



**Springside Primary School Newsletter**

**December 2023**



We would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we gather today, the Wurundjeri people, and pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

We thank them for preserving this land and allowing us to live the life we do today.

May the Springside Community show respect to the lands that elders past and present protected for us all as we learn and grow together.



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## Important Dates for 2024

Term 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff return January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024*</li> <li>Year 1-6 Students return Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024</li> <li>Prep Students return Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024</li> <li>School Photos Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024</li> <li>School Photos catch-up day booked for Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024</li> <li>Labour Day (public holiday) Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024</li> <li>Last day of school for Term One Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 2pm</li> </ul>
Term 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students Return Monday April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024</li> <li>Anzac Day (public holiday) Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024</li> <li>Student Free Day: Common Professional Practice Day Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024</li> <li>Family Photo Day Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024</li> <li>King's Birthday (public holiday) – Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024</li> <li>Last day of Term Two Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 2pm</li> </ul>
Term 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students Return Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024</li> <li>Student Free Day Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024</li> <li>Last day of Term Three for students Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024</li> </ul>
Term 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students Return Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024</li> <li>Student Free Day Monday November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024</li> <li>Melbourne Cup (public holiday) Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024</li> <li>Last day of Term Four Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 3pm</li> </ul>

### Principal Team - Gab Zorko, Caroline Slopak and Jen Murasawa

As we write the final newsletter of the year, we are filled with gratitude for the incredible journey we've undertaken together. A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated staff, supportive families, and the vibrant students who make our school a thriving community.

A special acknowledgment goes to our remarkable school captains, Xavier, Brady, Georgia and Alex who were the driving force behind positive change. We express gratitude to the Parents Association for their unwavering support, and we bid farewell with deep appreciation to the staff members who have played pivotal roles in shaping the minds of our students.

As we prepare to say goodbye to our departing staff, let us reflect on the impact they've had on our lives and express our sincere thanks. To our Year Six cohort, who walked through the guard of honour, you have left an indelible mark on our hearts. We are proud of your accomplishments, and we believe in the bright futures you hold. Best wishes to the other kiddos heading to closer schools next year, we will miss you all!

As we bid farewell for now, let's cherish the memories we've created this year. Wishing everyone a safe, joyful holiday season filled with laughter and love. We look forward to welcoming you back on Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, ready to embark on another exciting year of learning and growth.

## Springside's Student Leaders

Thank you to the 2023 school leaders for all their hard work this year. What an inspiring and dedicated group of young people. To Xavier, Brady, Georgia and Alexander, You have proven to be reliable, humble and great role models. I wish you all the best and every future success.



## House Captains Acknowledgement



Well done to Kaydence, Leo, Ashwin, Charlotte, Lincoln, Harper, Zaneta and Ayman for their dedication to promoting and leading whole school events as Springside's House Captains and House Vice Captains this year.

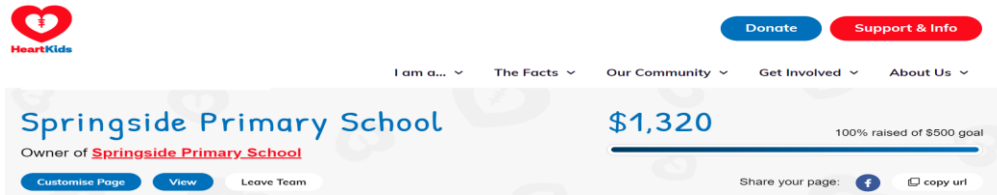
## Introducing the 2024 School Captains

After an extensive recruitment process of applications writing, speeches and interviews, we are thrilled to announce the 2024 Springside School Captains. We cannot wait to see you shine in your roles next year.



What an amazing term, and year it has been. We've had the pleasure of experiencing the following highlights:

- Open Classrooms
- Heart Kids Fundraiser (raising a whopping \$1,320)
- Year 6 Graduation
- Meet the Teacher
- Christmas Concert
- Last Day of School Assembly
- Guard of Honour for Year 6 Graduates



## Christmas Concert Thanks

A massive thank you to Ms. Mayas for her incredible organisation of the Christmas Concert—it was a hot and entertaining night for everyone involved. We are delighted to hear that the kids had fun, and families could reconnect as a community during this festive event.

