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## **Welcome**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2008 school year at Strathmore North Primary School, I look forward to working in partnership with you and your family in the education and development of your children.

This booklet has been prepared for the information of parents whose children are already at or about to commence attending Strathmore North Primary School. I trust you will find the information useful.

Throughout your child's school life your support, interest and involvement in each aspect of your child's school life is vital. By discussing activities and work completed, you convey your interest and enthusiasm for life long learning. Discuss the day's activities, give encouragement and show that you value your child's 'place of education' by becoming involved in information sessions, social activities and committee work.

At Strathmore North Primary School we can offer you many opportunities to participate in school community. You may wish to be involved in classroom activities, such as Literacy, Maths, as a classroom representative, or perhaps on a formal level, working on one of committees, Buildings and Grounds, Fundraising, Uniform, Curriculum or even become a School Council member.

This booklet has been designed to give you an overview of the function of our school. Further queries should be directed to your child's classroom teacher, the Principal or Assistant Principal.

A child's primary years are the most important years of their life. Parents and teachers work together as a team to ensure that each child achieves maximum potential. We work as a team to help them become literate and numerate, confident in their approach to problem solving and the use of technology.

We hope you all enjoy every moment of this experience and look forward to our partnership in their education.

Regards,

Jenni Lewis,  
PRINCIPAL

Anne Patralakis,  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

## School Information

### School Address

Strathmore North Primary School  
Mascoma Street  
Strathmore 3041

### Phone Number

9379 6575

### Fax Number

9379 7557

### E-mail

[strathmore.north.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:strathmore.north.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au)

### Website

[www.snps.vic.edu.au](http://www.snps.vic.edu.au)

### Principal

Jenni Lewis

### Assistant Principal and Welfare Co-ordinator

Anne Patralakis

### Office Staff

Karyn Lyon  
Tina Moody

### Term Dates for 2008

Term 1:	30 <sup>th</sup> January – 20 <sup>th</sup> March
Term 2:	7 <sup>th</sup> April – 27 <sup>th</sup> June
Term 3:	14 <sup>th</sup> July – 19 <sup>th</sup> September
Term 4:	6 <sup>th</sup> October – 19 <sup>th</sup> December

### Dates to Remember in 2008

25 <sup>th</sup> January	Book Pack Collection
29 <sup>th</sup> January	Teachers Commence
30 <sup>th</sup> January	School starts for all children
18 <sup>th</sup> February	School Photos
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Pupil Free day
29 <sup>th</sup> February	Family Dance (evening)
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Labour Day Holiday
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Good Friday Holiday
24 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Monday Holiday
25 <sup>th</sup> April	Anzac Day Holiday
9 <sup>th</sup> June	Queens Birthday Holiday
4 <sup>th</sup> November	Melbourne Cup Day Holiday

### Proposed Working Bees

9<sup>th</sup> February  
19<sup>th</sup> April  
26<sup>th</sup> July  
18<sup>th</sup> October

### **Absences:**

It is important that once your child commences school, their attendance is regular and punctual. It is expected that children attend school every day unless they are too sick or injured, have an infectious disease or a genuine and acceptable reason for absence is provided (please note that birthdays or shopping days do not fit into this category). Every attempt should be made to make medical appointments outside school hours.

If an absence is unavoidable, please remember that **the parent is required by law to supply the school with a written explanation.** If it is necessary to take a child out of school prior to the end of the school day, parents are required to visit the office and fill in the early leave pass book, they will then be directed to your child's grade. Absences, lateness and early departures are tracked closely and any unexplained or excessive absences will be followed up.

### **Art Show:**

Our biannual Art Show will be held during Term 3, where our children's Art Work is displayed for our community to enjoy. A BBQ and drink stall are also held to make this a real community event.

### **Assemblies:**

Assembly is held each Monday at 3.10pm in the hall. All parents are warmly invited to attend school assemblies. Important notices and You Can Do It Awards, are featured. Entertainment assemblies are scheduled at various times across the year with each class show casing their talent. Times and dates will be published in the newsletter.

