

Principal's Message

Paul Hills

The term seems to have finished with a rush, with lots of things happening, including work beginning on both building sites, the conclusion of SSG's and several Disability Inclusion Profile meetings occurring.

One of the events last week was the "R U okay?" day. It is always important to ask the question of someone, but equally important to listen to the response. Sometimes we ask the question, but we are often too busy to wait and listen to the response. If we are genuine about showing concern and asking the question, take a moment to listen and hear what someone is trying to say. It is something we hope our students understand that if they are willing to share something, then they will be listened to and heard. Staff and other students do care about how others feel.

I would like to wish all members of the Heatherwood School community a peaceful, safe and healthy break.



Important Dates

2025

Friday 19th September: Last day of Term 3. **Students will be dismissed at 1:45pm**

Monday 6th October: First day of term 4.

Monday 6th October - 8th October: Year 8 camp.

Friday 10th October: Interschool Cricket, Softball & TBall Trials

Monday 20th October - 22nd October: Senior Portsea Camp

Friday 31st October: Curriculum day. **Students do not attend school on this day.**

Tuesday 4th November: Melbourne Cup Day. **Students do not attend school on this day.**

Friday 19th December: Last day of term 4. **Students will be dismissed one hour earlier**

2026

Tuesday 27 January: Curriculum day. **Students do not attend school on this day.**

Wednesday 28 January: Curriculum day. **Students do not attend school on this day.**

Thursday 29 January: Start of term 1, 2026. **Students return to school.**

Assistant Principal's Message

Lesley Foster

Director of Happiness

Thank you to all families/carers who attended the Student Support Group Meetings this term. We have the pleasure of welcoming Lisa Baker, who will be teaching J7 when Naomi Thompson takes leave at the beginning of Term 4. Lisa is also appointed as the Mathematics Learning Specialist for the school. She has spent the last three days with us getting to know students and staff. We also welcome Amisha Mahadeo, who will be teaching J4 when Gurnica takes leave in October. Amisha has been working at Heatherwood in Term 3, getting to know students and staff as well as working in many classes across the school.

I wish everyone a happy and restful holiday, and look forward to welcoming everyone back in Term 4.



Assistant Principal's Message

Braham Morris

Although Term 3 was a short term, we managed to pack many things in. Apart from everyday learning, SSG's and an Information night for the students moving into Senior school next year, we had a number of excursions, sports carnivals, and a wood-work program run by the local Men's Shed. Year 7 had a wonderful camp to Phillip Island and the Year 9's had a great experience at Charnwood camp and Mt Buller. Thank you to all the staff who coordinated and attended the camp. Staff give up their own time to attend camps in order for students to have an enjoyable and memorable experience.

During the last few weeks of Term, the Year 10 students had an opportunity to do Work Experience. It has been a very rewarding experience for our students who are currently contemplating ideas for what they want to do when they leave school. A big thank you to all the Year 10 staff and Educational Support staff who assisted the students with their new experience of being in a workplace setting. Well done also to Jo Larkin who coordinated the whole program for the Year 10 students.



We also had a new Friday Recreation activity for Middle and Senior students this term called Aqua scaping. The students really enjoyed the activity and thanks to the students and Ben and Samson (staff), we now have a lovely fish tank for all to enjoy in the front office foyer. It has made the area a very calm and relaxing space to visit.

With Term 3 coming to an end and winter behind us, can I remind all parents and carers that Navy blue/ bottle green are the colours of the Heatherwood uniform (please refer to the school diary for further information).

A number of students have been wearing black items of clothing which are not acceptable.

Summer uniforms can be purchased from the office or alternatively, plain navy shorts and collared t-shirts can be purchased at other stores.

School Office

Student Sign In And Out

Students who are picked up **before 2:45pm** must be signed out by an adult at the office.

Students picked up at **2:45pm onward** will be supervised at the back gate until they are collected.

Students must be picked up no later than 3:00pm.

Please remind students to check for cars when walking through the car park.



Just a
Friendly
Reminder

Parents & Carers

- Please ensure your students' clothes are clearly labelled with their full name.
- Remind your young person **not** to share food with other students, due to health and safety reasons.

2025 Yearbook

The 2025 Yearbook will **only** be ordered for your student if the \$25.00 charge has been paid in full.

NB: Full payment is required **before** November. Reserve your copy now!

Second Hand Uniform

The school is always seeking to source good quality **second hand** uniform items. If you have garments to donate, the school will graciously accept them. Thank you!

Playground Supervision

Parents/Carers are reminded that **playground supervision** is provided from 8:45am on school days until the last contract bus departs after school and that no formal supervision of the playground occurs outside those hours.



CROWN & QUINCES Buses

If at any time your young person is not travelling on the bus to school **or** home from school you must do each of the following:

1. Inform **the school** on 9842 8319 **OR** write a note in your young person's diary.
2. Inform the **bus company**
CROWN 9845 1455
QUINCES 8506 2700



BOTH THE SCHOOL AND THE BUS COMPANY NEED TO KNOW OF ANY CHANGES THAT OCCUR.

Senior School Showcase: Building Futures with Paper and Purpose

Zoran Todorovic
S2 Classroom Teacher



This term, senior students at Heatherwood School brought creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking to life through the 3D Paper City Project, a hands-on initiative that blended academic learning with real-world skills.

Over several weeks, students worked in teams to design and construct miniature paper towns, integrating key subject areas: Literacy, Numeracy, Personal Development, and Work-Related Skills. Each group was given a virtual budget of \$2000 to “purchase” building templates, requiring them to write formal emails, calculate costs, and manage their finances, skills they had practiced earlier in class.

