# **DRAGON TALES**

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#### **SCHOOL COUNCILLORS**

M Berry, D Capizzi, S Costin, B Davies, D Smith, K McVilly, O Perrett, P Vines, M Cunnington, W Hollick

#### **SCHOOL MISSION**

Provide high quality education in a positive, supportive environment, enabling all students to achieve their potential.



Simpson Primary School Enriching learning through opportunity

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025 Term 2 Week 11

#### **School Wide Positive Behaviours - SWPBS**

# **Co-operation Accepting Respectful Excellence**

#### Term 3 focuses:

#### **Co-operation**

Show great teamwork when working in teams. Seek help from the teacher.

# Respectful

Use respectful language – Bus. Listen and participate.

#### **Accepting**

Fair and trustworthy.

Able to share, care and help others.

#### Excellence

Complete all homework.
Using my learning strengths to help others.
Be kind to myself.









Term 3 CALENDAR					
Week 1	21 <sup>st</sup> July	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>
Week 2 Newsletter	28 <sup>th</sup> Breakfast Club	29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Aug Assembly – 2.45pm
Week 3	4th Breakfast Club	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> WSW LLC - Collaborative Scope and Sequencing of Writing — PUPIL FREE DAY	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>
Week 4	11 <sup>th</sup> Breakfast Club	12 <sup>th</sup> School Council 6.30pm	13 <sup>th</sup> 'The Velveteen Rabbit' performance - P-6 COPACC	14 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup> 5/6 Hoop Time Rookies Assembly – 2.45pm
Week 5 Newsletter	18 <sup>th</sup> Breakfast Club Bookfair Opens	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Week 6	25 <sup>th</sup> Chloe Janes – PST (Yr5/6) Bookfair Closes	26 <sup>th</sup> Chloe Janes – PST (Yr5/6)	27 <sup>th</sup> Chloe Janes – PST (Yr5/6)	28 <sup>th</sup> Chloe Janes – PST (Yr5/6)  Parent-Teacher Interviews	29 <sup>th</sup> Chloe Janes – PST (Yr5/6)  3/4 Hoop Time Rookies

#### **Principal News**

Term 2 is ending, and the weather is quite cold as we enter winter fully.

Winter weather can significantly impact children's health and well-being, with increased risks of respiratory illnesses, hypothermia, and injuries from falls on ice. Cold temperatures and reduced daylight can also lead to seasonal fatigue and decreased physical activity, impacting both physical and mental health.

For children this can have an impact on how they are feeling, their energy levels and attention. You may have noticed this at home as they may be more heightened, easily upset or not their usual 'self.'

Cold weather conditions often mean children are spending more time inside leading to decreased physical activity and increased sedentary behaviour. Reduced sunlight and social interaction due to indoor confinement can negatively impact mood and mental well-being.

#### This is known as WINTER BURN-OUT. This is real.

What are some things we do, particularly over the holiday period, to support our children to be as active, healthy, and mentally healthy?

- 1. Ensure children are adequately dressed for the cold weather, with layers of warm clothing, hats, gloves, and appropriate footwear.
- 2. Minimize time spent outdoors in extremely cold temperatures, especially for young children and those with pre-existing health conditions.
- 3. Encourage engaging indoor activities to keep children active and entertained during colder months.
- 4. Be aware of the symptoms of common winter illnesses and seek medical attention when needed.
- 5. Provide nutritious meals and encourage proper hydration to support the immune system and overall health.
- 6. Organise some special family time, such as watching a show together or playing a board game (homework tasks can wait.)

Speak to your child/ren about how it is OK to reach out to you or other trusted adults if they are finding things more difficult than usual.

If your child/ren are not bouncing back after a few days, then maybe a trip to the GP might be worth investigating.

Please let the school know if your child is unwell and mark them under 'medical/illness' on Compass.

