



# East Gippsland Specialist School Newsletter



## Upcoming Events



### DECEMBER

Smile Squad  
Month of December



11th Graduation  
Bairnsdale RSL



12th Celebration  
Day Awards Day  
last day of  
formal classes



DECEMBER  
BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY



Rhylee



Ella



Nick



CONTACT US  
31 Calvert Street  
Bairnsdale VIC 3875  
Telephone 03 5152 5922  
Email [east.gippsland.ss@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:east.gippsland.ss@education.vic.gov.au)

Safe  
Respectful  
Learners



# Principal Report

Dear Families,

Thank You and Best Wishes for the Holidays

As we come to the end of another wonderful year at East Gippsland Specialist School, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our students, families, and staff for your support, partnership, and positivity throughout 2025. Our school continues to thrive because of the strong relationships, dedication, and shared commitment of our whole community.

I hope the upcoming holiday break brings rest, joy, and quality time with loved ones. We are incredibly proud of everything our students have achieved this year and grateful to all who have contributed to a successful 2025.

## Semester 2 Reports

Semester 2 student reports will be sent home on **Friday 12th December 2025**.

These reports provide an important opportunity to celebrate the growth, progress, and achievements that students have made across the year. From developing communication and independence skills, to building confidence, positive relationships, and new learning behaviours, our students have demonstrated remarkable growth in many ways.

We encourage families to take some time to read through the report together, celebrate the successes, and acknowledge the goals and efforts that have shaped each student's journey in 2025.

**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**



## **Farewell and Congratulations on Retirement – Diana Kearns**

This year we farewell Diana Kearns, who is retiring after an extraordinary contribution to our school community. Diana has been a dedicated teacher at East Gippsland Specialist School since 2010, and across her 15 years of service she has made a profound and lasting impact on countless students and colleagues.

Diana's warmth, compassion, and unwavering dedication to student learning have enriched our school deeply. We wish Diana a very happy and fulfilling retirement.

## **Best Wishes to Adele Van Rosmalen**

We also extend our sincere thanks and best wishes to Adele Van Rosmalen, who has been a valued member of our teaching team for the past three years.

While Adele will not be a permanent classroom teacher at EGSS in 2026, we are very pleased that she will continue supporting our school as a Casual Relief Teacher. We look forward to continuing to see her around the school and appreciate her ongoing contribution to our community.

## **Transition Program Concludes**

Yesterday marked the completion of our full-day transition session, bringing our 2025 Transition Program to a close.

Over the past three weeks, students and staff have engaged beautifully in transition activities. Students met their 2026 classmates and teachers, explored their new learning environments, and began forming the relationships that will set them up for success next year.

The program has run exceptionally well, and we are confident it has placed both students and staff in an excellent position for a smooth and positive start to the 2026 school year.

## **Graduation Ceremony**

This Thursday evening, we will celebrate the achievements of our graduating Class of 2025. Graduation is always a very special milestone, marking the culmination of students' schooling and the beginning of exciting new pathways.

Our graduates have been supported by a wide network of significant people — families, carers, teachers, education support staff, therapists, peers, and the broader community. Each has played an important role in their development, wellbeing, and success.

We look forward to honouring their achievements and celebrating with them and their families

## **End of Year Celebration – Friday 12th December**

We are excited to invite families to our End of Year Celebration on Friday 12th December. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a school community and reflect on the achievements of our students across 2025.

The day will include:

- Thank You Morning Tea
- Open Classrooms
- Awards Presentations
- Sausage Sizzle BBQ
- All-Abilities Games and Activities
- A Special Visit from Santa Claus!

Please see the flyer attached to this week's newsletter for more information and we look forward to celebrating with you and sharing the many highlights of the year.

