



2021 book packs are now ready for collection from the office. Payment can be made via compass.

## Enrol NOW for 2021!

Email us for an enrolment pack @ [hillsmeade.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:hillsmeade.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

# The Link

Hillsmeade Primary School Newsletter  
Issue No 38—WED 9th DEC

TERM 4  
**2020**



THE FULL CALENDAR AND DETAILED EVENT INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO VIEW VIA THE COMPASS APP OR WEBSITE

# WHO, WHAT, WHEN?

MON DEC 7th	TUES DEC 8th	WED DEC 9th	THUR DEC 10th	FRI DEC 11th
	State-wide Transition Day 2021 Preps and Year 7	2021 Step Up Day 9:30-3:00pm		Virtual Christmas Concert <b>FREE DRESS DAY</b> (no donation)
MON DEC 14th	TUES DEC 15th	WED DEC 16th	THUR DEC 17th	FRI DEC 18th
Gr6 Graduation is filmed (wear graduation clothes)	Year 6 Graduation - Normal school day, collect gift from school 3:30-5:30		Gr 6 Celebration @ Gumbuya World	Virtual Assembly Posted to Compass - <b>Last day of Term 4 1:30 pick up</b>
<b>School Holidays</b>				
MON JAN 25th	TUES JAN 26th	WED JAN 27th	THUR JAN 28th	FRI DEC 11th
	Australia Day Public Holiday	Students not at school	Curriculum Day Students do not attend	Students start back at school
MON JAN 25th	TUES JAN 26th	WED JAN 27th	THUR JAN 28th	FRI DEC 11th
		Preps do not attend		

# FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Hillsmeade Community,

Happy week 10. We hope that everyone is having a wonderful Term 4. There are still some very exciting things to look forward to this term such as:

- Free Dress Day "Christmas Theme" this Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> of December
- Virtual Christmas Concert this Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> of December shared via COMPASS after school
- Year 6 Big Day Out at Gumbuya World
- Year 5 Beach Day



## **Christmas Free Dress Day**

This Friday we will be having a whole school free dress day. No donation is required. This event will be Christmas themed. Looking forward to seeing some wonderful Christmas Teachers and colour this Friday.



## **Congratulations**

A huge congratulations to Sarah Smith who has been recognised for her outstanding contribution to education in the unprecedented year that has been 2020. She has been invited to attend a function this coming Friday at Government House. Well done and congratulations Sarah Smith.

**Congratulations to our Year 6 graduating class. We are so proud of your work, efforts, achievement, contribution and the joy that you have added to our Hillsmeade Primary School community in 2020 a year like no other. It has been so wonderful to hear you reflect this week on your time at Hillsmeade PS and your experience stepping up for transition to your 2021 Secondary schools. Wishing you all a happy and memorable last week at Hillsmeade Primary School, and all the best for your bright futures.**





## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### **A Message from our School Council President Brooke Gniel**

*On behalf of School Council and the school community, congratulations to our Year 6 graduating class of 2020. We are incredibly proud of all you have achieved during your time at Hillsmeade. In particular, your achievements in 2020, the 'year like no other!'*

*You have shown resilience and the ability to adapt to new situations. These skills will be of great benefit to you as you begin your high school journey.*

*We wish you all a future full of good health and happiness.*

*Brooke Gniel  
School Council President*



### **Christmas Tree Competition**

A big well done to our students and staff for putting together the wonderful entry into the Casey Central Christmas Tree. Thank you to Sarah Smith for coordinating this entry. A reminder that the voting closes on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December.

Vote for our tree by 'liking' it on Casey Central's facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/caseycentralSC/>

### **Virtual Christmas Concert**

A big, big, big congratulations to Jeff McGann for putting together this year's virtual Christmas Concert. We are so excited to share this with all families this Friday afternoon via Vimeo link on COMPASS. Well done to our student leaders for supporting and our amazing student and staff performers.

### **2021 Book Packs**

Book packs are available from 8:30am – 4pm each school day. They will also be available for purchase and collection from 9am – 4pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021.



### **MAD Day**

A huge well done to our Year 5 and 6 students who this week shared their Make A Difference (MAD day) learning with our school community. It was fantastic to see and hear our students present their learning and understanding about important issues. A big well done for being flexible and adaptable during these unprecedented times.



