



Smithton Primary School

RESPECT ❖ ENCOURAGE ❖ ASPIRE ❖ LEARN

Issue 16 – 8th November 2023



We were overwhelmed to find out last Monday that we won \$5000 from the Sea FM School of the Year competition.

This competition is run across the NW of the state and we were competing against 14 other schools. To win, we had to have the most votes (anyone in the community could vote for our school).

A huge thank you to anyone who voted for us. Having this additional \$5000 means that we can inject more money into our reading resources. Improved reading outcomes is a priority of our school and the state government. To be lucky enough to have additional money for additional books to help our students to learn to read and to enjoy reading is so good. This is also the gift that keeps on giving, because students for years to come will benefit from the books that we purchase.

Mrs King is now on a spending spree, trying to find the right books for our school. Well done also to the P & F, who actually nominated our school to begin with. The credit goes mostly to you.

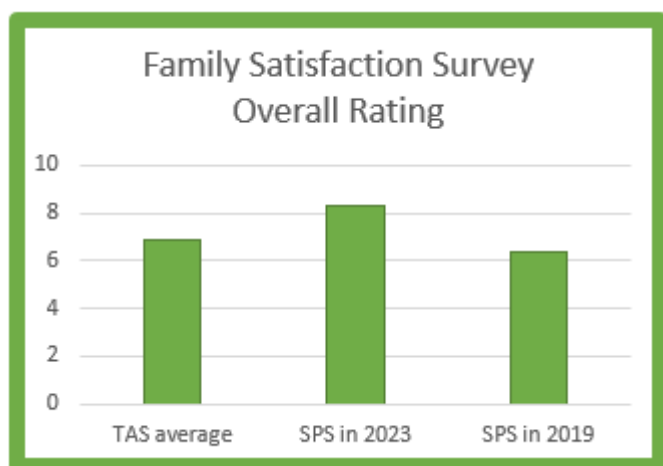


The survey results are in and it is **GOOD NEWS!**

Now I have to be careful when sharing survey news, because it is important that we don't get too far ahead of ourselves and also that we understand the context of the surveys. Each year we have 3 surveys conducted:

1. Family Satisfaction Survey (open to all families with students in the school)
2. Staff Satisfaction Survey (open to all staff)
3. Student Wellbeing and Engagement Survey (all students from Year 4 - 6)

This week I will focus on the Family Satisfaction Survey and then I will spend the next two Newsletters explaining the data from the other two surveys. This year a third of our families completed the survey, this is the most we have had in the last 10 years, so thank you to those who filled the survey out. This was conducted online. 34 questions are asked and families rate the school for each question. The questions range from how staff treat their children, to the school leadership, to the academic focuses of the school through to our school culture. For each question we get an indication of how many families agree/disagree and also an overall mark out of 10 for each question. We can compare our results to the Tasmanian government schools average and also compare it to our previous two years. The results in a snapshot show the following:



-The graph shows that overall, we are ahead of the state average and also well ahead of where we were two years ago.

-We are above the state average on all questions except for one.

-Our highest rating is that families believe they can talk to their child's teacher about their concerns.

-Another high rating includes that this school is well maintained (thank you to Rodney, Katrina, Joan and Leanne).

- Our other high ratings include that staff expect their child to do their best, that staff treat students fairly, my child feels safe at school, my child likes being at this

school, the school looks for ways to improve, staff motivate my child to learn, my child's learning needs are being met, this school is well organised, there is effective educational leadership, staff are interested in my child's wellbeing, this school is preparing students for their future, I would recommend this school to others, people from diverse backgrounds are respected at this school, students with disabilities are supported in this school.


Rather than go on and on, on our next page you will see the results for themselves. If something needs improving or is too low, it will be coloured red and if something is going well, then it will be a teal colour. As you can see, we have no red and nearly all teal. One target we had set for 2023 was to improve our rating for Q32 so that families felt more included in their child's literacy and numeracy learning. I am pleased to say that we didn't just meet our target, but we exceeded it.

