



POOWONG CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 15
22nd February 2024



I G R O W



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER



FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

7th Feb

Swimming Carnival

14th Feb

District Swimming

18th Feb

Poowong's Little Market

19th Feb

'Get to know you'

Parent/Teacher Interviews

20th Feb

Harvest Festival

23rd Feb

Curriculum Day—Student Free Day

27th Feb

Grade 5 Peer Mediation

28th Feb

Questacon Science Circus

29th Feb

Grade 6 Peer Mediation

1st March

Divisional Swimming

11th March

Labour Day Public Holiday

13th—25th March

Grade 3 and Grade 5 NAPLAN

14th March

Regional Swimming

15th March

PCS Outdoor Movie Night

19th March

School Photos

21st March

Harmony Day

22nd March

House Athletics Day

28th March

Last Day Term 1

29th March

Good Friday

15th April

Start Term 2

25th April

ANZAC DAY—Public Holiday

26th April

Curriculum Day—Student Free Day

Principal's Report

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to the new school year!

The start of a new school year is always exciting, and I would like to thank the families and staff for making the transition back to school a very seamless one! Thank you, for entrusting your children into our care and we look forward to a very busy, but exciting Term 1!

Attendance

Attendance has been terrific to date, very few late arrivals and all absences explained thus far. Let's keep up the great effort. As much as we follow up with student absences, the Department of Education will also be contacting families of students with high absenteeism to ensure all students are attending when they should be, which is everyday unless unwell. A reminder that all absences require a valid explanation. We have so many students with amazing attendance records, well done to you all.

Parent Morning Tea

Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us for our termly morning tea after drop-off at 9:00am on Tuesday 27 February in the Staff Room. Come along and meet some fellow parents from other classes and learn about opportunities to become involved in school life. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Annual privacy reminder for our school community

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

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [Google Workspace for Education](#) safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using Google Workspace for Education, please contact the school.

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents](#). This information is also available in ten community languages: Amharic, Arabic, Dari, Gujarati, Mandarin, Somali, Sudanese, Turkish, Urdu, Vietnamese.

NAPLAN 2024

This year NAPLAN is being held in term 1 from March 13th through to March 22nd for all year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. The teachers already have begun work on assisting students to become prepared for the assessments, not just so they can perform at their best, but also to reduce any anxiety it may cause. If you're worried about NAPLAN for your child, or if you have any questions please speak with your child's teacher or to the Principal.

Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund is provided by the Victorian Government to ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational, and fun activities. If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

Application forms are available from the school office.

Further information on eligibility and how to apply is available at:

[Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund \(CSEF\)](#)

Please note that current families who hold a current concession card and were in receipt of this payment in 2023 do not need to apply as your application will be rolled over into this school year.

School Council Nominations

If you are one of the many parents of our great school community who like to be involved with many aspects of Poowong Consolidated School - we'd love to have you join us on the School Council.

Those with a desire to work with other enthusiastic and creative parents to help shape our School's future are keenly sought after and encouraged to nominate (or be nominated) to become a member of our School Council.

Nominations are now open for three parent member vacancies and one staff vacancy on our School Council. If you are an enthusiastic parent interested in getting more involved and having a say in what our school is doing, or know someone who is, we would love to hear from you. We are looking for people who are committed to improving the educational outcomes for all our students.

Effective councils have a broad range of experience, skills and expertise. Face-to-face and online training is also available to help councillors develop the skills and knowledge for the job. Parents find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of connection to our great school.

Nominations close on Friday 29th February at 4pm. Nomination forms are now available from the school office. Please drop in or call our office on 5659 2356 to have one provided for you.

Participating as a School Council member is a rewarding and challenging experience. The School Council supports us to provide the best possible educational outcomes for our great students. More information is available by following the link below:

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/school-council-powers-and-functions/policy>

Getting to Know You Meetings

Please note that 'getting to know you' meetings are available to be booked with teachers through Compass for Monday 19th February. Please take this opportunity to meet with your child's classroom teacher and discuss any concerns or observations that you have.