### **Asthma:**

If your child suffers from Asthma in any form, we require an Asthma Action Plan to be filled in giving details of medication and treatment. This form will be sent home at the commencement of each year to all parents with children listed on our records as having asthma. Parents are requested to complete and return the form promptly. If your child is subsequently diagnosed with asthma during the school year or has a change in their asthma treatment during the year, please notify the school to ensure records are up to date.

Asthma Sprays and spacers for younger children (Prep – 4) should be provided by the family and handed to the teacher, clearly labelled for storage in the First Aid room. To develop independent management of asthma, parents may negotiate for older students to store their sprays in their bags. The class teacher must be aware of this arrangement and should also be advised when the medication has been utilized at school. Please contact Anne Patralakis if you wish to negotiate this arrangement.

### **Bikes & Scooter:**

The school has a Bike Policy that requires a bike licence to be annually signed by students intending to ride their bike or scooter to school and their parents. If riding, road rules should be enforced and bike helmets must be worn. Children's bikes are locked in the bike shed. The key is to be collected and returned to the office. For safety reasons bikes

**must not** be ridden in the school yard. For safety reasons, skateboards, roller blades and motorised scooters may not be ridden to school.

### **Birthday Celebrations:**

If you would like your child to bring cakes or a treat to celebrate a birthday with the Grade we would appreciate a day's notice so that arrangements can be made for children in the room with special dietary needs. Simple food such as cup cakes are easiest to handle in the classroom, please do not send large cakes that require cutting. As we have several students in the school with nut allergies, we request that any nut products are excluded from foods sent to school.

### **Camps:**

Our camping program operates for our grade 3 to 6 students.

In 2008 our children will attend:

Grade 3/4 – Anglesea, Anglesea -15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2008

Grade 5/6 Canberra Camp, Canberra – 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2008

### **Canteen :**

The school canteen no longer provides lunches, however an occasional special lunch day may be provided. The canteen will be open from 11.10am – 11.45am on Wednesdays and Fridays during Term 1 for the sale of frozen fruit juice sticks. They contain 99% fruit juice and no added sugar. This service will rely on volunteers, if you are interested in assisting, please contact the office so your name and contact details can be passed on to the roster coordinator. Further opening in Terms 2, 3 and 4 will be considered by school council.

### **Computer/Internet Use:**

We encourage access to computer usage at home to support the development of skills in this area. We do however recommend that this is done under strong parental supervision particularly in relation to the amount of time the children spend on the computer and in accessing the internet, MSN and similar sites.

### **Dismissal:**

We ask Parents/Guardians collecting their children at 3.30 pm to please wait outside the school building. It is important that we keep the corridors clear for a quick, safe exit.

Please notify the school office if you are running late for any reason. It is a good idea to carry the school telephone number in your purse or wallet.

On the final day of Terms 1, 2 and 3, the children are dismissed at 2.30 pm. The last day of the school year is an earlier finish, approximately 1.30 pm, the exact time will be notified via the newsletters.

### **Dogs:**

We would prefer that dogs are not brought into the school ground. However, dogs in the grounds **MUST** be on a lead or carried by owners if brought into the school ground. **They must remain under the care of an adult at all times. Under no circumstances are they to be brought into the school buildings.** Any mess must be cleaned up by the owners.

### **Educational Maintenance Allowance (E.M.A.):**

The E.M.A. is paid in two instalments. **Eligible parents/guardians** are able to apply for the E.M.A. at the commencement of the year, if they are a beneficiary of a Centre link pension, allowance or benefit. The eligibility criteria must be met on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2008, and 14<sup>th</sup> July 2008. The E.M.A. application must be submitted to the school by 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008 for the first payment and 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008 for the second payment. If you are still eligible, claims are automatically processed at the commencement of Term 3. The department of Education and Training provides us with a timeline and strict cut off dates apply. These dates will also be published in the school Newsletter. Please note that the school is instructed that it cannot accept or process late claims. Applicants making a late claim are required to make direct contact to the appropriate offices. (Details are available for the office).