A special appreciation goes out to the staff who taught such Rockin' dance moves to our talented kiddos. Thanks to the staff that sold Zooper Doopers and the students who enthusiastically sold glow sticks. Through your efforts, we're thrilled to announce that we raised more than \$600 for SWPBS—an impressive contribution that will undoubtedly make a positive impact.

A round of applause is also in order for the Spade & Spoon team, whose dedication resulted in raising over \$1000 for our outdoor pizza oven project. Your hard work and commitment are truly commendable. And a big 'thank you' to Simone and Cathy who sold books.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the families who took the time to show appreciation for the complexities of organising such a large-scale Christmas Concert for our wonderful school, which boasts over 890 students. Your support makes events like these truly special.

Once again, thank you all for contributing to the success of our Christmas Concert and for being an essential part of our thriving school community.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season!





## Year 6 Graduation

Hats off to the fantastic Year 6 team for orchestrating an incredible graduation ceremony! The event was a splendid send-off, and the dedication and hard work put into making it memorable were clearly evident. A heartfelt thank you to each and every person who played a role in ensuring the night was a resounding success. Your efforts did not go unnoticed, and the impact was truly appreciated. Well done!



## Indigenous Garden

Congratulations to the Year 4 students, Aboriginal Connection Group, and families for creating an engaging Indigenous Garden with the invaluable support of Jayne, courtesy of a Landcare Grant. Last week marked the official opening, highlighted by a smoking ceremony conducted by Colin Hunter Jr. Jr. We extend our gratitude to Mr. Bauer for assisting the Aboriginal Connection Group in painting their totems, now proudly displayed in the area.



Looking ahead to 2024, this will serve as the gateway to a wonderful space at the back, offering an interactive experience where everyone can enjoy and participate in conversations within the yarning circle. A heartfelt well done to all involved!

Cultivating cultural connection - Star Weekly <https://brimbanknorthwest.starweekly.com.au/news/cultivating-cultural-connection/>

18/12/2023



*Springside Primary School has unveiled their vibrant new Indigenous garden and yarning circle. (Supplied)*

A new Indigenous garden and yarning circle has blossomed in the school yard of Springside Primary School.

After securing a 2023 Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grant, Springside Primary School gardening coordinator Jayne Pizzo said the school wanted to use the grant to increase the biodiversity of the plants at Springside.

“We decided on local native plants because they require the least amount of water and are suited to the soil in this area. The students suggested that we have an Acknowledgement to Country banner in the area and from then we researched how to make it an Indigenous garden,” she said.

The school’s Year 4 students delved into research to identify plants traditionally used by local Indigenous communities for medicine, food, tools, and crafts. To prevent damage to the delicate plants, the team envisioned and implemented a dry river bed.

“The year 4 cohort have all taken part in every aspect of the development of this garden. They have absolutely loved planting over 250 plants, moving many wheelbarrows full of mulch, small stones and large stones and identifying the plants and their uses,” Ms Pizzo said.

“The highlight has definitely been finally getting to use the yarning circle and learning all about how it is used respectfully.”

Looking ahead, the school hopes the Indigenous garden and Yarning Circle become a cherished space for students to engage in open discussions and develop respectful relationships. The goal is for the area to serve as a safe haven for students to express themselves without judgement.

Exciting future plans for the Indigenous garden include the incorporation of QR codes. These codes will offer an interactive learning experience, allowing students to scan and explore the rich cultural and environmental significance of the plants and the Indigenous garden as a whole.

A special note of gratitude was extended to Colin Hunter Jnr, who visited the school to perform a Smoking Ceremony, officially inaugurating the Springside Primary School Indigenous garden.

Hannah Hammoud

## 2024 Staffing Update

We recognised the importance of ensuring that our farewells reach all families, even if they may have missed our previous newsletter. Therefore, we've crafted this dedicated post to extend our gratitude to 12 departing staff and bid them a fond farewell.

In our continuous efforts to enhance classroom support for all students, we made the decision to reduce our leadership profile by half, reallocating resources to better assist our educational support staff. This shift, while beneficial for our students, necessitated bidding farewell to some valued team members seeking promotional positions, moving closer to home, exploring opportunities in the private system, or transitioning into specialised areas of teaching and staffing.

Each departure represents a loss for us, as every staff member has played a significant role in contributing to the vibrant spirit of our school. We sincerely appreciate the dedication and expertise they brought to our community.

