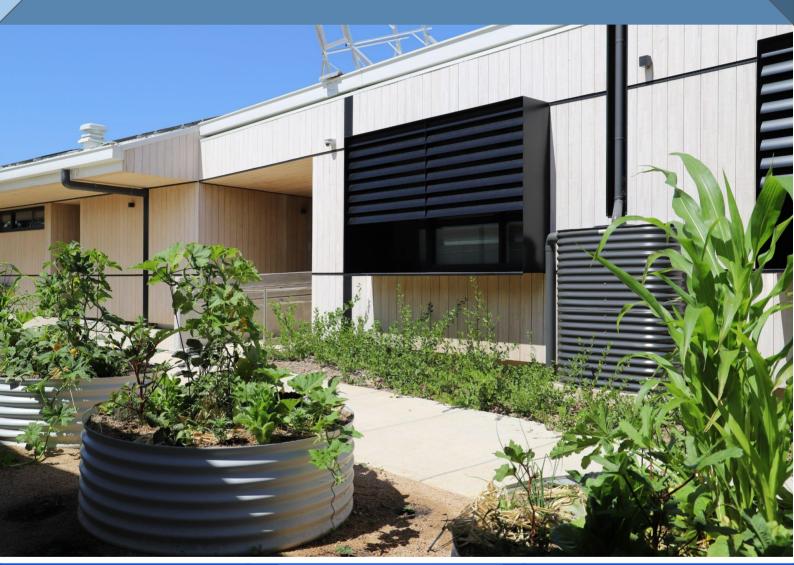
Strathaird Primary School News 05/02/2025 **Edition 1**



Strathaird



Primary School





Contact Us:

20 Sherwood Road Narre Warren South, 3805

PO Box 4124 Narre Warren South, 3805

9705 3800

Strathaird.ps@education.vic.gov.au

www.strathairdps.vic.edu.au 1

Principal Page

WELCOME BACK

A big welcome back to the new school year, we hope you have been able to enjoy some rest, relaxation and family time over the holidays. It is always a pleasure to have our students return to school, coming through the gates looking so happy and excited to be back. Students have settled very quickly into their new classes and are doing a fantastic job engaging with their teacher, each other and their class work. Yesterday we welcomed our delightful new Preps and they have made an excellent start to school. We are ready for another exciting year, filled with learning growth and achievement.

STAFF APPOINTMENTS

This year we are pleased to welcome the following new staff: Jo Clark (Year 1); Darcy Tilley (Year 3); Annika McCann (Year 5); Taylah Lyons (Integration Aide). We are very excited about what our new staff will contribute to our school during 2025.

OVAL

After 18 months of having our oval fenced off, we have finally been given the go-ahead to open it up. Our 750+ students have been incredible the way they have played in significantly reduced space over such a long period of time. They have not complained and have adapted to play cooperatively and happily in the yard. We are so proud of them. Now they can play freely on this great space.





KITCHEN GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

Our Kitchen Garden program is up and running with our Year 6 students participating in the program during Term 1. This week they have been very excited and engaged in making red bean Mooncakes, which I am told, are not easy to make. Very well done to our students. We are very grateful to have parents Hiroko Asano and Sarah Walchhofer volunteering to help in our Kitchen Garden Program this term. Thank you





Principal Page

Students and staff are very much looking forward to the Year 6 Camp to Briars in Mt Martha, to be held from 12-14 March. Permission forms have gone out are due to be returned next Friday. Final payment for the camp is due by Monday 21 February.

PARENT -TEACHER INTERVIEWS

We are looking forward to Parent-Teacher Interviews next week. Parents are strongly encouraged to book an interview time with their child's teacher for Tuesday 11 February between 3:30 pm. and 7:30 pm, or Wednesday 12 February between 3:30 pm and 5:00 pm.

Parents need to book Interviews using Sentral. If you need help booking Interviews, please contact the School Office.

Interviews at this time of the year give parents an opportunity to inform teachers of any relevant background information which may be of assistance in developing class programs for your child. Background information may include your child's strengths and qualities, areas of concern, learning needs, homework expectations and how parents can assist learning.

NEW CANTEEN OPERATOR

This year we are very pleased to welcome our new Canteen operators, Jude Fina Foods. We welcome the very helpful canteen staff and a new variety of menu items.

