



East Gippsland Specialist School Newsletter



Upcoming Events



NOVEMBER

Smile Squad
Month of October



NDIS Support Parent
Meeting

At EGSS 17th & 24th
November 2pm/3pm



DECEMBER

11th Graduation
Bairnsdale RSL



12th Celebration
Day Awards Day



NOVEMBER
BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



LYDIA



ZAC

Safe
Respectful
Learners

CONTACT US

31 Calvert Street
Bairnsdale VIC 3875

Telephone 03 5152 5922

Email east.gippsland.ss@education.vic.gov.au

Safe
Respectful
Learners



Principal Report

Dear Families,

School Growth and Future Planning

East Gippsland Specialist School continues to grow — and 2026 is shaping up to be another exciting year of expansion for our school community.

We have been inundated with enrolment enquiries for next year and are projected to grow by around 20 additional students. As a result, we are set to have an enrolment of approx. 110 students and will operate 15 classes in 2026, which is a significant and positive milestone for the school.

To support this growth, we are currently in the process of recruiting additional staff, including teachers, education support staff, and allied health professionals. These positions are currently being advertised, and we are hopeful that all recruitment activities will be finalised within the next couple of weeks.

With this expected increase in enrolments — and a smaller graduating cohort anticipated in 2026 — I have also begun early discussions with the Department of Education regarding securing additional buildings for the school. This will ensure that as we continue to grow, we have the appropriate facilities and learning environments in place to support every student.

It is an exciting time for EGSS, and I would like to thank all families for your ongoing trust and support as our school continues to evolve and thrive.

2026 Transition Sessions

Our 2026 classroom allocations are set to be finalised within the next week, and we are pleased to share details of our upcoming Transition Program, due to begin in Week 8. We view our transition program as a critical aspect of preparing students for the following year and these sessions provide valuable opportunities for students to become familiar with their new classmates, teachers, and learning environments in a positive and supportive way.

We look forward to seeing all students participate in these sessions as we prepare for another exciting year ahead.

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



Transition SSGs

On Monday 1st December, we will be holding our final Student-Free Day for the year.

On this day, classroom programs will not operate to allow families the opportunity to participate in a Transition Student Support Group (SSG) meeting.

These meetings provide families with valuable time to meet with both their child's current teacher and their teacher for next year, to discuss student progress, transition planning, and learning goals for 2026. We view this as a critical aspect of your child's transition process.

We encourage all families to take part in their child's Transition SSG, as these meetings play an important role in ensuring a smooth and positive start to the new school year. Once classes are 100% finalised, information regarding your child's SSG booking timeslot will be sent home to families.

East Gippsland Rail Trail Ride

Last week, our PE Teacher, Michael Mitchell, and I had the privilege of spending two days on the East Gippsland Rail Trail alongside staff from Blackwood Outdoor Education Centre for Special Schools and a small group of our students.

Together, we completed a test ride of the trail between Nicholson and Orbost to assess its suitability for students with diverse abilities. Throughout the ride, we evaluated the track conditions, potential camping sites, and access points for support vehicles to ensure that a large-scale event could be safely managed.

We are thrilled to share that, following this successful trial, our school — in collaboration with Blackwood Outdoor Education Centre — will be launching a statewide Rail Trail Ride event in 2026, open to all special schools across Victoria.

The event is planned as a four-day ride in late September 2026, and we are hopeful that schools from across the state will join us right here in East Gippsland for what promises to be a unique and inclusive outdoor education experience.

Stay tuned for further updates as planning progresses — this is an exciting opportunity to showcase both our region and our school community on a statewide stage.

Kindest Regards,



Principal



CALENDAR

November 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3 Staff PD day Student free day	4 Melbourne Cup Public Holiday	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 NDIS Parent information and support Group	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 NDIS Parent information and support Group	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1 Staff PD day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Graduation Bairnsdale RSL	12 Helpers Morning tea Awards Day	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Last Day of 2025 Merry Christmas	20	21
22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28
29	30	31				

Staff Shoutouts



-Jessica Clark

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

-Elisa Nelson

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



-Kristy Stares

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

Room 1



In Room 1, we have been exploring different letters and learning all about the sounds that they make. We have been lucky enough to try certain foods that begin with those letters. We have been great at sharing during PE & Performing arts. We have been exploring a wide variety of musical instruments, dress ups & dancing with our peers.