As we say goodbye, we want each departing member to know that the door to Springside is always open. Our school is a family, and the connections forged here endure. We extend our heartfelt thanks for the contributions made by each staff member, and we wish them success and fulfilment in their new endeavours. You will be missed, and the impact of your work will continue to resonate within our school community.

- Caitlin Williams
- Mel Soulsby
- Luke Meissner
- Matt Fenech
- Emma Bainbridge
- Lakshmi Krishnamurthy
- Jarrett Tan
- Kayley Vanbuuren
- Jordon Veith
- Emma Nash
- Mark Cunningham
- Emma Meissner

In early next year, we will bid farewell to Eboni Muir and Ashleigh Johnstone before wishing them a safe and joyous arrival for their newborns due in term one.

Here is a recap for those who missed the previous communication:

Congratulations to Jarrett Tan on his successful appointment at Southern Cross Grammar for the upcoming year. We will truly miss his gentle and modest demeanour, which has been instrumental in his quietly remarkable achievements.

Congratulations to Emma Bainbridge on her well-deserved promotion to Assistant Principal at Deanside Primary School in 2024! Emma's contribution as a founding staff member has been invaluable, and she has undoubtedly made a significant impact on the school. We will miss her at our school, but we are excited for her as she takes on this new role.

Congratulations to Melanie Soulsby on her 2024 appointment at Deanside Primary School, where she will be pioneering their inaugural Kitchen Program. Mel has worn various hats and consistently contributed her positivity and remarkable talents at our school.

Congratulations to Caitlin Williams on her recent appointment at Oak Park Primary for the 2024 school year, a school that is close to home. We send our best wishes to Caitlin and wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for her creativity, care, and her various teaching roles.

Congratulations to Kayley Van Buuren on her promotional appointment at Kurunjang Primary School in the disability and inclusion field. After dedicating 8 years to our school and excelling in various roles, we wholeheartedly wish her continued success as she embarks on this exciting new chapter in her career in 2024.



Congratulations to Luke Meissner on his recent promotional appointment as Assistant Principal at Aintree Primary School for 2024! While our time working with Luke has been relatively short, we've had the privilege of witnessing his dedication, calm and considered communication and sense of humour, which will surely be missed.

Congratulations to Emma Nash, who has secured the position of Performing Arts Teacher at Kurunjang Primary for the year 2024. Emma, your cheeky smile, quick wit, and caring nature will be greatly missed. Your outstanding work with students who have individual needs has left an indelible mark. Wishing you continued success in your new role.

Congratulations to Lakshmi as she embarks on her journey to teach in the Northern Territory next year. Her kindness, gratitude, thoughtfulness and generosity will be greatly missed. Hopefully, we can plan a visit to the NT to collaborate in the SoL space with you and your school Lakshmi!

Congratulations, Jordon, on your well-deserved promotional appointment as the IT Manager at Bemini Secondary College for 2024. Your dad jokes, impeccable organisational skills, and your unwavering willingness to assist with all our I.T. needs will be greatly missed. We wish you all the best in your new role, and please keep your number handy, so we can continue to reach out for quick I.T. fixes.

Congratulations, Matthew Fenech, on your new promotional role as a Learning Specialist at Thornhill Park Primary! Your dedication to ongoing reporting and technology is appreciated. We send our best wishes for success at your future school, along with heartfelt regards to your beautiful twins

Congratulations, Mark Cunningham, on your recent appointment at Aintree Primary School! Your positivity and helpful nature have made a significant impact during your time here, and your contributions to PE and our school will be forever valued. Best wishes on this exciting new chapter in your career!

Congratulations to Emma Meissner on her MHiPS role Brookside! Please join me in expressing gratitude for her commitment and dedication to our students throughout the 2022 school year. Despite facing personal injury challenges, she demonstrated remarkable resilience and continued to uphold a high standard of work during her time with us.

We extend our best wishes to all of these staff and already feel their absence.

We eagerly anticipate welcoming the following teachers to our school in 2024 and had a wonderful time during our staff induction day on Tuesday with these new teachers:

- Dan Oliver
- Marina Portelli
- Natalie Najdovski
- Sue Milverton
- Marandi Thomas
- Bec Carey
- TJ Yilek
- Leona Goodwin
- Elicia Grima
- Anthea Makings
- Chris Tsfildis
- Paolo Scalasi
- Thi Phan
- Evelyn Tay
- Lucy DeBono

