



LEADERSHIP REPORT

by Jason Vandy



Farewell and good luck –As we celebrate the many wonderful achievements of 2025, we also take a moment to farewell valued members of our Strathmore PS community: Wayne McKenzie (for Term 1), Ms. Petrina Cvek, Ms Andrea Rudnickij and Ms Sylvie Wright.

Wayne has been appointed Acting Principal at Essendon PS.

Since joining the leadership team in 2016, Wayne has contributed enormously to the culture, direction, and daily life of Strathmore PS. We are incredibly grateful for his dedication and leadership, and we wish him every success in this exciting next chapter.

We also say a heartfelt farewell to Ms. Petrina Cvek, who has been an integral part of Strathmore PS for almost ten years. Travelling over an hour each way every day, Petrina has shown unwavering commitment to our students and our school community. Her professionalism, leadership, and passion have left a lasting impact, and she will be deeply missed. Thank you, Ms. Cvek, for everything you have given to Strathmore PS.

Andrea Rudnickij will also be leaving us at the end of 2025. We thank Andrea for her last 6 months of service and ensuring the year 5/6 students had a very successful, connected year under her tuition.

Finally, we say farewell and good luck to Sylvie Wright who began in 2023 as the Art specialist teacher before moving into PE. Thank you for your ongoing commitment and passion for our Strathmore students.

Year 5/6 Camp - Congratulations to our Year 5/6 students and the dedicated staff team, led by Ms. Cvek, on a fantastic camp at Camp Wyuna in Queenscliff. With perfect weather and excellent student behaviour, the camp offered a great balance of adventure and connection—bodyboarding, night walks, bike riding, and more. A highlight for many was spotting dolphins during Thursday’s bodyboarding session!

Our sincere thanks go to the staff who made this memorable experience possible: Ms. Petrina Cvek, Mrs. Rochelle McNiece, Mrs. Andrea Rudnickij, Mr. Cayden Woods, Mr. James Mottorshead, Ms. Tamara Brown, Ms. Louis LaFace, Ms. Marissa Reilly, Mrs. Louise Farrugia, and Mrs. Zara Strah.

Transition: Step Up Day – Our strengthened Step Up program in 2025 offered students a full day immersed in their 2026 classes with their new teachers. Students engaged in thoughtfully planned activities, experienced the learning environment they’ll be part of next year, and in many cases, made new connections and friendships. We hope you’ve already heard some of their excited stories at home! Here are the 2026 Professional Learning Teams.

IMPORTANT DATES:

WEEK 10

- 11 Dec – Yr 6 Graduation
- 12 Dec – Community Reading

WEEK 11

- 15 Dec – Yr 6 Celebration Day
- 19 Dec – Last day of 2025

2026 Day 1 – We look forward to welcoming students back in 2026:

- Years 1–6 begin on Wednesday 28th January
- Foundation students begin on Thursday 29th January

2026 Workforce Plan Principal - Jason Vandy Assistant Principal - Wayne McKenzie & Jenny Strouzas				
Foundation (1)	Year 1/2 (4)	Year 3/4 (3)	Year 5/6 (4)	Specialist (4)
FA - Poppi Vounoridis	1/2A - Marissa Reilly	3/4A - Louisa LaFace	5/6A - Rochelle McNiece	Music - Ambrose Portelli
	1/2B – (New staff - TBC)	3/4B - Melissa Gallo	5/6B - Hannah Napolitano	PE - Cayden Woods
	1/2C - Leisa Buckley	3/4C - Tamara Brown	5/6C - Katherine Ayrtton (M, T, W) & Nadene Boyd (Th, F)	Art - Rose Swindon
	1/2D - Annamaria Vasil		5/6D - James Mottershead	Italian - Angela Pane

LEADERSHIP REPORT CONTINUE....



New Gaga Pit - Gaga Ball is a very popular ball game that challenges students athletic coordination whilst forming positive social interactions. The SPS Gaga Pit has opened this week and students have thoroughly enjoyed having another option for social interaction at recess and lunchtime.

Social Media Ban - As part of our ongoing commitment to student wellbeing and digital safety, we'd like to remind families of recent changes to Australian law. The Online Safety (Social Media Minimum Age) Amendment Act 2024 sets new age restrictions for social media platforms to help keep children safe online.

The Act aims to protect young Australians from pressures and risks they can be exposed to at a critical stage of their development, through world-first social media age restrictions which will come into effect from 10 December 2025. For more information please visit: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/industry-regulation/social-media-age-restrictions>

GAGA BALL

WHAT IS GAGA BALL

Gaga Ball is a gentler version of dodge ball played with a soft ball. The game is played in a octagonal pit.

Gaga combines the skills of Dodging, running and jumping. Balls must only be thrown at legs - when the ball hits you, you are out.



