



COWES PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Newsletter No. 1 – February 9, 2024

WELCOME BACK

Welcome to 2024 at Cowes Primary School. I would like to extend a welcome to our families with whom we have had a long-term association and to those who have joined our school community for the first time. I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable break.

A special welcome is extended to the prep children who joined our school community for the first time and to the children who have transferred into our school.

Our teachers have worked hard to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere in the classroom, and it shows in the smiles and excitement of our students.

It has been a joy to see students back in the classroom this week. They have settled in smoothly and shown an eagerness to learn the routines of their new room.

Students have also enjoyed using the pool from the first day back.

This year we are operating 23 classrooms and have 522 students enrolled.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could please take some time to read through our first newsletter as it contains lots of important information.

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS 1874 - 2024



Cowes Primary is looking forward to celebrating the major milestone of turning 150 years old on February 12th 2024. The school was officially declared open when John Brook, head teacher of Cowes Primary School, informed the Education Department he had officially opened school with 43 students in attendance.

The school has been busy planning events for this celebration including the return of the ever popular school fete on Saturday 9th March (Labour Day long weekend).

Due to an administration building fire in 2004 the school has lost all of its historical photos and memorabilia. The school would appreciate the loan of any photos or memorabilia from past students, parents, employees or general community members, to assist our celebration.



COWES PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

FETE – SATURDAY 9th MARCH

This year we have the return of our ever popular school fete on Saturday 9th March 10am – 2pm.

As the school fete is fast approaching we need your support to maximise the days success. Each year level will be responsible for a stall and notices will go home shortly seeking your assistance.

We understand that families are busy and may not be able to attend on the fete day but there are many jobs that can be completed in the days leading up to the fete.

If you are available to help in any way it would be greatly appreciated, simply let the office or your classroom teacher know.



NEWSLETTER

Our first newsletter of 2024 has been sent out as a hardcopy to ensure all families are aware of important information contained in this edition. Moving forward, the next newsletter will only be sent out via Compass. Please contact the school office if you do not have log-in details.



COWES PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

NEW STAFF

We are very pleased to welcome new teachers Jess Gysberts, Ash Salter, Caitlin Matthys, Isabella Hands, Laretta Mallia, Angelica Burke, Hayley Wallace and John Fox. We also have Andrew Burgan returning this year and three new aides Alex Clough, Melissa Hill and Ash Granger.

Bree Rutherford has been appointed as a second Assistant Principal, however she is currently working at the Early Learning Centre.



Back: Andrew Burgan, Melissa Hill, Rod McKenzie (Principal), Hayley Wallace, Bree Rutherford (Assistant Principal), Alex Clough & John Fox

Front: Sarah Tyrrell (Assistant Principal), Ash Salter, Caitlin Matthys, Laretta Mallia, Jess Gysberts, Angelica Burke, Ash Granger & Isabella Hands

PARENT PAYMENTS 2024

Thank you to those families who processed their parent payments at the conclusion of 2023. If you have not completed this, please access it through Compass via the Course Contributions section. If you have any queries please contact the office so we can assist.

CSEF (Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund)

CSEF applications are now open to Parents / Carers who hold a current eligible financially-means tested card, with Centrelink. Application forms can be obtained from the office.



COWES PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

SWIMMING

Miss C and her team are looking forward to a fun Term 1 in the pool. The swimming programme is a great opportunity for students to learn to swim, strengthen existing abilities and develop lifelong skills in water safety, all of which will reduce their risk of drowning and injury around water.

Cowes Primary School is one of the few primary schools in Victoria with a pool on campus. The pool is solar heated, and the water and temperature are monitored daily. The teachers will not hold classes if the weather is too cold, but it is often sunnier than forecasts predict, and swimming goes ahead.

We are sending a reminder to always bring your swimming bag on your PE day. Or even better, just bring it to school and leave it in the classroom. Our goal at the pool is for all Cowes Primary School students and the Phillip Island community to be able to enjoy our beautiful beaches and marine activities with confidence.

YEAR 6 UNIFORMS

Our Year 6s were excited to receive their uniform on Tuesday. The students were extremely keen to get their polos and jackets on.





COWES PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

HOUSE SYSTEM

At Cowes Primary we use a house system for a variety of events, from the school swimming carnival to senior school Theatre Sports. Children from the same family are usually allocated to the same house.

We have five houses named after prominent historical identities of the island. Below are the associated colours for each house.

