

# STAPS NEWSLETTER

## Welcome back to STAPS for 2024!

The first newsletter of the year normally starts with **welcomes and thanks** – and this year is no exception – with welcomes below and thanks on page 2!

It has been a **great start to the school year**, with a calm, focused, positive vibe around the place. It has been wonderful to pop in and out of our Learning Communities – and see active, engaged students discussing, writing, and sharing about themselves, their passions, and interests and creating a shared understanding of learning and playing at STAPS. You can read some reports and see some photos from our first two weeks of school in this first newsletter.

We are very proud of how our students have settled in, and excited to see how proud they are of living out our school values of being **Caring, Responsible, and Courageous**. There are oodles of our new Echidna Spike Stamps being received by our fantastic students!

## WELCOME!

We welcome **Peter** to the STAPS staff – and welcome **Sandra** to her first beginning of the year at STAPS!

Welcome to our new families – and welcome especially to **Adeline, Emma, and Eli** as they settle into the STAPS student community, and welcome back **Flick and your family** as you return to STAPS.



Our Seniors have explored team maths investigations



Our Juniors have thought about all the things they love

In our first session of Puggles last week we began to create a display of **what we love about STAPS** – and the list was very long! It included that we are an **INCLUSIVE, CARING COMMUNITY**, just like A BIG FAMILY, and that we love **LEARNING, PLAYING, and BEING CURIOUS** together.

## What would you add to the list?

We look forward to providing you with opportunities to get to know our new staff at the **Meet and Greets** on Tuesday and Wednesday. These are a chance for a general chat with your child's classroom teacher – there are still spaces available if you haven't yet booked in with bookings via Compass.

We're also excited to be inviting you all to join us and the wider STAPS community for some fun and games at our **Twilight Sports on March 1st**. We invite everyone to join in the fun experiences and the sausage sizzle (and more) which will be provided, and enjoy some social time together as a school and St Andrews community, before getting ready to take part in a few friendly little competitions.

It was lovely to return to our wonderful **Cabinet of Curiosity** out the front – make sure you check it out regularly, as new objects/artifacts/creatures are appearing all the time. (Photos and Thanks on page 2)

Check out some beginning-of-the-year reminders on page 5 – including **Dogs in the School Grounds**, and **Being Sunsmart**. Please take a few minutes to read this important information.

We are very thankful for your support as we start the year! *Carolyne*



## Contact Us

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# THANK YOU!

Thanks to our amazing STAPS community for some gifts, and hard work welcoming us back for 2024, and for helping our school grounds to look amazing!

Thanks to Ingrid (and helpers) for setting up our Curiosity Cabinet at the front of the school. Students have enjoyed adding finds from the garden - and there are lots of wonderful investigations and conversations.

Thanks to Laura for adding a tea-set to the Cabinet, and thanks to Felicity for our new Echidna doorstop.

Thanks to Rachel, Ingrid and Bob (with the help of the amazing STAPS students over recess) for organising and spreading the new stones out the front, and to Rachel and team for your planting and care of our wonderful kitchen garden!

Thanks to Rachel and Ingrid for starting the re-paint of our mosaic seat over the weekend... it is starting to look fantastic!

Thanks to Troy for your prompt help with some plumbing issues last week - we now have hot water back in the kitchen, and a more friendly working tap in the kitchen garden.

Thanks to Joe for your ongoing care of our buildings and grounds, and a big thank-you to Sandra, Peter and Kerry for your work over the holidays getting learning spaces ready for the year.

