



# POOWONG CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL



**NEWSLETTER**  
**ISSUE 2**  
28th March 2024



# I G R O W



# IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER



MARCH 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6



APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4



MAY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

## MARCH

### 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—2.30pm Finish

### 29th March

Good Friday

## APRIL

### 15th April

Start Term 2

### 19th April

State Swimming

### 19th-21st April

Poowong 150th Celebration

### 25th April

ANZAC DAY—Public Holiday

### 26th April

Curriculum Day—Student Free Day

## MAY

### 3rd May

District Athletics

### 3rd May

Working Bee

### 10th May

Cross Country

### 12th May

Mother's Day

### 10th May

Cross Country

### 23rd May

Division Cross Country

HAPPY  
Easter



## Principal's Report

Dear parents and carers,

### **SAFEMinds**

On Friday 23 February, PCS had a student free day and all staff participated in SAFEMinds professional learning.

What is SAFEMinds? SAFEMinds is a professional learning and resource package for schools and families that enhances early intervention in mental health support for children and young people in schools; specifically regarding mild mood disorders and self-harm. It also assists in developing clear and effective referral pathways between schools, community, youth and mental health services.

SAFEMinds is a professional learning package for school staff that is underpinned by the NIP it in the bud! (Notice, Inquire, Plan) early intervention approach.

NIP it in the bud! provides a whole school approach to recognising and responding to the early warning signs of depression, anxiety and emotional distress. It is founded on a range of evidence informed child and adolescent mental health resources, and aims to provide schools with information and an approach to optimise wellbeing and minimise risks for children and young people within the school setting.

### **Parent Morning Tea**

It was wonderful to see the new faces at our parents and carers morning tea this term. We were able to listen and discuss various aspects around parent and carer participation at PCS. Please note, you are still welcome to share your perspective by completing the short survey. Here is the link: <https://forms.gle/ELsUDWxxYvqtbWS68>

It can also be found on a Compass news feed.

Please remember to mark 9:00am on Tuesday 23 March in your diary and calendar, so you can make it to the next morning tea.

## **NAPLAN**

I hope this edition of the newsletter finds you well. Last week and this week our Year 3 and 5 students have been participating in The National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). NAPLAN is made up of tests in the areas of reading, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy. I would like to share how proud I am of all of our students who are participating in NAPLAN and congratulate them on their efforts. Parents and carers will be provided with individual reports later in the year that show student progress on NAPLAN.

## **Attendance**

I would like to draw everyone's attention to the importance of attendance at school. Each day of school missed or late makes a difference, with the effect on learning accumulating over time. From an early age, if children are taught that they need to 'show up' for school and make a commitment, this positive mentality aids academic and career success and brings benefits in adulthood. I would like to ask for the support of families to enable students to attend school regularly and form positive mindsets about school attendance. Please reach out to the school if you require support regarding issues with student attendance.

## **School Council**

We held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and School Council meeting this week and am pleased to introduce our 2024 School Council Members to the school community.

Natalie Cole - President - Parent member

Michael Kendall - Treasurer - Parent member

Michael Smethurst - Executive Officer - Principal

Kylie Walton - Secretary - Parent member

Brendan Dorey - Buildings & Grounds - Parent member

Tracey Mandemaker - Staff member

Thank you to Heather Pinder and Jane Adams for their dedication and commitment to PCS School Council. Parents and staff volunteer their time to work with myself in overseeing the governance of our school.

## **2025 Foundation Students**

If you know any families who are looking to enrol their child in Foundation for next year, encourage them to call the school on 03 5659 2356 - I'd be happy to take them on a tour of our great school.

## Harmony Week

Last week was Harmony Week where PCS celebrated diversity and the different backgrounds that we all come from. This year's theme was 'Everyone Belongs' and we had key activities planned for our learning. As part of the Harmony Day celebrations students completed two surveys:

Survey 1 – Which country/ies do your family come from? We collated the information by putting links on a world map.



Survey 2 – What is your favourite food?

When thinking about ways that we can support children to be more inclusive of each other, one keyway is to talk to our children about the language that we use and how that language might impact others. Speaking with your child at home about the ways that language can hurt others will help your child know that we are all on the same page when it comes to appropriate ways to communicate and that everyone is a valued member of our school community.

Regards

Michael Smethurst

Principal

[michael.smethurst@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:michael.smethurst@education.vic.gov.au)



# Students of the Week



**L to R: Back Row:** All of Grade 5 and Jocelyn H.

**L to R: Front Row:** Levi D., Darcy G. and David C.



**L to R:** Chelsea M., Isla F., Evie M., Xander H., Liv C. and Eevee-May M.



**L to R: Back Row:** Sophie B. and Lucas A.

**L to R: Front Row:** Cooper T., Paige C., Xavier C., Jack A. and Axton P.



# Grade 6 Buddies

## Buddies

Our Year 6 students enjoy teaming up with their Buddies in our Prep/1 class. Big Buddies have been supporting their Little Buddies to develop their skills in Literacy, fine motor, and imaginative play.



Students worked together to create a portrait of their Buddy and learn about their Buddy's role. Our Buddies use their eyes to watch over us, their ears to listen patiently, their mouths to guide us, and always give us a helping hand.





# Grade 6 Buddies continued...

## Buddies

Students worked together to create a flower for our Friendship Garden, thinking about how a friendship grows. Friendships grow from kindness, care, happiness, thoughtfulness, playing together, and having fun!





# Book a Tour for Foundation 2025

## Poowong Consolidated School



(03) 5659 2356

[poowong.cs@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:poowong.cs@education.vic.gov.au)

<http://poowongcs.vic.edu.au/enrolment/>

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

### CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$150 for primary school students
- \$250 for secondary school students

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### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

### HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- new student enrolments; your child has started or changed schools this year.
- changed family circumstances; such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



# THANK YOU

to all these wonderful businesses for their generous donations towards our Outdoor Cinema Night Raffle.



# KALEIDOSCOPE MAKING

POOWONG  
THURSDAY 4TH  
OF APRIL 2024  
2.30



BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL  
MYLIAU/EVENTS

## PCS BEANIES FOR SALE

GET  
READY  
FOR  
WINTER!!!



**\$20.00**



Please purchase from the Office  
Cash or Eftpos Available

USA PELLIN DANCERS  
5678

production of  
Disney  
**THE LITTLE  
MERMAID**  
JR

19th-21st April 2024

Mesley Hall, Leongatha

Music by  
**Alan Menken**  
Lyrics by  
**Howard Ashman and  
Glenn Slater**

Book by  
**Doug Wright**  
Based on the Hans Christian Andersen  
story and the Disney film  
Music Adapted and Arranged by  
**David Weinstein**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**



Licensed exclusively by  
Music Theatre International (Australasia)

THE  
**Untethered**  
EST CHEF 2022

Contact: Matt Wilson  
0458003680

theuntetheredchef

