



THE RIPPER TIMES

Weekly Newsletter of Traralgon South Primary School

PRINCIPAL REPORT...

School Procedures For The Bushfire Season:

Fire Danger Ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

A small number of schools on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR), including our own, will closed on **all** Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating days. A summary of our school procedures are attached to this newsletter.

Once we are advised of a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating day, we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

It is important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating day.
- Outside School-Hours Care (OSHC) will also be cancelled on these days.
- School camps may be cancelled if a forecast Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating day is made by Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.

On these Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating days, families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – **on such days children should never be left at home alone or unsupervised or in the care of older children.**

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan, and reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.

What can parents do?

- 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.
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers and especially if you have changed employment in the previous 12 months. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, and by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.

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- Most importantly at this time of year, if you're planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.
- You can access more information about children's services closures on the Department of Education website – see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>
- For up-to-date information on this year's fire season, visit the VicEmergency website at emergency.vic.gov.au or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

2024 Planning:

Typically, schools begin formalising their planning for the coming year at the end of Term 3/beginning of Term 4. One aspect of this planning involves grade structures and student placement. I encourage families to familiarise yourselves with our [Class Placement Policy](#), and more specifically, ask families submit any requests for class placements as per this policy to me by 1 November 2023. No late submissions will be accepted.

Car Park:

In recent days we have been approached by several parents asking me to politely remind those in our school community about parking in designated car parks, speed of travel, only parking on the school side of the car park to avoid the need for children to walk across and in front of traffic, and only entering/exiting the car park via the designated one-way entrance/exit. All users need a degree of predictability from others when in this space, especially our students. As an alternative less congested option, please also be reminded about the Pre-School car park at the rear of our school as this often has very few users.

2023 Curriculum Contributions:

As alluded to in the message from School Council shared with parents on uEducateUs at the end of Term 3, unfortunately we still have a large number of students whose Curriculum Contributions remain unpaid. Looking ahead to our financial planning for 2024, this will have an impact as we

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11th October 2023

ISSUE 31

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will need to strongly consider reducing the consumables we are able to provide students across the whole school, as we simply cannot continue spending more than what we are receiving as revenue.

If you are unsure if your contribution remains unpaid, please contact the General Office.

Take care,
Joel Blythman

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DATES TO REMEMBER...

12 th October	Thursday	Online LOOP Scholastic Book Club Orders Close
13 th October	Friday	Swimming Forms and Payment Due - \$50 per student
16 th October	Monday	School Council Meeting
31 st October – 15 th November	Various Days	Whole School Swimming Program
6 th November	Monday	Student Free Day
7 th November	Tuesday	Melbourne Cup Day – Public Holiday
8 th December	Friday	Whole School End of Year Excursion – Details to follow
12 th December	Tuesday	Statewide Orientation Day
18 th December	Monday	End of Year Concert – 7:00pm
20 th December	Wednesday	Last day of Term 4 – Early Dismissal - 1:00pm

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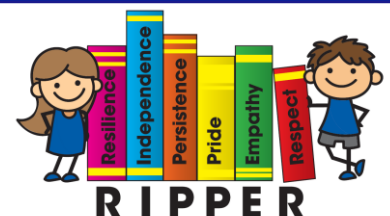
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RIPPER STUDENT AWARDS...



Prep/1	Bella S	For showing great listening skills and being ready to learn.
1/2	Kenzie P	For showing independence and positive engagement in her learning.
2/3	Isabel S	For being a respectful member of the classroom and listening carefully to others.
4/5	Levi F	For keeping neat book work and making a great first attempt at an explanation text.
5/6	Amelia S	For applying herself to all aspects of her learning. Thanks for being a positive role model.
Music	Joshua S	For his enthusiastic approach in all areas of Music.
	Isabelle D	For playing the beat in Music with enthusiasm and precision.
School Captains	Billy K	For taking up his own time to help out others in their learning.

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We are SunSmart - a note for families

Too much of the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer.

UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life. Skin cancer is the most common cancer in Australia. It is also one of the most preventable cancers.

You can't see or feel the sun's UV. Whatever the weather, if the UV levels are three or more, it's important to *Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide!*

Sun protection times

Don't just wait for hot and sunny days to use sun protection. Check the sun protection times each day so your family can be protected when they need to be.



Daily local sun protection times and weather details are available from the SunSmart widget on our school website, in the weather section of the newspaper, on the SunSmart website at sunsmart.com.au and as a free SunSmart app. Sun protection times can also be found at the Bureau of Meteorology website and live UV levels are available from ARPANSA.

SunSmart membership

Our school is a registered member of Cancer Council Victoria's SunSmart Schools Program. We aim to protect children and staff from too much UV.

