



# COMMUNITY CONNECT

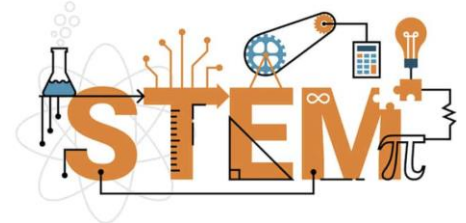
NEWSLETTER FOR EAST GIPPSLAND CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

## WELCOME!

This is a weekly newsletter that is being provided for East Gippsland Children, Young People & Families to provide information and ideas for support during social distancing.

## STEM

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics which help individuals in developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills. These interact with all parts of our lives making it important that children at a young age are exposed to these concepts helping them understand and relate to the world. This newsletter is filled with resources and activities to entertain children while also teaching them valuable skills, that will be beneficial throughout the lifetime.



## SCHOOL HOLIDAY CHALLENGE

There were some great entries with the school holiday challenge! Everyone who sent in photos of their challenge went in to the draw to win an \$80 Toy World voucher! The winner of the voucher will be announced in the next edition and everyone else who sent in an entry will also receive a prize pack.

		<p><b>CHALLENGE #14</b> CREATE SOME CHALK ART</p>		<p><b>CHALLENGE #10 COLOUR HUNT – FIND SOMETHING IN YOUR HOUSE FOR EVERY COLOUR OF THE RAINBOW</b></p>	
<p><b>CHALLENGE #7</b> DRAW A SELF PORTRAIT OF YOURSELF</p>	<p><b>CHALLENGE #12 MAKE A PET ROCK</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Red: Tomato, poinsettia plant/flower</li> <li>Orange: orange fruit, persimmons</li> <li>Yellow: banana, wedding ring.</li> <li>Green: blanket, choko veg, cucumber, Doona cover</li> <li>Blue: clothes, blue cup, drink bottle darker blue.</li> <li>Violet/mauve: labels on tins, pink pencil container</li> <li>Indigo: wrappers on chocolate</li> <li>Elsa blanket with pinks, purples</li> <li>Red- tomato, torch, mousse, pointessia flower/plant.</li> <li>Orange- orange fruit</li> <li>Lemon/Yellow- lemons, banana</li> <li>Pink- shoes</li> <li>Mauve- watch, donna blanket with pinks, mauves, blues.</li> <li>Doona cover with light green, peach colors.</li> <li>Blue- cups, glasses</li> <li>Purple- toothbrush</li> </ul>		
			<p>This is Sandy, he likes long walks on the beach, his favourite music is rock 🎸 and his best friends are Pebbles and Rocky. I didn't want to paint on him because of his natural beauty.</p>		

Some of the challenges completed by children and young people across East Gippsland during the school holidays

## THREE YEAR OLD KINDER

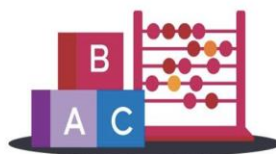
### Funded Three-year-old Kindergarten is coming to East Gippsland in 2021!

Every child deserves the opportunity to have the best start. That's why funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten will be available in the East Gippsland local government area from next year. This means an extra year of learning, playing and making friends for our children.

Currently, the Victorian Government funds 15 hours per week of kindergarten in the year before school, and this is known as 'Four-Year-Old Kindergarten'. From next year, an additional 15 hours will be made available at most kindergartens. Qualified teachers support children by offering them a range of learning experiences and activities that are both stimulating and fun. Your child's learning and curiosity will be encouraged through experiences and activities, such as exploring the natural world, being exposed to new ideas and solving problems.

Just like with Four-Year-Old Kindergarten, Three-Year-Old Kindergarten programs will be tailored to meet the needs of children. Qualified teachers support children's learning and development through play-based learning. Play-based learning is how young children learn best. It helps them to build important skills such as language, maths and science concepts, how to manage their emotions and get along with others. Children also develop their imagination, curiosity and a love of learning when learning through play.

Children in Year 3 who attended kindergarten were **15 to 20 weeks ahead** of those who did not!



At age 16, students who had attended **two to three years** of kindergarten had **higher scores** in English and maths?

For every **\$1** invested in early childhood education, Australia receives **\$2** back over a child's life – through higher productivity and earning capacity, and reduced government spending on health, welfare and crime<sup>3</sup>



## UNDERSTANDING THE EXPERIENCES OF YOUNG PEOPLE DURING COVID-19 VICTORIAN COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Victorian Commission for Children and Young People is wanting to hear from children and young people (aged under 13 years) about their experiences during COVID. The online survey can be accessed here:

<https://www.surveymoz.com/s3/5597313/Understanding-the-experiences-of-young-people-during-COVID-19>.