The E.M.A. provides an annual amount of \$215.00 for primary students. 50% of the E.M.A. is paid directly to the school and 50% is paid to parents/guardians. 70% is paid in the 1<sup>st</sup> instalment in Term 1 and 30% is paid in the 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment in Term 3. In relation to this, the following applies:

*School portion:* This is paid directly towards the cost of student's materials and requisites with parents/guardians paying the difference.

*Parent/Guardian portion:* Parents/guardians can commit their portion to pay the balance of the materials and requisites, the voluntary contributions levy, school programs or school uniforms.

### **Emergency Contact Information:**

Details of emergency contact information is required by the school. This information is confidential. Please notify the school of any changes to your **address, phone number, doctor, work** etc., as they occur, as it is important the we have accurate up to date information for our records.

**If at anytime you change any of your family details** (address, phone numbers or emergency contacts) **PLEASE ADVISE THE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.** It is **vital** to have this information in case of an emergency, illness or accident.

### **Emergency Management:**

The school has a comprehensive Emergency Management Plan to cater for a variety of situations. Both evacuation and lock down procedures are practiced regularly.

### **Excursions:**

All children are expected, if possible, to participate in excursions/incursions, as these are part of the school curriculum. Costs vary according to the venue and bus expenses, but we do attempt to keep costs to a minimum. A signed consent form is required for all excursions. These are forwarded to families with details of the excursion.

### **Fundraising:**

A variety of fundraising activities are held across the year to assist in resourcing our school. We hope that all parents will support these and consider assisting with the organisation of these activities.

### **Head Lice:**

From time to time head lice appear and it is wise to check your child's hair regularly. Children with head lice are excluded from school. A letter to inform the school that you have treated your child is required before the child is allowed to return to school. Your chemist will give you details of necessary treatment. On occasions, a contracted nurse may be employed by the school to check children's hair.

### **Homework:**

Homework is regarded as an extension of the child's learning. It should be enjoyable and challenging, it also provides opportunities in which parents and children can share what the child is doing at school. Our homework policy is in line with DE&T recommendations. Prep – 2 no more than 15 minutes per day. Grades 3 and 4 no more than 30 minutes, Grades 5 and 6 no more than 45 minutes per day. Class teachers will communicate specific homework needs to parents.

**Houses:** Each student is allocated to a 'house' for a range of sporting and school based activities. Each house has a specific colour and in 2008 will have 2 captains and 2 vice captains to promote leadership and be allocated a name. A weekly tally board will be kept for progressive points.

### **Infectious Diseases:**

Health Department Regulations is that a child will be excluded from school if she/he has contracted an infectious disease. These include Chicken Pox, Impetigo (school sores), Mumps, Head Lice, Conjunctivitis.

For more information on infectious diseases contact the school office or check out the website for Dept of Human Services at [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au).

### **Informal Interviews:**

At Strathmore North, we strongly encourage regular communication between home and school and welcome informal interviews with parents, as needed. This may be to discuss a child's progress, a concern or simply a 'catch up chat'. Please do not hesitate to approach your child's class teacher to make an appointment for a mutually agreeable time. Phone calls, notes or e-mails are also most welcome.

Parents often find the need to speak to a teacher at the beginning of the day, especially if an 'issue' has arisen over night. If this is the case, please arrive prior to 9.00 am, as once the bell rings, a teacher's first responsibility is to their class and they will not be able to give you their full attention. An alternative is to speak to Anne Patralakis or Jenni Lewis who may be able to assist by passing on information or discussing a concern. Our 'open door' policy applies to offices, as well as classrooms.

### **Lateness/Early Departure:**

To ensure maximum participation in the school program it is essential that children arrive at school punctually and stay until 3.30pm, Students who arrive **AFTER** the 9.00 am bell will be recorded as late. Students arriving after 9.30am are required to report to the office to have their name entered in the 'Late Book' and collect a late pass before going to the classroom. It is paramount that we teach our children punctuality and time management skills from an early age.

Early Departures often result in students missing class reflection on the days learning and essential information about the following or coming days. Please refrain from collecting your child early. If this is unavoidable, the child must be signed out at the office. All early departures are recorded on the child's attendance record.