Emergency Management Procedures

All schools are required to have an emergency management plan which includes a variety of processes for handling an emergency. These vary greatly depending on the type of emergency and can include evacuation offsite, evacuation onsite, lockdown and a shelter-in-place. We have a practice emergency drill each term to analyse our processes and ensure they are as efficient as they can be. Students have the process explained to them and are supported by the staff throughout the process.

Please note that in the event of the school having to enact one of the emergency management procedures, our number one priority is ensuring that all students are safe as per our duty of care. If you are concerned at any time that your child has been affected by one of these procedures, please let their classroom teacher know so that we can put some additional supports in place.

Vic Emergency Fire Danger Information

Poowong Consolidated School is registered on the Department of Education's Bushfire at Risk Register (BARR). We are a level 4 school which suggests that we are only at heightened risk when the district (West & South Gippsland) has been declared with the warning of Catastrophic Fire Danger. This is the highest level of warning and would generally follow several very high temperature days and strong northerly wind. In the case of this declaration being made, Poowong Consolidated School will not operate for the declared day. There is further information regarding this situation on a full page of this newsletter. It will also be made available as a link on Compass.

Ambulance Costs

Please note that in the unfortunate instance that the school has to call an ambulance to attend your child, the cost is met by the family. With any serious injury we endeavour to contact the parent, guardian or emergency contact. However, there are times when this is not possible and/or the nature of the injury calls for immediate assistance. The safety of your child will always be our first priority.

The cost of ambulance transport can be daunting. Cost for children on excursions would be even higher and the cost of an air ambulance should that be necessary, would be enormous. Ambulance cover can be taken out for around \$100.00 per family. More details can be obtained by phoning 1800 648 484. Some health funds cover ambulance as well. Clearly, we hope that there will not be a need to call an ambulance, however, it is important for people to be aware of the huge cost associated with this service and the fact that it will need to be paid by the family concerned.

Regards

Michael Smethurst

Principal

michael.smethurst@education.vic.gov.au



Introducing our new staff...

Hi, my name is Karen Williams, and I am very excited to be joining your school community. I am thrilled to be teaching Year 6 in 2024!

I have been working with kids for the past seventeen years, first as a Swimming Teacher and Lifeguard, before I decided to take my love of teaching into the classroom.

I have been a Classroom Teacher for the past five years, and I have taught across all year levels, last year in Year 6.

In addition to my teaching degree, I have a degree in English Literature and Film/Media studies. I love reading and I aim to inspire and share this passion with students. I am more than happy to talk all things Harry Potter.

I am looking forward to teaching our Year 6 students during the final year of their primary school learning journey and supporting them in preparation for their transition to secondary school.

Karen Williams



I'm Jaria Bernaldo, the prep/one classroom teacher this year.

I have been a composite classroom teacher for the past two years.

I have lived in South Gippsland my whole life and have had the pleasure of completing my placement rounds at Poowong Preschool.

I am looking forward to a great year at Poowong Consolidate School.



Meet our 2024 Leaders...



School Captain:
Madison Van Den
Broek



School Captain:
Charlytte Howie



**Red House
Captain:**
Cozmo
Cavanagh



**Yellow House
Captain:**
James Rees



**Green House
Captain:**
James Forscutt



**Blue House
Captain:**
Olivia
Maddocks



**Environmental
Captain:**
Sophie
Bleazby



**Student Voice
Captain:**
Ruby
Culvenor



Students of the Week



L to R: Back Row: Alfie K., Isabel B.,
Koa A. and Archie A.

L to R: Front Row: Isabella K., Lachlan
M., Lily V. and Hudson J.



PCS Movie Night

Our biggest fundraiser is fast approaching. Bring a blanket or your chairs, pack a picnic (include snacks) and settle in for a great movie under the stars. There will be a sausage sizzle, drinks and Super Doopers available to purchase on the night. **Make sure you book your tickets!!!**


POOWONG CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL PRESENTS

THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE



DATE: Friday 15th March 2024 GATES: 6:30pm MOVIE: 7:45pm
Tickets \$10 each

Bring along your own picnic rug & snacks
Also available to purchase, sausage sizzle, drinks, zipper doopers.

