

The

Harston Herald



Term 1, Issue Four 2024

News from our Principal!

Wow an 'absolutely awesome' Term 1 at Harston Primary School.

With our new uniform for staff & students Harston is looking GOOOOOO!

We had our community meeting to plan our 150th Anniversary and we have a save the date for **Saturday October 19th 2024 starting at 2.00pm**. There will be another meeting next term to finalise arrangements.

While we have had an extremely busy term everyone has worked well together and we have some exciting events planned for next term. We will be starting with our school camp which we will be doing with Zeerust Primary School attending Sovereign Hill. We have Bravehearts and a visit to Twisted Science with Merrigum PS also. Our new theme next term to start off with is 'weather'.

I would like to wish you all a **Happy Easter** break. Take care and see you all for a very exciting Term 2.



Kaz Batson
Harston PS Principal



Dates for the Diary

March

- 28th Last Day of Term - Early Dismissal 2.30pm
- 29th Good Friday - No School

TERM 2

April

- 15th Term 2 commences
- 17th Bravehearts Visit (with Merrigum PS)
- 23rd Bike Ed. Visit
- 24th Excursion - Twisted Science Echuca
- 25th ANZAC Day - No School

May

- 2nd & 3rd School Camp - Sovereign Hill
- 9th School Council Meeting 9.30am



Happy Easter!

Wishing our Harston Primary School community a very happy and safe Easter break. We hope Easter Bunny finds you!



Happy @ Harston



Reminders

- ✓ Harston Primary School's 150th year celebrations on 19th October 2024 - save the date!
- ✓ We are looking for members to join our School Council
- ✓ School Counsellor - Wednesday mornings

Student of the week



Week 8 - Erik

well done!



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Jacob & Amy Gillie (HPS Teachers Mr. & Mrs. Gillie!) on the arrival of Zoe Elizabeth Gillie on 18/3/24. Best wishes from everyone at HPS.



Mrs. Farran's Questions of the Day

Answers to last issue's questions:

How many Earths would fit in the Sun?

Answer: 1 million

How fast can a bee fly?

Answer: 25km/hr

This issue's questions:

How many licks does it take to finish a scoop of icecream?

What is the only animal that can't jump?

What do you think the answers could be? Have a go at home!



Harston Hall Family Dinner

Our end-of-term family dinner at the Harston Hall was unable to go ahead on Tuesday 26th March as planned.

We will look at revisiting this in Term 2, to tie in with our mental health and wellbeing focus topics.

Thank you!

A big thank you to the Emanuelli Family for our Push me-Pull me cart! The students are having lots of fun!



Happy @ Harston

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155 Harston Road, Harston 3616
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Book Focus

A recent book focus for the students was 'My Terrible Suitcase' by Emma Allen.

Students made suitcases packed with what they would like to take with them to space. Great work everyone!



Foodbank Food Fight

On Wednesday 27th March, HPS participated in the Foodbank Food Fight. No ACTUAL food was harmed in the making of this event, instead we used fake foam foods to throw, and coloured paints to splash around!



The students had lots of messy fun, all whilst raising awareness for Foodbank Victoria and the wonderful work they do.



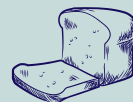
Annual privacy reminder for our school community.

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy. Please take time to read our school's collection notice, found on our website harston.ps@education.vic.gov.au. We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education] safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using [Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education], please contact the school. For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents. This information is also available in ten community languages.



Reminders

Bread Making



With the help of Mrs. Farran, students have been working very hard at Harston PS, perfecting their measuring and creating skills. The result has been freshly baked bread every week! Students have each had a turn of taking a fresh loaf of bread home, so we are now focusing on 'paying it forward' by gifting each loaf of bread to someone of the students' choosing.

FIRE/EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION

In the case of an emergency/catastrophic fire danger rating, parents/families will be contacted via text message from the Harston Primary School mobile phone. Please see further information related to our Bushfire At-Risk Rating at HPS attached to the newsletter.

Reminder for our school community re: Photographing, Filming & Recording Students Policy

During our students' time at Harston Primary School, their photos will be taken as part of educational activities. These photos are then used in various forms such as:

- Displayed in classrooms
- Published in the school newsletter
- Published on the internet
- Published on the ultranet
- Published on social media
- For publicity purposes in local newspapers

At times students will also be filmed. This will then be used:

- For publicity purposes on local television stations

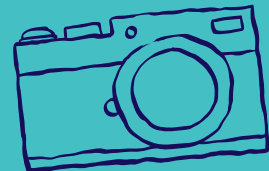
Please read the Harston Primary School Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy for detailed information - an updated version has been provided to families along with the associated consent form.