### DRAW A PICTURE / WRITE A STORY COMPETITION

The CBCA Book Week theme is Curious Creatures, Wild Minds.

Details about the competition:

Draw a picture or write a story about a curious creature that you have seen, would like to see, or have imagined.

Prizes: First \$50 book voucher Second \$30 book voucher Third \$20 book voucher

Categories - Prep and Grade One - draw a picture, Grade Two and Three - write a story, Grade Four to Six - write a story

The closing date is Friday 9 October 2020.

For more information and the application form visit -

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ucpydgfsiiw253u/CBCA%20Book%20Week%202020%20Entry%20Form%20%28003%29.pdf?dl=0>

## RESOURCES & SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

### FREE 6 MONTH MEMBERSHIP FOR PLAYGROUP VICTORIA

Playgroup Victoria is offering a free six-month family membership to help support families during COVID-19. This membership exclusive is valid until September the 30th 2020 and will benefit anyone who is new to playgroup, or members who expire before September 30th. New members can sign up here using the coupon code FREE6MONTHS <https://www.playgroup.org.au/become-a-member/>



### SMILING MINDS FAMILIES PROGRAM

A tool kit created by Smiling Mind's Families Programs, and their partner Medibank, has been designed to support and enrich the lives of Australian families by introducing simple, practical and fun ways for families to be more mindful, present and engaged with each other. This resource contains additional information, tips, and worksheets to do with your child to help you easily integrate mindfulness into your day. Click the link to access your own toolkit today [Download the Toolkit](#)

## RESOURCES & SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN

### GIPPSLAND YOUTUBE

In Gippsland, YouTube videos are being created for ResourceSmart School video content that students can watch during school or their own time. It is suitable for all ages, covering a wide range of topics. There is also a call out for any students who would like to get involved with the channel. The address for the channel is <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWg6UkTbdFJBpYcnZ0GZF0Q/>

# WEEKLY CHALLENGE

## CHALLENGE NINE: CONDUCT YOUR OWN SCIENCE EXPERIMENT

This challenge aims to increase children's STEM skillset by conducting their own science experiment. The type of experiment is up to you! Have fun being scientists and don't forget to send us a photo to be in the running for awesome prizes. Here is a website to provide inspiration of the type of experiments you can do.

<https://www.playdoughtoplato.com/stem-activities-for-kids/>

Send your photos via email or text to;

[rachel.bell@savethechildren.org.au](mailto:rachel.bell@savethechildren.org.au) or 0409 203 566.



## ONLINE RESOURCES &amp; ACTIVITIES

## PRESCHOOLERS (0-4 years)

## CHILDREN (5 – 12 Years)

## YOUNG PEOPLE (13 – 18 Years)

## SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS

Mint Fireworks

<https://www.playdoughtoplato.com/mint-fireworks/>

Rainbow Jar

<https://www.playdoughtoplato.com/rainbow-jar/>

Growing a Crystal Tree

<https://www.playdoughtoplato.com/growing-crystal-tree/>

## PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

Build minds and bodies in phys-ed class with these STEM activities <https://www.bricks4kidz.com/blog/build-minds-and-bodies-in-phys-ed-class-with-these-stem-activities/>

## STEM ONLINE ACTIVITIES

Bedtime Math

<http://bedtimemath.org/>

Climate Kids NASA

<https://climatekids.nasa.gov/>Learn to Code <https://www.codecademy.com/>

## COLOURING SHEETS

Fast Rocket Colouring Page

<http://coloring-4kids.com/fast-rocket-coloring-pages-for-kids-printable-free/>

Tiger Colouring Page

<https://www.crayola.com/free-coloring-pages/print/tiger-coloring-page/>

Inspired Colouring Page

<https://www.crayola.com/free-coloring-pages/print/inspired-coloring-page/>

## LEARNING @ HOME STEM ACTIVITIES

Balancing Robot

[https://buggyandbuddy.com/science-kids-balancing-robot-free-printable/#\\_a5y\\_p=1929032](https://buggyandbuddy.com/science-kids-balancing-robot-free-printable/#_a5y_p=1929032)

Apparent Motion in Flipbooks

<https://www.sciencebuddies.org/stem-activities/flip-book>

STEM Straw Bridges

<https://www.playdoughtoplato.com/stem-project-straw-bridges/>