Raffle Tickets \$2 each or 3 for \$5



For event tickets please visit
<https://www.trybooking.com/COONT>
or scan the QR code
Bookings open February 1st @ 9am





Year 7 Scholarships

Current Year 6 students who excel are encouraged to apply for our Academic Scholarships and an extended range of Personal Excellence Scholarships.

Whether you love Sport, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, STEM, Business/Entrepreneurship, Leadership/Community Service or Environmental Awareness, consider joining Gippsland's leading school to pursue your potential.

Visit stpaulsags.vic.edu.au or contact us on 5623 5833 for more information.

Applications close Friday 8 March 2024

Time for Secondary?

Choosing a secondary school that will best suit your child is one of the most important decisions you can make.

At St Paul's, we understand that each and every student has their own educational journey. Caring teachers provide tailored extension and support within our academic program, while our breadth of co-curricular activities challenge all students to pursue their potential beyond the classroom.

Year 7 2024 Information Evening

Wednesday, 6 March 2024, Warragul Campus
Tours from 6pm, Presentation 7pm

Register now at stpaulsags.vic.edu.au





COME & TRY SOCCER AT KORUMBURRA CITY

Junior Come and Try Sessions
5-17 Years Old

19TH FEBRUARY

& 4TH MARCH

4.45PM-6.00PM

Korumburra Rec. Reserve
Richard St
Korumburra,

Follow us on
facebook for
updates





korumburrasoccer.com
korumburracitysc.secretary@outlook.com



Ragwort Information Evening

Learn about weed control including Ragwort

Mt Lyall, Loch-Nyora and Poowong Landcare Groups invite you to a Ragwort information evening.

A guest speaker from Bass Coast Landcare Network will present on weed control techniques for South Gippsland with a particular emphasis on Ragwort.

Given the extensive occurrence of Ragwort this season this event will provide key information on how to identify Ragwort and how to manage/control it on your property. We strongly encourage all landholders to attend. This event is open to both members and non-members of Landcare.

The evening will also provide an opportunity to engage with other community members and trade tips and tricks for managing ragwort!

When
Wednesday 28 February
6:45pm registration for a 7pm start

Where
[Poowong Football Club Rooms](#)
Drouin-Poowong Road, Poowong VIC 3988
VicRoads: Map 96 Ref E7.
Town Map: Page 335

What to bring

- Notepad and pen
- Questions about how to manage Ragwort and other weeds

Registration
For planning and catering purposes please register [HERE](#).

More information
[Loch-Nyora Landcare President](#)
Mal Brown 0403 997 831



South Gippsland Landcare Network Incorporation No. A0051992A
This event is funded via Agriculture Victoria's Partnership Against Pests program.

**JOIN US AT THE
POOWONG-LOCH BULLS
"FAMILY FUN DAY"**

SUNDAY MARCH 3RD

11AM - 2PM

COME AND SEE WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT!

Contact Hailey 0481 278 432 or
Lexie on 0447 516 899 for more
information



COME JOIN NYORA FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

SEEKING JUNIOR NETBALLERS WITH
ALL OR NO EXPERIENCE TO JOIN US IN
THE 2024 SEASON

FOR AGE GROUPS:

UNDER 13'S

UNDER 15'S

UNDER 17'S

A GREAT WAY TO MAKE NEW
FRIENDS, LEARN NEW THINGS
AND KEEP ACTIVE. WITH JUNIOR
FUCTIONS LIKE SLEEPOVERS AND
MOVIE NIGHTS, YOU ARE SURE
TO HAVE A BLAST



THE
Untethered
EST CHEF 2022

Contact: Matt Wilson
0458003680

theuntetheredchef

- McOra -

-Est. 2017-

NYORA JUNIOR FOOTBALL REGISTRATION DAY

SUN 25TH FEB 2024
@NYORA REC RESERVE 12PM - 2PM

JUNIOR: U8s, 10s, 12s & 14s

AUSKICK

CHEAP FEES

BBQ PROVIDED

KIDS ACTIVITIES

CONTACT: SHANNON 0422 676 164