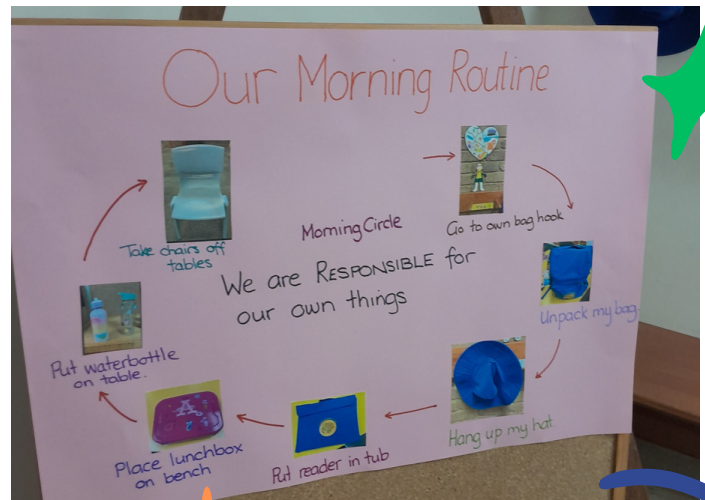


## Curiosity Cabinet



# Term 1 overview

**Term 1** has begun with a "Quality Start-up" - 2 weeks of settling in, with a focus on our school values, and classroom processes, and exploring why and how we learn. These will continue to be focus areas throughout the term, as we further develop our understanding of being **active and engaged learners**, who demonstrate a **growth mindset** - and live out our STAPS values of **Being Caring, Responsible, and Courageous!**



We will be exploring **OURSELVES and OUR COMMUNITY** this Term in **Inquiry/Integrated Studies**. For the Junior Learning Community this will include thinking about about what community means, helpers in the community and our place in the community. For our Senior Learning Community this also includes thinking about Rules and Laws.

In **Reading** we are focusing on creating a Community of Readers - with Take Home Reading (and the Reading Trek for Seniors), STAPS Library sessions and borrowing, and visits to the Library Truck. We are exploring the different strategies readers use, as we develop our skills in phonics, sound knowledge and reading accuracy and fluency. In **Writing** we are creating a Community of Writers - with regular Writers Notebook sessions, building understanding of the Traits good writers show and developing our word study and spelling skills. The F-2s are using **Little Learners Love Literacy** resources to support all areas of their literacy and the 3-6s are using **Soundwaves** to enhance their sound/phonics knowledge to support their literacy understandings.

In **Mathematics** we are focusing on our **Place Value and Number Sense** understandings, and we will also focus on **Shape** later in the term. We are using lots of hands on materials across the school, and participating in Number Talks and Investigations to build our mathematical language, understanding and reasoning.

In **Wellbeing** we will continue to use our **Berry Street Education Model** training to support our teaching and learning, with Morning Circle, Ready to Learn check-ins, Brain-Breaks and routines and rhythms of the day that help us all to be in the best place to learn that we can. We will soon begin to use **Friendology** (URSTRONG) to support our wellbeing lessons and learning. This is all about empowering kids with friendship skills, and building common language across the school to support the normal "ups and downs" of friendships and relationships. It is a skills-based strategy that teaches "kid-friendly" concepts, skills and language to help them build and maintain healthy friendships. More information will be shared later in the term.

# Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 6th Feb we joined together as a Whole School, and thought about **being safer when using the Internet**. One task we explored was sorting what we would and wouldn't share on the internet... we found some items really easy to decide, but others took some talking and discussion - even amongst the staff present! **Learning about being safer on the internet, is one way we explore demonstrating our school values of being Caring, Responsible and Courageous!**



# World Read Aloud Day

On Wednesday 7th Feb we celebrated **World Read Aloud Day** with some shared reading as a whole school in our first Puggles session for 2024. Students paired up with another student and read aloud a picture book. We joined together whilst we ate our lunch, and Carlyne read "I will not read this book" and Peter read "No Reading Aloud - the worst read aloud book ever!" - and we read them both aloud!

**Reading is highly valued at STAPS** - and we have already begun our take-home reading program, borrowed from the school library, and read lots of books aloud in the first 2 weeks of school! We will also be connecting with the Library Truck over the next couple of weeks... **we love books and reading!**



# REMINDERS...

## DOGS IN THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

Whilst we understand that many families in our school community keep dogs as pets, to ensure that our school remains a safe and inclusive place for everyone, we remind those who bring their pet dog to drop off and pickup that pet dogs should be leashed and in the control of a responsible adult.

## SUNSMART

A reminder that students need to wear sunsmart clothes to school.

**Broad-brimmed hats** (a school hat is best) are required for outside play and learning, and it is advised that **students wear tops with sleeves** - tank tops are not recommended.



## Hats at School!



## BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club runs every Friday morning from 8:30 am. All are welcome to join in!