### **Library:**

It is important for your child to borrow regularly from the Library. Children may borrow books during their weekly library session. Encourage your child to love and respect books and to treat them carefully. Books should be used regularly, but if a loss or damage occurs, financial reimbursement may be necessary. A library bag is required by each child.

### **Lost Property:**

All lost items are placed in the 'Lost Property' box located near the sick bay. Throughout the year lost property is regularly taken to assembly. If items are **marked with a name** they are returned to their owners. Unnamed property is kept for several weeks and then disposed of if still unclaimed. **Please check regularly for lost articles. Please label all articles of clothing including hats and any other personal property.**

### **Lunch Arrangements:**

Lunch time is from 11.00am to 12.00pm. Children eat lunch with their class from 11.00am to 11.10am. If your child is going home for lunch please do not collect them until 11.00am.

### **Medication:**

Any medication required by your child should be given to the class teacher with clear instructions of dosage; time of medicine to be taken. The medication should be in a suitable container labelled with the child's name.

**NO MEDICATION IS TO BE KEPT IN CHILDREN'S BAGS**

**Maintenance:** Most of our maintenance is completed by Paul Agar. If a maintenance issue comes to your attention, please contact Jenni Lewis.

### **Newsletter and Notices:**

A fortnightly Newsletter, sent home on alternate Thursdays will keep you informed of school events. From time to time additional notices are attached to the Newsletter. Any reply slips from these should be returned to the school promptly. Newsletters and other

communications are sent home in the “take home folders”. Newsletters are also attached to the school website.

### **Nut Allergies:**

As we have several students in the school with severe nut allergies which result in the potentially life-threatening condition, anaphylaxis, we request all families refrain from including nut based products, including peanut butter and nutella in their child’s lunch and snack. Families of children who share a class with a child with anaphylaxis will be advised personally by letter advising of classroom arrangements to reduce risk factors. However, food in the schoolyard is a far more difficult situation to manage, so we ask for all families understanding and support in keeping all out children safe.

### **Out of School Hours Care:**

Camp Australia supplies the Out of School Hours Care program to Strathmore North Primary School, this program aims to cater for the needs of all children. It is set in a friendly, relaxed environment where children have a selection of activities to choose from. Parents/Guardians are required to fill out a Camp Australia Registration Form for each child before they can use the Program. Before Care Program 7.15am – 8.45am. After Care Program – Monday to Friday 3.30pm – 6.00pm on all days when children attend school. Parents/Guardians must make bookings for permanent and casual attendance. For further details phone the Out of School Hours Care on 9374 3725 or for any account queries please contact Camp Australia directly on 8851 4121.

### **Parental Involvement:**

Our school sees itself as working in a partnership with parents in helping children grow towards a happy adulthood. We use teaching methods, which emphasize hands-on, practical experiences, allowing each child to experience success. Strathmore North Primary School encourages parents to become involved as much as possible in the education of their child at this school. There are many opportunities to participate both in and out of the classroom such as:

- Becoming a Classroom Helper. A short course is run in Term 1 or 2 where interested parents can learn skills to help them work within the literacy or numeracy block.
- Becoming a Perceptual Motor Program assistant for our Prep Students on one or two afternoons a week.
- Joining our team of photocopying/resource making parents.
- Assisting in the Library with cataloguing/returning and shelving books.
- Attending excursions, helping with the swimming program and/or special event days.
- Working from home with book covering or making tasks for the classroom.
- Becoming a member of the School Council or a member of a sub-committee where you will have the opportunity to contribute to the school at a practical level.

### **Parking:**

Parents/Guardians using their cars to transport children to and from school are asked to respect the signs prohibiting standing in sections of Mascoma Street, Odin Street and Brosnan Crescent. Please observe all signs and ask your child to cross roads appropriately.

The failure of a few to observe these signs has created dangerous hazards and caused ill feelings. If you are parking in Mascoma Street ask your child to use the gates and the school crossing when leaving the school.

Oak Park residents using Margaret Street turning circle to walk across the bridge are asked to respect the rights of local residents and NOT park in driveways or double park.

Parents are not permitted to use the staff car park unless picking up children from aftercare after 4 pm.

