



East Gippsland Specialist School Newsletter



Upcoming Events



DECEMBER

Smile Squad
Month of December



1st December
Pupil Free day
SSG Day

11th Graduation
Bairnsdale RSL



12th Celebration
Day Awards Day
last day of
formal classes



NOVEMBER
BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



LYDIA



ZAC

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,

2026 Teaching Staff Announced

We are very pleased to share that we have now finalised our teaching staff for 2026. As our school continues to grow, we are thrilled to welcome new educators and celebrate the breadth of experience and expertise within our team.

Primary Teaching Team – 2026

- Sarah McAninly
- Kristy Stares
- Jacqueline Rickhuss
- Suzana Silveira
- Lyzandra Meyers
- Chen Helmore
- Lyndall Steele
- Erin Moreland
- Sue Legg

Secondary Teaching Team – 2026

- Tammy Waters
- Kevin Jeffries
- Emma Mutch
- Natasha Fall
- Barb Eipper
- Karla Easton
- Sue Murray
- Mark Dodrell

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



We would like to extend a very warm welcome to the following teachers joining or returning to EGSS in 2026:

- **Sarah McAninly**, joining us from the *Sale and District Specialist School*
- **Suzana Silveira**, bringing her background as a *former early childhood teacher*
- **Sue Legg**, returning to us from *South Gippsland Specialist School* after spending some time with our school earlier this year

We are excited for the skills, energy, and passion each teacher will bring to our community as we continue to grow and strengthen our learning programs.

2026 Transition Sessions

Our 2026 classroom allocations are set to be finalised within the next week, and we are pleased to share details of our upcoming Transition Program, due to begin this Week on the 28th November. We view our transition program as a critical aspect of preparing students for the following year and these sessions provide valuable opportunities for students to become familiar with their new classmates, teachers, and learning environments in a positive and supportive way.

We look forward to seeing all students participate in these sessions as we prepare for another exciting year ahead.

Transition SSGs

On Monday 1st December, we will be holding our final Student-Free Day for the year.

On this day, classroom programs will not operate to allow families the opportunity to participate in a Transition Student Support Group (SSG) meeting.

These meetings provide families with valuable time to meet with both their child's current teacher and their teacher for next year, to discuss student progress, transition planning, and learning goals for 2026. We view this as a critical aspect of your child's transition process.

We encourage all families to take part in their child's Transition SSG, as these meetings play an important role in ensuring a smooth and positive start to the new school year.

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 2024.

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.

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 19th of December.

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



-Tash Fall

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

-Charlene Grimwood

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

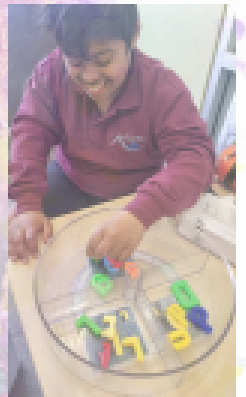
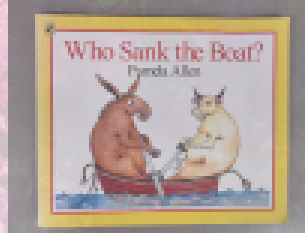
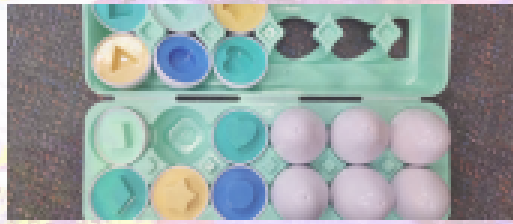
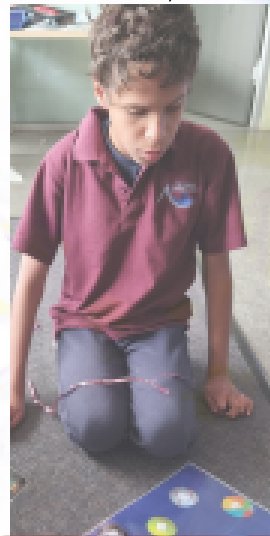


-Ben Curnow

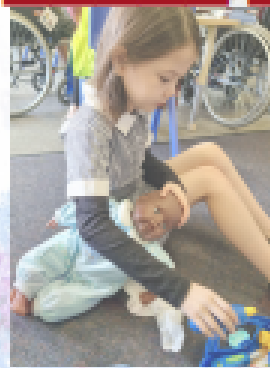
For always being so creative and supporting students to do their best.



