DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER

Tue 3rd  Melb Cup  holiday
Mon 9th  Bluearth
Tue 10th Life Education  Van—TV

**Tue 10th School Council**

Wed 11th  MARC
Fri 13th  Transition Day
Wed 18th  Kanga Cricket
Fri 20th  Big Breakfast
Mon 23rd  Bluearth

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Once again we are welcoming a new student to the community of Upper Sandy Creek Primary. This time we welcome Lucas Geisseler and his mother Brigitte. Lucas is in Year 3 and has already settled in very well. Lucas has told me he is really looking forward to our unit this term ‘Earn and Learn’ and is already plotting how he will be creating his fortune!

Our schools uniform policy outlines that students must wear school uniform. Our uniform consists of a school shirt, black shorts or pants and black shoes or runners. Approved hats are also to be worn which are our schools bucket hats. We have uniforms available at the office and hats available as well. If you require any uniform items, please contact the school. Students who don’t bring a hat during Term 1 and 4 are only permitted to play in the outdoor shelter.

Our last Bluearth session was held at Mitta Primary. The weather was great and their school looked fantastic as we met up with Tallangatta Valley and Mitta kids for another great day. Before our Bluearth sessions, the students had fun creating gases with chemical reactions and then blowing up some cream containers.

The students found the best combination for creating gas and blowing up the cream container was Alka Seltza and vinegar. Our Bluearth coach Catherine, decided that we would all join together and have a go at some circus and body control manoeuvres. This included the kids supporting each other in interesting ways and building some human pyramids. The day was great once again and we are looking forward to our next trip up to Mitta on the 9th.

Parents don’t forget that next Tuesday is Melbourne Cup day holiday. If you are planning a long weekend and not send your child to school, please contact the school to let us know. We are also having a School Council Meeting on the 10th of November at 6.00pm. Parents of new families are welcome to attend.

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**USC part of the Valley’s Cluster - Living and Learning locally.**

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**THOUGHT OF THE WEEK.**

Always laugh when you can. It’s a cheap medicine.
**BIG BREKKY IS BACK!**

Once again we will be having our Big Community Breakfast. Everyone is welcome.
This year it will be on Friday the 20th of November from 6.30am - 8.30am.
$5 all you can eat.
BYO Cup/plate and knife and fork.
See you there!

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**SCHOOL PROCEDURES FOR THE BUSHFIRE SEASON**

The way schools in Victoria respond to bushfires is being constantly revised.

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools — and children’s services — identified as being at highest bushfire risk have been included on the Bushfire-At Risk Register (BARR) and will be closed on days determined by fire authorities to be Code Red. Our school has been identified as a school at highest bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to three days’ notice of a planned closure following the issue of a Code Red warning by the CFA. We will contact you directly by letter sent home with your child or a phone call if the timeline is short, with advice on planned closures and will confirm the decision to close by 12 noon the day before the planned closure.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child.

- No staff will be on site on days when the school is closed by the risk of fire.
- School camps will be cancelled if the area where the camp is taking place is at risk.
- There may also be changes to school bus routes. Depending on routes, this may also occur on days when the school is not closed.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan — on such days, children should never be left at home unattended or in the care of older children.

For those of us living in a bushfire-prone area, the safest option when a Code Red day is declared may be to leave the night before, or early in the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for the threat of fire we have updated our emergency management plan; reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our school grounds and gutters.

What can parents do?

- Make sure your family’s Bushfire Survival Plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements for your children in the event that our school is closed.
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters and by talking to your child’s teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency plans.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you’re planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family’s Bushfire Survival Plan.

For up-to-date information on this year’s fire season and Bushfire Survival Planning, visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.