Anderson	Red
Bass	Dark Blue
Churchill	Green
McHaffie	Yellow
Phillip	Light Blue

STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

As we start another big year, it is an opportune time for me to emphasise that my door, and that of your child's classroom teacher, or Sarah Tyrrell is always open. Should you wish to discuss a concern, ask a question or share some important information that will help us to support your child, then simply contact the front office to schedule an appointment.

Using an appropriate avenue (**not social media**) to raise concerns directly with school staff will ensure they are worked through in a timely and constructive manner.

COMPASS SCHOOL MANAGER

At Cowes Primary School we use Compass to communicate and relay important information to families.

Compass is a web-based system that is accessible from any modern web browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome or Safari) or by using the Compass iOS app or Android app.

Each family receives a separate log-in to Compass which will be provided to you upon commencement at Cowes Primary School. If you have misplaced or forgotten your log-in details then please pop into the office.

Your Compass Parent Portal will enable you to:

- Receive up to date class and school information including the newsletter, term planner & activities notices.
- Approve or enter upcoming or past absences
- Access your child's report
- Access your child's learning snap shots
- Update any personal details including address, email and mobile numbers
- Make Canteen orders (Tuesday – Fridays) NB: All orders to completed by 2:30pm the day before
- Purchase Uniform via the Canteen module



COWES PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

PARENT/ STUDENT / TEACHER CONFERENCES

This year we will be running PARENT/ STUDENT / TEACHER CONFERENCES early in Term 1 so we can develop the home school relationship to support student learning and wellbeing. The conference will be held for students in Year 1 to Year 6 on February 26, February 27 and February 28. You will be able to book a suitable time through Compass (information will be sent home shortly). At the meeting, parents will be able to share information about their child and the class teacher will use the opportunity to share information about their initial observations. Prep parents will meet with their child's teacher on the Wednesday they selected.

ASSEMBLY

We have our first assembly scheduled for Monday February 12, at 3:00pm. The 3:00pm timeslot ensures students do not miss key learning time in the morning.

Parents are invited to attend assemblies.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

If you wish to assist in the classroom, on excursions or at the pool then you must obtain a Working with Children Check. It is mandatory for all volunteers to have a Working with Children Check. Applications can be completed following the process detailed on the website below:

<http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/applications/>

Once you have received your Working with Children Check then please present it to the school office so it can be added to our register.

STUDENT TOILETS

A reminder that **student toilets are to be used by students only**. Any adults that need to use the bathrooms are to use the staff toilets in the administration building. Please also remind any family members or carers who may be collecting children from school.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Blue Wolf photography will be taking the students photo's, starting Monday February 12th to Wednesday 14th February 22. We will be using a new online ordering system, further information will be sent out closer to the dates.



COWES PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

PARKING, TRAFFIC MOVEMENT and SAFETY

As always, I ask for common sense, courtesy and care to be used when driving and parking around the school grounds.

We have already had a pedestrian struck on Settlement Road this week. I cannot emphasise enough how important it is that all families and students crossing Settlement Road utilise the crossing. Although you may be accompanying your child, other students who are not accompanied by an adult may place themselves in danger by copying your actions.

If parking in side streets, like Walton Avenue, then please be mindful of road rules relating to the dividing line. You can't park opposite the dividing line unless there is at least three metres between your vehicle and the line or there is a sign saying that parking is allowed.

A reminder to all school parents that the parking around the PIELC roundabout is for those accessing the centre. We understand parking is at a premium around 3:30pm, however, it is important that these spaces remain free for PIELC families, especially those trying to juggle young children and prams.

We encourage parents to please follow the messages below.



Please park legally to provide a safer environment for all.

Double parking restricts the view of drivers, forces students onto the road and obstructs the flow of traffic.

Parking within 20 metres before a school crossing or 10 metres after restricts the view of students and drivers approaching the crossing. This practice is also illegal (unless parking signs state otherwise).

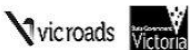


Most children haven't developed the skills to be safe in traffic.

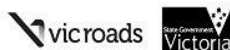
They may:

- not notice objects directly in front of them
- have trouble judging the speed of cars
- not behave safely.

If you drive or park near the school take extra care and keep on the lookout for children.



If you need to drive to school, get your child into the habit of using the kerbside doors, away from traffic.





COWES PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

The diagram below aims to assist in developing parents understanding in relation to the availability of parking and our collection zone on Settlement Road.

The areas marked in 'pink' are designated for parent parking, the 'yellow' is our drop-off and collection zone and the area marked in 'red' is designated for staff parking.



