DRAGON TALES

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SCHOOL COUNCILLORS
M Berry, D Capizzi, S Costin, D Smith, K McVilly,
O Perrett, P Vines, C Whiting, W Hollick

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

Thursday November 12th Term 4 Week 6

Co-operation Accepting Respectful Excellence



Term 4							
Week 7	16th Library Swimming 12 – 3pm				17th Swimming 12 – 3pm	18th Breakfast Club Year 4/5/6 BioLAB excursion 8am – 4pm First Nations Leadership Program - Celebration Day	19th Cobden Tech Come & Try – Wood & Art – Yr 5 – 11 – 1.30pm **School Transition – Activity with Mrs Anderson 12.30-1.30PM**	20th Additional Library Day
Week 8	23rd Art **School Transition – Activity with prep/1s 12.30-1.30PM**	24th Swimming 12 – 3pm	25th Breakfast Club Swimming 12 – 3pm	26th Student leaders' morning tea with Men's shed 11am	27th **Professional Practice Day (Pupil Free)**			

Week 9	**30th**	**1st Dec** Library	**2nd** Breakfast Club	**3rd** Swimming 12 – 3pm	**4th** Swimming 12 – 3pm		
Week 10 newsletter	**7th** Art				**8th** STATE TRANSITION DAY 2027 Preps –on bus 2027 Prep parent info session 10.30am Geelong Cats 1.15pm-2.15pm	**9th** FINAL Breakfast Club of year	**10th**	**11th** Reports opened on Compass Activities Day – Sciencework 7.00am departure – 4.45pm return
Week 11	**14th** Last day for kinder kids to go home on buses.				**15th** Final Assembly @ 11:30am Year 6 Graduation – after the Assembly finishes.	**16th** Enviro Day – no formal classes SSGs held	**17th** Enviro Day – no formal classes VLP team - VPLs (scope & sequence & lessons)	**18th** Staff Final Day

Principal News

As we move towards the end of another school year, there is a sense that things are beginning to slow down, yet somehow the pace seems to ramp up! There is still so much happening across our school, with exciting learning opportunities, celebrations and preparations for the year ahead. It is also a good time to pause and reflect on the way we finish the year. The final weeks are just as important as the first. The way we speak to one another, show respect and conduct ourselves matters right up until the very last day

Teachers are beginning end of year organisation-transition (Kinder to Prep, Year 6 – Year 7), transitions to new classrooms, Year 6 Graduation, end of year reports, the list goes on. We know as it gets busier, we can all forget things, so please if you are unsure about anything, please contact your child's teacher, myself or Tabatha.

A HUGE THANK YOU! 💚 💛

A big thank you to everyone who braved the weather and joined us for our Mik Mak / Good Faces 4 Radio Community Event!

While the weather certainly gave us a bit of a battle, it didn't stop us from having a fantastic night filled with great music, delicious food and plenty of community spirit!

Thank you to all the children, parents, grandparents, friends and community members who came along and supported the event. Your support and enthusiasm made it all worthwhile.

A HUGE thank you to our amazing Simpson PS Parents Club who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to bring this event together. From the planning and preparation to all the jobs on the night, your dedication, hard work and commitment to our school community are truly appreciated. We couldn't have done it without you!

Another huge thank you to Corangamite Shire for your generous support and funding, which helped make this event possible.

A big shout-out to The Mik Maks and Good Faces 4 Radio for providing the fantastic entertainment and to all our wonderful food truck vendors for coming along, serving up delicious food and supporting our event. We really appreciate you being part of the night!
Events like these are a wonderful reminder of what makes our little community so special. Despite the weather, we came together, had a great night and created some wonderful memories.