If further information is required, please contact Harston Primary School.



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Our Push me-Pull me cart!



Liam taking home a loaf of fresh bread!



Dylan intrigued by a Praying Mantis



Collaborating on our Arcade Games!



Students made their own suitcases after reading 'My Terrible Suitcase'



GREAT JOB!



Athletics Day & Athletics Participation Certificates! Well done everyone!

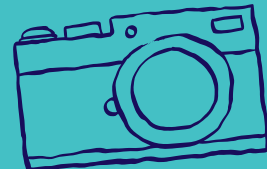


well done!

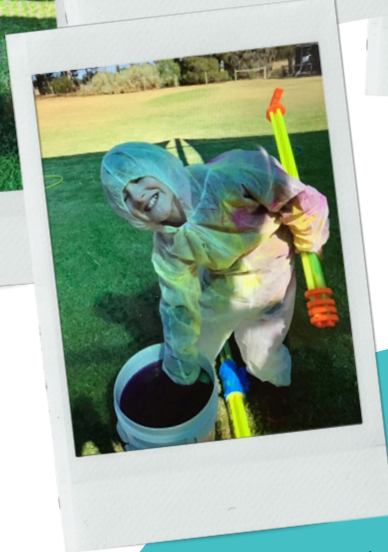
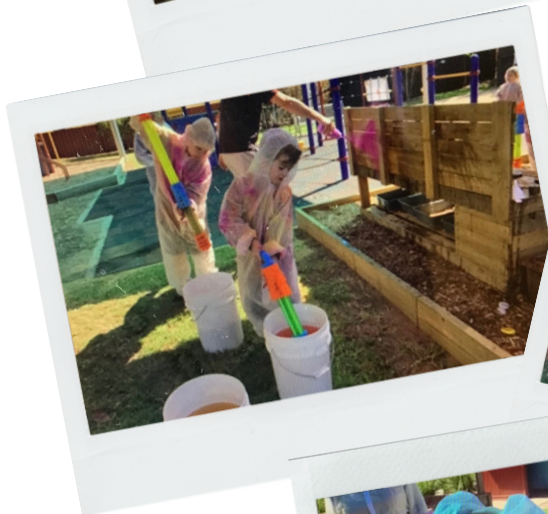


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Foodbank Food Fight!

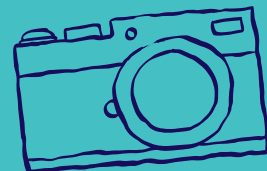
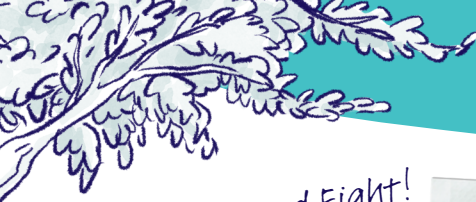


Hotdog Lunch on Food Fight Day!

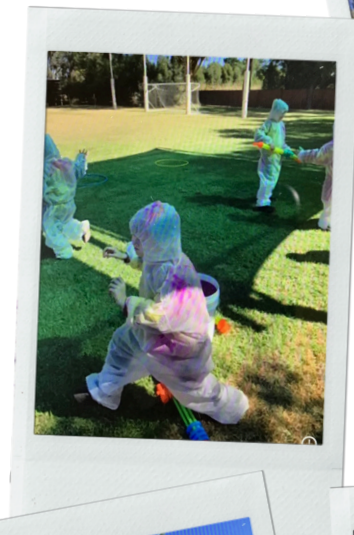


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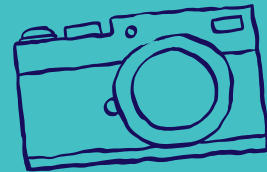
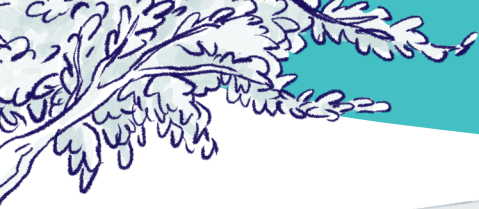


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Mrs. Dalla Via brought in a special Spider Man helmet for Jensen!



Easter Bonnets & Baskets!

Happy Easter everyone!



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Newsletter article: Schools in Category 3 on the Bushfire At-Risk Register and the Category 4 list.

This information has been developed to answer frequently asked questions regarding the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and Category 4 list and your school's closure on a Catastrophic fire danger day in your fire weather district.

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.

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 **mobile phone text message**.

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, checking our website <https://www.harstonps.vic.edu.au/>, 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](tel:1800226226))
- 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