



LEADERSHIP REPORT

by Jason Vandy



2026 NAPLAN

I'm very pleased to report that 2026 NAPLAN has ran very smoothly despite some schools experiencing technical difficulties. Thank you for supporting your child in the preparation for these assessments.

2026 School Council

Thank you to January Hamilton, Meredith Ball and Travis Jones for your commitment and contribution to School Council in previous years. Your feedback, dedication and respectful communication have helped guide many positive outcomes for students and the wider school community.

After two rounds of nominations, I am pleased to present the 2026 SPS School Council members:

- Jenny Strouzas (DET employee)
- Marissa Reilly (DET employee)
- Kirsten Way (DET employee)
- Taisa Thomson
- Carly Anderson
- Jarryd Garvin
- Kate King
- Evan Appathurai
- Christopher Lamaris
- George Iliopoulos

I am very confident that we have a strong and committed team to oversee the governance of SPS for the next 12 months.

School Safety – Parking and Road Safety

I know this may sound like a reminder you have heard before, but the safety of our students and community is extremely important. I kindly ask all families who drive their children to school to please follow all parking signage and avoid parking across driveways or on nature strips during drop-off and pick-up times.

Parking in these areas creates unsafe conditions for students and the wider community, and it is also illegal. Please be aware that the local council regularly patrols school zones, particularly during busy drop-off and pick-up periods.

Thank you for helping us keep our school community safe.

Upcoming Events

We have some exciting events coming up to finish the term. In Week 9, we will celebrate Harmony Week, an annual event that recognises and celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. Harmony Week promotes a cohesive, inclusive and respectful community, and our students will participate in a range of activities throughout the week beginning Monday 23 March.

In the final week of Term 1, the Easter Hat Parade will return. This is always a wonderful and creative event for our students and families. Please keep an eye on Compass for further details closer to the date.

Strathmore Community Bank

Strathmore Primary School is proud to be supported by the Strathmore Community Bank. Over the past few years the Strathmore Community Bank has generously provided financial contributions to our school, helping us purchase valuable resources and supporting students to attend camps and excursions through their hardship assistance program.

In 2026, they have also committed funding to support proposed improvement works in the area outside the Year 1-2 classrooms.

We are incredibly grateful for their ongoing support of our students and school community. If you happen to visit the Strathmore Community Bank branch, please feel free to pass on our thanks for their continued generosity.

IMPORTANT DATES:

WEEK 8

18 Mar – Yr 6 Dream & Lead Conference

20 Mar – Community Reading

WEEK 9

23 Mar – Salsa Dancing

24 Mar – Veneto Club Choir

25 Mar – School Photos

26 Mar – Special Assembly

WEEK 10

31 Mar – F to 2 Mini Olympics Day

2 Apr – Last Day of Term 1

TERM 2

Students are back 20 April 2026

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY – 25 MARCH



On Wednesday 25th March we will be having our annual school photos. Photo ordering must be done via the link on Compass to MSP Photography.

Sibling Photos must be ordered prior to photo day.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND FILMING OF STUDENTS CONSENT



Recently, we advised families that the Department of Education has introduced a new consent form for the photographing, filming and recording of students.

Strathmore Primary School has shared this information via Compass Events, where parents are required to complete the consent form as a mandatory item.

The [Photographing, Filming and Recording Policy](#) is available on our website.

We encourage you to take a moment to read the policy before providing your consent on Compass.

EASTER FUN

The SPS Parents Club is running two fun competitions to celebrate Easter!

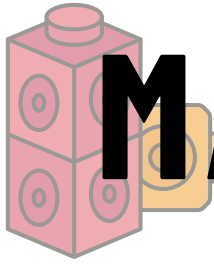
Guess How Many Eggs – Make your guess for just \$1 per entry. If you'd like to participate, please visit the school office to submit your guess.

Easter Colouring Competition – If chocolate eggs or maths aren't your thing, try our Easter Colouring Competition instead! There are two colouring pages to choose from. The best two entries will each win a chocolate bunny.