### **Personal Belongings - Money, Toys etc:**

We recommend that you do not give your child excessive pocket money, special or expensive toys to bring to school. Do not let them bring fragile or very valuable articles to school as damage or loss is likely. Toys brought to school are the responsibility of families. **Mobile phones, I-pods and other electronic devices** are not to be brought to school, (if a parent wishes to request special consideration in relation to this issue, please contact Jenni Lewis).

***Please, PLEASE, PLEASE:***

***Have ALL items named clearly with a marking pen or sewn label and ensure your child knows where to look for their name.***

### **Playground Supervision:**

All children are supervised within the boundaries of the school fence between 8.45am 3.45pm. At play times three staff are in the yard and are easily identified with fluoro vests. **Please do not send your child to school before 8.45 am.**

Children who experience difficulties in the playground are encouraged to attempt to solve the problem themselves, then, if necessary approach a staff member on duty. The problem will then be handled in the appropriate manner. It is much better to deal with any occurrences immediately, so it would assist us greatly if you would also encourage your child to approach teachers if problems exist rather than waiting to tell a parent at home.

### **Pupil Free Days:**

Please note that there will be 4 pupil free days during the year. Children do not attend school on these days, to enable staff to participate in Professional Development. Families are advised of dates early in the school year.

## **Reporting To Parents:**

Teachers evaluate children's progress on an ongoing basis throughout the year using a variety of methods, which include informal observation and formal assessment. Consultation about progress and behaviour can be arranged at anytime that is mutually convenient.

Information on progress is shared with parents/guardians as follows:

- Term 1 - Student, Parent, Teacher Conference
- Term 2 - Report
- Term 3 - Student, Parent, Teacher Conference
- Term 4 - Report

## **Safety:**

### **Please support us in teaching your child:**

- To observe the correct way to cross a street. Children are expected to use the crossing in front of the school to cross Mascoma Street where a crossing supervisor is provided.
- To go straight home from school.
- Not to leave the school grounds without permission.
- Not to speak to strangers, accept sweets or lifts from strangers.
- For security reasons, all visitors must report to the office upon entering the school to obtain a 'visitors badge' and sign the Visitors Book.

## **School Bank:**

A school bank account in your child's name can be opened at the Bendigo Community Bank. A request for account form is sent to all Prep children in February (students at other levels may request a form at the office).

Bank day is **Tuesday** of each school week. Please place money in the book, seal the plastic cover and give to class teacher.

## **School Council:**

The School Council is a governing body responsible for the overall planning and development and for the management of school finances.

The Council at Strathmore North Primary School consists of fourteen members, including 8 parents and 4 staff. In addition, the Council and the Principal as the Executive Officer elect 2 co-opted members. Each elected member is elected for a two-year term with half of the members retiring each year. Meetings are currently held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month

School Council has many Sub-Committees – Finance, Curriculum, Buildings & Grounds, Uniform, OSHC and Parent Involvement /Fundraising which meet once a term.

Any member of the school community may participate in a sub-committee. If you are interested, please contact Jenni Lewis.

Any parents who would like to become members of School Council may elect to do so in February of each year.

### **School Program:**

The range of activities covered by the School's Curriculum is designed to develop the child mentally, physically and socially with each area being important in providing experiences necessary for continued development. It is therefore important that each child takes part in all activities offered. At the commencement of each term, parents will receive an overview of the coming terms programs for the child's class level.

### **Sick or Injured Children:**

Children who are unwell should not be sent to school. The place for a sick child is at home. The first aid room facilities are limited and must be reserved for accidents and sudden illnesses. If a child sustains an injury at school a teacher will treat the child. If we are concerned or uncertain about the extent of the injury, you will be notified at home or at work, so that you can make the decision about further treatment. If your child contracts an Infectious Disease you should see your doctor and additionally notify the school then seek advice on exclusion requirements. We have first aid trained staff to assist our children. In an emergency situation our staff may have the need to call an ambulance. We encourage all parents to have ambulance cover.