Beyond construction, students designed promotional posters and detailed town maps to showcase their communities and persuade others to vote for their designs. The project ended with a vibrant school-wide exhibition, where visitors explored each town and cast their votes. Team 1 met all criteria, earned the highest number of points, and was formally recognised for its outstanding achievement.

This project not only fostered teamwork and creativity but also provided students with a meaningful experience in planning, communication, and civic engagement.

We are pleased to announce the city of **Smithburn** received the most points out of 245 votes, and was the **winner**.



Work Experience

Jo Larkin

Work Experience Co-ordinator

Our Year 10 students have recently completed a very successful two-week Work Experience program. Students explored a workplace of interest, gaining valuable insight into future pathways and developing practical skills. Students were placed in a wide range of settings, including retail, childcare, supported workplaces, nurseries, primary schools, trades, and sporting facilities.

This experience allowed students to put into practice the skills they have been learning at school, as well as develop new ones such as teamwork, communication, independence, and problem-solving. Many students received wonderful feedback from employers, who were impressed with their positive attitudes, willingness to learn, and enthusiasm.

I am extremely proud of the way our students represented themselves and Heatherwood School in the wider community. Congratulations to all Year 10 students for their efforts and achievements, and a special thank you to the staff who supported them throughout this important stage of their learning journey.

I would also like to sincerely thank the families for their encouragement and support, and the many employers who so generously gave their time, guidance, and opportunities to make this program such a success



Work Experience

Jo Larkin

Work Experience Co-ordinator



Year 7 & 8 Digital Technologies - Maths & Minecraft

Nigel Ross

Learning Specialist

This term, our Year 7 and 8 students have been exploring Mathematics and Digital Technologies concepts through **Minecraft: Education Edition**. Students applied their knowledge of arrays, multiplication, movement and position in practical and engaging challenges. They built walls and structures using arrays (linking to Mathematics: Number & Algebra) and then followed or created treasure hunts using appropriate movement and location vocabulary (linking to Mathematics: Measurement & Geometry).

In Digital Technologies, students developed skills in creating digital solutions by planning, building, and refining their virtual worlds. They also practised collaboration, communication, and problem-solving as they worked together to complete design challenges.

Students reported that learning through Minecraft was both fun and motivating. The activities reinforced key curriculum skills while showing how mathematical thinking and digital tools can work hand-in-hand to create meaningful and enjoyable learning experiences. One student summed it up perfectly: *"The treasure hunt was my favourite — I had to use left, right, and forward to find the gems."*

We are now continuing to explore these themes through our Robotics unit using **LEGO Spike**, where students are both creating and programming their own autonomous cars. In addition, through our coding unit, students are learning about algorithms and computer decision-making, further building their skills in logical thinking, creativity, and innovation.



SWPBS

Sharon Koupparis

Learning Specialist - SWPBS | Disability Inclusion | Transition | Enrolments

Dear Heatherwood Community,

The SWPBS focus for Term 3 is 'Be Your Best'. There are many ways this can be demonstrated and we'll be looking out for students who:

- Ask for help when they need it
- Keep their school and personal items organised
- Set goals and work hard to achieve them
- Develop strategies to help stay calm and positive
- Be a role model and set a good example for others
- Be aware of school rules and follow instructions from staff

There are lots of ways this value can be reinforced at home, during family outings and recreational activities too. It may be helping a member of the opposition team during a game of football or basketball. Perhaps they do something nice for a sibling or other family member. Or maybe they remember to do their chores at home without being reminded!



Please keep an eye out in the coming weeks for recognition being sent home via Sentral when students have received 25, 50, 75 or 100 SWPBS tickets. These tickets are given to students who demonstrate any of the behaviours reflected in our school matrix of Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Your Best. Please chat to your students when you receive these messages about the great things they've been doing at school to receive their tickets.



Heatherwood School – School Wide Positive Behaviours

	All Settings	Toilets	Yard
Be Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ I keep my hands and feet to myself ✓ I use equipment safely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ I tell staff if the toilets are unclean or unsafe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ I ask for help if I need it ✓ I report any problems to staff on duty
Be Your Best	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ I always have a go when trying something new 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ I role model appropriate behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ I include others ✓ I speak politely to others
Be Respectful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ I treat everyone with kindness and respect ✓ I keep school spaces clean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ I use toilets and taps responsibly ✓ I keep the toilet area clean ✓ I respect others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ I play fairly and with kindness ✓ I put rubbish in the bin



Advocating
for children
with disability

Free online workshop

Teens and Beyond



Do you have a child with disability aged 13+?

Then this FREE workshop series is for you!

You'll receive practical information, skills and confidence to navigate the teenage years.

This is the only workshop series that covers the full range of information relating to teenagers with disability in one place.

Who is it for?

This series of three workshops is for Victorian families raising children 13+ with disability.

How do I book?

Bookings are essential and can be done via the QR code or this link bit.ly/TEENSoc25

Who will be online?

Professional facilitators are parents of young people with disability.

Topics



- Financial support
- Building your teen's independence
- School and post-school options
- Wellbeing: friendships, communication, behaviour support and good mental health

When

Monday 20, 27 Oct & 3 Nov at 10:00 am

Monday 20, 27 Oct & 3 Nov at 7:00 pm

Wednesday 22, 29 Oct & 5 Nov at 7:00 pm

Sessions run for 2.5 hours with time for questions.

Scan for more information and to register

Email

educate@acd.org.au

Call 03 9880 7000 or

1800 654 013 regional