Winners will be announced at the end-of-term assembly on 2 April.

Good luck to everyone who enters!





MATHS MATTERS

NUMERACY REPORT

by Marissa Reilly



WHY CONCRETE MATERIALS MATTER IN PRIMARY MATHEMATICS

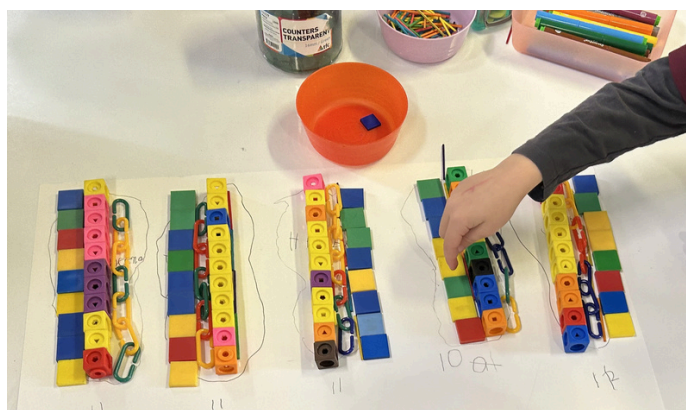
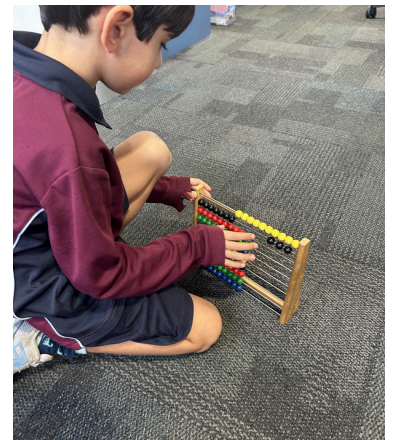
Concrete materials—such as counters, blocks, beads, ten frames, number lines, place-value equipment, and fraction tiles—are essential tools in helping children build strong, lasting mathematical understanding. They allow students to see, touch, and physically explore mathematical ideas before moving on to abstract symbols and written methods.

BUILDING DEEP UNDERSTANDING

Children make sense of mathematical ideas by connecting new concepts to real, physical experiences. Concrete materials help them:

- Visualise numbers and operations rather than memorising steps.
- Understand place value by physically grouping and regrouping tens and ones.
- Explore patterns and relationships, such as doubling, halving, or sharing.
- Develop problem-solving strategies by trying out ideas in hands-on ways.

This approach supports all learners, especially those who benefit from seeing maths in action rather than only hearing explanations.



MOVING FROM CONCRETE TO ABSTRACT

Using concrete materials is part of a well-established teaching sequence often described as:

- *Concrete* – using physical objects
- *Pictorial* – drawing or interpreting visual representations
- *Abstract* – using numbers and symbols

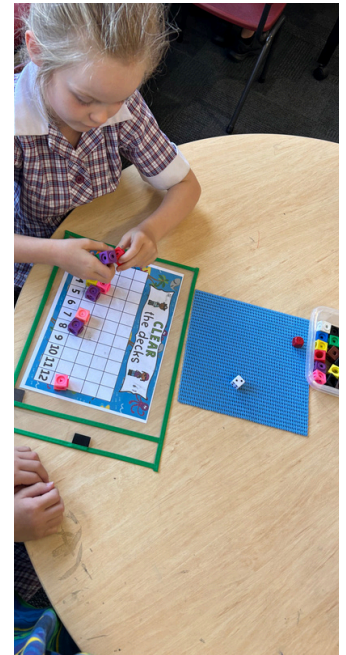
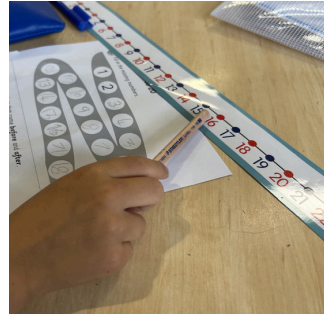
This progression ensures students truly understand why a mathematical process works before they are asked to apply it independently.

