



East Gippsland Specialist School Newsletter



Upcoming Events



SEPTEMBER

Smile Squad
1ST September



Last day of term 3
Friday 19th September
2pm finish

Spring

HOLIDAY



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Jaden



Olivia



Summer



Liam



Patrick



Jett



River



CONTACT US

31 Calvert Street

Bairnsdale VIC 3875

Telephone 03 5152 5922

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



Alfie

Safe
Respectful
Learners



Principal Report

Dear Families,

Early finish last day Term 3

The last day of Term 3 is Friday the 19th September. We will have an early finish time that day at 2.00pm. Students will need to be collected at this time. Buses will run an hour earlier than normal in the afternoon including pickups from stops.

Have a lovely school holiday period.

Education Support Staff Appreciation Week

Education Support Appreciation Week occurred from Monday the 1st September to Friday the 5th September.

This was an opportunity to acknowledge the Education Support Staff that support our students.

Our Education Support Staff play a vital role in creating a positive, inclusive, and supportive learning environment. Whether working directly with students or behind the scenes, your commitment, care, and hard work do not go unnoticed.

We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to:

- Our Classroom ES team, for your hands-on support and tireless dedication in helping students thrive in the classroom.
- Our Reception and Admin staff, who keep everything running smoothly and greet everyone with a smile.
- Our Allied Health professionals, for your expert care and compassionate support of student wellbeing.
- Chrissy, for the unique role you play and the warmth you bring to our school community.
- Our ES CRTs, who step in seamlessly and ensure continuity and care when it's needed most.

Thank you for the passion, patience, and professionalism you bring to your work every day. Our school is stronger because of you.

We appreciate you — this week and always.

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



AAC Awareness Month

October marks AAC Awareness Month: a month dedicated to showcasing the different ways individuals use Augmentative and Alternative Communication in their daily lives. Everybody has the right to communicate in their own way!

AAC Awareness Month is an initiative of [ISAAC](#), the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication, and is acknowledged all over the world each October. This year's theme is "Innovation, Inclusion, and Advocacy in AAC"

What is Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)?

AAC refers to any communication tool that either helps supplement spoken language or can be used as a replacement for spoken language. Some examples of AAC include:

- Facial expressions
- Hand signs or gestures
- Images or photos
- Writing or typing
- Communication books
- Speech generating devices

Throughout October, we will be sharing with our school community information on Augmentative and Alternative Communication, and how everyone communicates differently. Check out the video below to find out more about AAC!

https://autism.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/TCS_AAC-Month-Social-Video_APPROVED-.mp4?_=1

Parent Support Group upcoming events

We have a number of upcoming opportunities for families to access information as support through our Parent Support Group.

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.

Parent Opinion Survey – Reminder

East Gippsland Specialist School is once again participating in the Department of Education's annual Parent Opinion Survey, and we would love to hear your thoughts!

This survey helps us gain a better understanding of your perceptions around school climate, student behaviour, engagement and wellbeing. It's anonymous, takes just 10–15 minutes to complete, and can be done on any device.

 Survey closes: Friday 19th September

 [Take the survey here](#)

As an added incentive, families who complete the survey and send a screenshot to east.gippsland.ss@education.vic.gov.au will go into the draw to win one of three \$100 gift cards to use at:

- Lucke's Fresh Food Market
- Inland Surf
- Toy World

One entry per family — draw to take place on Monday 6th October. Full details can be found in the flyer included with this newsletter.

We appreciate your time and support in helping us continue to grow and improve our school.

Kindest Regards,



Donna Prince



Acting Principal

**Reminder school buses will
be arriving home 1 hour
earlier on the last day of term**



CALENDAR

September 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1 Primary Swimming Smile Squad	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Primary Swimming	9	10 Footy Colours Day	11 R U OK Day	12	13	14
15 Primary Swimming	16	17	18	19 Last Day of term 3 2pm finish	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6 First day back of term 4	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Education Support week



Thank you for all your
hard work

Staff Shoutouts



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



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

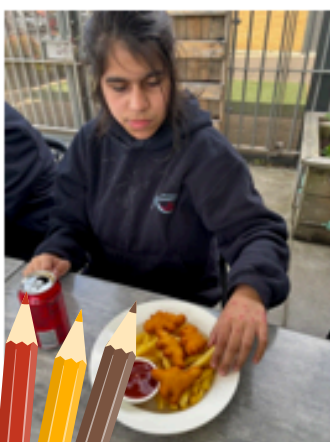


-Sandie Quin
For always being such a supportive and enthusiastic team member.