YR 2 SLEEPOVER

The Grade 2 Sleepover for 2025 was a wonderful success! Our Grade 2 students were incredible – they enjoyed pizza, danced, laughed, and were delighted when our magician, Bruce, made a real rabbit appear from nowhere.

Both students and staff had a fantastic time, and we even managed to squeeze in a little sleep! We were up bright and early on Friday morning, packing up our classrooms and preparing for the arrival of the Grade 1 students. Teachers were very impressed with how well the students packed up their sleeping bags and belongings, with only a few stray socks and a pillow left behind.

Breakfast was enjoyed al fresco and generously provided by TheirCare. With full tummies, students headed inside to make their own lunches, choose a piece of fruit, and select a drink. Play lunch wasn't forgotten either – students were able to choose their snack before heading outside for recess.

Now our Grade 2 students are excited and ready for their Grade 3 camp in 2026!



CAMP WYUNA

Camp WYMCA Wyuna was a camp that we all enjoyed. We were with all of our friends for 3 consecutive days, this gave us amazing experiences and improved our friendships. We attended a lot of activities. The best activities were boogie boarding (water was sooooo nice and we caught some pretty big waves.)

Many people enjoyed bike riding. In bike riding we were shown amazing views as we rode around Queenscliff. The bike ride went for 8ks. We didn't get very hot as we got a nice beach breeze from the ocean. The chicken coop had three chickens. They would lay eggs every morning which was the good part, sadly by the time people checked for eggs, people had already taken them.

On behalf of everyone we all enjoyed the year 5/6 camp.

Tom, Arabella and Alisa



CAMP WYUNA



FOUNDATION FARMERS



Our Foundation students enjoyed a wonderful day experiencing life on the farm!

Despite dodging a few showers, they made the most of the puddles and embraced every moment. Students planted seeds, fed the friendly farm animals, and learned all about the important work farmers do to keep their animals healthy and happy.



Some words from our students:

We ate our lunch in the barn.

We got to go on a tractor ride - Seb

I enjoyed making a plant to take home - Jacob

My favourite thing was seeing all the animals - Matteo

We got to feel real wool from a sheep and made a sheep drawing with the wool.

I liked feeding the animals - James

It was fun feeding the animals - Rumaisa

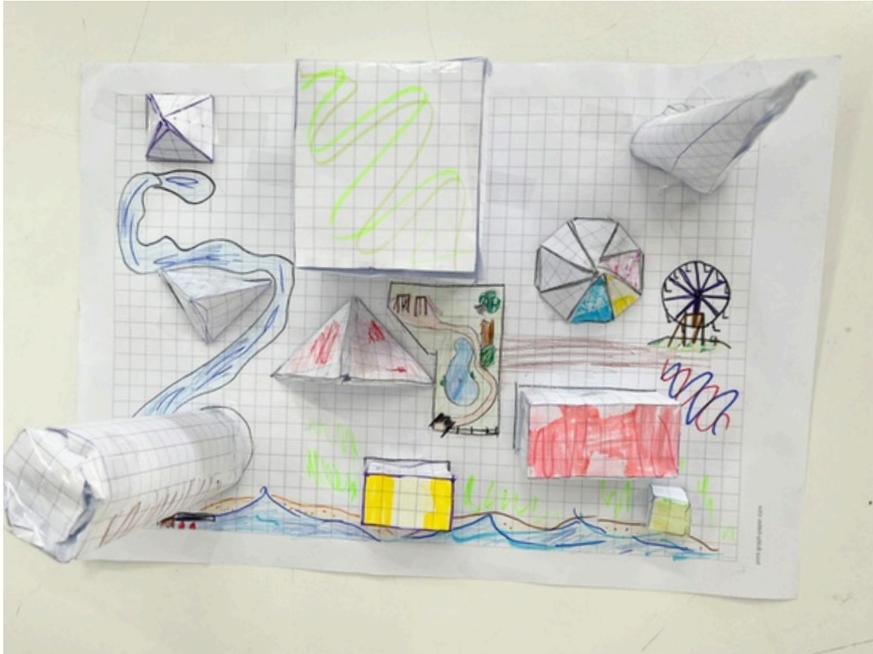


We had an amazing time on the Bundoora Park Farm excursion.



LEARNING IN YR. 5/6

During term four, students in Year 5/6 have been learning all about 3D shapes and their properties. Students undertook a project to build their own cities using nets they created for 3D shapes, helping bridge the gap between theory and the world around them. Here's what they had to say:



Paper is used in math all the time. From writing equations to making a paper city. Which is what we did. Three weeks of making 3D cities. I attempted to make Empire State Building but it ended up in the scrap bin 4 times in a row. But I'm not writing this to highlight the bad, I'm here to explain it all. The city is surrounded by beaches. The first thing you see is the Statue of Liberty then there are 3 buildings each 1-2 centimetres taller than the first. As well as this I made a basketball stadium, houses and a bin (don't ask why).