ACCESSIBLE ACROSS ALL PRIMARY YEAR LEVELS

Concrete materials are not just for younger learners. They remain valuable throughout primary school because they help students make sense of increasingly complex ideas. For example:

- **Foundation–Year 2:** Building early number concepts, counting, grouping, and simple addition and subtraction.
- **Years 3–4:** Understanding multiplication, division, place value to thousands, and early fractions.
- **Years 5–6:** Exploring fractions, decimals, percentages, and the relationships between them using fraction walls, decimal grids, and place-value sliders.

These tools help older students visualise abstract concepts, such as the value of tenths and hundredths or how fractions can be equivalent, simplified, or compared



SUPPORTING CONFIDENCE AND ENGAGEMENT



Hands-on materials make maths feel accessible and enjoyable. They:

- Encourage children to talk about their thinking.
- Reduce anxiety by allowing students to test ideas without fear of making mistakes.
- Promote collaboration as students work together to solve problems.

When children feel confident using materials, they are more willing to take risks and persist with challenging tasks.

WHAT PARENTS MIGHT NOTICE

You may see your child using objects like blocks, drawings, or household items (coins, pasta, buttons) when working on maths tasks. This is a positive sign—they are building deep understanding, not relying on memorisation. Encouraging them to use these tools at home can reinforce the same learning they experience at school.



HARMONY WEEK

In week 9 (Monday 23rd March to Friday 27th March) Strathmore Primary School will be celebrating Harmony week. Harmony Week is the celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. It's all about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

This year at Strathmore Primary School we will be celebrating Harmony Week with a Latin Fiesta dance direct experience, a visit to our school by the Veneto Club Choir and Hip Hop Dance Sessions direct experience.

These events will happen on the following dates -

- Latin Fiesta dance: Monday 23rd March 2026.
- Veneto Club Choir - Tuesday 24th March 2026
- Hip Hop Dance Lesson: Friday 27th March 2026.

Please check compass for payments and consent for these events.

Families are invited to attend your child's session to watch and enjoy the talents of the Veneto Club Choir. They will be performing twice at our school during the following times -

- Foundation and Grade 1/2 - Session 3 - 11:10am-12pm
- Grade 3-6 - Session 4 - 12pm-12:50pm

You can wear orange to show your support on Friday 27th March, or you can wear a traditional cultural costume to school.

There will be a special assembly in the stadium starting at 2:40pm.

We are looking forward to a fun filled week full of excitement, activities and most of all, 'harmony'.



HARMONY WEEK

CELEBRATES HOW ALL
OF OUR DIFFERENCES
MAKE AUSTRALIA A
GREAT PLACE TO LIVE!

[HARMONY.GOV.AU](https://www.harmony.gov.au)



MOVE IN MARCH

Walk, ride, scoot
or skate to school,
kinder or childcare
during March to win!



Are ready for a challenge? Walk, ride, scoot or skate to and from school every day during March 2026 and you will go into the draw to win awesome prizes!

REBEL SPORT VOUCHERS • FREE FAMILY SWIM PASSES • MOVIE VOUCHERS

If you live too far away, part way is okay! Park a few streets from school and walk, ride, scoot or skate from there using our interactive map.

Move in March is a Better Moves Around Schools and Let's Go Zero initiative, proudly presented by Moonee Valley City Council.

mvcc.vic.gov.au/schools | 9243 8888



Strathmore Primary school is once again participating in Moonee Valley City Council's Walk to School Month in 2026. We encourage all students to find a way to walk, scoot or ride to school this month. Remember if you can't walk from home, it is fine to be dropped off part of the way as long as you can safely make your way to school. You can record your walks to and from school on the chart in your classroom. You can also complete your own personal challenge card (see your classroom teacher for these) and hand it into the office in Week 10.