#### An updated school curriculum

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) is responsible for developing the curriculum for Victoria's school aged students. The Victorian Curriculum F–10 adopts and adapts the Australian Curriculum for Victoria's context. It sets out the set of knowledge and skills every Victorian student should learn during their first 11 years of schooling. The Victorian Curriculum F–10 Version 2.0 gives Victoria's students the best opportunity to thrive in a world of increasing change and rapid technological

advancement. It reflects the expertise and feedback of Victorian teachers, making it easier for them to plan, assess and report on student learning.

#### Reporting on the curriculum

At the end of last week, all students received the Semester 1 School Report. Families will notice a change to the Mathematics Achievement Standards on your child's report this semester. Previously, teachers were required to report on Number and Algebra, Statistics and Probability and Measurement and Geometry, under three separate strands. In line with the new curriculum, teachers are now required to report on Mathematics as one whole achievement score. If you have any queries regarding this change, please contact your child's teacher or myself for clarification.

#### **Victorian Reading Position**

In alignment of the new curriculum and teaching approach, from Term 1 2025, all Victorian government students from Prep to Grade 2 have been taught using a systematic synthetic phonics approach as part of their reading programs, with a minimum of 25 minutes daily explicit teaching of phonics and phonemic awareness. Systematic synthetic phonics is a structured approach that explicitly teaches the relationship between sounds and letters to read words.

We are taking this step because contemporary evidence provides a better understanding of student learning. While students enter classrooms with different life experiences and prior knowledge and may learn at different speeds, the learning process is consistent. Research and insights from across the teaching profession have demonstrated that some teaching practices are more effective than others in supporting the learning process.

#### **Attendance Matters**

If your child is sick or absent, you are required to notify the school as soon as possible on the day of absence, by messaging the school mobile 0458 943 298 or by phoning the school.

Notifying the school of your child's absence either prior to, or on the day that they will be away, helps ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and will fulfil your legal responsibility. If your child is absent on a particular day and you have not contacted the school to explain why, the absence will be marked as unexplained. This system also promotes daily school attendance. Going to school every day is the single most important part.

#### 🞉 Simpson Primary School Trivia Night – Don't Miss Out!

We're looking forward to a fun-filled evening at our upcoming School Trivia Night! It's set to be a great night of laughs, friendly competition, and community spirit. Don't forget to book your table – there are some great auction items, raffle prizes and spot prizes available. Gather your friends, brush up on your trivia, and get ready for a fantastic night out.

Have a great break and we will see you in Term 3 on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July.

#### **Prep News**

As we reach the end of Term 2, it's hard to believe how much our students have grown! It has been a busy and exciting term, filled with learning and lots of new experiences.

Our focus for **literacy** over the last few weeks has been on **procedural texts**. The students have enjoyed learning about the structure and purpose of these texts, especially through the book *How to Wash a* 

Woolly Mammoth. This week, we're reading the much-loved Australian classic *Possum Magic* by Mem Fox, exploring story elements and continuing to build our comprehension skills. We have completed most of the *initial code sounds* and are now practicing recalling these letters to independently attempt writing simple words and sentences.

As part of **numeracy** we have introduced **Subtraction**, with students exploring language such as *less than*, and take-away and before. They have been learning to work out ones less and count back. Students are practising how to count back from different starting points.

We're now getting closer to our **100 Days of Prep** celebration! Although the official 100th day falls early next term, we're already beginning to plan for a fun and memorable event to mark this important achievement. More details will be shared soon!

Thank you for your continued support throughout the term. We wish you and your families a restful and safe break, and we look forward to an exciting Term 3 ahead!

Prep Team – Mrs Berry and Mrs Jones

#### 1/2 News

As we reach the end of a busy and exciting Term 2, our Grade 1/2 students should be very proud of all they have achieved! Throughout Term 2, the students have shown incredible growth in their maturity, leadership, and resilience. It has been wonderful to see students taking greater responsibility for their learning, supporting their peers, and tackling challenges with a positive mindset. Whether helping others, leading by example, or bouncing back from setbacks, their personal development has been a highlight of the term.