The canteen is open on Wednesday/Thursday and Friday for snacks and lunches. Parents can order on Qkr or send along cash in a brown paper with the order written on it.

All government schools in Victoria have a School Council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within state-wide guidelines. In doing this, a School Council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

This year there are four *Parent Member vacancies (4 two year terms)* on School Council.

- * The election process will commence with a call for nominations from Monday 17 February.
- * Nomination forms can be obtained from the School Office.
- * Nominations close and are due to the School Office by 4:00pm on Monday 24 February.
- * The list of candidates will be posted outside the School Office on Wednesday 26 February.
- * If there are more nominations than vacant positions, a ballot process will take place. Ballot Papers will be distributed to all families on Monday 3 March.
- * All Ballot Papers must be received by the closing of the Ballot at 4:00pm Tuesday 11 March.
- * Counting Ballot and Declaring Poll will take place on Tuesday 11 March.
- * The first meeting of the newly appointed School Council will be held on Tuesday 25 March.

Principal Page

PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF ZONE

The pick-up and drop-off zone on Community Parade is only for quickly picking up and dropping off students. When all motorists comply with the instructions the zone works very well but when people do the wrong thing, others naturally become frustrated. **You must not park there or leave your car there.** The maximum time that your car can be in the zone is **two minutes.** Please also be aware the Council could be here at any time ensuring motorists are doing the right thing.

EARLY DISMISSAL / LATE ARRIVALS

Students are not permitted to leave the school without being signed out. Students must be signed in or out of school at the school office between 9.00 a.m. and 3.15 p.m.

SUNSMART

Students are required to wear school hats up until the end of April and then from the start of September. This means hats are required for part of Term 2 and part of Term 3. This is due to frequent high levels of UV from September through to April.

SCHOOL GROUNDS

The playground is supervised by teachers before school from 8.45 a.m., during morning recess, during the lunch break and after school until 3.30 p.m. Children should not arrive at school early unless they are going to the Before School Care Program.

PERMISSION FORMS

A new set of permission forms have been sent out to parents. These forms include permission for photographs; local excursion participation and digital technology usage. *These forms need to be returned as soon as possible.*

Term 1 2025

	3th Prep SEA Testing	4th Zooper Dooper sales @ Recess Preps 1st day of School	5th 1st Day of Canteen	6th	7th Junior Assembly
FEBRUARY	10th Gr 6 Camp Final payment due Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30 - 7.30pm	Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30 - 5.00pm School Council Meeting 6.30pm	12th PT Interviews ???? Bookclub Due Today	13th	14th Senior Assembly
UARY	17th Gr 5 Camp Deposit letter due	18th	19th	20th	21st Junior Assembly Gr 6 Camp forms Due
	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th Senior Assembly Marine ambassadors Training Day
MARCH	3rd March Brainstorm Incursion	4th GRIP Leadership Day Free Pancake Day Gr 6 Camp Meeting 5pm	5th	6th	7th Junior Assembly
유 유	10th Labour Day Public Holiday - No School	11th	12th	13th	Senior Assembly

Wellbeing Page

Welcome to the New School Year: A Focus on Wellbeing

Dear Students, Families, and Staff,

As we embark on another exciting school year, I would like to highlight some key aspects of school life that contribute to a successful and healthy year. This month, we're focusing on the importance of daily school attendance, arriving on time, maintaining healthy habits, and knowing where to find support when needed.

The Importance of Daily School Attendance

Attending school every day is crucial to your success. Regular attendance helps students keep up with their learning, build strong relationships with teachers and peers, and stay engaged with their learning. Missing school—even for just one day—can result in falling behind. Consistency is key, and we encourage every student to be present every day to make the most of their education.

Arriving On Time Matters

Being on time is a simple yet important way to start your school day with a positive mindset. Arriving on time helps you settle in, get organised, and be ready to participate fully in class. It also shows respect for your teachers and classmates. If you're ever struggling with time management or facing challenges getting to school on time, don't hesitate to reach out to our team for support.