SPS SPORTS

SPS ATHLETICS DAY

Our recent Strathmore Primary School Athletics Carnival was a fantastic display of participation and competitive drive. It was wonderful to see all students getting involved, challenging themselves in each event and showing great support for their peers throughout the day.

The level of ability, enthusiasm and determination and sportsmanship on display was amazing to see. Students gave their all, and came out with smiles on the other side. Well done to everyone who competed, and good luck to those who's results will take them into the next stage of competition in term 3.

A big thank you to our parent helpers who generously gave their time to assist on the day.



GALA DAY

The Year 5/6 students recently participated in Gala day, which ran over 2 weeks. Students participated in a range of sports, playing in round robin-style competitions against local schools. Please enjoy the sport reports below from some of our competitors.

VOLLEYBALL REPORT

By Greta S and Zeynep O

We were lucky enough to be chosen for the volleyball team. We were both really excited to represent our school and take part in the competition. The volleyball players were split into two teams: a mixed team and a girls team. We were both a part of the girls team. It was great to work together and support each other throughout the games.

On the first day we played six games, and on the second day we played four games. Over the two weeks, the teams won, tied, and lost a variety of games. Everyone cheered for each other and supported the team that was playing. The encouragement from teammates made the games more fun and helped everyone stay positive.

For some people it was their first time playing volleyball. It was a great opportunity to try something new, learn new skills, improve our teamwork and play sport with our friends.



CRICKET REPORT

by Ryan G and Ryon W



We played cricket at Fairbairn Park. Our first game was against Essendon Primary School and we won by 15 runs. After that win, we felt really strong and ready to play St Vincents. Our team played extremely well but unfortunately lost by 14 runs. In the next game we played Essendon North, where we won by 120 runs. This was our best game yet. The last game of the day was against Strathmore North. Our team had to play really, really hard to beat our rivals. For the whole game, we ran from end to end to try to secure the win. Strathmore North batted really well and stole the win from us by 13 runs.

On the 6th of March, we went back to Fairbairn Park. If we won every game, we could possibly make the top 2. That would mean we could go to Districts. St Monica was going to be a hard game to win. But our team played better than ever and won by 130 runs. It was a great start to our day but playing Niddrie wasn't going to be easy. The game came down to the last bowl and we won by 2 runs in the end. THE LAST GAME WAS HUGE, if we won that game, we would have a chance to make Districts. What we didn't realise was how amazing our team really was and when we played Aberfeldie, we knew that we could win and we did. We won by 175 runs. At the end of the day, we unfortunately finished 3rd. Which means we couldn't make Districts. We still had one more game which was to determine if we were 3rd or 4th. We played Essendon North again. It was a hard game even though we beat them before, we lost by 25 runs.

GALA DAY

SOFTBALL REPORT

By Lucas P and Hannah J

We played softball at Fairbairn Park for Gala Day. There were 2 teams - Team 1 and Team 2. We were both on team 2. On the first day we played Niddrie, Moonee Ponds, Abberfeldie, St Monica's and Strathmore North. On day two, we played Essendon North, Essendon, a second Essendon North team and another Moonee Ponds team.

At the end of the two days we finished 5th on the ladder. We had 5 wins, 3 losses and 1 draw. Apart from the billion flies, we all had a great day. It was great to see that we all improved on the second day.



TENNIS REPORT

by Hugo V and Agniv D



It was our first time trying out for tennis for Gala Day. Both of us were equally eager to make the team. We did. And unsurprisingly, we had the greatest time...

Day 1 (Hugo's perspective)

On the bus there, most of us were completely clueless about what it would be like at St Monicas, but it didn't disappoint us. There were eight nets to play on, and four nets set up for us to practice while the others were versing each other. My first game was in round two, so we got to use the practice courts for the first bit. When it was finally time for me to play it was a mixed doubles match with Sophie against Moonee Ponds we won 9-4 and my other win was with Ulac which we won 9-4 again. Over all my time at the first part of Gala day was amazing!

