



# East Gippsland Specialist School Newsletter



## Upcoming Events



### FEBRUARY

#### 9<sup>th</sup> Swimming



#### Sailing Room 8 & 9



## JANUARY & FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday to all  
our students that have  
Birthdays in January  
and February.

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY

Safe  
Respectful  
Learners

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,

## A Strong Start to the Year

Four weeks in, it has been a very positive start to the school year, with students settling quickly into classroom routines and engaging enthusiastically in their learning. It has been wonderful to see our classrooms buzzing with purposeful activity and to witness the strong relationships being built between students and staff.

Our continued enrolment growth reflects the strength of our school community, and the confidence families place in our programs and values. We remain committed to ensuring that every student feels known, safe, supported and challenged in their learning.

Thank you to our families for your partnership and support. When schools and families work together, students thrive.

## NDIS Therapy in Schools Update

As many families will be aware, last year we were able to provide access to a space so that our students could access NDIS therapy services on site. This endeavour was highly beneficial to all and resulted in positive outcomes for students.

Regrettably, we will not be in a position to open our school facilities in the same manner that we did last year. This year we have had an influx of enrolments and have grown by 3 classrooms, as a result our facilities have been stretched and no longer have vacant spaces available. We are also anticipating growing further next year, with a graduating cohort of just 3 students this year, we will likely grow again in 2027. I have begun negotiations with the Department of Education regarding our facility challenges and hope to secure more buildings in the future and hope that we will once again be in a position to open access to our facilities for NDIS therapies.

This information has also been shared with therapists who were provided therapies to students at school last year.

If families have any questions or concerns regarding the above information, please do not hesitate to get in touch, we may still be able to offer access to facilities on an ad-hoc basis dependent on individual circumstances.

**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**



### **Traffic Management Reminder – Student Safety First**

I would like to remind families that the start and end of each school day is a high traffic time as students transition safely to and from buses and home.

To help keep all students safe around cars, buses, and roads, we ask everyone to be extra mindful during these busy periods.

Please remember to:

- Follow the directions of staff managing traffic at the crossing, including the use of the traffic sign.
- Observe and follow all posted speed signs in and around the school.
- Avoid using mobile phones while driving through the car park or school area.
- If collecting your child in person, wait on the roadside of the crossing at the front gate until it is safe to proceed.

Your child's safety is extremely important to us, and we appreciate your support in keeping our school community safe.

Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Digital Safety Reminder – Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be a Learner**

At our school, we encourage all students to live our values: **Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be a Learner**. These values extend beyond the classroom and into the online world.

Being **safe** online means protecting personal information, thinking carefully before sharing, and speaking to a trusted adult if something doesn't feel right.

Being **respectful** means communicating kindly, considering how words and images may affect others, and understanding that online actions have real-world impact.

Being a **learner** means using technology responsibly, asking questions, and making thoughtful choices that support learning and wellbeing.

We encourage families to support these messages at home by:

- Monitoring and discussing online activity.
- Reinforcing respectful communication when using devices, games and social media.
- Ensuring age-appropriate privacy settings are in place.
- Reminding children that their digital footprint matters.

When school and home work together, we help students develop the skills and judgement needed to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly.

If you ever have concerns regarding online behaviour or cyber safety, please contact the school so we can support your child together.

## Attendance – Supporting Consistent School Routines

Regular attendance helps students build strong learning habits, maintain friendships and feel connected to our school community. Each day provides important opportunities for growth — academically, socially and emotionally.

We understand that illness and family circumstances can sometimes make attendance challenging. Our goal is not perfection, but partnership. If your child is unwell, please keep them home and notify the school as usual. If there are ongoing concerns impacting attendance, we encourage you to reach out so we can work together to provide support.

By maintaining consistent routines and prioritising attendance where possible, we help students develop confidence, resilience and a strong sense of belonging.

Thank you for your continued support in helping every child thrive.

