



# East Gippsland Specialist School Newsletter



## Upcoming Events

**FEBUARAY**

**9<sup>th</sup> Swimming**



**11<sup>th</sup> Sailing Room 9**



**JANUARY & FEBUARAY BIRTHDAYS**



Happy Birthday to all our students that have Birthdays in Januaray and Febuaray.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



**CONTACT US**

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Bairnsdale VIC 3875

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Email [east.gippsland.ss@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:east.gippsland.ss@education.vic.gov.au)

Safe  
Respectful  
Learners



# Principal Report

Dear Families,

## Welcome Back

We would like to extend a very warm welcome back to school to all students and families and we would like to especially welcome all our new EGSS students and families to our school community. One week into the new school year, students have done a terrific job of settling into their new school routines with their new classmates, teachers and support staff. Personally, I have thoroughly enjoyed spending time in classrooms and seeing firsthand students (and staff) settling back into the routines of school life!

We have another exciting year of learning and growth ahead of us and I look forward to seeing all this growth unfold throughout the year.

## Annual Privacy Reminder

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](#) 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 The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.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](#).

**We acknowledge the Gunai Kurnai people, the traditional custodians of the land where we live, work and travel. We pay our respect to the Elders, past, present and emerging**



## **2026 School Closure Days**

At the end of last year our School Council endorsed our school closure days for 2026. Reminders will be given to families throughout the year, but we wanted to share these dates with you now so that families can plan ahead.

Term 1

- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March

Term 2

- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May

Term 3

- Monday 13<sup>st</sup> July (first day of Term 3)

Term 4

- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December

The content of focus for these days will be shared with families in the newsletter, closer to the time.

### **Pick Up & Collection Arrangements**

As we start the new year, we would like to remind families to provide relevant updates, including a copy of identification for the adults (particularly NDIS or other carers) who may be responsible for collecting children at the end of the day. If we have already received notification from parents and have obtained a copy of individuals ID, this will make the end of day pick up process smoother for everyone. We thank you for your assistance with this.

We would also like to remind families to let the school's reception know of any permanent or ad-hoc changes to your child's collection arrangements as soon as practical so that relevant staff are aware. This also supports a smooth end of day transition.

### **Uniform Assistance**

For any families who require any assistance with school uniforms, please contact the school's reception and let us know. We will then be able to contact State School's Relief to support with obtaining uniform at minimal to zero cost.

### **NDIS Navigators**

As we were last year, this year, we continue to be involved in the NDIS Navigator Program. NDIS Navigators help families navigate and understand the NDIS and get the most out of the supports available for your child or children. This type of support could include support for first applying for the NDIS as well as support and assistance for reviews and changes of circumstances.

Our reception staff: Linda Pendergast and Jennayer Hopkins will be sharing this role at our school. They will:

- provide information and advice on the NDIS and available supports, including guidance on where to look for services and how to make the best selection for your child
- support you to understand the:
  - structure of the NDIS and how to navigate and engage with the system
  - ongoing management of NDIS plans and how to raise questions or concerns with the NDIA or NDIS funded organisations
- assist you to access NDIS Local Area Coordination partners for advice and support.

If you have any NDIS related questions or need any NDIS related support, please do not hesitate to contact the school's reception and speak with Linda or Jennayer.

Kindest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct "D" at the beginning.

Principal



# CALENDAR

## February 2026

| Mon                   | Tue | Wed                  | Thu | Fri                                     | Sat | Sun |
|-----------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------|-----|-----|
|                       |     |                      |     |                                         |     | 1   |
| 2                     | 3   | 4                    | 5   | 6                                       | 7   | 8   |
| 9<br>Senior Swimming  | 10  | 11<br>Sailing Room 9 | 12  | 13                                      | 14  | 15  |
| 16<br>Senior Swimming | 17  | 18                   | 19  | 20<br>Bike ED<br>Rail Trail             | 21  | 22  |
| 23<br>Senior Swimming | 24  | 25                   | 26  | 27<br>Bike ED<br>Raymond Island<br>Loop | 28  |     |

## March 2026

| Mon                  | Tue                                  | Wed                                  | Thu | Fri                                           | Sat | Sun |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
|                      |                                      |                                      |     |                                               |     | 1   |
| 2<br>Senior Swimming | 3                                    | 4                                    | 5   | 6                                             | 7   | 8   |
| 9                    | 10                                   | 11                                   | 12  | 13<br>Bike ED<br>East Gippsland Rail<br>Trail | 14  | 15  |
| 16                   | 17                                   | 18                                   | 19  | 20                                            | 21  | 22  |
| 23                   | 24                                   | 25<br>Forges Theatre<br>The Box show | 26  | 27                                            | 28  | 29  |
| 30                   | 31<br>Forges Theatre<br>The Box show |                                      |     |                                               |     |     |

# Staff Shoutouts

For always putting in so much effort into supporting student, and doing it with such a lovely smile.

All Staff for a great start to 2026

For always putting so much effort into making sure the students are supported.

For always being so creative and supporting students to do their best.