## ZOOOPER DOOPERS

Zooper Dooper (Sugar Free icy poles) are available on Friday lunchtimes for \$1 (Maximum of 2)



# OSHC

STAPS OSHC offers **Before and After School Care**. Bookings are required - and these can be made by contacting the school office, or by messaging the OSHC mobile on: **0427 245 921**

## STAPS Team 2024

**Principal:** *Carolynne*

**F-2/Junior Learning Community Teacher:** Sandra

**3-6/Senior Learning Community Teacher:** Peter

**STEM:** Chan **Japanese:** Kerry

**Visual Arts:** Carolynne **PE:** Kerry

**Sustainability/Gardening:** Chan

**Puggles:** Carolynne (lead)

**Business Manager:** Michelle (Mon-Wed)

**Classroom Education Support:** Carissa

**Chaplain/Wellbeing Support:** Tracey (Wed & Fri)

**OSHC:** Tracey and STAPS teaching staff

# COMMUNITY NEWS

DIAMOND VALLEY SINGERS  
production of

## Disney FROZEN JR.

Music and Lyrics by  
KRISTEN ANDERSON-LOPEZ & ROBERT LOPEZ

Book by  
JENNIFER LEE

Based on the Disney Film written by  
JENNIFER LEE

and Directed by  
CHRIS BUCK AND JENNIFER LEE

Licensed exclusively by  
Music Theatre International  
(Australasia).

All performance materials supplied by  
Hal Leonard Australia.

EIGHT PERFORMANCES  
**MARCH 15-24**

### PERFORMANCES

Friday 15 March 2024	7.00pm
Saturday 16 March 2024	2.00pm 6.00pm
Sunday 17 March 2024	2.00pm 6.00pm
Friday 22 March 2024	7.00pm
Saturday 23 March 2024	2.00pm 6.00pm

Warrandyte High School Theatre,  
Alexander Road, Warrandyte

### TICKETS

Adult	\$36
Concession / student	\$31
Under 18 years	\$19
Groups of 10+	\$31

**TICKETS ON  
SALE NOW**

[www.dvsingers.org](http://www.dvsingers.org)

ENQUIRIES 9439 7843



**dvs**  
DIAMOND VALLEY  
SINGERS



# COMMUNITY NEWS



## DIAMOND CREEK BLUE LIGHT DISCO



16TH FEBRUARY, 2024



7-9.30PM | 8 TO 13 YEAR OLDS | \$8 ENTRY



Diamond Creek Community Centre  
28 Main Hurstbridge Road, Diamond Creek

Contact: Snr Sergeant Wayne Spence 9438 8300  
Please ensure children have an emergency number on them.

 Diamond Creek Blue Light Disco

 DIAMONDCREEKBLUELIGHTDISCO



# DIARY DATES TERM 1 2024

**Safer Internet Day:** Tuesday 6th February

**World Readaloud Day:** Wednesday 7th February

**Little Puggles Playgroup starts for 2024:** Thursday 8th February

**STAPS Pancake Day:** Wednesday 14th February

**Last 2023 School Council Meeting:** Wednesday 21st February 4 pm

**District Swimming Sports:** Friday 23rd February

**Working Bee:** Sunday 25th February – starting 12:30 pm

**Community Twilight Sports** Friday 1st March – from 4:30 pm

**March Long Weekend: Curriculum Day:** Friday 8th March **and**

**Labour Day Holiday:** Monday 11th March

**Naplan (Years 3 and 5) period commences** Wednesday 13th March

**Pi Day (Mathematics Day):** Thursday 14th March

**STAPS Harmony Day:** Wednesday 20th March

**St Andrews Festival:** Saturday 23rd March

**Term 1 Learning Celebration:** Thursday 28th March

**Last Day Term 1:** Thursday 28th March

**Good Friday Holiday:** Friday 29th March beginning the School Holidays (note: during the school holidays, on Sunday 7th April, Daylight Savings ends)

## **Upcoming Dates for early Term 2:**

**Term 2 begins:** Monday 15th April

**Year 3-6 Camp:** Monday 15th – Wednesday 17th April @ Woorabinda Camp (with ACPS)

**Curriculum Day:** Wednesday 24th April

**ANZAC Day Holiday:** Thursday 25th April

## **Assembly:**

usually 3:00 pm fortnightly on Fridays – but during Term 1 there are some changes to this schedule

**Friday 23rd Feb, Friday 1st Mar & 22nd Mar**

and short Assembly on **Thurs 28th Mar** (starting at 2:10 pm before early finish)