Kindest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Clark". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Principal





# CALENDAR

## February 2026

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

## March 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2 Senior Swimming	3	4	5	6 Student free Day	7	8
9 Labour Day Public Holiday Student free day	10	11	12	13 Bike ED East Gippsland Rail Trail	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Forge Theatre The Box show	26	27	28	29
30	31 Forge Theatre The Box show					

# Staff Shoutouts



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



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



**Luke La Batlus-**  
For always being friendly, and supporting students to do their best.





#### Traffic Management Reminder – Student Safety First

Families, a friendly reminder that the start and end of each school day is a **high traffic time** at East Gippsland Specialist School, as students transition safely to and from buses and home.

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# NETBALL



## 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

Time: 4.00pm-5.00pm

**Cost- \$100**

Location: WORLD Precinct- 99 Wallace Street, Bairnsdale

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

**REGISTER TODAY!**

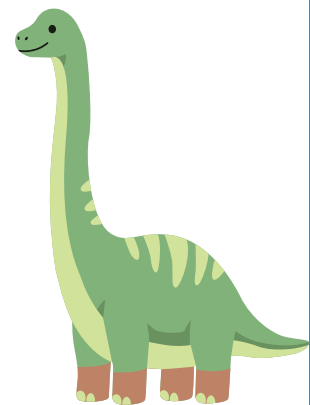
On our Facebook page





# ROOM ONE

Fun with our new friends in Room 1



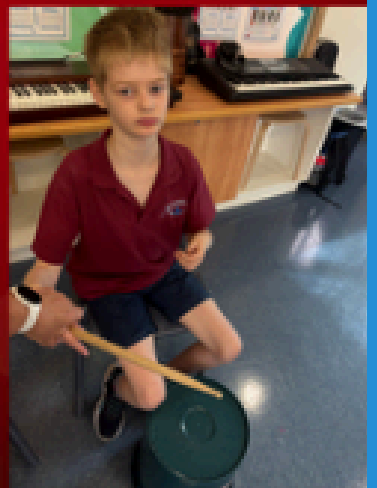
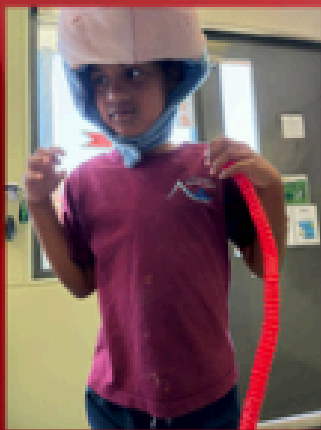


# Room Two

Room 2 starts each day with connection. As students unpack their bags and move through morning routines, they build independence, belonging and trust. These simple, consistent moments help everyone feel settled, connected to our school, and ready to learn together.

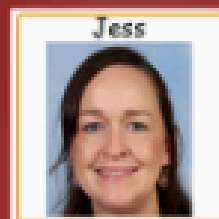


# PERFORMING ARTS





**ALL CLASSES ARE OFF TO A GREAT  
START TO 2026, WITH MUCH  
CREATIVITY AND ENTHUSIASM ON  
SHOW!**





## **COMMUNITY CONVERSATION** **about accessing service and** **support for families who support** **people with disability**

We'd like to talk with parents, carers and kinship carers of people with disabilities about what they need to connect to services to support the people they care for.

Please join us at:

**10am–12.30pm on Thursday 5 March, 2026**

**Bairnsdale Community Hub, 27 Dalmahoy Street**  
to share your knowledge and ideas.

We will provide lunch and, if you aren't being paid by a workplace, we'll give you a voucher for \$100 to acknowledge the time and expertise you share with us.