ROOM ELEVEN



Room 11 has had a great term so far. We have enjoyed community access, exploring different parts of our community each week. One of our favourite places is going to the Brew Crew for lunch. We enjoyed going swimming at the start of the term, it was great fun splashing around and working on our water skills.





Advocating
for children
with disability

Free online workshop

Teens and Beyond



Do you have a child with disability aged 13+?

Then this FREE workshop series is for you!

You'll receive practical information, skills and confidence to navigate the teenage years.

This is the only workshop series that covers the full range of information relating to teenagers with disability in one place.

Who is it for?

This series of three workshops is for Victorian families raising children 13+ with disability.

How do I book?

Bookings are essential and can be done via the QR code or this link bit.ly/TEENSoc25

Who will be online?

Professional facilitators are parents of young people with disability.

Topics



- Financial support
- Building your teen's independence
- School and post-school options
- Wellbeing: friendships, communication, behaviour support and good mental health

When

Monday 20, 27 Oct & 3 Nov at 10:00 am

Monday 20, 27 Oct & 3 Nov at 7:00 pm

Wednesday 22, 29 Oct & 5 Nov at 7:00 pm

Sessions run for 2.5 hours with time for questions.

Scan for more information and to register

Email

educate@acd.org.au

Call 03 9880 7000 or
1800 654 013 regional



SMILE SQUAD



FREE SCHOOL DENTAL PROGRAM

Coming to EGSS in September

PLEASE RETURN YOUR FORMS



HOPE YOUR ALL OK



INTERCHANGE GIPPSLAND OPEN SESSION

GRADUATING FROM SCHOOL IN 2025 OR 2026?
TIME TO START EXPLORING YOUR OPTIONS NOW!



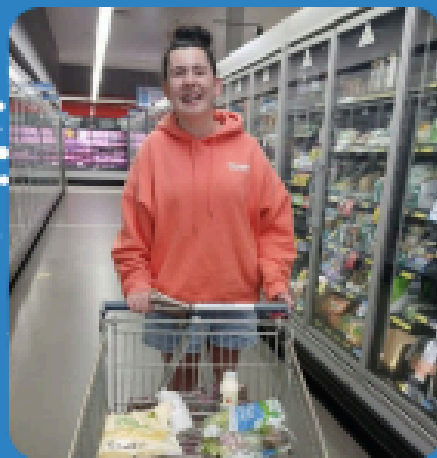
Interchange Gippsland is a disability support organisation based in Bairnsdale, with a range of services available for people with a disability. Services include:

- YAS (Adult Day Service)
- ROADIES (weekend activities for teens)
- Transition options
- One to one supports for all ages

UPCOMING OPEN SESSION

Monday 20th October
2:00pm to 2:30pm

We  ndis



CONTACT US

 1300 736 765

 admin@icg.asn.au

 www.icg.asn.au

 13b & 14a Eastwood Village Shopping Centre, 30 Howitt Avenue, Bairnsdale



FREE EVENT!

BOOK AN *Adventure*



Children's Book Party

Local Children's Authors

James Hart Illustrator



James Hart Illustrator



CBCA Gippsland Region



THE CHILDREN'S
BOOK COUNCIL
OF AUSTRALIA

SINCE 1945 — YOUR CONNECTION TO STORY

Storytime
Competitions
Birthday cake
Treat bags
Calligraphy with Danny!
Raffle & more!

**Dress up as your
favourite book
character
and join our dress
up parade!**

Tuesday 23rd September
10-12.30pm

Scan QR code for bookings

SCHOOLWORKS
SUPPLIES

147 Macleod St, Bairnsdale VIC (Next to EG Water)





- **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