### **IT IS VITAL THAT PARENTS KEEP ADMISSION CARD INFORMATION UP TO DATE**

and notify the school of any changes to a child's medical details, addresses, home numbers, work addresses, emergency contact names and numbers.

### **Soundhouse Program:**

Keyboard, Singing / Performance, Guitar and Prep Introduction to music lessons are offered as an extracurricular activity at additional cost to parents. Notes regarding participation in these programs will be sent home. Enquiry may be made via the office.

### **Student Code of Conduct:**

The Strathmore North Primary School community aims to develop a friendly, secure and caring learning environment, which allows children every opportunity to achieve their potential.

We believe this process of growth and achievement is best developed in an environment, which allows children to develop their own self-discipline supported by a structured framework of respect, rights, responsibilities, rules and consequences.

We aim to have an organised, clearly defined and documented whole school approach to student wellbeing, which will contribute to a safe, supportive and happy learning environment.

Our objectives are to:

- To develop acceptable patterns of behaviour in all children.
- To provide a consistent approach to discipline and welfare.
- To develop self discipline, self-esteem and personal responsibility.
- To encourage the principles of fairness, honesty and respect for the rights of

- others.
- To nurture co-operative behaviour and effective interpersonal skills.
- To aim for the highest level of intellectual, social and emotional growth in all children.
- To establish a school structure of support, counselling and behaviour modification for children in need of assistance.

A copy of our Student Wellbeing Policy and Bullying and Harassment policy is available on our website.

### **Student Transfers:**

If your family is relocating or your child is transferring from the school, we request you notify the school promptly in writing. Arrangements will be made to organise a 'Transfer Note' for your child as well as the transfer of student files to the new school.

### **Sun Smart Policy:**

Our Sun Smart Policy aims to develop habits, to prevent skin and eye damage due to ultra violet rays and dehydration, sunstroke or heat exhaustion.

The policy is to be implemented throughout the year, but with particular emphasis in Terms 1 and 4:

- A hat must be worn at all times the child is outside from September to April. Children not doing so must stay in designated shade areas. Headwear should shade eyes, necks and ears.
- Wearing of SPF 15+ broad-spectrum sunscreen and approved sunglasses is encouraged. Parents/Guardians may supply appropriate sunscreen for their children.
- School activities are modified as necessary in extremely hot weather.

***This Policy is registered with the Anti-Cancer Council  
a copy is available on request.***

### **The School Day:**

*Our daily timetable for 2008 is as follows: -*

Class time	9.00am - 11.00am
Lunch time	11.00am -12.00pm
Class time	12.00noon -2.00pm
Recess	2.00pm -2.30pm
Class time	2.30pm -3.30pm
Dismissal	3.30pm

#### *Please Note:*

Students are expected to be at school by 8.55 am to ensure a prompt start to the school day at 9.00 am.

At recess and lunchtime breaks a bell rings to indicate the end of recess/lunch. All students are expected to stop their activities and immediately make their way to line.

Children are not permitted to leave the school grounds from the time they arrive until after they are dismissed at the end of the day, unless permission is given by the Principal or Assistant Principal or the child is collected by a parent/guardian.

If your child arrives home unexpectedly please contact the school immediately.

Entry to school buildings before or after school or during the recess and lunch breaks is not permitted unless under teacher supervision.

When children are dismissed at the end of the day they need to be collected promptly. Please do not have children playing on equipment unsupervised or waiting in the playground to be collected. Any child not collected by 3.45 pm will be taken to the Office and can be collected from there.

### **Uniform:**

Students from Strathmore North Primary School are expected to wear a uniform. Grade six children will have a graduation windcheater available as part of the school uniform. All aspects of the dress code are in accordance with Department of Education regulations – 4:8 Reference Guide, Student Code of Conduct. In order to preserve the rights of equality of students, Strathmore North Primary School Council has ratified a policy dealing with exceptions and sanctions. A copy which is available on request.