DOGS AT SCHOOL

Dogs are an important part of life for many Cowes Primary School families, and as such are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school. The school appreciates this inclusion and values pet ownership as an educational experience. The school also acknowledges other people can find contact with dogs stressful, even frightening. All parents and other carers intending to bring their dogs to school must adhere to the following:

- All dogs must be on a lead that keeps the dog reasonably close to the adult at all times.
- Dogs' leads need to be held by adults only.
- Dogs should not be tied up and left near door entries.

Thank you for your cooperation.





COWES PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

CHILD SAFETY – STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Cowes Primary School is a child safe organisation which welcomes all children, young people and their families.

We are committed to providing environments where our students are safe and feel safe, where their participation is valued, their views respected, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Our child safe policies, strategies and practices are inclusive of the needs of all children and students.

We have no tolerance for child abuse and take proactive steps to identify and manage any risks of harm to students in our school environments.

We promote positive relationships between students and adults and between students and their peers. These relationships are based on trust and respect.

We take proactive steps to identify and manage any risk of harm to students in our school environment. When child safety concerns are raised or identified, we treat these seriously and respond promptly and thoroughly.

Particular attention is given to the child safety needs of Aboriginal students, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, international students, students with disabilities, those unable to live at home, children and young people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) and other students experiencing risk or vulnerability. Inappropriate or harmful behaviour targeting students based on these or other characteristics, such as racism or homophobia, are not tolerated at our school, and any instances identified will be addressed with appropriate consequences.

Child safety is a shared responsibility. Every person involved in our school has an important role in promoting child safety and wellbeing and promptly raising any issues or concerns about a child's safety.

We are committed to regularly reviewing our child safe practices, and seeking input from our students, families, staff, and volunteers to inform our ongoing strategies.

PERSONAL ITEMS BROUGHT TO SCHOOL

Private property brought to school by students, staff or visitors is NOT insured and the Department does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage. This can include mobile phones, calculators, sporting equipment and it also applies to cars parked on school property. As the Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and has no capacity to compensate for any loss or damage to such property students, staff and visitors are discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.





COWES PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

NO HAT, NO PLAY

We are a SunSmart school and children not wearing an approved hat will be required to remain in a designated shaded area at recess, lunchtime and during outdoor class activities until the end of Term 1. Please ensure the hat has your child's name written on it.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE

All Principals have been advised to inform parents that the Education Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including transport costs. Reasonably low-cost accident policies are available from commercial insurers.

MEDICATION

If your child is required to take medications while at school, you **MUST** complete a Medication Authority Form (available at the office). The medication will be kept in secure storage and administered in accordance with the instructions provided by the doctor or pharmacist. Staff are not permitted to administer medications without the authority from a parent/guardian. Please speak with Annie in the First Aid Room if you have any issues regarding medications at school. All medication must be brought to school in its original packaging that details your child's name and directions.

ALLERGIES



Food allergy is now common in school aged children. Children can be allergic to any food, and it is not possible to completely remove all foods from our school. To help manage food allergies in our school we ask all parents to refrain from sending nut products such as peanut butter, Nutella or nut muesli bars to school. We also ask that students do not share foods with their peers unless it is part of a celebration that has been previously arranged with the class teacher. For special occasions, children like to share celebratory

treats with their classmates. It is important that you make arrangements with your child's classroom teacher before such occasions.



COWES PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

ASTHMA



**ASTHMA
AUSTRALIA**

All students who have asthma must have a current Asthma Care Plan completed by a GP along with a school-based Student Health Plan (completed at school with First Aid Officer). These plans, along with a current Ventolin and spacer are required to assist staff members to prepare and safely support students with their asthma.

SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUB

The School Breakfast Club assists in making a positive impact on students physical and mental health, social skills, concentration, behaviour, attendance and academic outcomes.

Thanks to the fantastic support of parent volunteers and the Lions Club, Breakfast Club has run successfully every day with Wednesdays being run by the R.S.L.

If you have a morning spare where you could assist with Breakfast Club, please contact the school office.

PRIVACY

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#).

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents](#).

PARENTS AT THE POOL

We are so pleased that the weather has warmed up this week and allowed us to start swimming.

We would like to remind all parents that the pool area is a designated learning space and we consequently cannot have you enter at this time. Year level leaders will liaise with their team and if we need assistance then parents who meet relevant requirements will be approached directly to support the program.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Parents are permitted to the Year 3-6 Swimming Carnival (Friday February 16) but are required to remain in the designated spectator area at all times.



