **Notifications**.
5. ✅ Turn **Push Notifications ON**.
6. 📱 If prompted, allow notifications in your phone's **Settings**.

💡 **Tip:** Make sure notifications are also enabled for the Compass app in your iPhone or Android device settings.

If you need help with this, please visit our school office.

Grade 1

This term, students have been exploring how we can express ourselves through visual art. We have worked alongside author and illustrator Nicky Johnston and learnt about famous artists, including Pablo Picasso and Yayoi Kusama. Inspired by these artists, students have experimented with different materials, styles and techniques to create their own unique artworks. We are excited to showcase our creativity at our upcoming Art Show! Please see the invitation below for further details.

We are looking forward to seeing you all there!

Compass

You can download the Compass App on iOS and Android devices, simply search for Compass School Manager in the store.

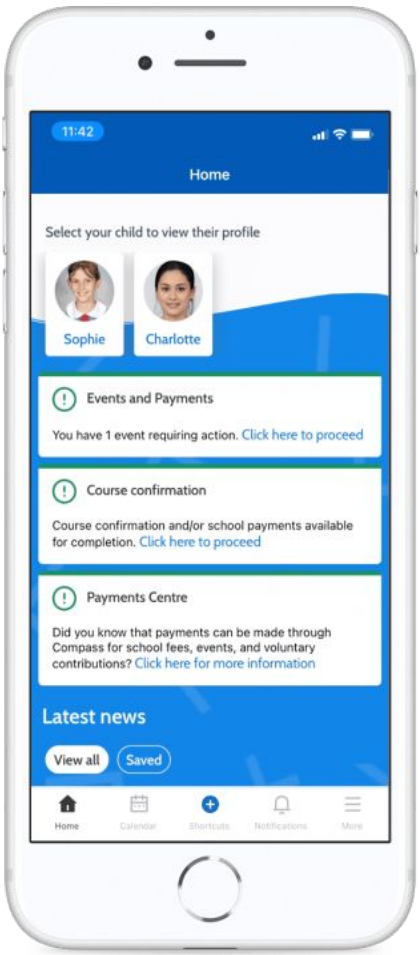
Using the app you can:

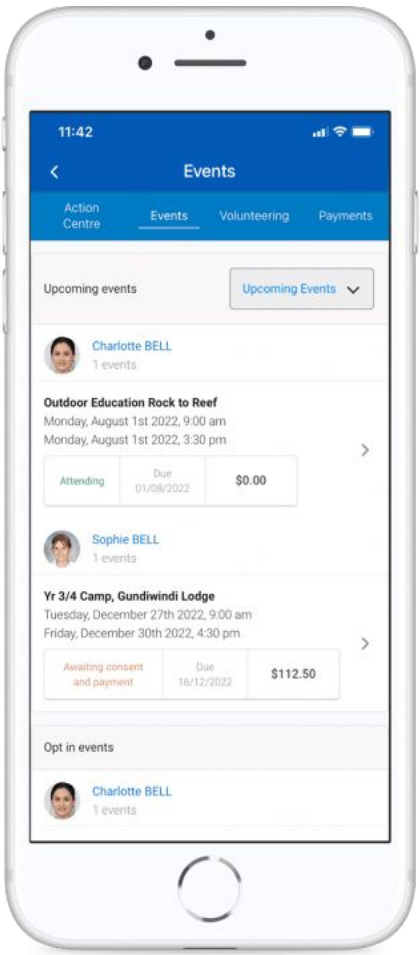
- View the school news feed
- Receive messages from the school
- View your child's timetable and the school calendar
- View Learning Tasks
- Book parent-teacher conferences
- Add Attendance Notes
- View academic reports
- Event, Consent and Payments