Children may wear any combination of the uniform items in any season:

#### Boys and Girls:

- Navy windcheater with gold logo
- Polo shirt (short sleeve or long) gold, navy collar-gold stripes
- Bomber jacket-press stud fastening, navy/gold
- Rugby top, navy, gold collar-no bands, gold school logo
- Track pants-elastic waist, side pockets-plain navy blue
- Navy shorts-elastic waist, side pockets-loose fit
- Cotton pants-long, plain, navy blue elastic waist-loose fit.

#### Girls may also include:

- Winter Skirt
- Summer dress. (Navy bike shorts to be worn underneath dress for sports occasions).
- Skort

Footwear - Runners, lace-up school shoes or closed toe and heel sandals. Open toed sandals are not suitable school attire and **thongs are strictly banned**.

School Hats – Cricket hats-wide brim, navy, gold school logo.

School Bags – School bag-navy and gold.

Clothing and accessories that present a safety hazard will be excluded on Health and Safety grounds e.g.

- Thongs and slip-on shoes.
- High heeled shoes
- The only acceptable jewellery is sleepers, studs and practical watches.

*Out of Uniform Policy:*

The school uniform policy requires the names of children who are out of uniform to have their name entered in the 'Out of Uniform Book'.

### **Uniform Purchasing:**

The Uniform Sub-committee will organise a sales team to staff the Uniform shop and manage the ordering system. The shop is located behind the canteen. Parent volunteers are always needed to assist with uniform sales and all help is greatly appreciated. New helpers will be trained and supported until they become familiar with the duties/routines.

Parents may purchase by:

- Direct Sales - On specific advertised days all items can be brought from the shop in the Canteen building. Garments may be tried on at these times. Times will be posted on the office window and in the school newsletter.
- Order Form - Order forms are available from the school office and orders may be placed at any time. The sales team will fill the orders. Orders may be collected from the office or sent home with children.

### **Walking School Bus:**

Our Walking School Bus operates daily thanks to our team of volunteers. This provides a fun, healthy and safe way for children to travel to and from school. Flyers can be found on the Community Information Stand or contact the office for further information. In 2007 a "Walk To School" on Wednesday Program will commence.

### **Walk On Wednesdays:**

To encourage our students to participate in active transport and to try to reduce traffic issues around the school, Strathmore North runs a 'Walk On Wednesday' program. Each Wednesday, classes tally the number of students walking or riding to school. This includes being dropped a block away and walking a short distance to school. A tally board is displayed in the corridor and a prize presented to the winning class at the end of each term.

### **Weather:**

If the weather is inclement and the children cannot be sent outside at recess or lunch times, they will be supervised in their classrooms. Normal dismissal times will apply. Department of Education and Training regulations do not permit early dismissal from school on days of extreme heat. However, the teachers usually arrange the grade activities so that they are appropriate to the particular day – e.g. quiet reading, artwork etc. and that children have access to adequate drinks. Our rooms all have air-cooling.

### **Website:**

Our school website: [www.snps.vic.edu.au](http://www.snps.vic.edu.au) contains a variety of information about the school including coming events, copies of newsletters and forms for completion.

### **Welfare:**

Our welfare program is designed to support the needs of the children and their families. The program is co-ordinated by our Assistant Principal Ms Anne Patralakis and supported by a School Psychologist (weekly) and Speech Pathologist (fortnightly) and a school nurse. Further support such as Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy is accessed via outside agencies such as Yooralla and the Royal Children's Hospital. Welfare issues range from incidental issues with friendship and self esteem to supporting children and family through major family issues such as separation or serious illness. All families are welcome to make a phone call, or an appointment with Anne.

The school also has a collection of parenting books available for borrowing. These relate to a range of issues that may touch you as a parent and include topics such as puberty and human sexuality, bereavement. Please contact Anne if you would like to peruse the selection. We aim to include a list of books on our website during 2008.

### **Working Bees:**

Working Bees are generally held on the second Saturday of each Term from 9.00am to 1.00pm. These are used for general maintenance and special projects. We encourage all families to support these.

### **You Can Do It Program (Y.C.D.I.):**

Our YCDI program aims to develop resilience in our children by developing their skills in Persistence, Getting Along, Confidence and Organisation. Focussed weekly lessons are conducted at all levels to develop these skills. Awards are presented at assembly and listed in the newsletter.