## **Student-Free Days for 2026**

Last week, School Council has endorsed the following student-free days for the 2026 school year:

Term 1:

- 27th January – Professional Learning for Staff
- 28th January – Professional Learning for Staff
- 6th March – Professional Learning for staff (Friday before Labour Day)

Term 2:

- 25th May – Semester 1 Reporting and Assessment Day

Term 3

- 13th July – Professional Learning for Staff

Term 4

- 2nd November – Semester 2 Reporting and Assessment Day
- 7th December – Transition SSGs

These days support teacher planning, assessment, reporting, and targeted professional learning and we thank all families for their support of these important days.



## Final Week of School – Monday 15th to Friday 19th December

The final week of the school year runs from Monday 15th to Friday 19th December.

Students are welcome to attend, however please note that formal classes will not run as usual during this week. Staff and students will be engaging in:

- Whole-school cleaning
- Tidying learning spaces
- Packing and organisation
- Relocating materials and equipment for 2026

This week can be quite disruptive and out of routine and may feel different for some students. Families are encouraged to make a decision about attendance based on what they feel is best for their child.

Please also note that we will be having an early dismissal of 2pm on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of December.

## Warmest Wishes for the Holidays

As we conclude the 2025 school year, I want to sincerely thank every family for your support, encouragement, and partnership. It is an honour to work with you in supporting your children's growth and wellbeing.

We wish all students and families a safe, restful, and enjoyable holiday break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Thursday 29th January 2026**.

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 Pupil Free Day SSG Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Graduation Bairnsdale RSL	12 End of year Celebration / Awards Helpers Morning tea	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

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

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

**All the Staff at EGSS  
for going above and  
beyond each day**

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**

# December Celebrations at EGSS

## Friday 12th December

# Celebration TIME

Helpers Thank You Morning  
Tea



10:45 – 11:30am

Life Skills / Library

11:20 – 12:30pm

Open Classroom Activity



12:30 – 1:00pm

Awards in the Amphitheatre

Including:

Hansen Awards Ceremony



1:00 – 1:15pm

BBQ Lunch



1:15 – 2:00pm

Lunchtime

**GAME  
TIME**

All Abilities Games



Santa Visit on the Fire  
Truck!

2.00pm







We wish you all very happy  
and safe holiday.

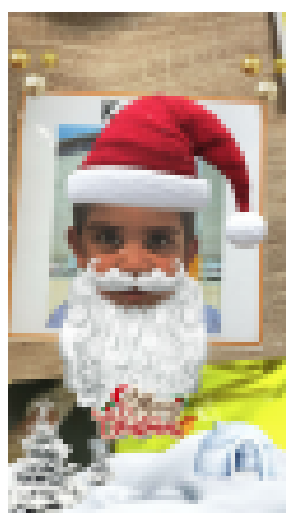




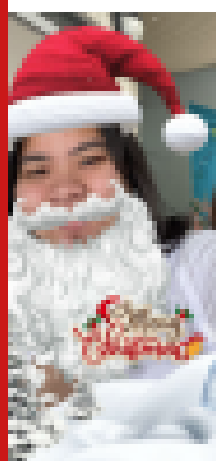
Wishing you all a very Merry  
Christmas







