



DARTMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - TERM 4 - OCTOBER 2023

DARTMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL IS A CHILD SAFE SCHOOL

Students (and Staff) have experienced an action packed Term to date, travelling to Portland and staying local for educational excursions.

*Budj Bim tour in Tyrendarra, where we learnt a lot about our local Indigenous history and enjoyed some bush tucker. If you haven't been, do yourself a favour! Colleen the Budj Bim Ranger was fantastic and a wealth of knowledge.

*Healthy cooking with Vic Kids Eat Well representative Jane and everyone made a sushi sandwich, which was very tasty.

*Pro Golf lessons as part of termly Sporting in Schools funding.

*We spent time with Forest Fire Management and the CFA to learn a bit more about fire and how we can prepare for the bushfire season. There is valuable information provided on preparing for the bushfire season.

*As a token of appreciation, we held a casual 'sparkle' day raising money for Good360 whose mission is to ensure that excess goods flow to communities in need rather than going to waste. We combined this with the SSG at the Bush Nursing Centre and raised just under \$200!

We are excited to share our new school management app 'uEducateUs' with our families.

This will enhance communication and processing options between staff and families.

uEducateUs allows families to notify school of student absences and will send automatically reminder alerts and receive online permission forms.

Information has been sent home, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to Gill or Alana.

Students at Dartmoor Primary School are always being exposed to positive new experiences and we are very resilient to change and challenges, always practising our school values to be: Caring, Responsible, Respectful and Strive to do your best in all situations.

Term 4 Important Dates

Tuesday 7 November - Melbourne Cup Day
Public Holiday no students at school

Monday 2 November - Bike Ed starts
Please give permission through the uEducateUs app

Friday 10 November - Poppy Picking

Monday 20 November -
Swimming starts in Hamilton
Days: Monday, Wednesday & Friday

OSHC Hours

Monday to Friday

AM session: 6.30am to 9am

PM Session: 3:30pm to 6pm

* Bookings essential via the XAP app

The amazing Thrive staff Cami, Tara and Indi are waiting for you! We encourage families to take the opportunity to support the OSHC by attending or if you have any queries to reach out to Thrive via email: info@thriveoshc.com.au

"Building Success and Friendship"

Fundraiser Helpers: On 14th October, we hosted the AEC Referendum we had an opportunity to hold a BBQ and raffle fundraiser. A big shout out to the team who were able to attend on the day and to Jess and Tim for the donation of the wood.

Also, a huge thank you to all the people involved in pulling down the old Playground and getting the soft fall put around the new one; Ali and Ben, Jess and Tim, Alec and Sam, Megan, Donald Firth and Mat, the time you donated to our school and this playground is invaluable!



MULTIPLICATION IN THE SENIOR CLASSROOM WITH MRS FIRTH:

We have been playing a game called 'Land Grab' to help us understand the use of arrays as a thinking tool.

The students take turns to mark and colour the region they throw on the dice. For example, if they throw a 3 and a 4, they have to shade and label the array $3 \times 4 = 12$. This helps them see that they can rotate the array to make 4×3 and it will still equal 12.

When there is not much 'land' left, they need to start splitting the array so that it can fit on the page. For example, if 6×5 is rolled, this can be broken into 3×5 and 3×5 . This skill can be used as a strategy to help students break down unknown multiplication problems into smaller ones. A further example of this is 12×3 , which can be broken into 10×3 and 2×3 .

The winner of the game is the person who has covered the most land!



Jensen and Stanley battle away!



Zara and Indianna find spots for their arrays.



Spaces are filling up – some arrays made need to be split.

Junior Classroom with Ms G

In the first weeks of Term 4, students have been settling back into learning after a well-earned break.

As part of our study of Gunditjimarara culture and language, students prepared for our visit to Budj Bim [Tyrendarra site]. They drew pictures of tools, animals, plants and eel traps they thought they might see at the site.

The visit to the site was led by a Gunditjimarara guide [Colleen] who has a wealth of knowledge regarding the site and aspects of Gunditjimarara culture. Gunditjimarara language support person [Jayden] was also present and contributed his cultural expertise to the lively conversations.

Students raised questions with Colleen and Jayden, tasted bush tucker, viewed the [constructed] eel channels that connect the ponds, held a possum fur cloak and a variety of wooden artefacts, including boomerangs, spears, carrying baskets and digging sticks. Colleen also showed us how the eel traps were woven out of poonyart grass. We also viewed a large map of the Gunditjimarara homelands.

Subsequently, students wrote captions that 'value-added' a photograph they chose to write about, including information that the viewer would not necessarily know, such as "This is at Budj Bim. It is a possum cloak [cloak]."