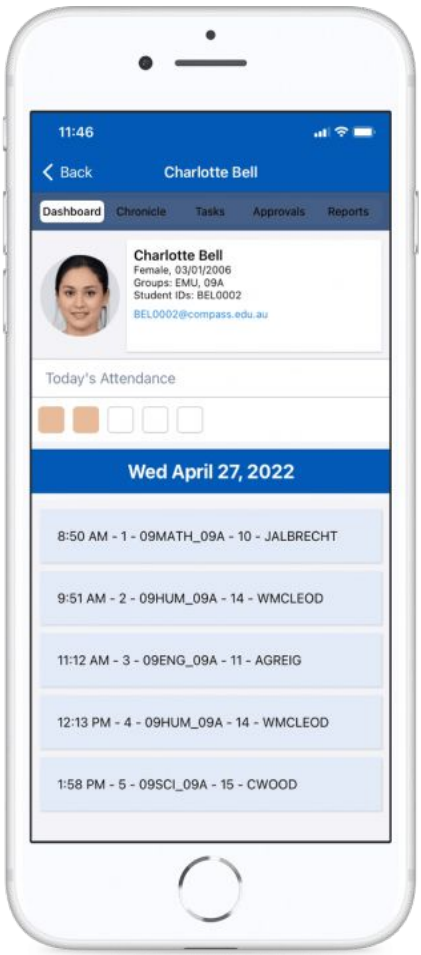
Learn how to use Compass through the following links

Parent Compass App - YouTube

A guide for parents & families | Compass Education AU







Special Events

Please join us in our celebration of the 2026 upcoming Grand Final. We will be having a Footy Day Parade at 9.15am in the Gym. Show support for your favourite footy/soccer/rugby team by dressing up in your team's colours. Please bring a Gold Coin donation to support State School Relief, who provide school uniforms to underprivileged students in need.

Road Safety

Parents/Carers - Choose safe crossings

Families - always choose to use safe crossings.

Teaching your children to look for safe places to cross the road.

When pedestrians cross in other areas, this causes danger to drivers and also to the pedestrian.

Role Model

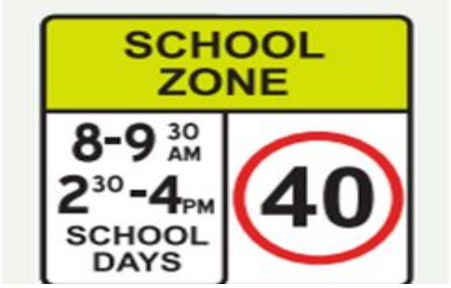
When you show your children safe pedestrian behaviour, they will copy you.

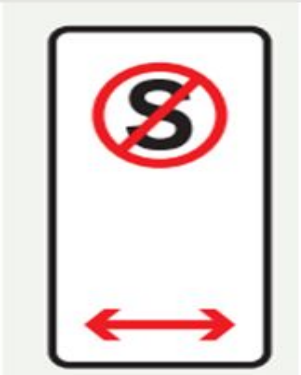
Teach your children the 4 safety words when crossing the road - ***Stop Look Listen and Think***

Hold hands with your children...

Holding hands with young children is such a simple way to keep children safe.