### **Congratulations**

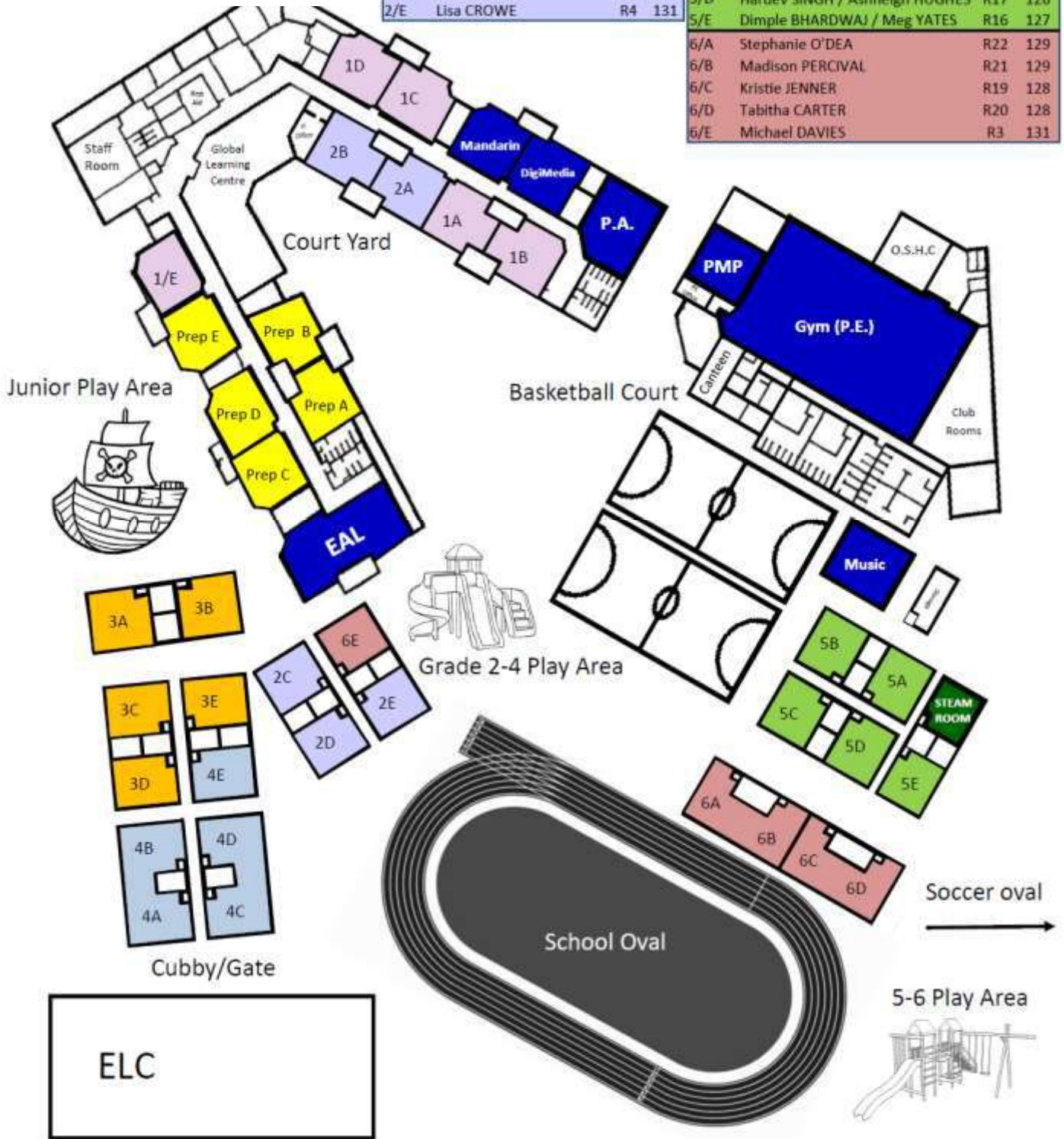
Well done Alice-Lily Somervell from Year 4 who was recognised for her amazing community spirit and leadership. Alice-Lily received the 2020 Community Spirit and Leadership Award and a Westfield voucher from our local MP Gary Maas. Well done Alice-Lily.