COWES PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

At Cowes Primary School we deliver the Respectful Relationships program to all students from Prep to Year 6.

The Respectful Relationships program supports schools and early childhood settings to promote and model respect, positive attitudes and behaviours. It teaches our children how to build healthy relationships, resilience and confidence.

Respectful Relationships takes a whole-school approach, recognising that schools are a place of learning, a workplace and a key part of local communities. It embeds a culture of respect and equality across our entire school community, from our classrooms to staffrooms, sporting fields, fetes and social events. This approach leads to positive change in students' academic outcomes, their wellbeing, classroom behaviour and relationships between teachers and students. We know that changes in attitudes and behaviours can be achieved when positive attitudes, behaviours and gender equality are lived across the school community. Together, we can lead the way in creating genuine and lasting change so every child has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

SAFER INTERNET DAY

Tuesday 6th February 2024

Safer Internet Day is a global event that brings together communities, families, schools and organisations from more than 200 countries to help create safer online spaces.

Technology has evolved dramatically in the past two decades and the benefits have been huge. These developments have also exposed us to many risks with real-world impacts, making online safety awareness even more important.

That's why we are calling on Australians to **Connect. Reflect. Protect.**

Connect safely and with purpose – by keeping apps and devices secure and using social media in positive ways.

Reflect before we act – by taking a moment to consider how what we do and say online may affect others.

Protect ourselves and others by taking action – by telling family, friends or colleagues about eSafety and how we can help.

By doing these simple things, we can work towards making every day a Safer Internet Day.



SAVE the DATE
Safer Internet Day

2024 | Tuesday
6 February

www.saferinternetday.org





COWES PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Monday 12 th February	Assembly 2:45 in the school gym
Monday 12 th February	Cowes Primary opened 150 years ago today
Monday 12 th February	School Photos – Yrs Prep, 1 & 2
Tuesday 13 th February	School Photos – Yrs 3 & 4
Wednesday 14 th February	School Photos – Yrs 5 & 6
Friday 16 th February	Yr 3-6 Swimming Carnival Yrs 5 & 6 - 9:00am – 11:30am Yrs 3 & 4 – 11:30am – 1:30pm
Thursday 22 nd February	District Swim Carnival - Cowes
Monday 26 th February	Assembly 2:45 in the school gym
Monday 26 th February	Yr 1-6 Getting to Know You Conferences
Tuesday 27 th February	Yr 1-6 Getting to Know You Conferences
Wednesday 28 th February	Yr 1-6 Getting to Know You Conferences
Friday 1 st March	Division Swim Carnival Korumburra
Friday 1 st March	Chocs for socks day
Wednesday 6 th March	Prep students attending full time
Thursday 7 th March	Yr 5 & 6 Lifesaving excursion
Friday 8 th March	Prep Teddy Bears Picnic
Friday 8 th March	Division Lawn Bowls @ Cowes
Saturday 9 th March	SCHOOL FETE 10am – 2 pm
Monday 11 th March	LABOUR DAY WEEKEND (NO SCHOOL)



COWES PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome

to Cowes Primary (Phillip Island) OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE



Our Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) program at Cowes Primary School (Phillip Island) complements your child's school experience with engaging activities and opportunities to socialise with peers.

PROGRAM DETAILS

We tailor our OSHC program to support each child's individual interests and ideas. We perform a variety of planned and spontaneous activities that help children develop life skills and enhance their autonomy. Children are actively encouraged to engage with their peers from all year levels.

Some of our activities include:

- Active play outdoors
- Board games and puzzles
- Construction and engineering
- Cooking and baking
- Music, singing and dancing
- Dramatic and imaginative play
- Homework items and reading
- Sustainability initiatives

HOURS, FEES AND CHILD CARE SUBSIDY

SESSION TYPE	HOURS	SESSION FEE	FEE AFTER MAX CCS*
Before School Care (permanent booking)	7:00am - 9:00am	\$20.30	\$3.05
Before School Care (casual booking)		\$25.30	\$3.80
After School Care (permanent booking)	3:30pm - 6:00pm	\$25.90	\$3.89
After School Care (casual booking)		\$30.90	\$4.64

*MAX CSS is the out of pocket fee paid by families who qualify for the maximum Child Care Subsidy percentage (90%). The fees above are estimated with the 5% withheld by Services Australia to reduce the chances of an overpayment.