Over the past few weeks, we've had a strong focus on **Respectful Relationships**. Students have been learning what it means to be helpful, responsible, and respectful in the classroom and playground. We've had lots of discussions about using our manners, looking out for one another, and showing kindness every day.

In **Mathematics**, we've been building our subtraction skills by learning how to subtract one-digit numbers from two-digit numbers. Students have used a variety of tools—such as place value blocks, counters, and even butterfly props—to help deepen their understanding. A class favourite has been playing *Around the World* using two six-sided dice. After mastering addition, we've now applied our knowledge to subtraction. The students love the challenge, and it's been a wonderful way to build confidence and resilience.



In **English**, we've been diving into the world of **information texts**. Each student selected a sea creature to research and write about. We focused on structuring our texts with headings, interesting facts, and detailed drawings. The students were so engaged and enjoyed becoming mini marine biologists as they shared their learning with others.

In **Sounds Write**, our Grade 1 students have been exploring the **/i/** sound, as heard in words like *light*, *bike*, and *smile*. They've been practising blending and segmenting words with this sound and using strategies such as clapping syllables to support their spelling.

Our Grade 2s have been focusing on the /n/ sound, especially in words like *gnome*, *knee*, and *knock*. They are learning to identify these tricky spellings and apply their knowledge

when reading and writing new words. Both year levels have been showing great enthusiasm and are building confidence as they take on more complex phonics challenges!



Thank you for your continued support throughout the term. We wish all families a safe, happy, and restful holiday break!

Miss Cunnington ©

#### 3/4News

# 3/4

## Literacy

In Literacy, we have just finished our class text 'The One and Only Ivan' which the students thoroughly enjoyed! Now we can watch the movie before the end of term and do a compare and contrast activity.

Next Term in Literacy we will be starting off by reading 'The Velveteen Rabbit', followed by 'Crow Country' and to finish 'Mulga Bill's Bicycle'.

It has been pleasing to see so many of the students in 3/4 completing regular home reading. It can't be stressed enough how much it helps not only reading, but grammar, punctuation, spelling and creative writing ideas. Keep up the great work students and parents!

## Numeracy

Since our last newsletter the students have been working hard on the topics of subtraction and location (reading maps and understanding direction). It has been amazing to see such academic improvements and confidence among the students, as they are broadening their

mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills.

## School of Play

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of June, Simpson Primary travelled to Nullawarre Primary to complete a session with Dale Sidebottom. It was all about bringing positivity, resilience and having fun to learning through games and interacting with others. Simpson students enjoyed playing fun games, meeting other students and realising that learning and school can be fun.









### Hoop-Time Rookies Basketball

Coming up early next term we have Rookies Basketball which is a one-day round robin style tournament for beginner basketballers. Simpson will be entering a 3/4 and a 5/6 team to compete against some other local primary schools.



I would like to wish all students, families and community members a safe and enjoyable 2-week break. Have fun, stay warm, rest and recharge ready for a busy Term 3!

#### 5/6 News

#### Grade 5/6 Newsletter - End of Term 2

As we wrap up Term 2, I'd like to take a moment to celebrate the learning, growth and experiences our grade has enjoyed over the past few weeks. With the school holidays just around the corner, I hope everyone has the chance to rest, recharge and spend some quality time with family and friends. Stay warm and safe during the break!

It's been a busy and productive end to the term. Students have been working hard to complete their mid-year assessments and finalise class projects. Their commitment to their learning has been fantastic to see. In Literacy, we've recently finished our novel study on *Once* by Morris Gleitzman. This powerful and thought-provoking story prompted some rich discussions and deep thinking from the students. To complement this unit, students have been researching and writing information reports on Poland, exploring the country's geography, flora and fauna, people and culture and interconnections with Australia. They have taken great pride in presenting their knowledge and refining their research and writing skills.