**Step Up Day**

Today was an exciting day at Hillsmeade. Today our students stepped up into their 2021 classes with their new class mates, their new teachers and in their 2021 class rooms. The classes for 2021 are as follows:

00A	Matthew BENTVELZEN	7J	118
00B	Rachell DORMAN	8J	118
00C	Amy DAVIS	3J	120
00D	Wendy BEAMISH	4J	120
00E	Sarah RHIMES	5J	119
1/A	Scott MASSON	13S	117
1/B	Adrianna Papa	15S	117
1/C	Angela HERRES	12S	114
1/D	Belinda LANE	10S	114
1/E	Rachel SUTCLIFFE	6J	119
2/A	Sarah MCGRATH	11S	116
2/B	Cassandra BODIE	9S	116
2/C	Jenny ELKIN	R5	132
2/D	Rebecca Lark	R6	132
2/E	Lisa CROWE	R4	131

3/A	Alexandra HOPE	R11	134
3/B	Kirsty-Lee THORPE	R12	134
3/C	Nicole PAGE / Kristen RENNIE	R9	145
3/D	Amy MONAGLE	R10	145
3/E	Michelle EWING	R7	133
4/A	Samantha APLIN	R20b	140
4/B	Sabrina Keller	R20a	140
4/C	Ashleigh PATOLO	R2	130
4/D	Susan HAWORTH / Carrie FLOYD	R1	130
4/E	Trisa KETT	R8	133
5/A	Bryce TURVEY	R14	125
5/B	Shondale FERDINANDS	R13	125
5/C	Carmen COLLINS	R18	126
5/D	Hardev SINGH / Ashneigh HUGHES	R17	126
5/E	Dimple BHARDWAJ / Meg YATES	R16	127
6/A	Stephanie O'DEA	R22	129
6/B	Madison PERCIVAL	R21	129
6/C	Kristie JENNER	R19	128
6/D	Tabitha CARTER	R20	128
6/E	Michael DAVIES	R3	131





# WELCOME TO OUR NEW TEACHERS IN 2021

## **Belinda Lane**

Hi my name is Belinda Lane.

I have had the privilege of being an active part of the Hillsmeade community over the past four years, where I have worked in the Outside of School Hours School Care service and in various roles within the school.

I have three children and have been a foster parent for various children over the past 12 years.

I am fortunate enough and excited to be to be joining the year one team in 2021, and I am looking forward to a year full of learning and discoveries.



## **Adrianna Papa**

Hello! My name is Adrianna Papa and I am super excited to join the Year 1 team at Hillsmeade in 2021. I cannot wait to begin the year, get to know the wonderful students and their families and build relationships with the Hillsmeade community. I am an enthusiastic and passionate teacher, with a love for making learning fun! Have a fabulous holidays!



## **Kirsty-Lee Thorpe**



Hi, my name is Miss Kirsty-Lee Thorpe and I am very enthusiastic to be joining the Grade 3 team at Hillsmeade in 2021. I look forward to meeting the wonderful students and families within the Hillsmeade community and cannot wait to start the year. Enjoy the holidays and see you in 2021!

## **Rebecca Lark**



Hi my name is Becc! I'm looking forward to being a part of the Year 2 team at Hillsmeade Primary in 2021. My

favourite colour is pink, I have two gorgeous cavoodle puppies and love to sing and dance in my pjs.

Have a great holidays!

## **Sabrina Keller**

Hi, my name is Sabrina Keller and I am thrilled to be a part of the Grade 4 team here at Hillsmeade Primary School. Outside of school I love dancing and hanging out with friends, family and my dog. I am so excited to get to know all my students and the rest of the school community.



## **Madison Percival**

Hello, my name is Madi Percival and I am so excited to be joining the Grade 6 team at Hillsmeade Primary School in 2021. I look forward to getting to know each of our wonderful students and their families in the near future.



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL - Grade 6 Graduation

### **Graduation:**

**2020 has been a year like no other, and given the current guidance we will still be holding a virtual Year 6 Graduation.** Although this is different, we are still working hard to make sure it is still a special memory. Graduation will be filmed on Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of December and posted out on Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of December at 6pm (this is to allow the content to be put together in a special graduation package).

**On Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of December Year 6 students are to come to school in their graduation attire.** We will be holding the graduation ceremony with all Year 6 students and staff. This will be filmed and individual graduate photos will be taken, as well as class photos (which will be emailed out to families after the event). This footage will be put together in a graduation package and will be shared with Year 6 families on Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of December at 6pm.