Healthy Lunches for a Healthy Mind and Body

A nutritious lunch fuels your body and brain, helping you stay focused and energized throughout the day. Aim for balanced meals that include fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and protein. Avoid too much sugar or junk food that can leave you feeling sluggish or distracted. For students who find it challenging to prepare healthy meals, our school can offer advice or resources to make lunchtime more nutritious.

Prioritising Student Health and Wellbeing

Physical and mental health go hand in hand when it comes to overall wellbeing. Regular exercise, good sleep, and maintaining a balanced diet are essential for your body to function at its best. Additionally, your mental health matters just as much. Stress, anxiety, or any emotional struggles should not be ignored. Recognising when you're feeling off and taking steps to address it is important for long-term wellbeing. Please contact our team if your child is requiring any supports with this.

Where to Find Support

At Strathaird Primary School, we are committed to supporting the health and wellbeing of every student. Our Wellbeing Team is here for you if you need advice, guidance, or just someone to talk to. Whether it's about managing stress, improving your study habits, or dealing with personal challenges, we have resources in place to help. Don't hesitate to reach out to the Wellbeing Team.

We're excited for the year ahead and the opportunity to work together to ensure everyone thrives. Here's to a year full of learning, growth, and wellbeing!

Warm regards, Corey Fleming

Assistant Principal

Student Attendance

Why Showing Up Every Day Matters

Attending school every day is one of the most important factors in a student's success. While it may seem simple, consistent attendance creates the foundation for strong academic growth, social development, and lifelong habits.

1. Learning Builds on Itself

School lessons are designed to build on one another. Missing even a day can cause gaps in understanding that make it harder to catch up. By attending school regularly, students stay on track and can fully grasp new concepts.

2. Classroom Engagement

Being in school every day means participating in discussions, activities, and getting real-time feedback from teachers. These interactions are essential for deeper learning and are difficult to replicate if students are absent.

3. Building Strong Habits

Regular school attendance teaches important life skills, such as responsibility and time management. These habits help students succeed not only in school but in their future careers and personal lives.

4. Better Academic Performance

The more consistently a student attends school, the better they tend to perform academically. Regular attendance improves test scores, completion of assignments, and overall academic achievement.

Conclusion

Simply showing up every day sets students up for success. It provides them with the chance to engage, learn, and grow, both academically and personally. Make each day count—because every day in school is an opportunity to get one step closer to your goals.

Attendance Matters

Everyday Counts at Strathaird Primary School

If your child is absent:	That equates to:	Which is:	Which means over their 13 years of education, this is:
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Almost 1.5 years of learning.
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years of learning.
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years of learning.
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years of learning.

Sport

Our 2025 Sports Captains are Tahlea Murray and Mohammad Hameed. These students enjoy their sport and have shown great sportsmanship qualities in the past, during Physical Education lessons, year level sport and Interschool Sports events. Tahlea and Mohammad will be assisting with PMP, equipment set up for level sport, presenting sports news at Assemblies and being our student reps at our sporting competitions.

CONGRATULATIONS Tahlea and Mohammad.





Important Sports Dates this Term

- **February 26th** District Swimming Selected students only.
- **February 21st** Strathaird Cross Country- Grades 3,4,5 & 6
- March 18th Strathaird House Sport grades 4,5 and 6.
- More information will be given to students involved closer to the competition date.

Please make sure children wear appropriate footwear on the days they have PE or Sport. Children need to wear school hats for PE and Sports sessions. We also encourage children to bring drink bottles to PE classes so they can keep hydrated throughout the lesson.





TERM 1 AUSKICK CENTRE

5 weeks for \$55!

The excitment begins Tuessday, Feb 25th From 3:15pm at Strathaird Reserve



play.afl/auskick



Reading at Home with Young Readers



Most classrooms have commenced take-home reading by now and it is a school expectation that all students read and record this every night at home. Nightly home reading increases and practises their skills that are taught in class. These books are usually easier than what your child will be reading in class with their teacher and there are important reasons for this.

Class teachers match students to appropriate levelled texts for classroom instruction. These texts are selected carefully in order to provide ample challenge for students but also where support can be offered for new skills and strategies to be gained. Reading at home has a different, but also important purpose. Please read below to find out why your child is bringing 'easy' books home.

Why Easy Reading?