In Numeracy, we successfully wrapped up our unit on BODMAS (order of operations), with students building confidence in solving more complex equations. We are now diving into a new unit on location and mapping, where students are learning to plot and read coordinates on the Cartesian plane. This has been a hands-on and engaging way to apply their mathematical knowledge in new ways. ways.







Students enjoyed their visit to Cobden Technical School for the *Taste of Cobden* experience, where they had the opportunity to participate in Year 7-style Maths and Science classes, explore new learning environments, and meet students from outside of their school. It was a valuable introduction to secondary school life and a great confidence booster for what lies ahead.





A definite highlight for the term was having the wonderful opportunity to join with Nullawarre Primary School for the *School of Play* program, run by the energetic and inspiring Dale Sidebottom. This day focused on interactive mindfulness, gratitude, movement and creativity. Our students participated enthusiastically and collaborated beautifully with the students from Nullawarre. It was a fantastic day full of laughter, learning, and positive connections.







I am incredibly proud of everything our Grade 5/6 students have achieved this term. Their enthusiasm, effort and willingness to challenge themselves has been a pleasure to witness.

I wish all families a safe, restful and happy school holiday break. Stay warm, enjoy your time together, and we look forward to seeing everyone back refreshed and ready for an exciting Term 3!

Cheers, Jannique Hanegraaf

#### Science, P.E & Auslan

As we wrap up Term 2, it's amazing to look back on all of the things we have covered in Science, P.E., and Auslan. The students have been full of energy, curiosity, and have really given things a go across all three areas. It's been great working with them this term and seeing the progress they've made along the way.

In **Auslan**, Prep students have made a fantastic start, learning to sign the alphabet, colours, and everyday words they can use around school and home. They've enjoyed learning signs for family members, farm animals, and have even started describing animals using simple signs. We've also looked at numbers, feelings, and touched on Deaf culture, helping them understand more about the community and communication styles in Auslan.

Across Grades 1 to 6, students have continued building their skills and vocabulary. This term, we've covered a wide range of topics including food (like breakfast and picnic items), transport, medical signs, camping, and parts of the house. We've also explored vocabulary around birds, materials, and homes, while continuing to practise fingerspelling and learn more about handshapes. It's been great to see students becoming more confident with signing and using it in different contexts.

In **P.E.**, students have been very active as we focused on soccer, netball, and AFL—using the format of AFL 9s. It's been great to see teamwork developing, skills improving, and students enjoying the chance to move, compete and have fun. The kids gave each session a real go, and it was great to see their skills improving week by week.

Meanwhile, in **Science**, our focus has been Earth and Space sciences. Students explored the Earth's changing environment, natural resources, and the water cycle. We also looked at the dramatic effects of sudden changes to the Earth's surface—like earthquakes, floods, and volcanic eruptions. There have been lots of great questions and plenty of discussion, and it's been fantastic to see students thinking deeply about the world around them.

It's been a busy term, and I'm really proud of how much the students have achieved. I hope everyone has a relaxing break, and I'm looking forward to another great term ahead. Thank you Ms Marr-Vogels

#### **Student Wellbeing**

## **Simpson Students Supporting Simpson Students**



Pictured: Josh Vines, Harry Vogels, Sadie McVilly, and Peyton Robertson (absent: Princess Albaracin)

This term, our Year 6 Student Leadership Congress have developed a short series of events aimed at supporting mental health, wellbeing, and inclusion at Simpson Primary School.

Over a three-week period in Term 3, our student leaders will run a variety of student-led lunchtime groups designed to help students connect with others, try something new, and enjoy positive social experiences. These activities aim to strengthen the sense of belonging and community across the school.

#### Planned groups include:

- Craft Club
- Dance Sessions
- Yoga and Meditation
- Friendship Circle
- Baking Club

There is **no need for students or families to sign up**—these groups will simply run during lunchtimes, and students are welcome to attend if it's something they would like to be part of.