**On Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of December after the graduation a pizza lunch will be provided for the graduates.** Students can be collected from school from 2pm if they are wanting to leave early after the event.

On Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of December Year 6 students will be provided with a small gift to share as they view the Graduation package. **This can be collected from the staff room window (close to the pirate ship) from 3:30pm – 5:30pm on Tuesday.**

We do understand that this is not the graduation we expected for 2020, however the current guidance does not support us holding the graduation as normal given our large numbers.

**We are excited to announce that the Year 6 Big Day Out will be going ahead on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> of December to Gumbuya World.** This event has been heavily subsidised to support families and student attendance.

If you have any questions in relation to this event please contact a member of the Year 6 team.

## AT A GLANCE

- **Monday Dec 14:** Students wear graduation clothes to school, graduation is filmed (no parents). Pizzas provided for lunch. Students can be collected from 2pm.
- **Tuesday Dec 15:** Normal school day. Special graduation gift collected from school 3.30pm-5.30pm. Virtual Graduation film package available on Compass from 6pm.
- **Wednesday Dec 16:** Normal school day.
- **Thursday Dec 17:** Celebration at [Gumbuya World](#) 9am-5pm. (Consent and \$10 payment required now.)
- **Friday Dec 18:** Last day of Primary School. School ends at 1.30pm, all students collected by 1.45pm.



# FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## Congratulations 2021 Student Leaders

A big well done to our new 2021 Year 6 Student Leaders. Our new leaders were presented with the probationary badges and are very excited to support our school community in 2021. A big well done to Travis Cole for coordinating this selection process and a big well done to all student leader applicants.



Anika A & Luka N  
School Captains



Sam B SEL  
Captain



Jacob K & Gurshan S SRC  
Captains



Lina J  
Literacy  
Captain



Siddhartha P  
Numeracy  
Captain



Darcey M & Ruby P  
STEAM  
Captains



Zahra M  
Mandarin  
Captain



Candice B & Kiara S  
Arts Captains





Luca D & Tanielle B  
Sport Captains

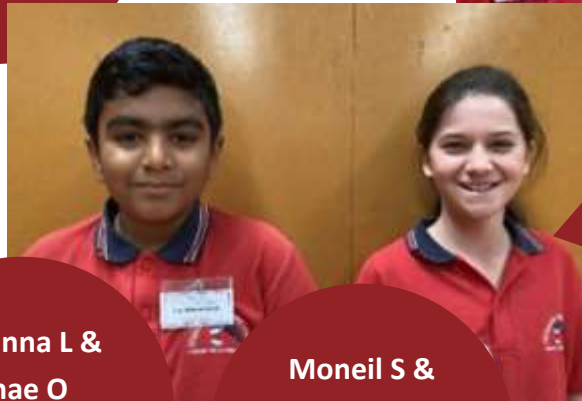
Cooper T & Sam L Barak  
Captains



Shaileshwar S & Jaylina V  
Dunlop Captains



Breanna L & Shae O  
Monash Captains



Moneil S & Kanvar S  
McKillop Captains



Paige Q & Lachlan M  
Environment Captains



## SCHOOL BANKING UPDATE

**School banking will not resume in 2021. This is a decision that has been made by the Victorian Government based on a review by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC).**

**If you have any questions, please contact our School Banking Helpdesk on 1800 674 496, Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm (AEDST).**

**Thank you to our banking volunteers Nat and Gill for their support over the last few years.**



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### Statewide Transition Day

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December was Statewide Transition Day. We welcomed our 2021 Prep students, who were very excited to attend a half-day school visit with their future teacher and class. The students participated in classroom experiences, a visit to the playground and Circle Time to get to know each other. We are looking forward to the year ahead with our newest members at Hillsmeade!



**advancedlife**  
school photography & print specialists

## Don't miss out!

It's not too late to order school photos

Dear Parents,

### **Hillsmeade Primary School**

What a crazy year it has been! We are still open and busy printing photos so if you missed out on placing your order or perhaps would like to purchase some Christmas gifts, it's not too late to do so.

Simply go to [www.advancedlife.com.au](http://www.advancedlife.com.au) and enter your school code – **LG3 X97 85R**

or click on the below link for your school's secure site:

**Click Here.**

It was a privilege to be able to be able to provide your community with a memory of the 2020 school year and we thank you for your support.