# We welcome our new Teachers for 2026



**Sarah McAninly**  
Room 1



**Suzana Silveira**  
Room 4



**Sue Legg**  
Room 16

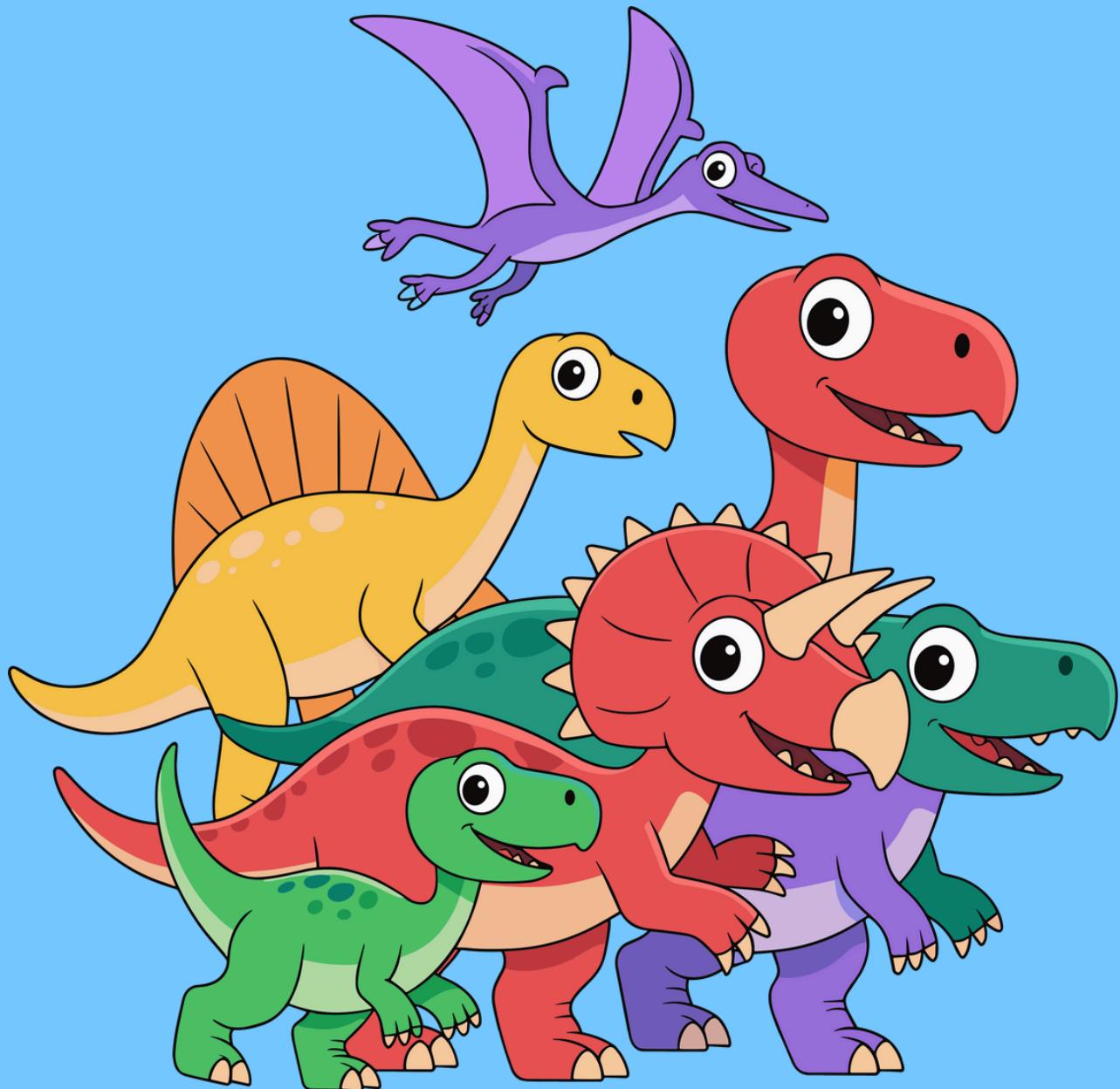


**Emma Mutch**  
Room 10

# JOKE OF THE WEEK

What do you call a  
dinosaur with bad  
vision?

A Do-you-think-he-sarus!





## All Abilities Netball

Enjoy netball in a fun, friendly environment where you will learn new skills, stay active and enjoy being part of a team built on belonging and inclusion.

Date: 26/02/2026- 28/05/2026

Excluding School Holidays

Cost- \$100

Time: 4.00pm-5.00pm

Location: WORLD Precinct- 99 Wallace Street, Bairnsdale

**Contact: Janet Parker at 0430 480 405**

**REGISTER TODAY!**

On our Facebook page



- **Needing help to access the NDIS**
- **Supports and services**
- **Plan reassessments**
- **Therapists and Physio**
- **General enquiries**

**If you would like more information please call the  
school on 51525922  
our NDIS Navigators  
Linda Pendergast  
Jennayer Hopkins**





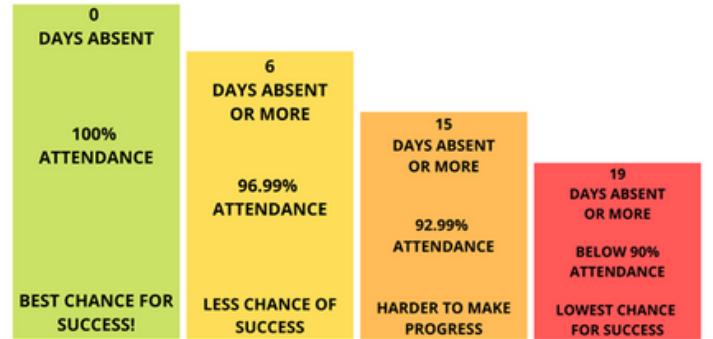
# Every School Day counts

If your child is absent from school please remember to let us know why.

Please call the office on 51525922 explaining why your child will be absent and how long you expect them to be away.



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS



# PROTECT

**Everyone has the right to be safe and be protected from abuse.**

No one should behave in a way that makes you feel unsafe or afraid, including anyone in your family, anyone at school or anywhere else in the community.

Tell a teacher or any adult at your school if you feel unsafe.



**It's everyone's responsibility.**

Adults at school must listen and respond to concerns about child abuse.

If you suspect abuse of any child or young person, you have a responsibility to report it, even if you are not sure.

**Further information & resources**  
[www.education.vic.gov.au/protect](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/protect)