As Drivers - follow the signs around your school precinct



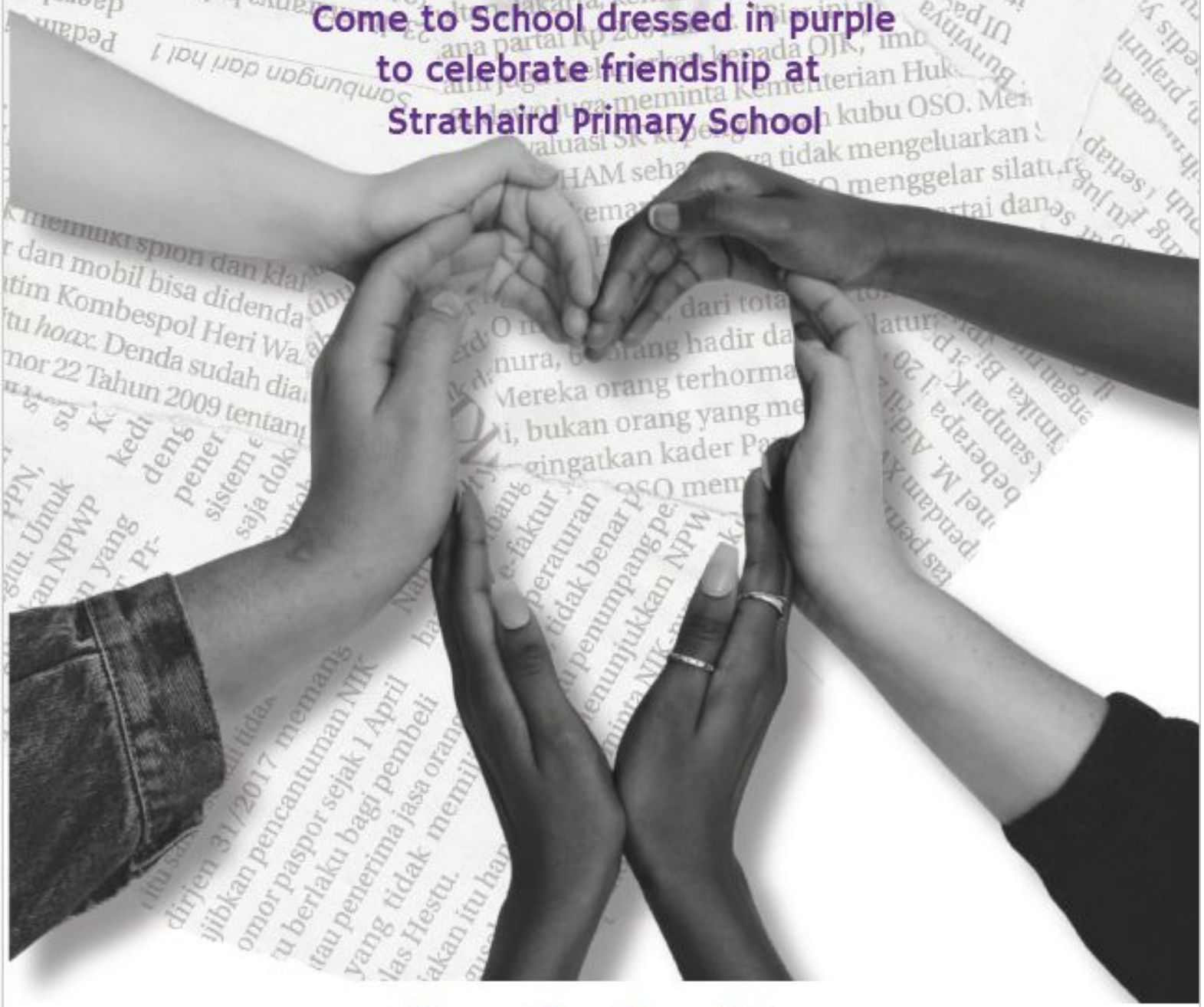


FRIDAY
11TH SEPTEMBER

HAPPY

Friendship Day

Come to School dressed in purple to celebrate friendship at Strathaird Primary School