Sun protection and skin cancer prevention is a shared responsibility. Please help support our SunSmart membership and sun protection efforts by ensuring your child follows the SunSmart measures included in our policy at school and at home.

During the daily local sun protection times (usually from mid-August to the end of April), **use these 5 SunSmart steps – even if it's cool and cloudy.**

1. **SLIP** on covering clothing

For free dress days, ensure your child wears clothing that covers as much skin as possible (e.g. elbow length tops with a higher neckline or collar and longer style shorts or skirts). Densely woven fabrics are best.



2. **SLOP** on SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen

Apply a generous amount of sunscreen at the start of the day and make sure children have sunscreen in their bag ready to reapply throughout the day. Sunscreen should be reapplied every two hours. Please ensure children get plenty of sunscreen application practice at home so they'll be all set when they are at school. Under supervision, ask children to put a dot of sunscreen on each cheek, nose and chin and rub it in (avoiding the eye area) and sunscreen squiggles or dots on the back of the neck, arms and legs to cover these areas.

3. **SLAP** on a hat that protects the face, neck and ears

Choose a wide-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hat. Peak caps and visors do not offer enough UV protection so please leave them at home. Please help your child remember to bring and wear their approved **school hat**. Please keep this at school so they will always be ready for outdoor activities, outdoor learning and play during school days. For the walk to and from school and weekends, please have an extra **home hat** to help keep children protected at home.

4. **SEEK** shade

Choose shady spots for learning and play whenever possible.

5. **SLIDE** on wrap-around AS1067 sunglasses

When appropriate and practical, help protect the eyes with sunglasses.

Need information in another language? Call 13 14 50 and ask to be connected to Cancer Council Victoria in your language

sunsmart.com.au



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School Procedures for the 2023-2024 Bushfire Season

Traralgon South Primary School is included on the Bushfire At Risk (Category 3) register by the Department of Education. Inclusion on this register is a trigger for schools to pre-emptively close on days forecast Catastrophic in their Bureau of Meteorology district, as well as other pre-emptive and preparedness actions in line with our fire risk category.

The following is to inform families and the local community of our planned response to Fire Danger Ratings and local conditions during the bushfire season, to keep our students and staff safe.

Australian Fire Danger Rating System:



Planned Response of Traralgon South Primary School:

FORECAST FIRE DANGER RATING (West & South Gippsland)	ACTION	COMMUNICATION
Catastrophic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCHOOL CLOSED/RELOCATED (decision made by the Department of Education). Out of hours care cancelled. Bus routes, camps and excursions through Catastrophic area cancelled. No staff onsite. <p><i>Families enact their bushfire survival plan.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents contacted directly, up to 4 days prior, and confirmed the day before. Decision will not change. Local CFA notified.
Extreme (No fires in local area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School and out of hours care remain open. School to monitor Vic Emergency website/ABC radio and keep in contact with Regional Emergency Management staff from the Department of Education. Follow advice of Emergency Services. If considered necessary, approval will be sought for school closure/relocation as above. <p><i>Families enact their bushfire survival plan.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents notified of any changes to situation, if possible. Parents to ensure they can be easily contacted, or alternatively, inform the school who the best contact is for that day.

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FORECAST FIRE DANGER RATING (West & South Gippsland)	ACTION	COMMUNICATION
<p style="text-align: center;">Extreme (Fire in local area – for example: Callignee, Churchill, Loy Yang)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal to request approval for school closure/relocation from Department of Education. • School to monitor Vic Emergency website/ABC radio and keep in contact with Regional Emergency Management staff from the Department of Education. • Contact Emergency Services. • Follow advice of Emergency Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If time allows and if safe to do so, evacuate with Emergency Services escort. - Shelter in place in Multi-Purpose Room. • Out of hours care cancelled. • Bus routes, camps and excursions through relevant areas cancelled. • If parents arrive during this time, they will be strongly advised to stay on school grounds <p><i>Families enact their bushfire survival plan.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents contacted directly as soon as possible. • Parents notified of any changes to situation, if possible. • Decision will not change. • Local CFA notified.
<p style="text-align: center;">High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School to remain vigilant and be ready to act, as necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents notified of any changes to situation, if possible.