- Readers are able to hear themselves read in a phrased and fluent manner, "reading like we're talking", when there are only a few or no challenging words or grammatical constructions. Reading fluently is a requirement for comprehension. Comprehension (getting the meaning) is what reading is all about, the reason we read.
- Reading is a complex and dynamic problem-solving process using a variety of strategies. Development of any skill requires repeated practice. The skills and strategies the reader has in place will act as the foundation on which new learning can be built.
- Easy books and books previously read, allow the reader to improve the speed and quality of the processing. Each time the reader has to stop to decode a word, the flow of language is lost and the meaning of the story is often suspended.
- Readers are able to reinforce knowledge of high frequency words which are repeated in many different books. Studies show that children need to be presented with a word several times, in a number of contexts, in order to have real control of that word.
- A familiar book is not a memorised book. It is a book that still challenges a reader to do some reading work, engaging with print and picking up new information. The practice of re-reading familiar books encourages confidence and fluency, and provides practice in bringing reading behaviours together.
- Children who enjoy reading want to read more! Children who read everyday gain significant benefit over children who do not. Exposure to new words, concepts and topics improves performance in many areas of learning. Your support with this is crucial, particularly in the early years of schooling.
- With any book, at any level, you can focus on comprehension.

Occasionally, stop, and have your child predict what will happen next.

Once or twice, as you read the book, stop and check for understanding, ask "who" and "what."

Having your child retell the story in their own words is a difficult, but necessary skill. The more practice they get, the easier it becomes.

Talk, talk, and talk about the books. Participate in this reading journey with your child; the pay-offs will last a lifetime!

Remember our primary goal is for your child to enjoy reading!

If you have any questions about the books your child is bringing home, please make a time to speak to your child's teacher.

David Inturrisi (Leading Teacher - Curriculum)



Grade 6 Zooper Dooper Sales

MONDAY AND TUESDAY

\$1.00 Each

OUTSIDE ADMIN AT RECESS

Money raised goes towards Graduation 2025





SUSTAINABILITY NEWS















At the end of 2024 we were awarded our re-certification of our Energy module for resource smart schools. This year we will be working on

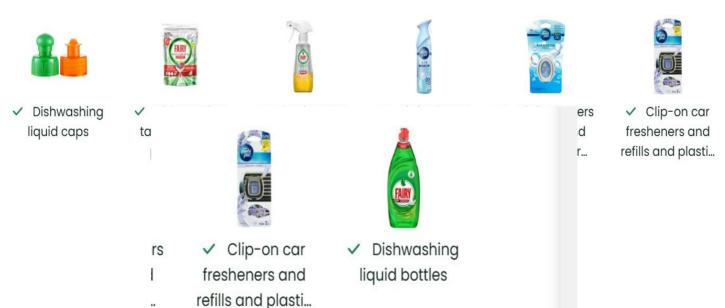


We will be looking at the waste created in the school and ways to reduce the waste and save money in this area at school and at home.

Recycle @ Strathaird PS. Terracycle Dish and Aircare recycling program.

- 1. Collect,
- 2. Deliver to the Eco Cubby and,
- 3. We will send them to Terracycle for recycling.

∞ Recycle with TerraCycle





Seeking Volunteers

We are seeking volunteers
from parents and carers
within our school community
to support our Kitchen
Garden Program on Mondays
and Thursdays. Your child
does not need to be
participating in the program
this term for you to volunteer.
We welcome volunteers with
knowledge and experience in
cooking or gardening as well
as those wanting to have an
active role within their child's
school community.

Applicants must have a current working with children check or be happy to apply for one which the school office can guide you through.

This process is free

to register your interest in volunteering

<u>please follow</u>
<u>this link</u>



Pancake Day





Strathaird Primary School

20 Sherwood Road, Narre Warren South 3805 Tel: (03) 9705 3800 Fax: (03) 9705 3811 A.B.N. 91 324 342 129

Email: Strathaird.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Free Pancake Day

Tuesday 4th March (Shrove Tuesday)

Dear Parents,

We will be holding a special pancake day on Tuesday 4th March 2025.

This is a special treat we have organised as a school with help from some of our family volunteers.

This is a free event.

Each class will be allocated a time during the day to receive their pancake. Students will have a choice of a plain pancake, Lemon & Sugar, Jam or Maple Syrup as toppings.

