



East Gippsland Specialist School Newsletter



Upcoming Events



NOVEMBER



Staff PD day

Student free day 3rd

Melbourne Cup Public
Holiday 4th



Smile Squad
month of October



DECEMBER

Graduation

11th



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



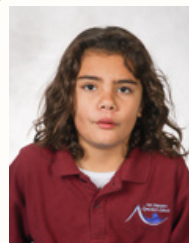
Jayden



Connor



Lucy



Mel



Lilly



Alec



Abi

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,

Welcome Back to Term 4

Welcome back to Term 4! I hope all our students, families, and staff had a relaxing and enjoyable September school holiday break. Hopefully your favourite footy team managed to get across the line in the final game of the season!

It's been wonderful to see everyone return with enthusiasm and smiles, ready for a busy and exciting term ahead. Term 4 always brings a great sense of energy and achievement as we celebrate another successful year of learning and growth.

I am also very pleased to have returned from my Long Service Leave. My family and I had an amazing time travelling around my home country, Scotland, in a motorhome — exploring its beautiful scenery, visiting family, and soaking up the experience of being back home. It was a special time together, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to reconnect with my roots.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Donna Prince for her exceptional leadership as Acting Principal during my leave. Donna did a wonderful job guiding the school, and I greatly appreciate the dedication and teamwork of all staff who ensured our students continued to thrive during Term 3.

Smile Squad Dental Van – Term 4

We're delighted to welcome the Smile Squad Dental Van to East Gippsland Specialist School this term.

Students participating in the program have already received their dental packs, and scheduled appointments and follow-ups will take place throughout the term. The Smile Squad team provides free, preventative dental care and education to support student health and wellbeing in a familiar school environment.

Please note that for some students, additional appointments and follow-up visits may continue into Term 1, 2026 as part of the Smile Squad's ongoing program of care.

We thank the Smile Squad team for their continued support and commitment to our students.

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



Planning for 2026

Our 2026 class planning process is now underway. This important part of our annual cycle helps us ensure that each student is placed in a supportive learning environment that best meets their needs, interests, and goals.

If any families have specific considerations or concerns regarding their child's 2026 class placement, we warmly invite you to contact school reception on 5152 5922 to discuss this further.

We value your input as part of our collaborative planning approach and appreciate your support as we prepare for another successful school year ahead.

AAC Awareness Month (October)

October is AAC Awareness Month, a time to celebrate and promote Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). This global initiative highlights the many ways individuals communicate and reinforces that everyone 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 recognised worldwide each October. This year's theme is "Innovation, Inclusion, and Advocacy in AAC."

What is AAC?

AAC refers to any method or tool that supplements or replaces spoken communication, such as:

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

Throughout October, we will share resources and activities to help our school community learn more about AAC and celebrate the many ways our students communicate.

Watch this short video to learn 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're pleased to share details of our Parent Support Group sessions for Term 4. These are valuable opportunities for families to connect, share experiences, and access practical supports and information.

Preparing for Transition out of School

- **Monday 20 October, 2:00–3:00pm**
Location: Interchange Eastwood – Shop 13B & 14, 30 Howitt Avenue, Eastwood Shopping Centre
Focus: Learn how Interchange can support children post-school.
This visit will be followed by coffee and a chat at DF Café.

NDIS Local Area Coordinators Information Session

- **Monday 17 November, 2:00–3:00pm**
Location: East Gippsland Specialist School
Focus: Local Area Coordinators will visit to share updates and answer questions about the NDIS.

NDIS Support – Parent Meeting

- **Monday 24 November, 2:00–3:00pm**
Location: East Gippsland Specialist School
Focus: Further opportunities to discuss NDIS supports and family questions with our school and community partners.

We encourage families to attend one or more of these sessions — they're a great way to connect, share insights, and learn more about post-school pathways and available supports.

Kindest Regards,



Principal



CALENDAR

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		

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	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Staff Shoutouts



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



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



-Mel Johnson
For always being such a supportive and enthusiastic team member.

ROOM FOURTEEN

Room 14 students participated in a variety of learning experiences throughout the last weeks of term three.



Good job!

COME JOIN US TO CELEBRATE



Let's

Pawrty!

Come join us to celebrate the special birthday of our assistance dog...

BUDDY!

Date: Saturday 25th October 2025

Time: 11:00am – 1:00pm

Location: All Abilities Playground (9 Main Street Bairnsdale)

RSVP: 18th October (East Gippsland Specialist School – 5152 5922)

- Child/ children must be accompanied and supervised by a parent/ guardian/ carer.
- A sausage sizzle will be provided for lunch.