Students are also continuing to learn the names of body parts and counting from one to ten in Gunditjimarara language.



Learning how and why possum skin cloaks are important in Gunditjimarara culture.



We were surprised that water parsley tasted like snowpeas! It grew where the ground was very damp. Our guide introduced us to different sorts of bush tucker.



Sporting in Schools: Term 4 Golf

This term our students have been receiving golf lessons at the Dartmoor Golf Club from pro-golfer Craig Davis, who is a renowned golf coach in our district. Craig knows a lot about golf and can help the students tweak the smallest thing to improve their hit. Students got to play 2 holes of golf where they practised their putting, their driving (with a driver club) and then regular hitting along the fairway.

Each student took on the advice they were given from Craig and improved on their next shot. It was wonderful to see the pride on the student's faces when they made successful hits or got the ball in the hole.

Thank you to the Dartmoor Golf Club as well for allowing us to use the course.



Shelter in Place (SIP) and Bushfire Preparedness

Our school is Category 3 on the BARR rating, every year we are given funding to ensure that our grounds are maintained throughout the bushfire season. We use this to help prevent damage to our school if a bushfire went through Dartmoor. This is used to keep our lawns below a certain height, keep our trees neat and foliage above a certain height, keep our garden beds free of debris etc.

On top of this, our main building is a shelter in place building, which means that as a last resort we should be able to shelter inside the school if we have too. In order for this to be viable there are some building works that need to happen. This started last week and will continue throughout term 4 and over the summer school holidays. We are hopeful that it will all be completed by the beginning of our 2024 school year.

Our students and staff have been very accommodating and flexible with all the works going on and haven't let a few detours and blocked off doors stop them from enjoying their school days.



Above: Front access / walkway.

Below: New access ramp into Portable / OSHC Room.

We look forward to keeping the community updated throughout the process.





Forest Fire Management (FFM) and the CFA

On Monday the 16th of October our students went down to Dartmoor's free camping spot and learned about fire and fire management with members from our local Forest Fire Management facility and local CFA members.

They were taught about what conditions are needed for a fire to get out of control, how FFM can use a machine to see how much moisture is in a leaf, how to set up camp around your campfire, how to prepare your home for bush fire season and of course a look into both the FFM truck and the CFA truck.

Students came away with lots of new knowledge, flyers to help them at home and a goodie bag. We are very lucky to have these resources at our backdoor, so students and their families can be prepared.

Thank you Tash, Adam and the team at FFM and Mick, Noel and Mat from the CFA.





Student Awards

Assembly: 13 October 2023



Junior Room: Nolan

Senior Room: Indianna

Policy Insights

On our website: dartmoorps.vic.edu.au are links to all our school policies.

At a recent School Council meeting we reviewed all of our Child Safe policies. Keeping our children safe is of vital importance.

Please refer to our website to view the whole document and contact the school if you have any questions.

Dartmoor Primary School

Building Success and Friendship



Student Art Exhibition

**Celebrating
40 yrs
of the
Great South West Walk.**

**Exhibiting for Two Weeks:
Monday 6th – Friday 17th Nov.
@ Glenelg Library – Portland
32 Bentinck Street**

**Student work
from local
schools.
All Welcome!**



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"Building Success and Friendship"

EXPLANATION WRITING IN THE SENIOR ROOM:

Currently, we are reading and writing explanations. This type of writing explains how or why something happens. We have read about how aluminium is recycled, how a cow turns grass into milk and why the mirror mists up when we shower. Together, we wrote an explanation about how a bicycle works. The students are now writing explanations of their own, which involves researching their topics by watching videos and reading information. Topics the students have chosen include: why we get goose bumps, how a fish breathes underwater and how the digestive system works.

Right: Payton conducting her research



Bon Appetit Excursion: Held at the Portland CEMA on Tuesday 17th October






HALLOWEEN OCTOBER 31ST


The Dartmoor Community would like to celebrate Halloween this year.

It would be wonderful and the children young and old will love it as they have other years.



If people would like children to come to their home for Trick or Treats please hang a **orange** or **coloured** balloon out the front.

Let's hope it is as great as other years.



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

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 South West fire weather district.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and reprioritised maintenance works (including major works starting on the 16th of October and finishing in February 2024) that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.

What does this mean for our school?

Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a Category 3 school.

Our school will **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in the South West 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 the South West 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 text, email, Facebook page or letter.

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.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.
- 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 Facebook parent page, 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 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)
- 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

**VIC KIDS
EAT WELL**

**DARTMOOR
PRIMARY SCHOOL
HAS JOINED THE
MOVEMENT!**