Behaviour, Respect and School Uniform
Generally, student behaviour across our school continues to be fantastic, and we are proud of the way our students represent Simpson PS. As we approach the end of the year, however, it is timely to reinforce our expectations with students and families. Please take a moment to have a conversation with your child about respectful body language, the words we use and the way we treat others. The excitement of the end of the year, upcoming celebrations and changes ahead does not change the expectations we have of one another. We continue to show respect for ourselves, our peers, our staff and our school. We also ask families to support us in maintaining our school uniform expectations. Our uniform is an important part of our school identity and demonstrates pride and respect for our community.

There are exciting changes and new beginnings ahead, particularly as we look towards 2027. However, what remains unchanged is who we are as a school and the values, expectations and respect that underpin our community. Let's keep these standards strong right through to the end of the year.

2027 classes
Our 2027 class structures have been finalised and passed at School Council. Student numbers has influenced the decision to run with four classrooms for 2027. We will have a Prep, 1/2, 3/4 & 5/6. Teachers have not yet been allocated to classes. This will be announced to the school community in time for transition day in December.

Final Assembly / Year 6 Graduation
Our Final Assembly / Year 6 Graduation will be held on Tuesday 15th December.

The Final Assembly @ 11:30am with the Year 6 Graduation – after the Assembly finishes.

The Year 6 Graduation will run the same as last year. The awards will be given out during the Final Assembly, and Year 6 students and their parents will head inside for a short video and presentation.

2027 Booklists:
2027 booklists have been sent home with a letter of instructions. Payment will be made at the conclusion of your order. Once your order has arrived and been check, we are happy to store them at school for you.

If you choose to purchase your booklist independently, please ensure all products are purchased and that the writing books are those listed, as they are specific to each year level.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact myself or Tabatha between 8:30am and 3:30pm.

Important Dates
Staff Professional Practice Day 2026:

- Friday 27th November – Assessment & Reporting focus

Swimming 2026:

- Week 7 – Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th Nov @ 1 – 2pm
- Week 8 – Tuesday 24th & Wednesday 25th Nov @ 1 – 2pm
- Week 9 – Thurs 3rd & Fri 4th Dec @ 1 – 2pm

Following the recent agreement reached between the Australian Education Union and the Victorian Government there has been an increase in pupil free days for the year. From 2027, the agreement provides for four pupil-free days and four Professional Practice Days each year for teachers and education support staff. These days will support whole-school planning, professional learning, assessment and teacher preparation.

2027 dates
4 Pupil Free Days (School priority led)

1. Dr Nathaniel Swain – VTLM 2.0 (Tues 2nd March)
2. Protective Intervention Training – PIT (Thursday 13th May)
3. Assessment & Reporting Day (Fri 26th November)
4. TBC

4 Professional Practice Days (Staff priority led – assessment/planning)

1. WSW Equity and Excellence Conference (Tues 27th April)
2. TBC
3. TBC
4. TBC

All students will return to school on Thursday 28th January 2027.
We will communicate the remaining student-free days for 2027 once our planning has been finalised.

Prep/1 News

Term 4 is flying by and we have certainly been keeping busy in the classroom! Swimming has started, and all students have done an amazing job both in and out of the pool. It has been wonderful to see their confidence, enthusiasm and willingness to give everything a go. Please remember to check the school calendar for upcoming swimming dates and important events.

The students had a great visit to Timboon for the **TAP's ON program**, learning about push and pull with tractor, all sorts of native animals and planting a sunflower seeding to bring home. The special treat afterwards was a big highlight.

Remembrance Day



We have spent time reflecting on the importance of Remembrance Day and learning about the significance of the poppy and what it represents. The students created a special display with the theme **"Peace is in Our Hands"**, reminding us of the importance of peace and remembering those who have served.

Literacy

In Literacy, we have been exploring the book *Farmer John's Tractor*. The students have enjoyed using the story as inspiration to plan and write their own narratives. There have been some wonderful and imaginative ideas! The students are now looking forward to publishing their stories and bringing them home to share with their families. We can't wait for you to read them!