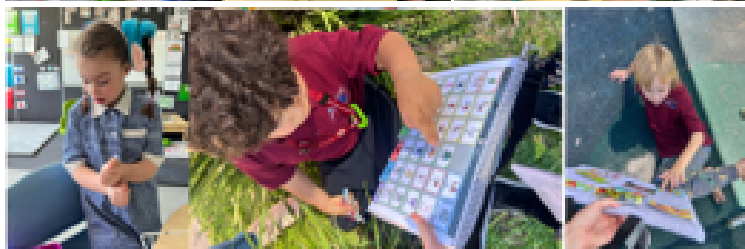
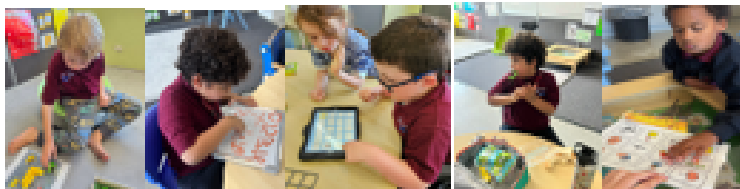
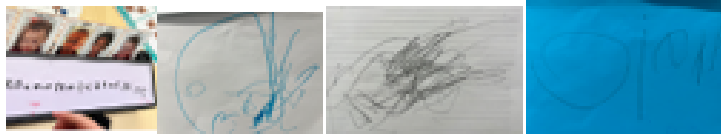
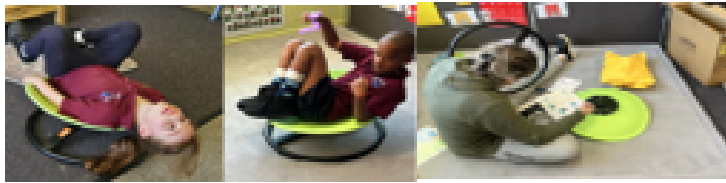
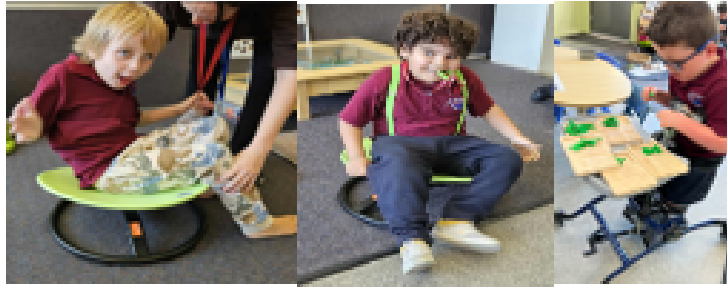
HAPPY



HALLOWEEN

from room 1

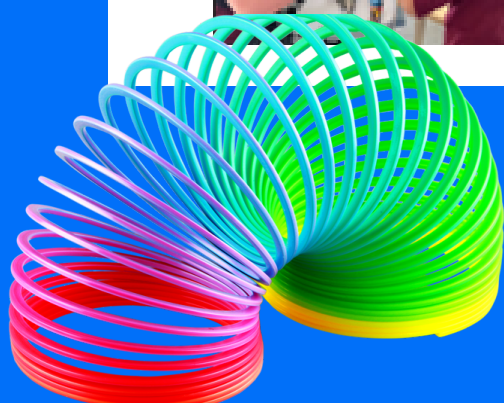
ROOM TWO



Room 2 Adventures!

It's been a busy and exciting term in Room 2! Our clever communicators have been working hard to use their AAC visuals, signs, and voices to share their thoughts, seek help, and have themselves heard. We also welcomed a new friend to our room — "the spiny chair"! It was bought to help one student with regulation, but now everyone loves taking turns having a spin! It's helped us get into the green zone while also learn about waiting, sharing, and turn taking while having lots of fun! Our focus this term has also been to provide meaningful opportunities for students to engage in writing activities, supporting them to mark-make, form letters, and begin writing their names and other words. The children are showing so much enthusiasm and creativity in our play-based learning environment.

We are so proud of the progress and enthusiasm shown by all our Room 2 learners!