Day 2 (Agniv's perspective)

It was the second part of Gala Day, and we were all pumped up, ready to play the finals later that afternoon. Even though I lost my first two games, I wasn't giving up my hopes of winning any time soon, as we were currently ninth on the ladder. Lucky for me, I had nothing to worry about, as my mixed doubles match with Eera was a breeze. Early in the game, we took the lead, and ended up finishing 9-4, winning us our round. As we hopped back on the bus, everybody was happy with their efforts.

Overall, we finished eighth on the ladder, and, though we didn't make it to the next level, we've all had the best day ever!



CHAMPIONING SPS VALUES

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



WEEK 6

ART - Theo C

For demonstrating our school values by co-operating with class members. Great effort this week, Theodore!

ITALIAN - Alannah F

For demonstrating the school value of inspiration through her great effort during this week's Italian session.

MUSIC - Matteo C

For demonstrating the school value of 'Inspiration' through his great participation during our music session this week. He followed all instructions well and played wonderfully on the percussion instruments. Well done!

PE - Tongai M

For demonstrating the school value of inspiration through his excellent efforts during this week's sport session

FA - Fletcher W

For demonstrating our school value of Endeavour and Character by persisting with tasks and getting things done. Fantastic effort Fletcher.

FA - Brianna N

For demonstrating the school values of 'character', 'inspiration', 'connection' and 'endeavour' by making good choices and completing all tasks. Well done Bri!

1/2A - Jacob C

For 'character' with his positive attitude and effort in all his learning.

1/2B - Emily S

For demonstrating the school values of 'character', 'inspiration', 'connection' and 'endeavour' by having a positive attitude and always working to the best of your ability in all learning areas.

1/2C - Kieran M

Kieran demonstrated the school value of 'Inspiration and Connection' when he took turns with another student to build two projects using Lego Spike Education. Well done, Kieran!

1/2C - Leonid S

Leonid demonstrated the school value of 'Inspiration and Connection' when he took turns with another student to build two projects using Lego Spike Education. Well done, Leonid!

1/2D - Maya E

For demonstrating the school values of 'character', 'inspiration', 'connection' and 'endeavour' by having a positive attitude and always working to the best of your ability in all learning areas.

3/4A - Ned C

For demonstrating all the school values during Athletics Day. Well done Ned on your achievements during the different events. Also, well done for encouraging and showing wonderful sportsmanship towards the other participants.

3/4B - Frankie H

For demonstrating great 'Character' by having a positive attitude towards school. It is wonderful to see you greeting your teacher and friends with a smile on your face, being helpful and ready for learning time. Well done Frankie! Keep it up!

3/4C - Theo C

For demonstrating the school values of character, endeavour and inspiration with your work in 3/4C, trying your best, and contributing to class discussions. Well done, Theo, keep it up!

CHAMPIONING SPS VALUES

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



WEEK 6 CONT.

5/6A - Imelda M

For demonstrating our school values of character and connection through your positive attitude and excellent encouragement of others throughout Athletics Day. Well done, Imelda

5/6B - Kyra S

For consistently demonstrating a growth mindset, encouraging others and leading through positive actions that inspire her classmates to strive for their best. Kyra embodies all of our school values and helps create a supportive, motivating environment for everyone!

5/6C - Grace P

For demonstrating the school values of character, inspiration, endeavour, and connection through your amazing efforts on Athletics Day. It was wonderful to see you challenge yourself, step outside your comfort zone, and show outstanding perseverance. Well done, Grace—keep challenging yourself!

5/6C - Niko P

For demonstrating the school values of character and endeavour with the way you worked during our grade 6 session on Monday by completing the work to the best of your ability, being the hardest worker, and going above and beyond with the quality of your work. Well done, Niko, you're having a great start to the year! Mr M.

5/6D - Sam H

For demonstrating the school values of character, endeavour and inspiration with the way you are engaging in class, giving your best when working, and being a kind and friendly member of 5/6D. Well done, Sam, keep up the great work mate!