Numeracy

Our focus in Numeracy has been on measurement, exploring and comparing different measurements through a range of hands-on activities. We are now moving into revising our addition and subtraction skills. The Preps have been revisiting their **friends of 10**, while the Grade 1 students have been strengthening their knowledge of **friends of 20**.

A Little Reminder – Reading at Home

As the term gets busier, it is important to continue making time for regular reading at home. We understand that there is a lot happening at this time of year, but even a few minutes of reading each day can make a big difference!

Time in the classroom is limited, and that extra one-on-one practice at home is so valuable in helping children build confidence, develop fluency and strengthen the skills needed to become successful readers. Thank you for your continued support and for making reading part of your daily routine.

We look forward to enjoying all the exciting activities and learning opportunities still to come this term!

Kind regards, Robyn Anderson







2/3 News

Wow, it is so hard to believe how fast Term 4 is going! It has been a busy and exciting few weeks in Grade 2/3, with lots of learning, new experiences and opportunities for students to challenge themselves.

Swimming at Blue Water

Students have been thoroughly enjoying our swimming program at Blue Water. It has been wonderful to see their confidence growing in the water each week, with students developing their swimming skills, becoming more comfortable in the pool and challenging themselves to try new things. We have also been very impressed with the respectful attitudes shown towards the Blue Water staff. All students have been following pool rules, listening carefully to instructions and demonstrating excellent behaviour throughout the sessions. Well done, Grade 2/3!

Grade 3 Sovereign Hill Camp

Our Grade 3 students have recently returned from their Sovereign Hill camp, joining the Grade 4/5/6 students for this exciting experience. Everyone had a fantastic time, with plenty of opportunities to explore, learn and experience what life was like during the Gold Rush. The students certainly embraced the experience, getting right into character and making the most of the costume school! It was wonderful to see everyone getting involved, enjoying the activities and representing Simpson Primary School so positively. Well done to all students for their enthusiasm, cooperation and excellent behaviour throughout the camp. We hope they have come home with some great memories!









Grade 2 TAPs On Day

Our Grade 2 students also had the opportunity to attend the TAPs On Day at Timboon P-12 School, joining the Prep/1 class for the experience. It was a lovely opportunity for students to participate in activities alongside children from another school, meet new faces and enjoy a different learning environment. These experiences are always valuable in building confidence, developing social connections and helping students become familiar with opportunities beyond our own classroom.

Assessments

As we move further into the final weeks of Term 4, there is still plenty happening in the classroom. We have a number of assessments coming up over the next few weeks as we begin preparing for end-of-year report writing. These assessments provide valuable opportunities to reflect on the progress students have made throughout the year and identify the skills they have developed. We will continue to work hard, consolidate our learning and make the most of the remaining weeks together.

It is hard to believe we are already approaching the end of another school year! Before we know it, the school year will be complete!

Cheers, Jannique Hanegraaf

4/5/6 News



4/5/6 students are loving getting out on their bikes and improving their skills and knowledge!
This Friday will be the last lesson, and the students will be going on a ride around Simpson township to test their knowledge of road rules and awareness of their surroundings.










Camp



What and amazing camp experience the 3-6 students had last week when we visited Sovereign Hill in Ballarat.

Our Year 5/6 camp to Sovereign Hill in Ballarat was an exciting and immersive experience that brought the history of the Victorian Gold Rush to life. Through the Costume Program, students dressed in authentic 1850s clothing and participated in engaging activities that allowed them to experience life on the goldfields.

The camp provided valuable opportunities for students to develop their historical understanding, build independence and resilience, strengthen friendships and create lasting memories through a fun and hands-on learning experience.

Although we weren't permitted to take photos as we were part of the museum and had to be in 1850's character, here a few pics.









Kind regards, Wes Hollick

P.E

Our students have been busy developing their riding skills and road safety knowledge as part of our Bike Ed program during P.E. Students learning important skills to help them become safe and confident bike riders. An important skill all students have now learnt is how to check whether their bike is safe to ride by completing an ABCD Bike Check. This helps students identify any potential issues with their bike before heading off on a ride.

