



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



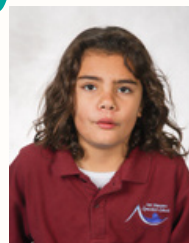
Danny



Connor



Lucy



Mel



Lily



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,

Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Day – October 22

On Tuesday 22nd October, our school proudly recognised Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Awareness Day by wearing green — the official colour of support and awareness for this rare genetic condition.

The day is a global effort to raise awareness for the syndrome, encourage earlier diagnosis, and support the community by sharing stories and shining a light on the strength of those affected. The colour associated with the day is green, symbolizing hope, strength, and unity.

Nick from Room 3, is one of approximately 10,000 people worldwide who have been diagnosed with Phelan-McDermid Syndrome. Nick, his mother, Katrina, Jacqueline, Nick's teacher, Karen, one of our Education Support staff members who works with Nick and our Principal team all wore green on this day to help raise awareness.

Days like this remind us of the importance of inclusion, awareness, and understanding for all individuals with diverse abilities and needs. We are proud to be part of a school community that stands together in recognition and support.

Buddy's Birthday Paw-ty

On Saturday 25th October, we celebrated our much-loved school assistance dog, Buddy, with a special "Birthday Paw-ty" at the All-Abilities Park in Bairnsdale.

It was a fantastic morning with a wonderful turnout of students and families, who came together to celebrate Buddy's birthday. The event was filled with smiles, laughter, and plenty of tail wags!

Beyond celebrating Buddy, the day also provided an excellent opportunity for families to connect outside of school and build stronger community relationships.

A massive thank you to Assistant Principals Donna Prince and Pauline Canfield for organising this heartwarming event in collaboration with our Parent Support Group. Thank you to our parents Christina, Dave and Wayne, and the local businesses who donated towards this event (Bairnsdale Meat Supplies, Jarrod's Bakery, Sub Way, Aldi, Jemma Louise Cakes)

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



Events like these highlight the sense of community that makes our school so special — and Buddy certainly loved every moment of the attention!

We would also like to take this opportunity to encourage more families to get involved with our Parent Support Group.

The group provides a valuable space for families to connect, share experiences, and access information about supports, services, and transition options. It's also a great way to have a voice in shaping future events and initiatives within our school community.

If you'd like to learn more or get involved, please contact our school's reception on (03) 5152 5922—we look forward to hearing from you!

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.

NDIS Local Area Coordinators Information Session – Early Years Focus.

- 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 - General and Transitioning out of School Focus.

- 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 these sessions — they're a great way to connect, share insights, and learn more about post-school pathways and available supports.

Planning for 2026

Planning for our 2026 school year is now underway. Our focus during this time is on creating balanced, supportive, and engaging class groupings that best meet each student's individual learning and wellbeing needs.

If any families have specific considerations or concerns regarding their child's 2026 class placement, please contact school reception on (03) 5152 5922 to discuss this further.

We greatly appreciate families partnering with us through this process — your insights are an important part of ensuring each student is set up for a positive and successful year ahead.

Student-Free Day – Monday 3rd November

A reminder that Monday 3rd November is a student-free day. On this day, our teachers will be engaging in assessment and report writing activities as part of our Semester 2 reporting process.

This work is a vital part of how we monitor, reflect on, and celebrate student learning progress. Semester 2 reports provide families with detailed insights into their child's achievements, growth, and areas of focus.

Semester 2 student reports will be distributed to families on Friday 12th December. We look forward to celebrating the wonderful progress and achievements of all students as we approach the end of another busy and rewarding school year.

Please also note that Tuesday 4th November is a public holiday.