**For more information or to RSVP, contact:**

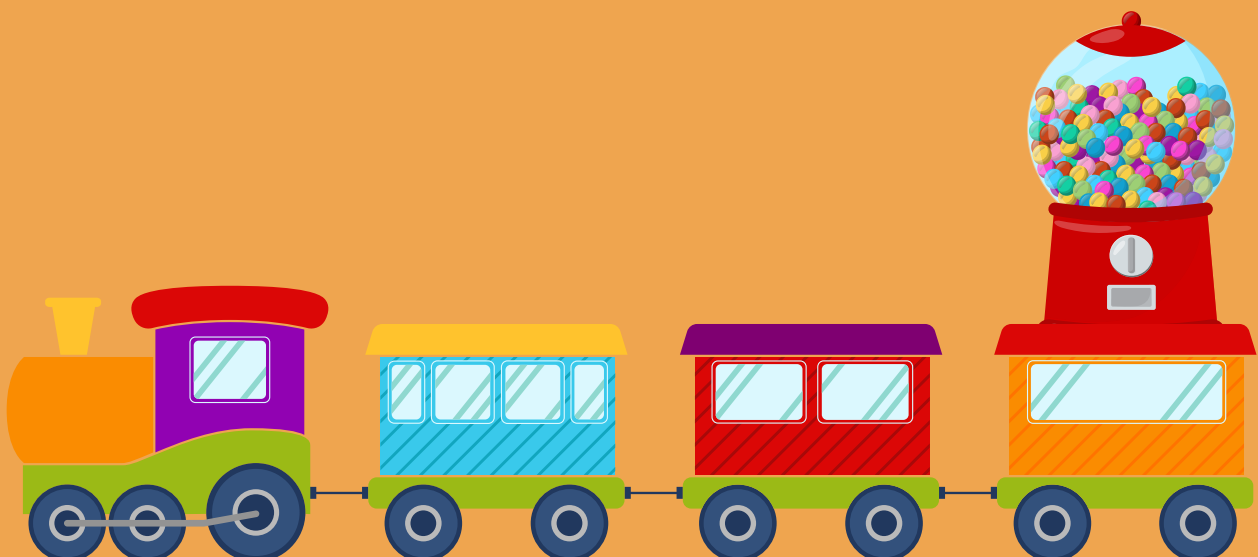
**Alisha Gilliland, Program Manager, 0455 021 138**

**email: [alisha.gilliland@gippscasa.org](mailto:alisha.gilliland@gippscasa.org)**



**What do you call  
a train carrying  
bubblegum?**

**A chew-chew train.**





**Bairnsdale**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

PRESENTS THE

# HOLI FESTIVAL OF COLOUR

A FREE COMMUNITY EVENT CELEBRATING & SHARING  
INDIAN CULTURE IN EAST GIPPSLAND

**SATURDAY MARCH 7**

11AM-3PM | NICHOLSON ST MALL, BAIRNSDALE

**FOOD**

ENJOY INDIAN STREET  
FOOD PLUS AN AUSSIE  
BBQ WITH YOUR  
FRIENDS & FAMILY

**MUSIC**

CULTURAL PERFORMANCES  
PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS  
HICK HARRINGTON &  
JANAKI EASWAR

**FUN!**

GREAT ACTIVITIES  
TO KEEP THE FAMILY  
ENTERTAINED

**PLAY WITH COLOUR**

FEELING ADVENTUROUS? DRESS TO GET MESSY AND  
JOIN IN TO 'PLAY HOLI' WITH THE COMMUNITY

Proudly Supported By



Gippsland  
Critical Minerals





- **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**

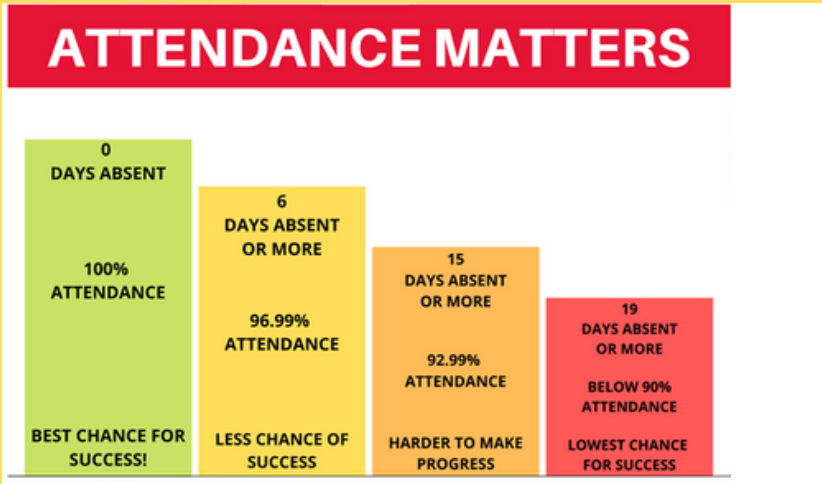




# Every School Day counts

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)