*Merry  
Christmas!*



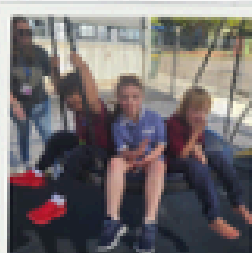
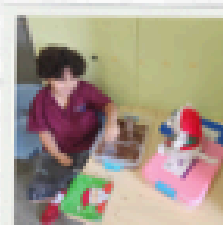
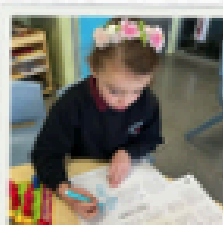
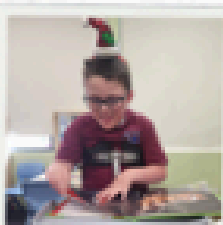
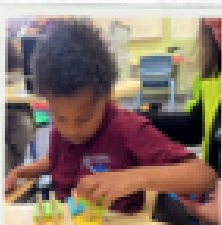
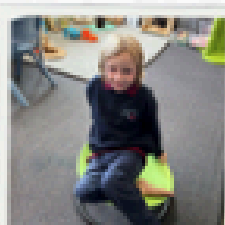
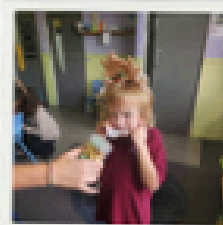
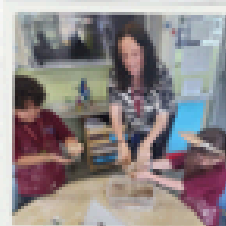
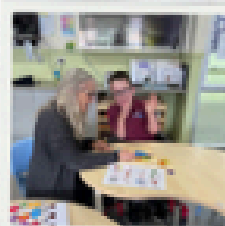
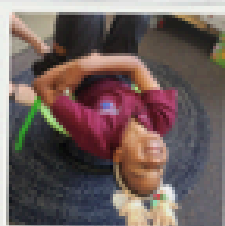
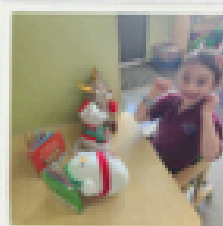
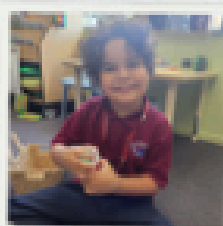
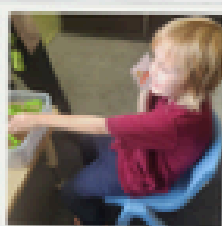
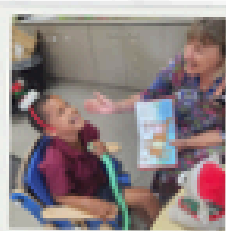
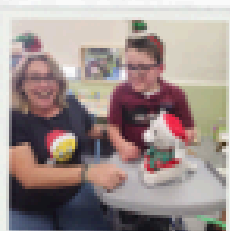
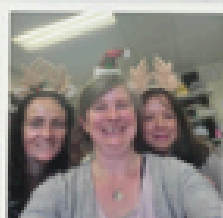
*From all the busy,  
happy bearded  
people in Room 1!*



# Merry Christmas

AND HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

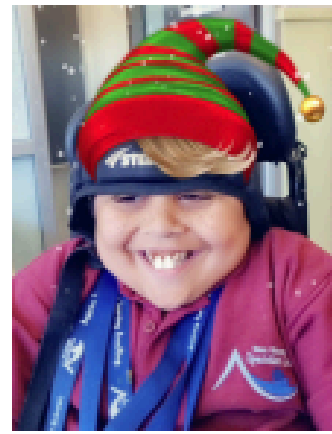
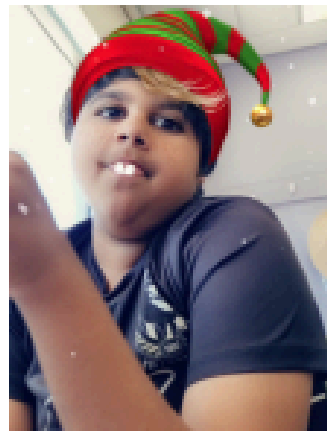
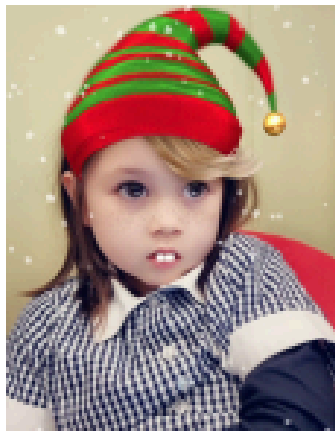
FROM ROOM 2



🌲 Merry Christmas from Room 2 – 2026 🌲

What a year it has been! With such incredible growth in all areas, we are so proud of each and every one of you.