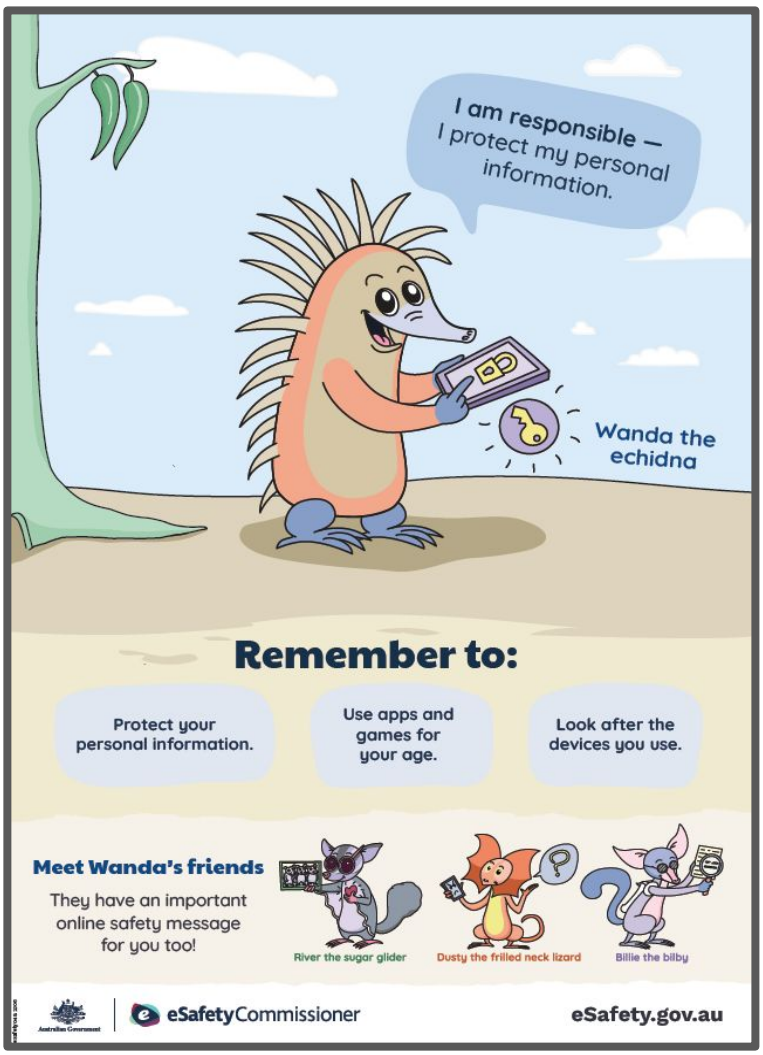
alannah & madeline foundation

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!

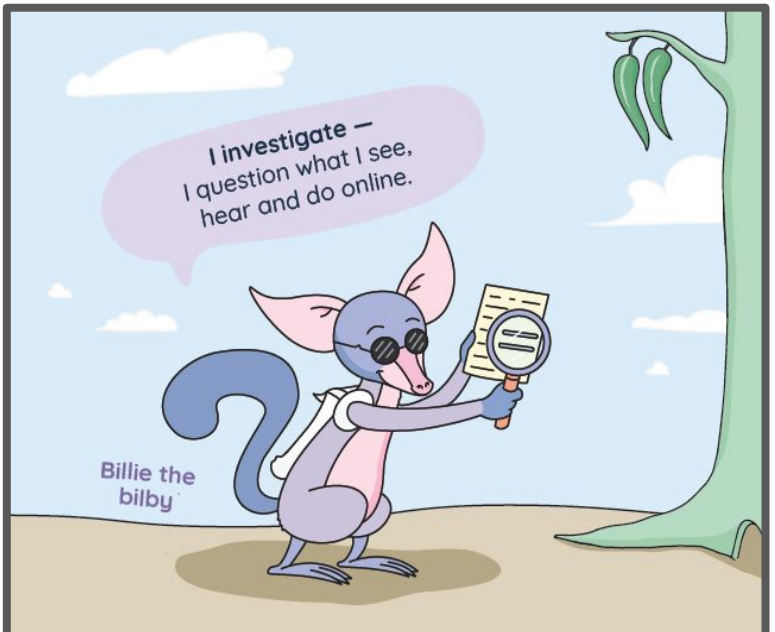


Remember to:

- 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!



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!

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!

Important Parent Resources

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.

Strathaird Primary School

EST' 2005

School Values PROGRAM

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 .

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 .