Students will still need to bring lunch and a recess snack as usual.

Pancake Mix

Ingredients: Wheat Flour (Gluten), Sugar, Wheat Starch, Non Fat Milk Solids, Raising Agents (450, Sodium Bicarbonate), Thickener (1422), Anitcaking Agent (341), Whole Egg Powder, Salt, Flavour

CONTAINS WHEAT (GLUTEN), MILK & EGG. MAY BE PRESENT: TREE NUTS & SOY

Please contact the school via email strathaird.ps@education.vic.gov.au

if you do not want your child to have a Pancake

Any Parent who would like to help on the day, please let us know via email strathaird.ps@education.vic.gov.au

We are needing help up until 2pm on the day. Any help would be appreciated.



Advertising



MITE-E SOCCER (2-3YO)

A great introduction to Soccer! Children work with their parents to learn new soccer skills and develop their motor skills! Lots of fun games in a non-competitive environment!

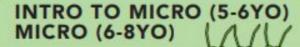
40 MINUTE CLASSES \$175 FOR 8 WEEKS



PINT SIZE SOCCER (4-5YO)

Children take their first kicks in soccer! They'll be introduced to shooting, dribbling, goal keeping and more. Children get to play lots of fun, skill based games. Grasshoppers get introduced to Pint Size 1v1 Big Game!

40 MINUTE CLASSES \$175 FOR 8 WEEKS



The ultimate challenge for young soccer players! They'll learn the rules of the Grasshopper Soccer Big Game and develop their skills in passing, dribbling, shooting and more!

INTRO - 60 MINS \$185 FOR 8 WEEKS MICRO - 60 MINS \$185 FOR 8 WEEKS

MICRO PLUS (8-12YO)

This program focuses on skill development and teamwork in preparation for club soccer. Children will enjoy all the favourite soccer based

games, fine tune their skills as well as play the Grasshopper Soccer Big Game!

60 MINUTE CLASSES \$185 FOR 8 WEEKS



M: 0413 781 900 | GRASSHOPPERSOCCER.COM.AU/BERWICK E:berwick@grasshoppersoccer.com.au





Sentral for Parents App

The **Sentral for Parents** app allows families to:

- view academic reports
- explain past and upcoming student absences
- view calendar events
- book parent/teacher interviews
- receive sick bay notifications
- view school newsletters

as well as receive real-time notifications and messages from the school



Instructions for accessing the Sentral for Parent App

- 1. **Download** the 'Sentral for Parents' app. Depending on your device, visit either the Apple App Store, or the Google Play Store.
- 2. Search for Strathaird Primary School. Tap Next.
- 3. **Sign in** using your Sentral username (your registered email address) and password (that you created when Registering). Tap Log In.
- 4. You are now ready to start using the app.

If you have never registered on Sentral:

- 1.Click register here to register a new account. It will ask you to create a user name and password. Enter your email address as your username and create your own password. You will receive a verification email which MUST be verified in order to continue.
- 2. Once verified, log back into the app and use the access key provided by the school to link to your child's details. *The access key will be created for you once your child is attending.*

For a quick overview on how to access the Parent Portal, please watch this short video.

https://vimeo.com/sentraleducation/review/431752138/968dcb15a8

If you have questions about using the app, or need some extra help then please browse the list of FAQs at

<u>https://info.sentral.com.au/new-app-getting-started</u> or contact us for assistance.



Important Parent Resources



Attendance

Please ensure your children are at school on time. Students should be at their class by 8.50am ready to begin class by 9am.

If your child is absent, please notify the school through the Parent Portal on Sentral or call the admin on 9705 3800.





1

Set up your device to protect your information.

2

Explore safely & tell an adult if you see anything online that makes you feel yuck.

3

Limit who can contact you when you're playing games.

4

Stop all contact with anyone online who asks you to do anything you don't want to do. Report and block them.

5

Ask for help if anything online is bothering you.



esafety.gov.au/kids

How to report cyberbullying material



If the content is not removed within 48 hours apply steps 3 and 4 $\,$



If you are in immediate danger, call 000 (triple zero)
If you need to talk to someone, visit kidshelpline.com.au or call them on
1800 55 1800. 24 hours a day 7 days a week





Make good choices









Why do you like it?