This is a three-week trial, with the potential to extend the program later in the term based on student interest and participation. We are incredibly proud of our student leaders for their initiative, thoughtfulness, and commitment to the wellbeing of their peers. Students will be given more directive in week 1 of term 3. Sneak peak below!







We look forward to seeing the student leader initiative in action!

Emily Bentley (student wellbeing and inclusion coordinator)

#### **Junior School Council**





July: Princess 12th, Harvey 17th, Jules 22nd, Hallie 29th



#### **Notes & Annual Reminders**

#### **Policies:**

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy and the Schools' Privacy Collection Notice (see school website).

Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy – see school website, describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

The Child Safety Standards policies can also be found on the school's website.

#### **Bus Notes:**

Please send in a note, email <a href="mailto:simpson.ps@education.com.au">simpson.ps@education.com.au</a>, text the school mobile on 0458 943 298 or ring the front office on 5594 3298 by 10am with any daily, weekly, or termly bus changes.

#### Parent/Visitor Sign In:

All parents or visitors who are coming into the school for more than 10 minutes are required to sign in. You will need to sign in and out of the visitor register at the office. This allows us to account for you in the event of an emergency.

#### **Uniform:**

We ask that you ensure your child is in uniform each day to continue the high standards we set for ourselves. Hats are to be worn until the end of Term 1, and again in Term 4, so please ensure your child has a broad brimmed hat (named) available every day. Those students without a hat must remain under cover, for the duration of recess and lunchtime. If your child requires a new hat, they can be purchased through the front office. Uniform orders can also be purchased from the office.

#### **Named Clothing:**

Parents are asked to check that clothing is clearly named. If you have second-hand clothes, please check that the name has been changed. If clothes are correctly named, we have some hope of returning items to the correct owners. All lost property of students will be stored at the front office where there are currently quite a few items. Please check to see if you are missing any items so they can be returned.

#### **Communication:**

If you need to speak with your child's teacher, please contact the office for an appointment or alternatively send your teacher an email. Please note: Staff are often busy in the mornings prior to instruction time, preparing for the day ahead. Staff also have meeting commitments after school on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 3.30pm onwards and therefore it is not always possible to meet after school on these days. If you have an urgent concern about your child regarding any start of year questions or concerns, please make contact through the office.

#### **Daily Routine:**

School commences at 8.55am and ends at 3.15pm. Students should not arrive at school before 8.45am. Students should leave promptly at 3.15pm at the end of the day. At 8:53am, the music is played; this signifies to the students that they should move into their classroom and prepare themselves for the daily learning. Recess: 10.55am – 11.25am. Lunch: 1.25pm – 1.35pm (supervised eating) and 1:35pm – 2.15pm (lunch play). 3:15pm is the end of the school day. Staff members are on duty until buses leave and town students collected.

#### **Late Arrivals:**

Students arriving after 8:55am should report to the office. Office staff will record their attendance as a late arrival and students will then go to class. Parents will be contacted by the principal if lateness is becoming a problem.

#### **Early Departure:**

If you wish to collect your child from school before dismissal time, they must be signed out at the office. This ensures all students can be accounted for in the case of an emergency. To assist, please phone the office prior to collecting your child so they can be ready for collection.

#### **Breakfast Club:**

Breakfast Club are on Mondays from 8.45am If you would like to help with Breakfast Club, please contact the office.

#### **Lunch Orders:**

Lunch orders are available every day from the Settlement Supermarket and are collected first thing in the morning.