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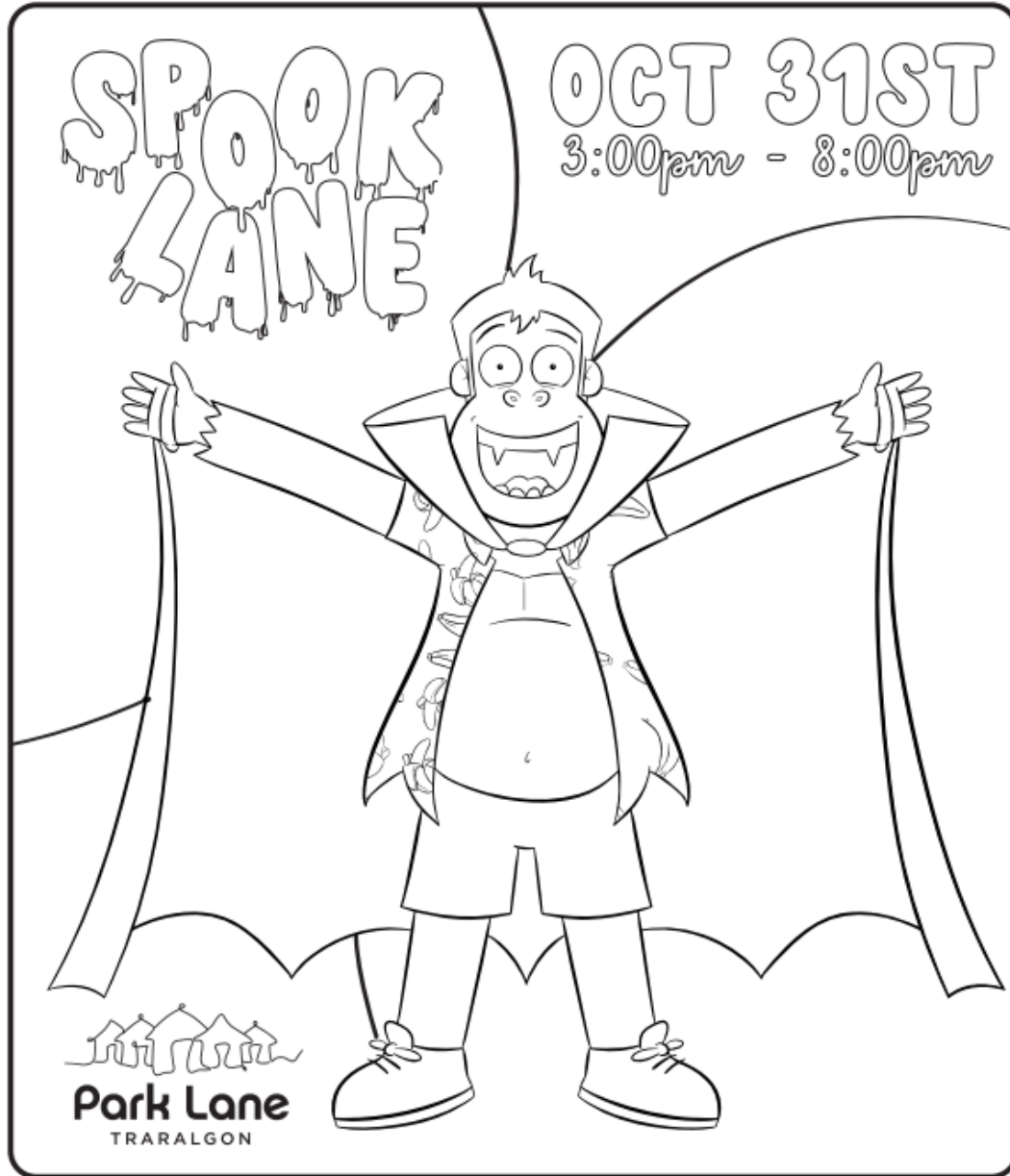
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WIN 1 OF 3 FAMILY PASSES TO SPOOK LANE 2023!

Join us at BIG4 Traralgon Park Lane Holiday Park for an unforgettable Halloween experience! Enjoy safe Trick or Treating, a Spooky Disco, Best Dressed Comp, Food Trucks, and a Haunted House for a night of spooky delights! Don't miss out on the thrills and chills!

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**TO ENTER,
SCAN THIS QR
CODE & FOLLOW
THE PROMPTS.**



TECHNOLOGY NOT YOUR THING?

... fill out the below and hand in to
BIG4 Traralgon Park Lane Holiday Park

NAME:	GRADE:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
SCHOOL:	
<input type="text"/>	
PARENTS NAME:	PARENTS PHONE:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
PARENTS EMAIL:	AGREE TO T&C'S:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

**ENTRIES CLOSE FRIDAY 20TH OCTOBER, 2023
THE WINNER DRAWN MONDAY 23RD OCTOBER, 2023**

TERMS OF ENTRY ON OUR WEBSITE - WWW.PARKLANEHOLIDAYPARKS.COM.AU

**CAN'T WAIT?
TIX NOW AVAILABLE**
book online today!



[Promotions & Events | BIG4 Park Lane Holiday Parks](#)

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