A big thank you to Miss Marr Vogels for taking the first two weeks of Bike Ed while I was away. We really appreciate you jumping in and keeping things rolling!

We have decided to extend our Bike Ed program for **another two weeks**, giving students some extra time to practise and build on the skills they have learnt.

Bike Collection – From Friday 20th November

Parents are welcome to collect their child's bike from school from Friday 20th November. The undercover area will be unlocked between 8:45am and 3:15pm throughout the following week, so you can pop in at any time that suits you to collect your bike.

We would also like to say a big thank you to the families who have kindly brought in spare bikes for students to use during the program. We have a couple of bikes that are available for families who may not have a bike at home and would like one for their child to use. If you are interested, please get in touch with me.

Thanks, Mrs Lucas

Helmet fit guide



Bike Ed



2 fingers
above eyebrows



Tighten the helmet
Snug around head



2 fingers
snug under chin strap



2 ear straps
in a 'V' on each side
of the ear

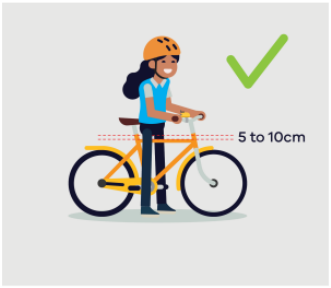


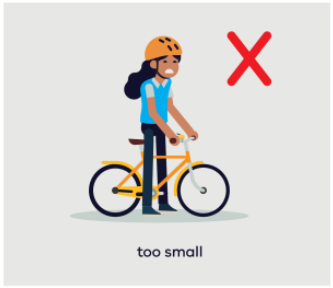
incorrect
position

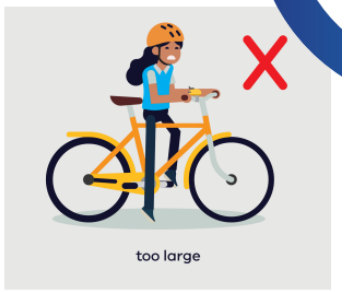


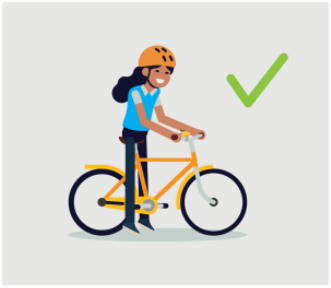
incorrect
position

Bike fit guide



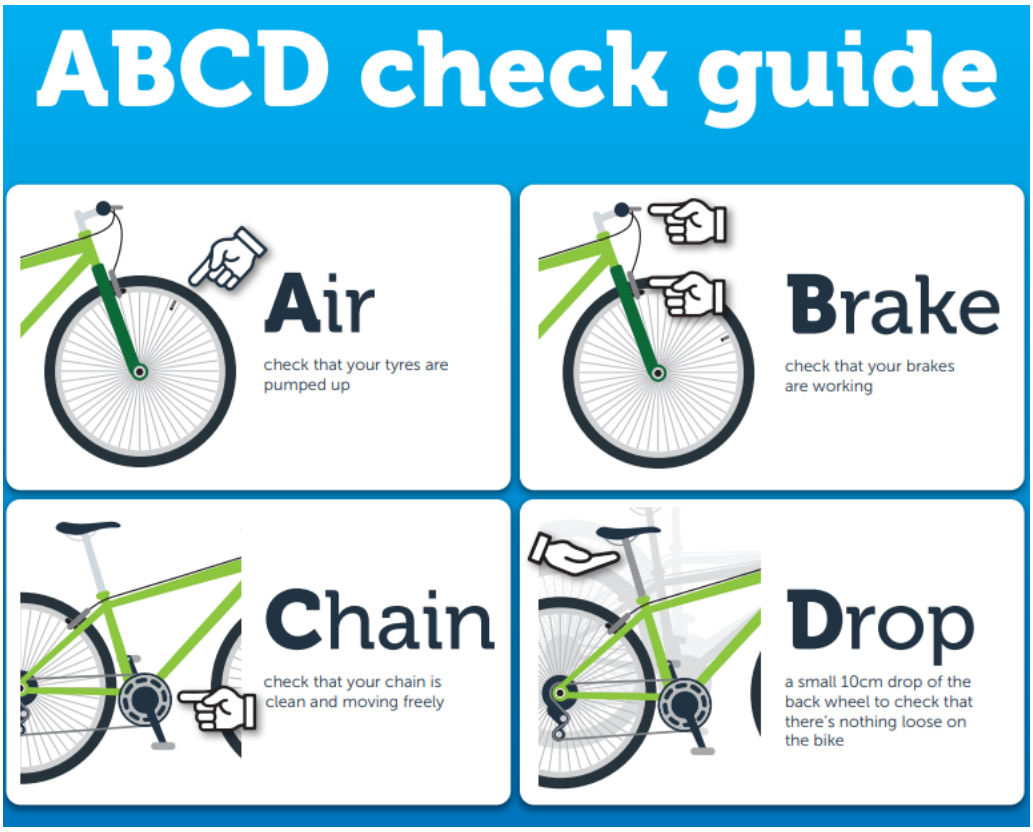












Science & Auslan





Science and Auslan

This term has certainly brought its share of changes to our usual routines, with illness, school activities and ongoing renovations keeping things busy! Throughout it all, the students have been amazing. They have shown flexibility, resilience and enthusiasm, adapting to changes and making the most of every learning opportunity. I have been really proud them.

Science

Our Prep/1 students have been exploring the basic needs of plants and animals. They have been learning about the four basic survival needs and investigating how different environments provide these needs. Students have also been learning about how we help plants and animals survive in artificial environments, such as zoos and gardens.

Our Year 2/3 students have been investigating the differences between living, non-living and once-living things. They have explored the process of fossilisation and its three stages. Students have also been investigating the stages of a plant's life cycle through observation and recording their findings. They are now looking forward to exploring the amazing metamorphic life cycle of an amphibian.