Question	TAS Rating	School Rating - compare to TAS
1. Staff at this school expect my child to do their best.*	7.7	8.3
3. Staff at this school treat students fairly.*	7.0	8.3
4. This school is well maintained.*	7.5	8.9
5. My child feels safe at this school.*	7.3	8.1
6. I can talk to my child's teachers about my concerns.*	7.9	9.3
7. Student behaviour is well managed at this school.*	6.1	7.4
8. My child likes being at this school.*	7.4	8.2
9. This school looks for ways to improve.*	6.9	8.9
10. This school takes families' opinions seriously.*	6.5	8.4
11. Staff at this school motivate my child to learn.*	7.2	8.6
12. My child is making good progress at this school.*	7.1	8.3
13. My child's learning needs are being met at this school.*	6.7	8.3
14. Staff at this school work with me to support my child's learning.*	6.9	8.5
15. This school is well organised.	6.8	8.4
17. There is effective educational leadership in this school.	6.7	8.8
20. Families have the opportunity to participate in decisions about their children's education.	6.3	8.1
22. Family feedback is used to inform decision-making about this school.	5.9	8.1
27. Staff encourage my child to think.	7.4	8.2
28. Staff are interested in my child's wellbeing.	7.5	8.8
29. I feel like I am a part of my school community.	6.2	8.1
30. Staff help my child to be responsible for their own learning.	7.1	8.0
31. This school is preparing students for their future.	6.9	8.4
32. Staff at this school provide ideas to help me to support my child's literacy and numeracy learning at home.	6.1	7.9
34. Staff at this school encourage me to take an active role in my child's education.	6.3	7.6
35. I would recommend this school to others.	7.3	8.9
41. Staff at this school help me to support my child's choices for their future.	6.3	8.0
42. My child will complete Year 12.	7.9	7.6
43. This school offers a good range of subjects and activities.	7.0	8.3
44. Cost does not limit my child's participation in additional school activities, excursions or specialised subjects.	7.8	8.5
45. People from diverse backgrounds are respected at this school.	7.4	8.9
52. Teachers at this school provide my child with useful feedback about their learning progress.*	7.2	8.4
53. My child's report and communication with their teacher/s gives me a good understanding about their learning progress and achievement.	6.8	8.5
54. Staff encourage me to participate in literacy and numeracy activities .	6.1	7.1
55. Students with disability are supported with appropriate educational adjustments at this school.	6.8	8.6
Average	6.9	8.3

I make one thing clear, the purpose of me showing you this data is not to brag or big note myself or my school, it is simply to share good news with the people who need to hear it (our whole school community). In no way does this mean we just cruise from now on, it is clear we have much more work to do to continue to improve this school. What I do know is that our families are engaged and positive about the future at SPS. Winning the "Sea FM School of the Year" along with the \$5000 is another indicator to me that our school has the support of the community and our families. Thank you to everyone who voted, it really does make our staff feel so much more motivated when we know that you support what we are doing at SPS.

Let's not get ahead of ourselves, keeping in mind that there are still two other surveys to consider. But let's celebrate the results of this survey as a real win for our school and a motivator to continue to improve. As always, lets continue to remember that we are a TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More).

Thanks,

 **Josh Smith**
Principal





Outdoor Classroom Day

with Prep and 1-2 Irvine

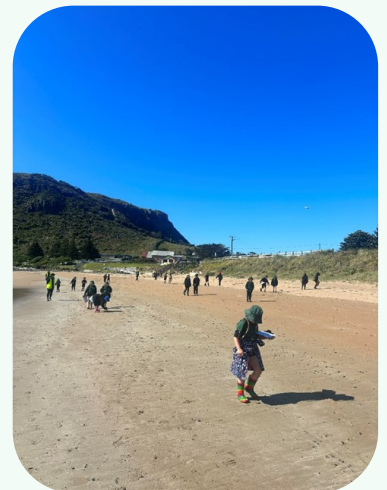


Last week Prep and 1-2 Irvine celebrated Outdoor Classroom Day with a visit to the beach, a walk through the bush and craft activities outside. Outdoor Classroom Day is a global movement to make time outdoors part of every child's day.

Outside learning has so many benefits including:

- developing essential skills for life
- a better understanding of the environment
- enhances engagement with learning
- increases physical and mental health

All the students had a wonderful time and spent the day with big smiles on their faces.



MANAGING SAFEGUARDING RISKS IN OUR SCHOOLS

Our staff play a key role in keeping students safe by proactively monitoring any risks.

The Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) recently released new Safeguarding Risk Management resources for our schools to assist with this.

These resources are designed to help us continuously identify, prevent and reduce risks to students of child abuse and harm, and support our school to be a safe environment where every child and young person can thrive and grow.

During this term we will be developing a Safeguarding Risk Management plan for our school. The plan sets out the risks that we can identify, and most importantly, how we can reduce them.

As parents and carers, you play an important role helping us to identify safeguarding risks in our school, and I'm sure you may also have ideas on how we can reduce these risks to keep students safe.