Tom 5/6D

This term in maths we did a project called 3D Cities. We planned our cities on a piece of paper with grid lines. Then drew our nets, cut them out and put them together. Once we had all our 3D shapes stuck on the page we drew beaches, parks and landmarks to finish it off. Some challenges were planning complicated shapes, and then having to build them with paper, another challenge was having to stick the edges of the net together trying not to squish the whole shape. Overall it was a wonderful project and really fun.

Arabella 5/6D

Learning all these 3D shapes and angles have really changed my perspective on 3 dimensionality. We learnt all about how to make our own nets for 3D shapes and how to use a protractor. Making our 3D cities using the nets we made has been really fun. It was like we were constructing a real life city!

Menaal 5/6A



SLEIGH DESIGNS

This term Foundation students took part in a series of Science and Technology webinars with Ecolinc. They learnt lots about native Australian animals. In the final webinar students got to design a new form of transport for Santa-and had lots of fun building it. There was lots of creativity with Christmas planes, helicopters, boats and trains- even a robot powered kangaroo for Santa to deliver presents in!



CHAMPIONING SPS VALUES

Each week we recognise students who display our School Values of Character, Inspiration, Connection and Endeavour.



WEEK 7

ART – Cleo L & Annabella J

For demonstrating our school values through her tremendous attitude to her art work.

ITALIAN – Elke B

For demonstrating great **'Character'** by attentively listening and having a great attitude in Italian.

MUSIC – Mia T

For displaying the school value of **'Inspiration'** by the way she applies herself to all music sessions. Well done!

PE – Rojbin E

For consistently demonstrating **'Character'** by respectfully interacting with all of your peers, and showing a willingness to share your ideas in team activities. Well done Rojbin!

FA – Matilda B

For demonstrating the school value of **'Inspiration'** when writing her Big write about Jellyfish. Well done, Matilda!

FA – Ashley P

For demonstrating the school value of **'Inspiration'** when creating her Life Cycle poster about Butterflies.

FB – Sebastian F

Sebastian demonstrated the school values of **'Character'** and **'Connection'** for taking great care of the classroom and for sharing his animal knowledge. Well done, Sebastian!

FB – Penny R

Penny demonstrated the school value of **'Inspiration'** when writing an information report about Dolphins. Well done, Penny!

FB – Jacob C

Jacob demonstrated the school value of **'Inspiration'** when creating his life cycle headband about Frogs and his life cycle poster about Butterflies. Well done, Jacob!

1/2A – Ashton Y

For demonstrating our school value of **'Inspiration'** through your positive focus and attitude toward your learning and making great choices so you can do your best!

1/2B – Olivia L

For always demonstrating great **'Character'** by attentively listening and having a great attitude to learning.

1/2C – Nethil K

For demonstrating the school values of **'Character'**, **'Inspiration'**, **'Connection'** and **'Endeavour'** when working on tasks and working with others. AWESOME effort Nethil!

3/4A – Luca R

For demonstrating the school value of **'Character'** for working to the very best of your ability when completing your math assessments. It was great to see you skip counting and writing down your working out to the questions. Well Done!

3/4B – Genevieve F

For demonstrating the school values of **'Endeavour'** and **'Inspiration'** by planning and writing an outstanding biography about Malala. Well done for following the structure and including fascinating facts. Great work, Genevieve! Keep up the amazing efforts in writing.

CHAMPIONING SPS VALUES

WEEK 7 CONT.

3/4C - Leo C

For displaying the school value of **'Endeavour'** during flexible literacy groups. Well done for listening attentively and taking on board feedback to research and write your biography. Keep up the great work Leo, you should be very proud of yourself!

5/6A - Menaal M

For displaying the school value of **'Inspiration'** and **'Endeavour'** during Bike Education! Well done Menaal for challenging yourself and mastering a new skill!

5/6B - Jake R

For demonstrating **'Inspiration'** and **'Endeavour'** during Bike Education. Well done Jake for leading by example and being a positive role model for your peers.

5/6B - Talia M

For displaying the school value of **'Inspiration'** and **'Endeavour'** during Bike Education! Well done Talia for challenging yourself and refining your bike riding skills.

5/6C - Jackson M

For displaying the school value of **'Character'** by regularly displaying great cooperative work with others.

5/6D - Arabella S

For demonstrating the school values of **'Inspiration'** and **'Endeavour'** in maths groups by always trying your best, sharing your work with others, and helping your peers achieve their best. Well done, Arabella, keep up the wonderful work!