Wishing you and your family a joyful and safe Christmas filled with love, laughter, and festive fun. With every jingle, giggle, and moment of make-believe, children are building communication skills that shine as brightly as the holiday lights. 🌟❤️

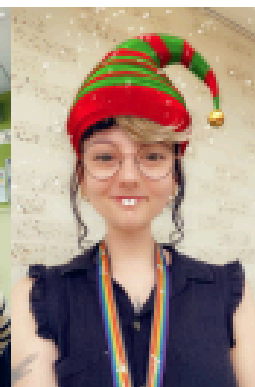
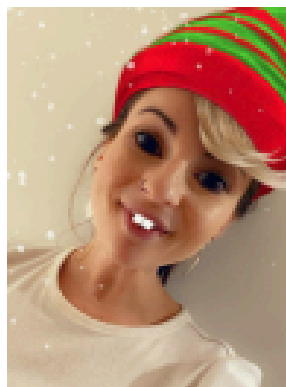
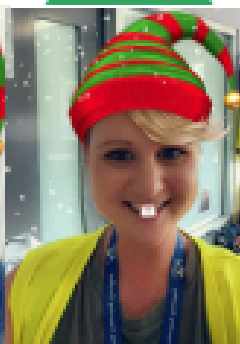
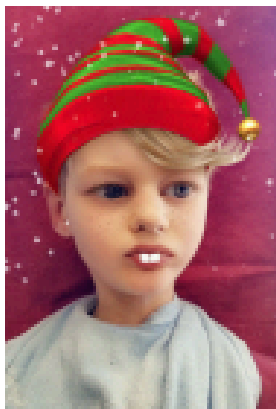


Merry Christmas

From all the fun,  
spontaneous, joyful,  
outgoing, busy elves in  
Room 3!



See you in  
2026!



# Room 4 NEWSLETTER

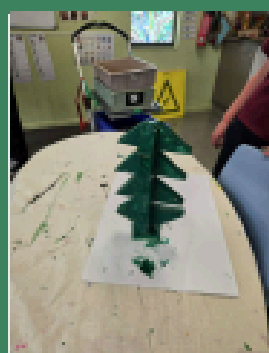
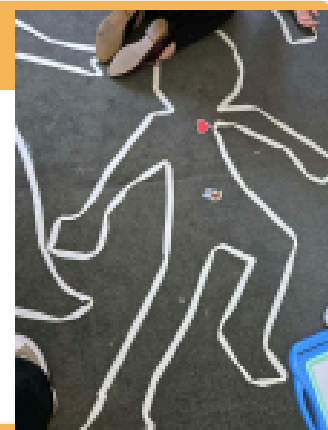
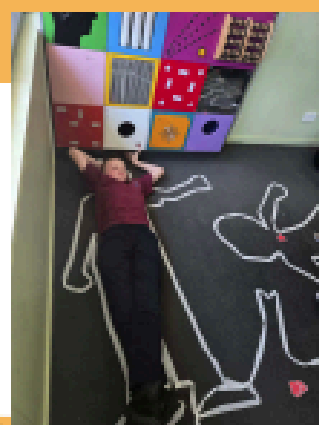
Month of December



## Teacher's Note

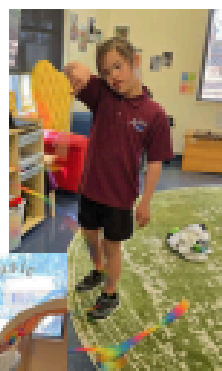
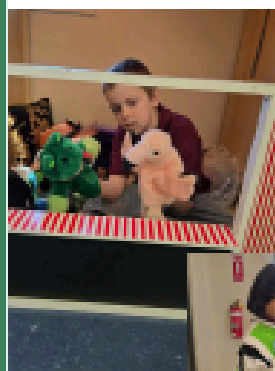
Dear Parents,

It has been a joy sharing the spirit of Christmas with the children. Thank you for your support at home. I look forward to more wonderful learning ahead.