#### **Community News**

# Simpson Pop up Influenza Vaccination Clinic

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025 11am-1pm

at 11 Jayarra Street, Simpson, 3266

Bookings are e<mark>ssential</mark> and close 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Phone 035594<mark>3448 to book in</mark>







INDOOR CRICKET COMPETITION
New Season Starting Term 3

Mondays - (Grade 3-5) Wednesdays - (Grades 1-3)



JUNIOR SOCCER Term 3

Tuesdays Div 3 (Grades 2/3)
Thursdays - Div 4/5 (Prep, Gr ½)
Call Paul to Register Now or text 0425792949





# WE ARE OPEN THE MESSY PATCH CAMPERDOWN

#### SPREAD A LITTLE HAPPIMESS

DIVE INTO A WORLD OF COLOURFUL CHAOS, SQUISHY FUN AND CREATIVE DISCOVERY. WE TURN ORDINARY PLAY INTO EXTRAORDINARY MEMORIES THROUGH HANDS-ON, SENSORY RICH EXPERIENCES THAT CREATE CURIOSITY AND HAPPIMESS- BECAUSE THE BEST KIND OF MESS IS THE ONE THAT CREATES SMILES.

OUR SAFE AND FUN INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SPACES ARE DESIGNED FOR CHILDREN FROM SITTING BABIES THROUGH TO BRIMARY AGE.

PUBLIC PLAY SESSIONS
MONDAY TO SATURDAY

SE DISCOUNT CODE: FUNTIMES2025

# FREE Holiday Movies





# Wednesday 6 July | Camperdown Theatre



### 10.30 am | Paddington in Peru

PG | 2024 | Run time 1 hr 46 mins

Paddington visits Aunt Lucy at the Home for Retired Bears in Peru. A thrilling adventure begins when a mystery leads them on an unexpected journey.



#### 1.30 pm | Rango

PG | 2011 | Run time 1 hr 47 mins

Rango is an ordinary chameleon who accidentally winds up in the town of Dirt, a lawless outpost in the Wild West in desperate need of a new sheriff.

#### Wednesday 16 July | Camperdown Theatre



#### 10.30 am | **Wicked**

PG | 2024 | Run time 1 hr 46 mins

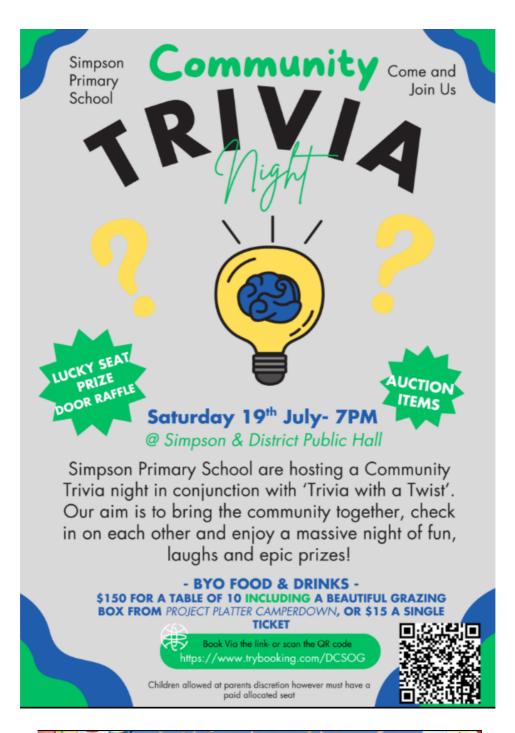
Elphaba, a young woman ridiculed for her green skin, and Galinda, a popular girl, become friends at Shiz University in Oz. After an encounter with the Wizard, their friendship reaches a crossroads.



#### 1.30 pm | **Inside Out 2**

PG | 2011 | Run time 1 hr 47 mins

Riley enters puberty, facing new complex emotions. As she adapts to her teenage years, her old emotions struggle with the possibility of being replaced.









DECORATE A PENCIL CASE

# WORKSHOP

Join us for a fun and exciting workshop where you can decorate a pencil case with fabric pens

ALL AGES WELCOME
 \$ 10 / PERSON
 Two sessions available of same workshop:



10am-12pm Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 10am-12pm Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July

SCAN to book or go to: https://www.trybooking.com/DCWVZ
@ Camperdown Community House 6 Gunner street