Kind Regards,

The **advancedlife** team

Phone: (03) 9852 1133 | [info@advancedlifevic.com.au](mailto:info@advancedlifevic.com.au) | [www.advancedlife.com.au](http://www.advancedlife.com.au)



HILLSMEADE PRIMARY IS  
PROUD TO PRESENT

# **GRAZING GRADUATION!**

Congratulations Year 6 superstar,  
you made it! Please attend the school  
on the date and time below to  
collect a celebratory grazing box to  
enjoy as you watch the virtual  
ceremony with your family.

We'll see you online!

**Available TUES DEC 15th 2020**

**3:30 - 5:30pm**

More information to come via compass.



**HILLSMEADE P.S**

**PRESENTS THE**

**2020 VIRTUAL  
CHRISTMAS  
CONCERT**

**FRIDAY 11th DEC**

**FREE DRESS DAY!**

**(No donation req)**

**'THE LINK WILL BE  
POSTED TO COMPASS,  
WE'LL SEE YOU ONLINE!'**

## FROM MR CARDAMONE

Good Afternoon Hillsmeade Community,

Happy week 10! Only a week and a half to go! We know that it has been a challenging year and has been difficult to get back to our 'normal'. This has impacted our children in different ways. Part of that normal is getting back into the routine of school. Although school is a big part of growing up, unfortunately the pandemic has made this a challenge at times for some students and families.

Although we are back at school, there are still a few little changes that are still in place. Below is an article from the KidsHelpLine about returning to normal after COVID-19. If you would like to know more please visit their website <https://kidshelpline.com.au/parents/issues/returning-normal-after-covid-19>

It is the end of the school year, however the strategies below might be helpful coming back to school next year.

### Returning to normal after COVID-19

*Why is going back to normal challenging for some people?*

*There are many reasons why going back to normal might be anxiety-provoking for your child. Here are some of the main concerns young people had:*

*Grief/loss over changes in lifestyle*

*'Normal' won't be the same as before COVID-19*

*Return to pre-COVID-19 stresses, like school bullying*

*Life was better in isolation, e.g. more time with family*

*Feeling safe at home and unsafe/out-of-control in public*

*Fear of COVID-19 second-wave*

### *Supporting a worried child*

*It's very normal for children and young people to experience re-entry anxiety following a pandemic. Here are some things that can help:*

- **Be curious.** Ask open questions and actively listen to understand more about your child's thoughts and feelings.
- **Normalise and validate their feelings.** This means letting them know that what they are feeling is normal, other people feel the same way and that there is nothing wrong with their feelings. For example, "It must be hard to have so many worries, but it's normal to worry about getting sick when you go back to school."

- **Help them limit exposure to media.** If they are younger, this might include reducing their exposure to the news. If they are older, it might be helping them to critically think about media messages they are exposed to or ensuring they are accessing reputable sources.
- **Create a plan around transitioning.** Planning can help alleviate some anxiety, especially fear of the unknown. Having a plan for the first day of school can help.
- **Take small steps to re-integrate into society.** Some fears can be alleviated with small, controlled exposures. For instance, a great first step might be a quick trip to the supermarket, or organising for your child to meet and hangout with one friend in a park.
- **Problem-solve any concerns together.** A lot of young people have let Kids Helpline know that their main fears revolve around bullying, conflict with friends, or school/study-related stress and this is contributing to their anxiety around going back to 'normal'. Talking through strategies together (you can use Kids Helpline as a resource if needed for different topics) can help your child improve their problem-solving skills and feel more empowered.

### *What's the difference between normal behaviour and concerning behaviour?*

*Some changes in behaviours are normal. Here's how to know when to get help:*

#### **Normal impacts**

*Research into psychological impacts of health anxiety, quarantine and isolation have found a range of short-term emotional changes are normal, including confusion, anger, anxiety and depression.*

*Some short-term behaviour change is also normal. This includes insomnia, exhaustion, irritability, or avoidance, e.g. avoiding crowded places.*

*Some long-term behaviour changes can also be normal, e.g. changes in hygiene practices.*

#### **Concerning impacts**

*While most children will bounce back and recover in their own time, a pandemic can trigger Acute Stress Disorder (ASD) or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms in some people.*

### *Helping your child transition back to school*

*Being away from school and returning to an environment that has changed can be anxiety-provoking. Here are some ways you can support your child:*

- **Get back into routine.** Routines are safe and familiar which can help reduce anxiety.