East Gippsland Specialist School New Building Official Ribbon Cutting Friday 7th November 2025

Start 10 am

Morning tea provided

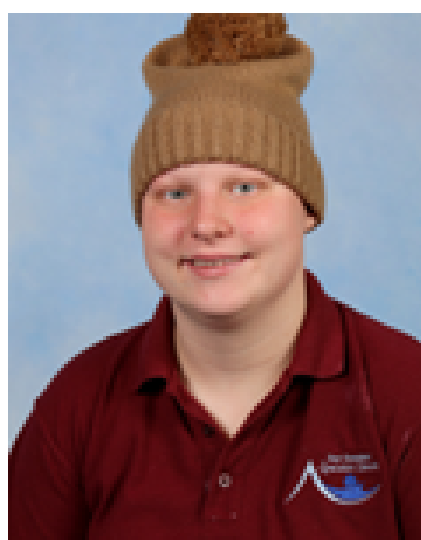
Mr Tom McIntosh Member for Eastern Victoria will be in attendance for the cutting of the Ribbon





East Gippsland Specialist School Graduation 2025

Graduating Students



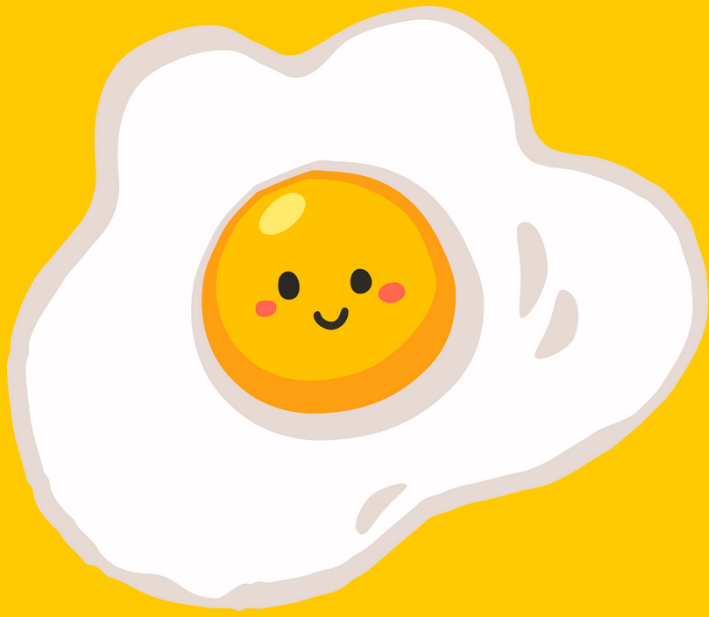
Abigail Cassidy-Maiden



Alkira Hood

When: Thursday 11th December, 2025
Where: Bairnsdale RSL
Time: 6.00pm
Cost: \$30.00 per adult or \$18.00 12 years and under
Tickets by: Monday 2nd December from Reception at EGSS

JOKE OF THE WEEK



**Why don't eggs
tell jokes?**

They'd crack up!



PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

In Term 4 we have some upcoming Parent Support Groups Opportunities

Preparing for Transition out of school

·20th October at Interchange in Eastwood 2.00-3.00. Information on how Interchange can support children post school. Shop 13B & 14. 30 Howitt Avenue, Eastwood Shopping Centre
This visit will be followed by coffee and a chat at DF café.

·24th November 2.00-3.00 at East Gippsland Specialist School- NDIS Local Area Co-ordinators will be visiting the school to share information.

NDIS Support Parent Meeting

Our NDIS Local Area Coordinators will be visiting the school on the 17th November to share information and answer questions about the NDIS to support families.

For further
information
call
Donna or
Pauline on
51525922



FREE | BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL



EAST GIPPSLAND
SHIRE LIBRARIES

Sensitive Santa

Santa Visit For Children With Additional Needs



Join us for a very special visit from Santa!

Santa has taken time out of his very busy schedule and agreed to join us at the library for a talk and maybe a photo!

Sensitive Santa is for children and families who would benefit from a low sensory and supported environment.

Children with additional needs are invited to meet Santa in a free private 20-minute session with their families.

This project is supported by the Uniting Vic Tas - East Gippsland Communities for Children program, using funds provided through the Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS)

Bairnsdale Library

Tuesday 25 November
1.30 pm - 5.00 pm

Orbost Service Centre

Wednesday
26 November
1.30 pm - 5.00 pm

Bairnsdale Library

Thursday 27 November
1.30 pm - 5.00 pm

Book Now

At your library

5152 4225

www.trybooking.com/eventlist/eastgippslandshirelibraries

Scan the QR code



Uniting



Libraries
Change Lives





- **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.



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