Our Year 4/5/6 students have been exploring how living things survive in changing environments. They have investigated structural and behavioural adaptations and how these help plants and animals meet the challenges of their habitats. Students have also explored how natural environmental changes can affect the survival of species, sometimes leading to adaptation, migration or extinction. They have also investigated fossils and how they provide evidence of life from the past.

Auslan

Our Prep/1 students have been learning signs for everyday topics, including mealtimes, sports, people and family members. They have also been practising how to sign their favourite foods and expanding their vocabulary by using new words in games and story telling.

Our Year 2/3 and Year 4/5/6 students have been building on their Auslan knowledge at different levels. They have explored Australian states and capital cities, imagined holidays in Tasmania and Western Australia, and learnt about some of the landmarks found in each state. Students have also learnt a song celebrating diversity and developed their vocabulary around school subjects and fairy tales. They have been exploring more advanced Auslan features, including constructed action and the use of space and positioning to make their signing more expressive and improve their communication.

Thank you Ms Marr-Vogels

JSC

We are excited to be running a Christmas raffle, with some fantastic hampers and vouchers generously donated by a number of our amazing local businesses. Raffle tickets will go home today. A huge thank you to everyone who has jumped on board and supported our school! Keep an eye on our school Facebook page, as we will be show casing all our raffle prizes on it in the lead up.

Tickets are **$2 each or 3 for $5**, with all money raised going towards purchasing a Bluetooth speaker for students to enjoy music and a little extra fun during recess and lunch.

Please return all raffle tickets sold or unsold and money to school by **Wednesday 9th December**. Please write on both sides of the ticket. The raffle will be drawn at our **Final Assembly**. Good luck, and thank you for supporting our JSC and our wonderful local community!