Kindest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Principal



CALENDAR

October 2025

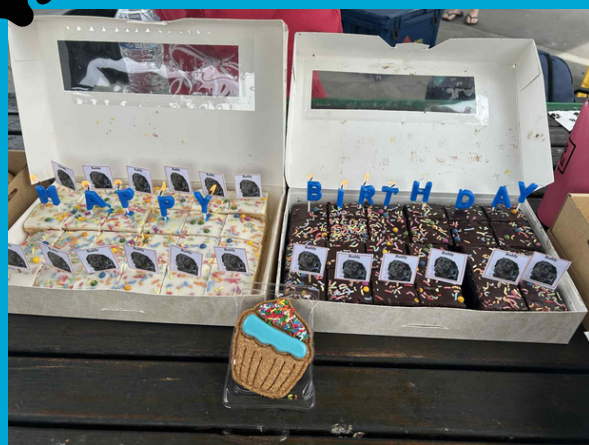
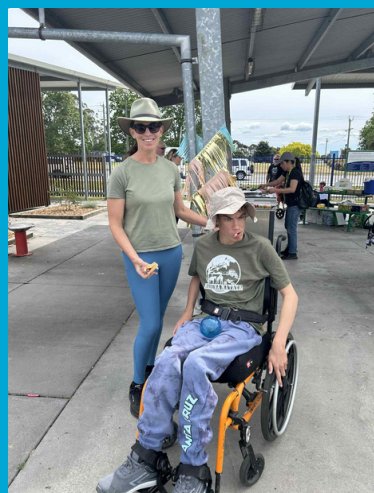
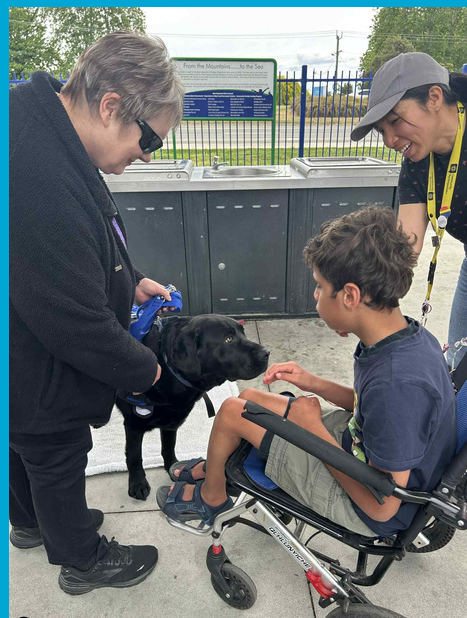
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6 First day back of term 4	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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



Buddy's Paw-ty



Staff Shoutouts



-Casey Reed

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

-Diana Kearns

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



-Bree Irvin

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



Wearing Green for a cause

Phelan McDermid Syndrome



OU





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

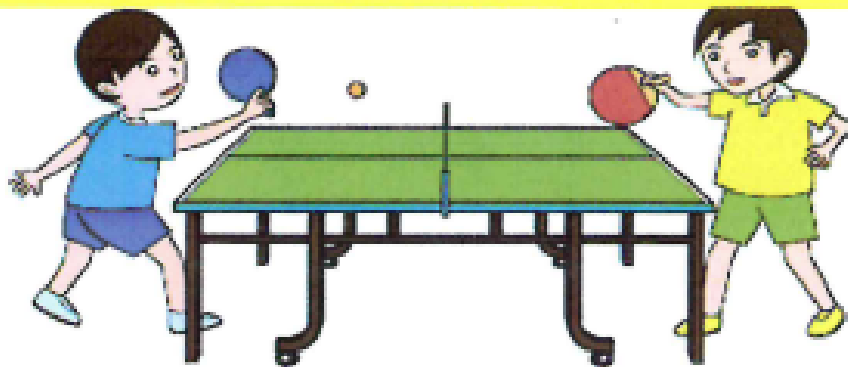
Start 10 am

Morning tea provided

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



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

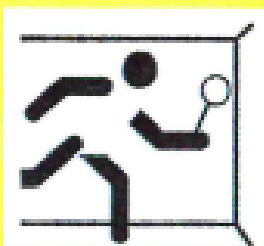
FREE ENTRY

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



JOKE OF THE WEEK



**What is the
most famous type
of animal in the sea?**

A starfish.



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





- **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