5/6D - Azra C

For showing the school value of character at Athletics Day by overcoming her nerves, having a go and trying her very best in the 100m sprint and 1500m race. Well Done!

CHAMPIONING SPS VALUES

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



WEEK 7

ART - Aarya W

For showing outstanding creativity and focus in Art this week. Keep it up!

ITALIAN - Alexis I

For demonstrating the school value of inspiration through her great effort during this week's Italian session.

MUSIC - Alannah F

For demonstrating the school value of 'inspiration' by her fantastic enthusiasm and participation during our music session this week.

PE - Liya D

For demonstrating the school values of 'character', 'inspiration', 'connection' and 'endeavour' by having a positive attitude and always working to the best of your ability during Phys Ed classes.

FA - Oona C

For being such a thoughtful and helpful member of Foundation A. Always following the SPS values and displaying a caring attitude towards your classmates. Well done, Oona!

FA - Farhan H

For demonstrating the school values of character and endeavour by having a positive attitude and giving new work a go. Well done Farhan!

1/2A - Georgie G

For demonstrating the school values of 'character' and 'inspiration' by showing a positive attitude in your learning.

1/2B - Tyler B

For demonstrating the school values of 'character' and 'inspiration' by writing a fabulous Big Write about 'A Treasure Chest'. TERRIFIC effort Tyler!

1/2C - Charlie C

Charlie demonstrated the school value of 'Inspiration' for having a go and trying his best at all his learning tasks. Well done, Charlie!

1/2D - Violet H

For demonstrating the school values of 'character', 'inspiration', 'connection' and 'endeavour' by having a positive attitude and always working to the best of your ability in all learning areas.

3/4A - Daniel L

For demonstrating the school values of 'Character' and 'Endeavour' by showing wonderful learning habits. Well done Daniel by listening, concentrating and trying your best in all learning tasks. Keep up the terrific work!

3/4B - Dayle G

For displaying the school values of 'Character' and 'Endeavour' by always trying your best with your work and being such a helpful and kind member of 3/4B. Keep up the tremendous work, you superstar!

3/4C - Samih E

For displaying the school values of 'Character' by helping the younger students at the GaGa Pit. It was wonderful watching you being kind and supportive. Superstar effort Samih!

5/6A - Chloe N

For demonstrating the school values of Endeavour and Inspiration for being an amazing role model in our grade by completing work to the best of your ability and regularly participating in class discussions. Well Done!

CHAMPIONING SPS VALUES

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



WEEK 7 CONT.

5/6B - Electra T

For demonstrating the school values of 'character', 'inspiration', 'connection' and 'endeavour' by having a positive attitude and always working to the best of your ability in all learning areas. Keep up the great work Electra!

5/6B - Max R

For demonstrating the school values of character, endeavour, connection and inspiration with your work in maths. It has been extremely pleasing to see the collaboration and hard work you have put into our flexible group work on decimals. Well done, Max!

5/6B - Kutay C

For demonstrating the school values of character, endeavour, connection and inspiration with your work in maths. It has been extremely pleasing to see the collaboration and hard work you have put into our flexible group work on decimals. Well done, Kutay!

5/6C - Eera V

For displaying the school value of character, by always giving your best in every subject, showing a positive mindset, and being such a kind and caring member of our class. You are a wonderful role model!

5/6C - Josie V

For demonstrating the school values of character, connection, inspiration and endeavour by always trying your best and being kind to others. You inspire your classmates with your attitude.

5/6D - Sultan K

For demonstrating the school values of character, endeavour and inspiration with the way you are trying your hardest, asking for help, and applying feedback to your work. Well done, Sultan, you should be proud of yourself!

5/6D - Talia M

For demonstrating the school values of character, connection and endeavour with the way you are bringing a positive mindset to the classroom, working your hardest, and asking for help when needed. Well done, Talia, keep kicking goals!