Thanks, Henry and Isaac



WELLBEING

Food and Fruit Available for Our Families!

We're excited to let our families know that another delivery of food and fresh fruit has arrived! You'll find everything in the school foyer, and everyone is welcome to help themselves and take as much as they need.

We'll be receiving deliveries weekly, with a range of items available, including honey, Vegemite, Vita Brits, oats, regular and lactose-free milk, bananas, apples, oranges, mandarins, chicken and noodle soup, and more!

A little tip: if you're after some fresh fruit, you might need to be quick! Our fruit is very popular, and we can go through a whole box of apples on the very day it arrives!

Please pop into the foyer, have a look at what's available, and take whatever you and your family can use. We're happy to be able to offer this to our school community and hope it helps our families in any way it can.



Parents Club

Simpson PS Parents Club

AGM

ALL POSITIONS FOR 2027 ARE OPEN!

Wednesday 18th November

10.00am

G.O.R.G.E Chocolates



Everyone is welcome!

Whether you're a current SPS family or have a little one starting school in 2027, we'd love you to come along.

It's a great opportunity to meet other parents, find out what the Parents Club is all about and enjoy a delicious hot chocolate!

You don't need to commit to a position to come along – just bring yourself!

New faces, fresh ideas and friendly conversations always welcome!

Simpson Primary School
No. 4895

THE MIK MAKS at Simpson

Good Faces 4 Radio

Thank You!

to all those who attended –
our amazing kids, parents,
grandparents and friends!

The weather gave us a battle,
but it was a **great** night!



A special thank you to the
food truck vendors!
for providing such yummy food
and adding to the fun!



A big thank you to
Corangamite Shire
for funding this event.

Corangamite Shire

We are so grateful for your support!



Happy Birthday

November 1st Thomas, 6th Evaliah & Landon, 13th, 20th Winifred, 30th Henry
December 4th Heath, 8th Kimble, 11th Brianna & Lucy, 18th Carter P



Notes & Annual Reminders

Working With Children Check – Parent & Community Volunteers:
As part of requirements for schools, all parents, carers and community members who volunteer at Simpson Primary School—including helping in classrooms, supporting Breakfast Club, attending excursions,

or assisting with BBQs and events—must hold a current Working With Children Check (WWCC) or VIT registration.

To ensure we meet these requirements, we ask all volunteers to provide the school with a copy of their WWCC or VIT registration before participating in any 2026 activities.

If you need to apply for or renew your WWCC, you can do so online using Working with Children Check Victoria – Apply or Update**:** https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/

Thank you for your support in keeping our school safe and welcoming for all students.

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).

Privacy reminder for our school community
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. Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students policy Photographing-filming-recording-students-policy- february-2024.pdf 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. For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools' privacy policy: information for parents.

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

Bus Notes:
Please send in a note, email simpson.ps@education.com.au, 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 Monday and Tuesday 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 is on Wednesdays 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.

Scholastic Book Club Orders:
Book Club Issue 8 Orders Due Friday 20th November

Community News







YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR

FINAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY
11.30AM

15

DECEMBER
2026

SIMPSON PRIMARY SCHOOL

BRING A PICNIC LUNCH TO ENJOY
AFTER THE ASSEMBLY CONCLUDES



Simpson Country Christmas

Simpson Recreation Reserve

Wednesday 16th December 2026

6.30pm-9.00pm

BBQ Dinner, tea, coffee,

Milkshakes and

cordial provided.

kids activities including

jumping castle,

face painter and something

extra special.

Visit from santa

music by Andrea Weel

Please Bring a plate of supper

to share

All welcome

Raffle on the night

This event is supported by a Look Over the Farm Gate grant provided by Agriculture Victoria under the Victorian Government's 2025 Drought Support Package. #LookOverTheFarmGate