Winners of our Parent opinion School Survey

Congratulations

1st Brook Howels

David Luckes Voucher

2nd Lynette Coulson

Inland surf Voucher

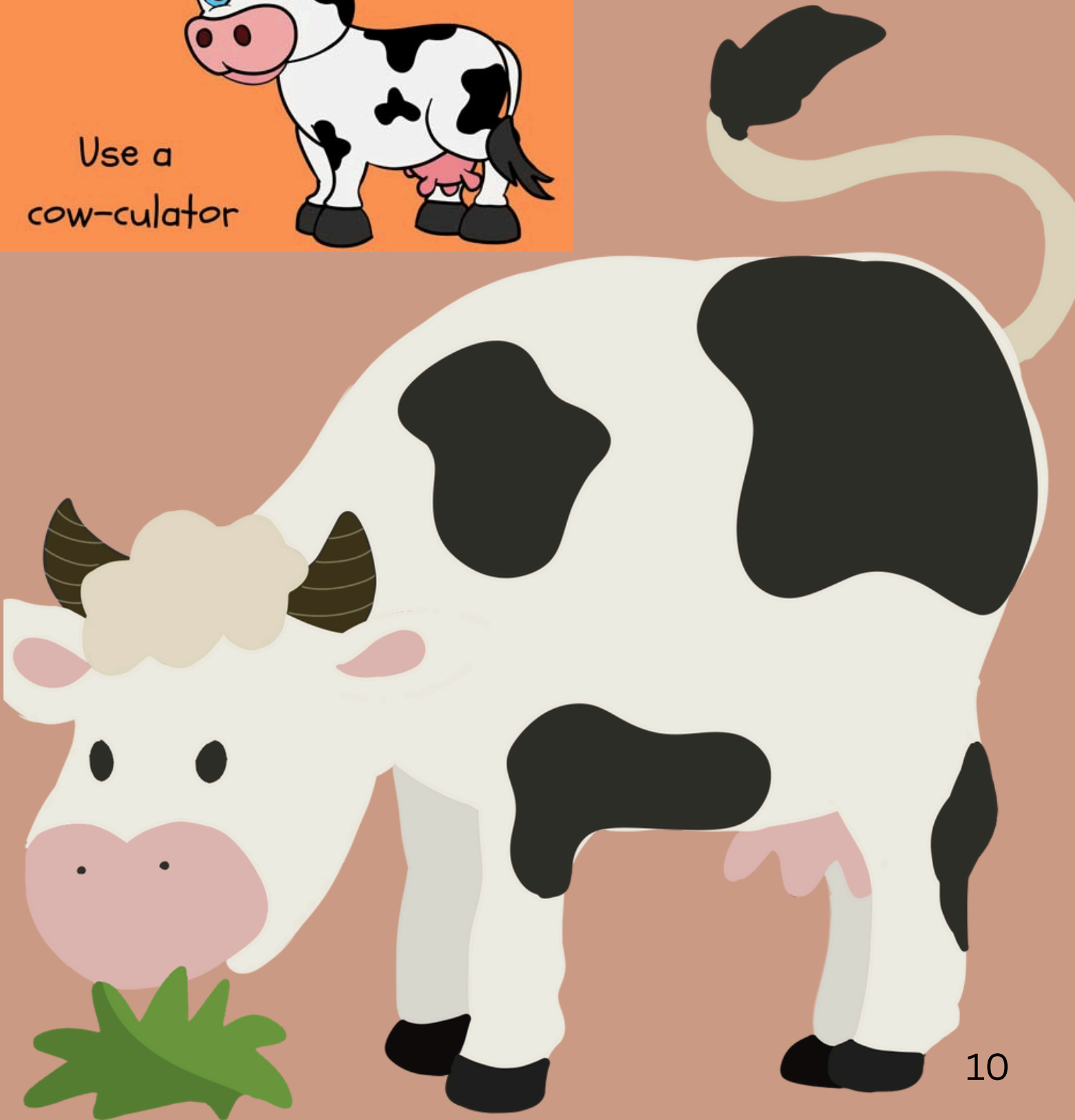
3rd Jessica Page

Toyworld Voucher

JOKE OF THE WEEK

What is the easiest way to
count a herd of cows?

Use a
cow-culator





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





Calling all Carers

YOU ARE INVITED TO

FREE CARER ACTIVITY: METUNG HOT SPRINGS



Date

Saturday 25th October 2025



Time

2:00pm to 6:00pm



Location

Metung Hot Springs



Carers

Open to carers of people with a disability in East Gippsland!