## FROM MR CARDAMONE

- **Focus on what you can control.** *It's hard getting caught up in the unknown and 'what-ifs'? Helping your child identify what they can control and practical things they can do can help them be more in the present moment and reduce anxiety. Practical strategies can include getting organised, making plans for the weekend, preparing their school bag, etc.*
- **Revisit social distancing rules and good hygiene practices.** *Reviewing these can help your child feel more at ease about their safety when in public spaces.*
- **Provide reassurance.** *Sometimes we can't solve all our children's problems, but they don't always need solutions – just to feel understood and supported.*
- **Explore the positives.** *Even if they are worried about returning to school, there may be some things they are looking forward to. It can be helpful to chat through these together if they seem open to this".*

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

I hope this is helpful for you and your family.

Thank you.

John Cardamone Leading



Social and emotional learning... 'It's everyone's

THE VICTORIAN STATE SCHOOLS

# SPECTACULAR

### Expressions of interest invited for Mass Dance 2021 - Information for students and parents

The Victorian State Schools Spectacular is one of the largest recurring productions in Australia and showcases and unites government school communities through working towards a common goal of more students reaching the highest level of achievement in the arts; ensuring kids are happy, healthy and resilient, and building pride in our schools. Hillsmeade PS have applied to be a part of the Mass Dance component of the show in 2021 and anticipate being able to submit a team of 16 students.

In 2021 the 'Spectacular' will be a made for television show which will be aired in December on channel 7. Students will learn the dance items for the show in Terms 1 & 2 at school and in Term 3 will attend the DET Performing Arts Unit to be filmed and costumed by industry professionals. This will replace the usual Arena based performance and will be an incredible opportunity to experience the behind the scenes production of a large scale show.

Students who are successful with their EOI will be expected to attend a weekly rehearsal at school and participate in a Semester one VSSS elective.

If you would like to be a part of this amazing performing experience, can you please submit an Expression of Interest in writing to myself by close of business on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020**. This should include reasons why you would like to participate, details of any dance experience that you have and **must show** an understanding of your commitment to the project. In **week 2 2021** you will be invited to attend a lunchtime audition with a panel of at least 3 teachers. There is no need to prepare anything for the audition as you will learn a dance item as a whole group.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me –

**Lisa Scott - Specialist Team Leader**



FROM THE COMMUNITY



# Moonlit Sanctuary KEEPER CLUB

Go wild these school holidays!

If you have some junior wildlife lovers looking for fun over the holidays, check out our Keepers Club holiday program.

In a day full of fun hands-on activities, they will get up close to many animals including dingoes and pythons and learn how their keepers work to keep them happy and healthy.

Places are limited so book early and make your junior keeper's day!

For ages 7-14. Cost: \$90



[moonlitsanctuary.com.au](http://moonlitsanctuary.com.au) | t. 5978 7935 | e. [bookings@moonlit-sanctuary.com](mailto:bookings@moonlit-sanctuary.com)



**Lunar Drive In**

115 SOUTH GIPPSLAND HWY, DANDENONG 3175 | 9706 9988

Lunar Drive-In, Dandenong is a family-run business with four giant screens making it the largest in the Southern Hemisphere. Showing the biggest Hollywood blockbusters and a range of your all-time retro favourites, we assure to have something for all to enjoy. We have recently completed our brand new café facilities offering a superior experience. Our café offers plenty of dinner options ranging from burgers to pizza along with our cinema classics such as popcorn and chee-tops. Pile the kids into the car and enjoy dinner and a movie at Lunar Drive-In this summer.

COMING THIS **BOXING DAY**

**X-MAS**

- The Santa Clause (G)
- The Grinch Who Stole Christmas (PG)
- Elf (G)
- Home Alone (PG)

**SUMMER RETRO**

- Grease (PG)
- Shrek (PG)
- Frozen (PG)
- Jurassic Park (PG)
- Dirty Dancing (M)
- Back To Future (PG)
- Daddy's Home (PG)
- E.T. (G)
- Bohemian Rhapsody (M)
- The Greatest Showman (PG)

**ALL CARLOADS ONLY \$25\* EVERY MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY**

**ALL CARLOADS ONLY \$30 PER MOVIE THURS-SUN**

**GIFT VOUCHER**

**CAR PASS**

Perfect Gift for Christmas

WWW.LUNARDRIVEIN.COM.AU

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