If you or your child/children have any questions, concerns or wish to report any incidents relating to child abuse or harm, I encourage you to reach out to me or a trusted staff member. We welcome your views and any feedback.

The [Tell Someone website](#) is also another useful source of information if you are worried that a child may be at risk of harm or is being sexually abused or groomed.

If you have any concerns, the website gives clear information about what to look for, how to make a report and who to speak to.

For further information on the work being done on safeguarding in our school, please visit [DECYP's website](#).



Lindsey Blake

Assistant Principal and Safeguarding Lead

Smithton Primary School

Aussie of the Month – October

Congratulations

Zoe



- Is hard working and has shown a consistent ability to remain focussed on her learning no matter the atmosphere around her.
- Often helps others who are struggling and demonstrates all our school values every day.
- is a good friend and never gets involved in drama of any kind, preferring to quietly support people to make kind choices.
- Is extremely respectful towards others.
- Has really developed in her learning and will often use her growing knowledge and skills to help others.

The SLC are selling Zooper Dooper icypoles

EVERY FRIDAY

at lunchtime to raise money
for the Year 6 day out in December

ZOOPER DOOPER



**\$1.00
each**



For students and staff!!

Please help
Smithton Primary **GROW**



with
**MIGHTY HELPFUL
MITRE 10**

HELP YOUR LOCAL
SCHOOL EARN MITRE 10
GIFT CARDS TO GO
TOWARD A NEW VEGGIE
PATCH, RENO OR SCHOOL
ACTIVITY!

1. Shop at your local Mitre 10 from October 30 to December 3 in the paint and garden departments!
2. Scan the QR code at checkout, upload a photo of your receipt and select your school to add to your school's earnings!
3. We'll add up all the purchases uploaded for each school,
4. In December we'll give each school 10% of the total value of their purchases back as Mitre 10 Gift Cards!



**UPLOAD YOUR RECEIPT
TO GROW YOUR
SCHOOL'S EARNINGS**

Terrapin Puppet Theatre



Thank you to the Terrapin Puppet Theatre for visiting our school last Thursday.

The whole school thoroughly enjoyed the performance.





Smithton High School Year 7 Orientation Day

Friday 17th November 2023
Please contact the School if you have any questions

Meet your
classmates

Experience a
day in the life
of a Year 7
student

Meet the
teachers

Come and
have some
fun!

Department for Education, Children and Young People





HOCKEY SKILLS

U8'S SKILLS SESSIONS

3:30PM FRIDAY NIGHT

**ALL PLAYERS AND
COACHES WELCOME**



A WEEKEND FOR THE GIRLS?

Intentional investment like no other!

.....

A LIFE-CHANGING CAMP TO BOOST THE LIVES OF ALL WHO ATTEND.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uplifting investment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good friends and connections
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Valuable life-skills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fun new experiences
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive self-worth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Creative arts & craft





November 24-26 | Grade 3-6 girls | \$100

FIND OUT MORE! (03) 6425 1893 campclayton.org.au

Dates To Remember

November

Every Friday - 9:00am to 10:30am	Launching into Learning - Launchpad with Hayley Sharman (<i>Birth - 5 Years</i>)
Every Friday - 1:00pm to 2:30pm	Pre-Kinder - for children starting Kinder in 2024 (<i>born in 2019</i>)

December

Friday 1st - 9:00am to 10:30am	Launching into Learning - Launchpad with Hayley Sharman (<i>Birth - 5 Years</i>) <i>Last session for the year</i>
Friday 1st - 1:00pm to 2:30pm	Pre-Kinder - for children starting Kinder in 2024 (<i>born in 2019</i>) <i>Last session for the year</i>
Friday 1st	Year 6 Day Trip
Monday 4th to Friday 15th	Upper Primary Swimming
Tuesday 5th	Kinder Koala Graduation - 1:45pm to 2:45pm
Friday 8th	Kinder Bilby Graduation - 1:45pm to 2:45pm Year 6 Cluster Day at Riverbend
Tuesday 19th	End of Year Assembly - 10:00am start
Wednesday 20th	Whole School Picnic at Riverbend (K-6)
Thursday 21st	Last Day for Students

2023 School Term Dates

Term 1	Wednesday 8th February to Wednesday 5th April
Term 2	Wednesday 26th April to Friday 7th July
Term 3	Tuesday 25th July to Friday 29th September
Term 4	Monday 16th October to Thursday 21st December

Student Free Days

Tuesday 7th February
Thursday 6th April
Monday 24th July
Friday 3rd November

CONTACT DETAILS

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