Activity

Connect with nature and other carers, while relaxing at the Hot Springs! Catering provided!

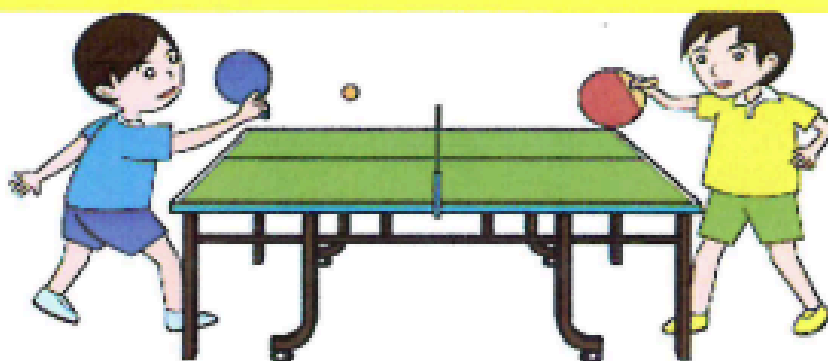


Expression of interest

Limited spots available! Call 1300 736 765 or email admin@icg.asn.au



ALL ABILITIES DAY



BAIRNSDALE SQUASH & TABLE TENNIS CENTRE

64 GREAT ALPINE RD LUCKNOW

Inclusive fun for everyone

Come along on Tuesday 11th November

Fun activities for all . 12 noon - 4 pm

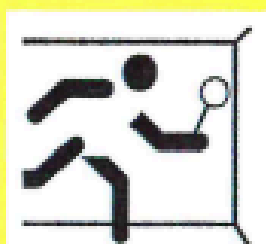
FREE ENTRY

FOOD AND DRINKS PROVIDED

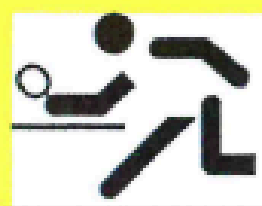
Table Tennis Tournament from 1 pm/ Racquetball/ Carpet Bowls/ Beanbag Throwing /Skittles music and much more.

RING THE STADIUM ON 51527366

OR CONTACT BRIAN 0439488822



BAIRNSDALE SQUASH
&
TABLE TENNIS CENTRE



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



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INTERCHANGE GIPPSLAND OPEN SESSION

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



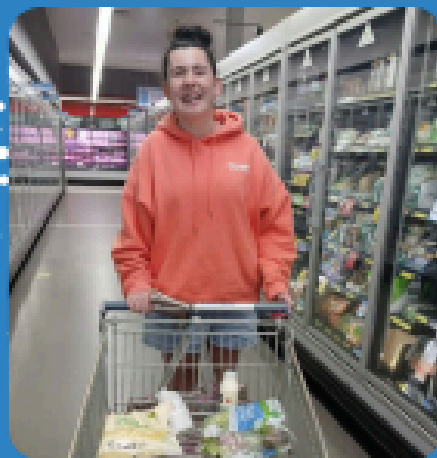
Interchange Gippsland is a disability support organisation based in Bairnsdale, with a range of services available for people with a disability. Services include:

- 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

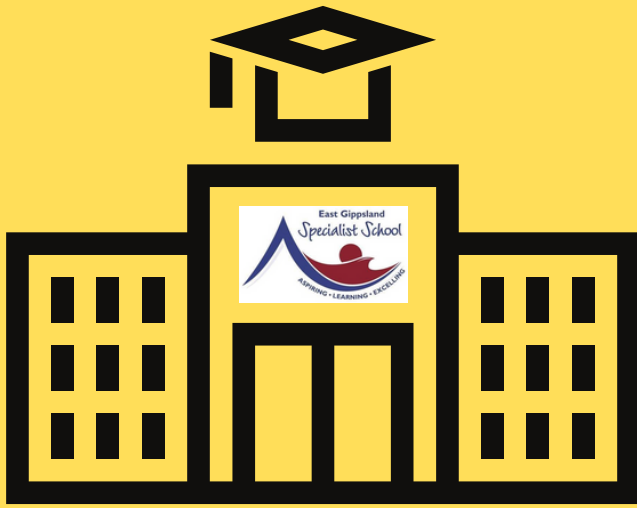
 13b & 14a Eastwood Village Shopping Centre, 30 Howitt Avenue, Bairnsdale



- **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