WEEK 8

ART - Nia N

For displaying the school value of **'Character'** by working to the best of her ability and consistently displaying high level skills in her artwork. Congratulations

ITALIAN - Sadeef Z

For demonstrating great **'Endeavour'** in Italian by always doing her best with the work in relation to the leaning tower of Pisa.

MUSIC - Jack P, Aarya W, Yenaara W, Olivier J, Alessandro C, Era V, Ryon W & Agniv D

For demonstrating the school value of **'Inspiration'** through his/her fantastic performance at the week 7 school assembly. Well done!

PE - Aydin C & Charlie J

For displaying the school value of Character when attempting new skills during our gymnastics unit of work

FA - Ari M

Ari demonstrated the school value of **'Inspiration'** when completing his Big Write about goats- he did a fabulous job on his Home Talk recording interesting facts.

FA - Charles A

Charles demonstrated the school value of **'Inspiration'** for having a go and trying his best when reading a variety of texts to his teacher. Well done, Charles!

FB - Jake H

Jake demonstrated the school value of **'Inspiration'** when writing an information report about Chickens. Well done, Jake!

FB - Max H

Max demonstrated the school values of **'Inspiration'** and **'Connection'** when sharing his ideas, design and creation for a new sleigh for Santa. Well done, Max!

CHAMPIONING SPS VALUES

WEEK 8 CONT.

1/2A - Maya E

For demonstrating our school value of **'Inspiration'** through your focus and positive attitude toward your learning and making great choices so you can do your best! Well done Maya!

1/2B - Elliot A

For displaying the school value of **'Character'** when attempting new skills during class time.

1/2C - Evelyn C, Kaison S & Phillip S

For demonstrating the school values of **'Character'**, **'Inspiration'**, **'Connection'** and **'Endeavour'** through your positive choices and efforts to ensure you show your best self in class. AWESOME effort to you all!

3/4A - Naabih N

For showing the school value of **'Character'** for always working to the best of your ability in all learning areas. Well Done Naabih!

3/4B Abby K

For being such a thoughtful and helpful member of 3/4B. You always follow the SPS values and display a caring attitude towards your classmates. Keep being your beautiful self, Abby!

5/6 C - Louella O

For consistently demonstrating the school values of **'Character'** and **'Inspiration'** by showing a strong commitment to improving her work, effectively incorporating feedback, and showing a respectful and positive attitude in all interactions.

5/6D - Tom J

For demonstrating the school values of **'Character'** and **'Inspiration'** with your work in maths by going above and beyond with your project. Also for supporting all of your peers to be the best versions of themselves. Well done, Tom, we are lucky to have you in 5/6D!

WEEK 9

ART - Leon C

For demonstrating our school values through his tremendous attitude to his art work.

ITALIAN - Matteo P

For showing the school value of Character by making great choices in Italian and as a result producing great work!

MUSIC - Taylan C

For demonstrating the school value of 'Character' for the great way he assisted other students. Well done Taylan!

PE - Aryan D

For demonstrating the school value of 'Inspiration' through his fantastic participation in sport this week. Well done!

FA - Liron D

For demonstrating the value of character with his safe and responsible behaviour at the farm

FA - All of Foundation B

To all the students in Foundation B for demonstrating the school values of 'Character, Inspiration, Connection and Endeavour' when they attended the excursion to the Bundoora Park Farm and when participating in the Colour Run last week. Well done to all the students in Foundation B!

1/2A - Eesa H

For showing the school value of character for always working to the best of your ability in all learning areas. Great work Eesa!!

1/2A - Cleo L

For being such a thoughtful and helpful member of 1/2A. Always following the SPS values and displaying a caring attitude towards your classmates. Well done Cleo!

CHAMPIONING SPS VALUES

WEEK 9 CONT.

1/2B - Joshua D

For demonstrating the school values of **'Character'** and **'Inspiration'** by showing a commitment to improving his work daily and showing a respectful and positive attitude in all interactions in and outside of the classroom

1/2C - Zoe K

For demonstrating the school values of **'Character'**, **'Inspiration'**, **'Connection'** and **'Endeavour'** by showing positive focus and attitude toward your learning when working on tasks. SUPERB effort Zoe!

1/2C - Karim A

For demonstrating the school values of **'Character'**, **'Inspiration'**, **'Connection'** and **'Endeavour'** when working on tasks and working with others. AWESOME effort Karim!

3/4A - Aydin A

For being such a thoughtful and helpful member of 3/4A. You always follow the SPS values and display a caring attitude towards your classmates. Keep up this amazing work!

3/4B - Spencer M

For demonstrating the school values of **'Character'** and **'Connection'** through your enthusiastic participation in classroom discussions. It is fantastic to see you sharing your prior knowledge, thoughts and ideas. Keep up your positive contributions, Spencer!

5/6 C - All years 5s

For being an inspiration to their peers and teachers and producing engaging and inspiring speeches about being leaders next year.