Use devices near a grown-up

Time's up







Make good choices

Help children to think about the content they watch and how to manage their time on screens.

Message 1: Why do you like it?

Choosing to say kind things when connecting online is a life-long skill that can help prevent cyberbullying later on. The screen image can be a stimulus to discuss the types of things you should do when video calling,

Message 2: Use devices near a grown-up

Children need to be aware that digital technologies should be used with a grown-up nearby and in a shared space. Children should get used to the idea, from an early age, that devices should not be used in bedrooms.

Message 3: Time's up.

It is important to discuss with children how they will know when it's time to turn devices off and how they will transition to another activity.

Key questions when discussing this poster could include:

- · What do you like to play on devices? What makes you like it?
- Where are these people using devices? Where are you allowed to use them?
- · Have you ever been told you have been playing on a device for too long? How do you feel when that happens? What do you usually do?

Be kind









Say kind things

Take turns

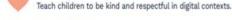
Ask before you take a photo

eSafety

Barly Years







Message 1: Say kind things Choosing to say kind things when connecting online is a life-long skill that can help prevent cyberbullying later on. The screen image can be a stimulus to discuss the types of things you should do when video calling,

like saving hello with a smile.

Taking turns is a good way of managing time on screens and building self-regulation skills. The child in the background of this picture is sad because they have been left out of the game.

Message 3: Ask before you take a photo.

The little boy in is taking a photo of himself with his family. The screen image depicts another time when he is asking his family if they would like to be in the photo.

Key questions when discussing this poster could include:

- Have you ever called your family or friends on a computer or tablet like the people in the first photo? What do you think they are saying? How do you know?
- · Why do you think the boy in the middle photo looks sad? What could they do to stop him feeling sad?
- . Do you always ask someone if it is OK to take their photo before you take it? Why?

Be safe











Play with the games and

Only talk with people you know

Some things should be kept private









Help children understand personal information and how it can be protected.

Message 1: Play with the games and apps that are yours.

Devices should be set up so children know which content is for them and that other games, programs or apps may not be suitable for them. The screen image shows the folder where the little girl can find the games and apps just for her use.

Message 2: Only talk with people you know.

This picture reminds children that they should only video call when a grown-up is helping them, and only speak to people they know.

Message 3 - Some things should be kept private.

In this picture the boys are creating an avatar with their Grandad. Avatars can be a practical way of showing children how they can keep their real name and identity private by creating a character to represent themselves in games

Key questions when discussing this poster could include:

- . Do you play on your Mum or Dad's phone, tablet or computer? Do you have a special place for your games and apps? How do you know what is yours?
- . Do you talk on the computer to your friends and family? Who helps you?
- . Why do you think the boy in the last picture looks confused? If you were going to create an avatar for yourself what would it look like? Why?

Ask for help









Tell a grown-up

Check before you tap

You won't get in trouble









Teach children to ask a trusted grown-up for help with any issue using digital technologies.

Message 1: Tell a grown-up.
It is really important for children to know that if something makes them feel worried, scared or sad when they are using a device they should tell a grown-up.

Message 2: Check before you tap.

Before children use a device, they should ask a grown-up. The picture shows the little boy asking if he can play a new video he has not seen before.

Message 3: You won't get in trouble

ldren are playing with digital technology often things happen that they didn't expect. It can be the same for grown-ups tool Children need to know that if something unexpected happens, they should tell a grown-up. They should be assured that the grown-up will know it was important for the child to share the problem even if it happened because they made a mistake.

Key questions when discussing this poster could include:

- Have you ever seen something that made you feel worried, scared or sad when you were playing on a tablet? Who would you tell? What do you think they would say?
- · Who do you ask before you play, watch or tap on something new on a device?

Our Vision Statement and Mission

VISION STATEMENT AND MISSION

To empower students to strive for personal achievement, embrace challenges and develop the skills and values that enable them to become lifelong learners and engaged responsible citizens in an ever changing global society.





Strathaird



Primary School



Respect

We value people's worth and qualities and treat them in a polite and friendly manner.



Compassion

We care about others, we treat them with kindness and we help people when they are in need.