Please note: the Y also operates a School Holiday Program in the local area at Phillip Island Leisure Centre

These fees apply from Monday 7 August 2023

Quick step-by-step guide to enrol



STEP 1 – REGISTER

www.childrensprogramms.ymca.org.au



ADD CONTACT AND CHILD



BILLING AND DECLARATIONS



MAKE A BOOKING

CONTACT US

E: cowesoshc@ymca.org.au

P: 0477 377 767

W: childrensprogramms.ymca.org.au





COWES PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS



PHILLIP ISLAND
BAPTIST CHURCH

ISLAND
PLAYGROUP

9:30am-11am

Cnr Dunsmore and Settlement Road Cowes

Contact Corinne for more info

families@islandbaptist.org.au

COME AND JOIN US!

8/2 - Beach Day @ Dunsmore Rd Beach

15/2 COMMUNITY DAY!

22/2 Water Play and Spray Painting

29/2 Water Play and Water Painting

7/3 Water Play and Ice Painting

14/3 Water Play and Sand Art

21/3 EASTER CELEBRATION!

FRIENDSHIP & COMMUNITY

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

BYO SNACKS

GOLD COIN DONATION

REGISTER HERE

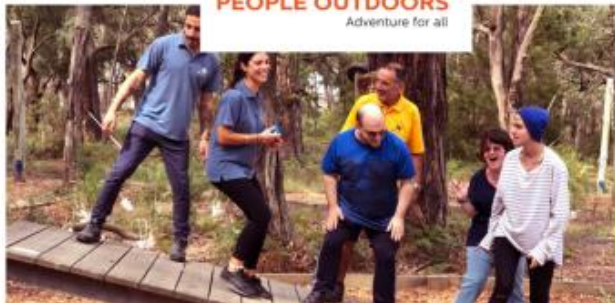




COWES PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS



AUSTRALIAN
CAMPS ASSOCIATION
PEOPLE OUTDOORS
Adventure for all



PEOPLE OUTDOORS

**CAMPS FOR
PEOPLE LIVING
WITH DISABILITY**

Adventure for All!



AUSTRALIAN
CAMPS ASSOCIATION
PEOPLE OUTDOORS
Adventure for all



- Overnight Camps
- Weekend Camps
- School Holiday Camps



All meals, activities, transport and accommodation included. Central pick up point.



We are a Registered NDIS Service Provider.



Kids, teens and adults welcome.



Campers supported by professional staff.

30 years experience!


**Call today to find out more:
Head Office - 03 9863 6824**



*Scan to complete
Referral Form to
join us on camp!*



www.peopleoutdoors.org.au

 This flyer has been printed on recycled stock.



COWES PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWS

**OUR LEARN TO SURF PROGRAM
CATERS FOR BEGINNER SURFERS
WITH OR WITH OUT SOME PRIOR
EXPERIENCE TO PROVIDE A FUN,
SAFE AND POSITIVE EXPERIENCE
IN LEARNING THE BASICS OF:
OCEAN AWARENESS, BEACH
SAFETY AND SURFING FOR
RECREATION AND HEALTH**



BASS COAST SURF ACADEMY

AFTER SCHOOL LEARN TO SURF PROGRAM – TERM 1

DETAILS : 4, 6 OR 8 WEEK AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR 8 – 17 YEAR OLDS **ENQUIRIES : AVAILABILITY WEEK DAYS / LOCATION**

**COMMENCING : TERM 1 - WEEK 3
MON - FRI, 12 - 16 FEBRUARY 24**

LOCATIONS : INVERLOCH BEACH

COST : & SMITHS BEACH

4 WEEK PROGRAM = \$200

6 WEEK PROGRAM = \$300

8 WEEK PROGRAM = \$350 (1 SESSION FREE / SAVE \$50)

TIME : 4 PM - 5:15 PM GROUP SIZE : MIN : 3 MAX : 8 STUDENTS



▲ **0485 867 721**

▲ **INFO@BASSCOASTSURFACADEMY.COM.AU**

▲ **WWW.BASSCOASTSURFACADEMY.COM.AU**





COWES PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWS



Bass Coast Thunder Netball Club

Registration training

When: Monday 19th February 2024

Time: 5pm - 6:30pm

Where: Bass Coast College,
85 Potters Hill Road, San Remo

Bring: Sportswear, runners & water bottle

Parent/Guardian briefing: 5pm



Register [here](#) before
18th February 2024
or Scan this QR code