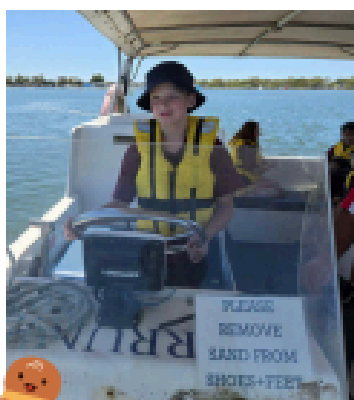


ROOM 4 HAVE  
BEEN MAKING  
WOODEN  
CHRISTMAS  
TREES IN WOOD-  
WORK WITH BEN

## PERFORMING ARTS FUN

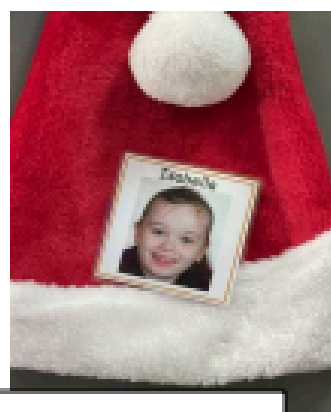
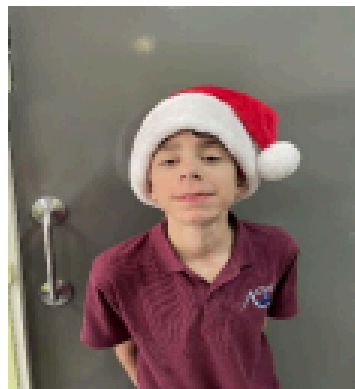
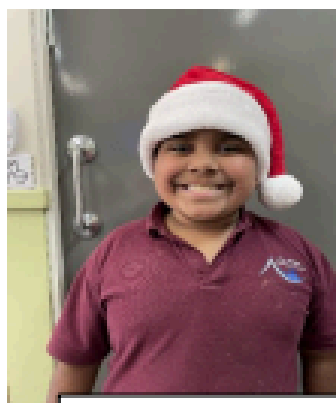
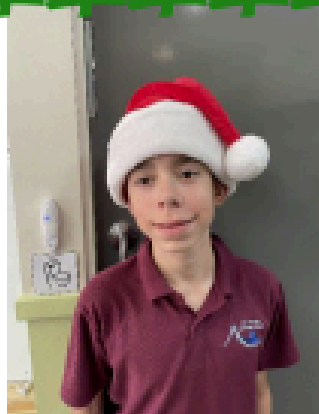


Making outlines of our bodies using tape and putting a heart and butterflies inside for demonstrating how we can feel on the inside our bodies

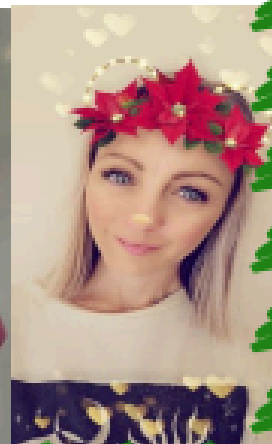
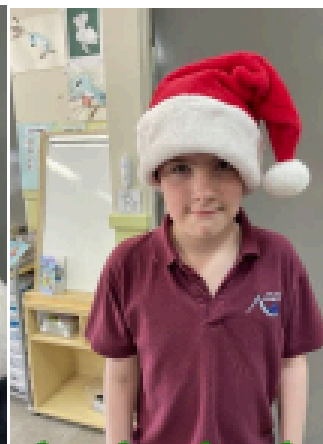
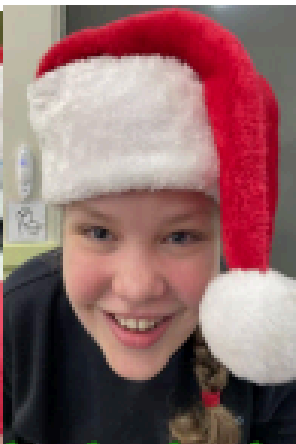