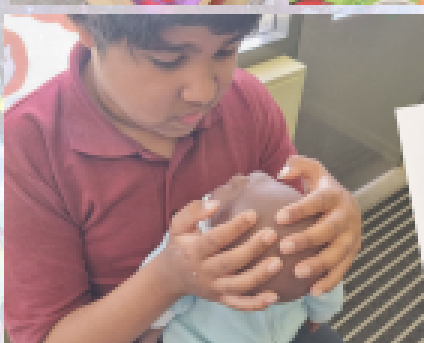
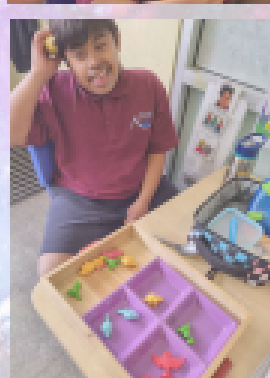
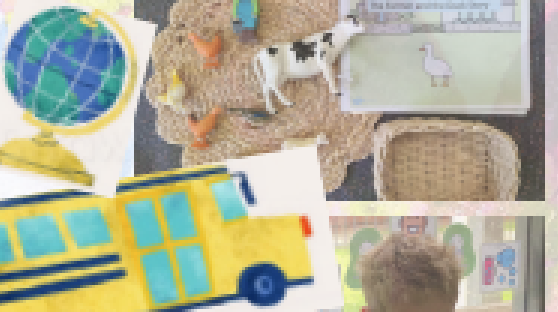
ROOM THREE



CHECK OUT OUR

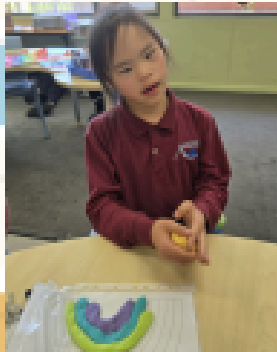


PLAY-BASED LEARNING

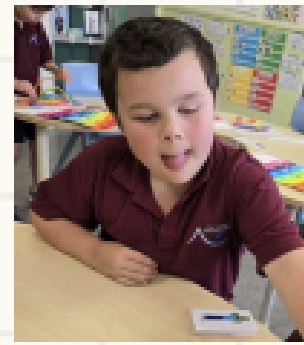


ROOM 3

ROOM FOUR



Room 4 Newsletter

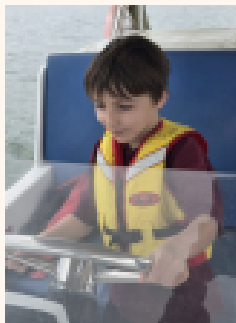


Teacher's Note

Hello Families! We've had an exciting month of learning and fun in room 4! Here's a quick update on what we've been up to and what's coming next.

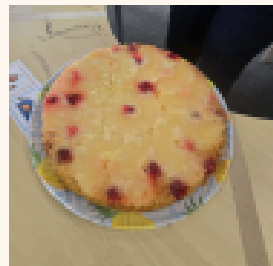
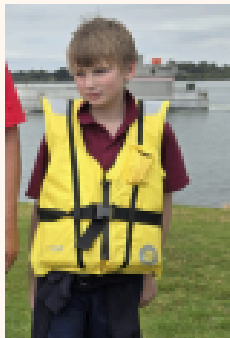
What We're Learning

- Math: We're working on groups of and transition's e.g. Left, right, up down...
- Literacy: We're learning to type up our stories using a keyboard on ipad and printing them out.
- Integrated learning: We've been learning about safe hands and bodies and recognizing our own emotions and what zone that emotion would be in.

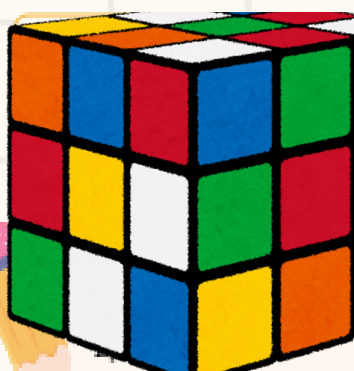
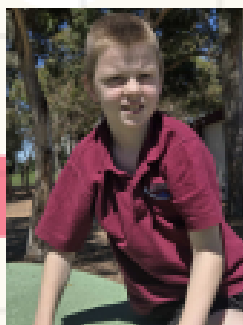


Rylan and Tyson went to sailability to learn how to sail the seas.

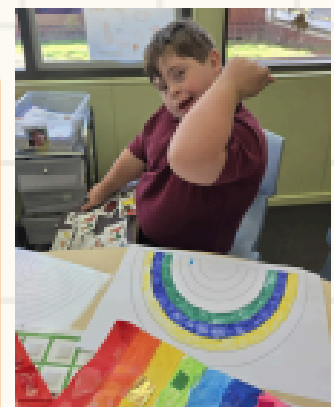
Both boys had so much fun and learnt a lot!



- Room 4 learned about the letter U and made an Upside down pineapple cake, Yum!