TYSON AND RYLAN HAD A BLAST AT SAILABILITY AGAIN AND HAVE SHOWN SOME AMAZING LEADERSHIP SKILLS



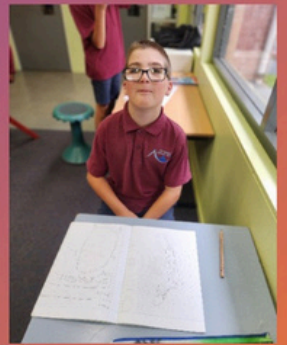


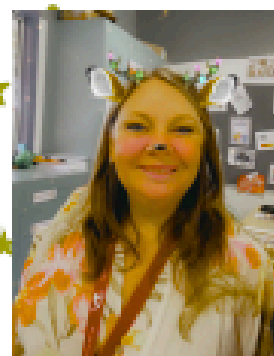
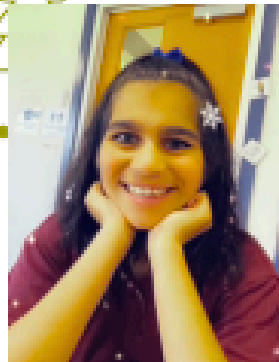
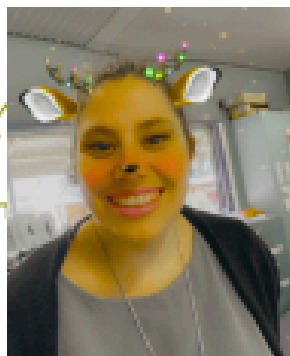
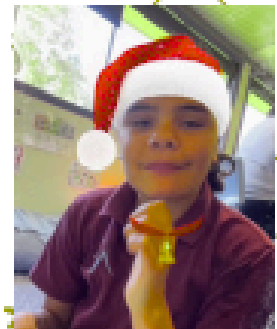
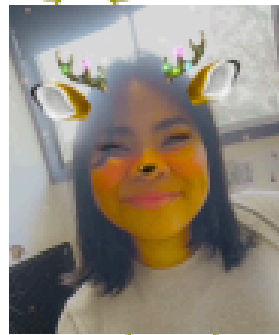
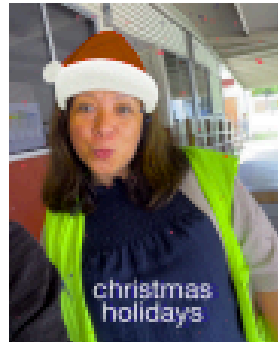
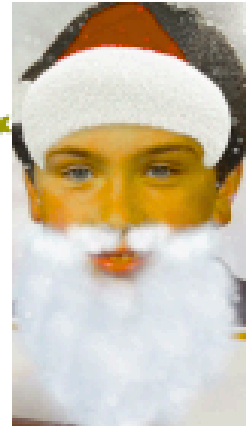
MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM EVERYONE IN ROOM 5.





# Merry Christmas from Room 6





**Merry Christmas!**  
**From Room 11**

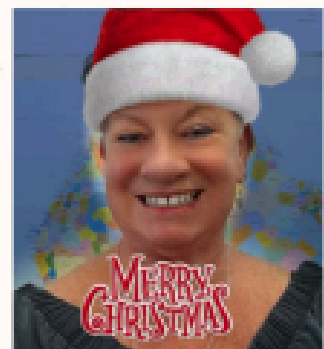
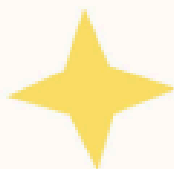
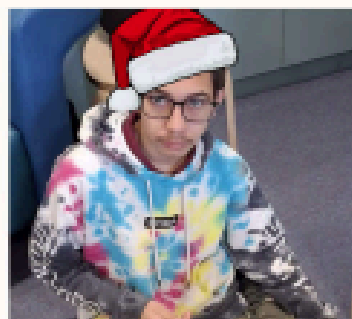
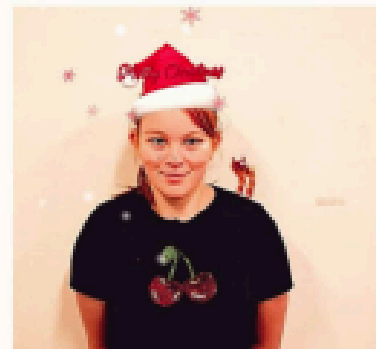
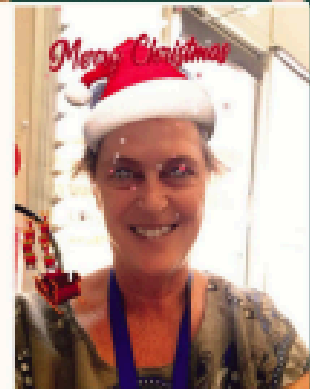


# MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ROOM 12





**Merry  
Christmas  
from  
room 13**



# ROOM 14

**Merry Christmas from the students and teaching staff in room14.**



**Here is a snapshot of recent activities:**







ALKIRA



COOPER-JESS



ELLA



FRED



JACOB



KATIE



MAX

AND RYAH

TEACHERS: ERIN & LYNDALL  
ES STAFF: MEL, LAUREN & LITICIA

*Merry*  
**CHRISTMAS**

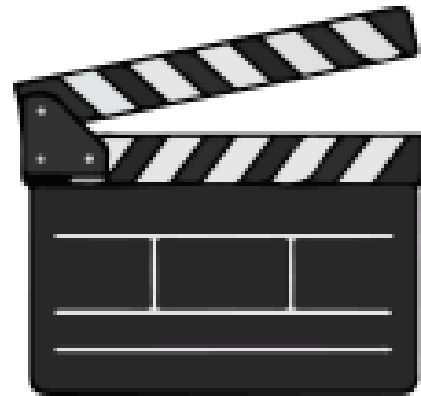
FROM ROOM 15, 2025



# Merry Christmas From Room 16



# PERFORMING ARTS



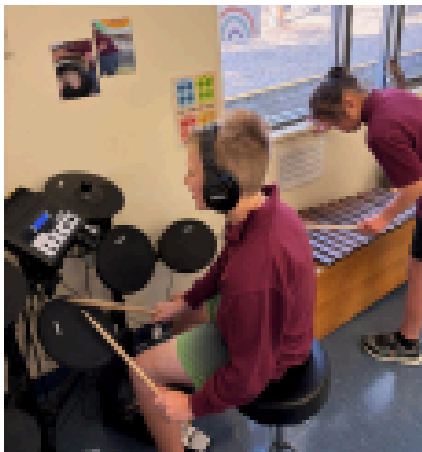
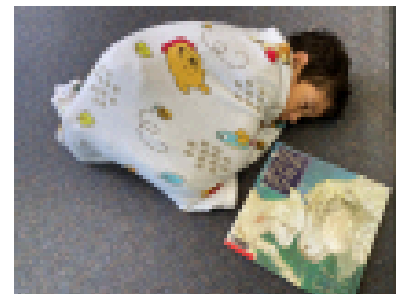
*2025 wrap-up*



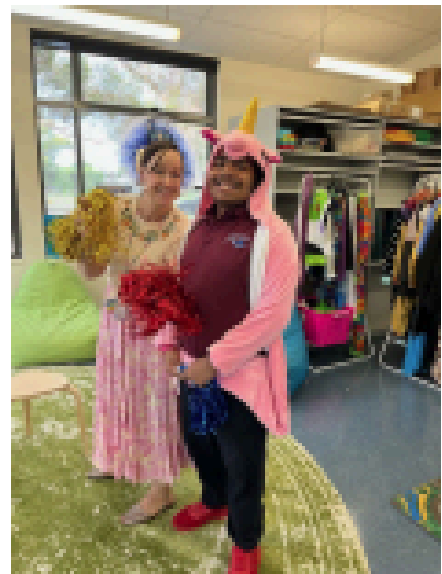
Exploring the new  
Performing Arts room!



Story time and  
role play!



Dress-up time!





# SPORT/PE/BIKE ED 2025

## SPORTS/PE/BIKE ED 2025



**SUCH A BUSY AND FUN FILLED YEAR!**







- **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](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/protect)