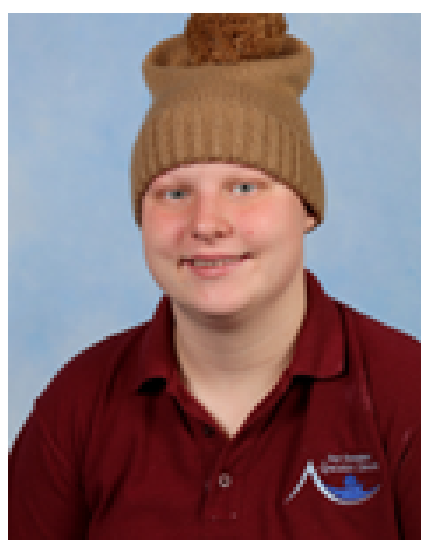
Room 4 made lots of different rainbows in art with Bree this month.





East Gippsland Specialist School Graduation 2025

Graduating Students



Abigail Cassidy-Maiden



Alkira Hood

When: Thursday 11th December, 2025
Where: Bairnsdale RSL
Time: 6.00pm
Cost: \$30.00 per adult or \$18.00 12 years and under
Tickets by: Monday 2nd December from Reception at EGSS

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

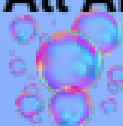


1:15 – 2:00pm

Lunchtime

**GAME
TIME**

All Abilities Games



Santa Visit on the Fire
Truck!

2.00pm



Uniting



HIPPY acknowledges Aboriginal and Traditional Owners of the land and acknowledges Australia.

HIPPY acknowledges the First Nations people for the use of their stories in our new curriculum and promotional materials.

HIPPY is a community program for parents and young people.

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services. The Department of Social Services holds the license to operate HIPPY in Australia.

The views expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government or officers of the Department of Social Services.

HIPPY was developed at the NICM Research Institute for Innovation in Education at the Victoria University of Wellington and the HIPPY Program is affiliated with the University of Victoria.

www.hippy.org.au

HIPPY Australia

11 Sturt Street, Melbourne VIC 3000, Australia
Phone: (03) 9594 1111 | hippyaustralia@unitedway.org.au

PHONE: 1300 654 654
EMAIL: hippyeastgippsland@vt.uniting.org.au
WEBSITE: hippyeastgippsland.vt.uniting.org.au

HIPPY

Families learning together
with fun and free activities

HIPPY

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters is a fun and free program for families that supports children's learning in the two years before school.

It provides you with the tools to give your child a strong start in education.

Our program

Join HIPPY with your 3 year old child and each fortnight, HIPPY Tutors will bring you storybooks and activity packs and practice them with you so that you feel confident doing them with your child.

Each activity helps your child learn through play and supports their development in five different learning areas.

HIPPY only takes 10-15 minutes a day of learning and playing with your child to make change that lasts a lifetime.

HIPPY Tutors

Tutors are HIPPY parents trained in each of the HIPPY activities and will practice them with you at each home visit.

As HIPPY parents, Tutors have the personal experience and community knowledge to support you as you learn with your child.



Supports you as your child's most important teacher



Builds community connections and confidence

HIPPY Gatherings

Gatherings are fun, welcoming and family-friendly.

They're opportunity for you to meet other HIPPY families, learn about your child's development and to hear about local services and events in your community.

HIPPY East Gippsland

Ph: (03) 5152 9600

Email: hippyeastgippsland@vt.uniting.org

RESPECT STARTS WITH YOU

FREE

COLOUR FUN Event

FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER, 4PM - 7PM

DAVISON'S OVAL, BAIRNSDALE

LEARN TO SKATE

**BBQ, GAMES, FACE PAINTING, TATTOOS
AND POWDER PAINT**



GippSport
Gippsland Regional Sports Assembly





- **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**



JOKE OF THE WEEK

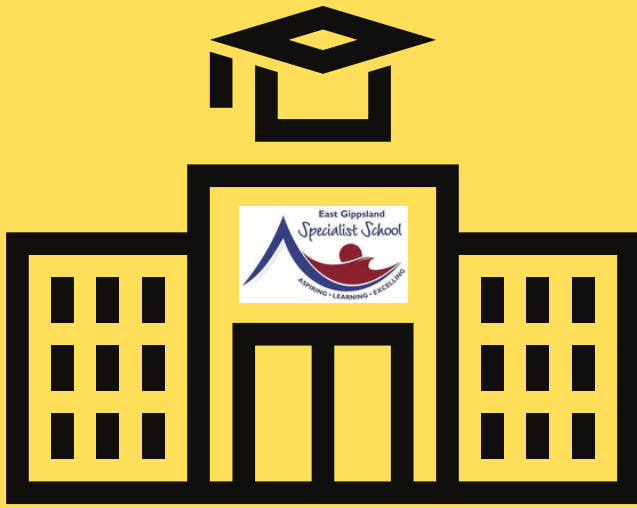


Why did the teddy
bear not ask for
dessert?

Because he was already
so stuffed!



Dessert



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