



POOWONG CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 14
17th November 2023



I G R O W



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			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		



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					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						



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	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			

NOVEMBER

20th Nov

Bike Education

21st Nov

Bike Education

24th Nov

Grade 6 Fundraiser
(Sausage Sizzle)

27th Nov

Bike Education

28th Nov

Bike Education

DECEMBER

4th Dec

Bike Education

5th Dec

Bike Education

8th Dec

Grade 6 BIG DAY OUT

11th Dec

Swimming

12th Dec

State-wide Transition

12th Dec

Grade 6 Graduation Night

13th Dec

Swimming

14th Dec

Swimming

15th Dec

Bush Dance

15th Dec

Final Assembly

4th Dec

Bike Education

18th Dec

Curriculum Day—

No Students at School

19th Dec

Curriculum Day—

No Students at School

20th Dec

Last Day of School—

1.30 Finish

JANUARY

29th Jan

Staff return to school

30th Jan

Students return to school

Principal's Report

Dear parents and carers,

Wow, week 7 already! Term 4 and the year are flying by. We are having a great term with students and staff settled into teaching and learning. Students are currently engaged in assessment and the results and growth have been pleasing to see.

Welcome to New Staff

In 2024, PCS welcomes two new staff members: Jaria Bernaldo in Foundation and Karen Williams in Year 6. Both ladies come with previous experience in their respective year level. Jaria and Karen will both be here on the statewide transition day on Tuesday 12 December. Please introduce yourself and make them welcome to the PCS community.

Classroom Structure for 2024

Due to budgetary constraints, PCS will be going to 6 classes in 2024. They will be the following:

Year Level	Teacher
Foundation/Year 1	Jaria Bernaldo
Years 1/2	Sebastion Hill
Years 2/3	Jackie Wilmann
Year 4	Melinda Siphthorpe
Year 5	Caroline Wilson
Year 6	Karen Williams
Specialist - Art, Music and P.E.	Tracey Mandemaker
Specialist - Science	Lauren Dobie

What does this mean to be in a composite class? A composite class contains children from more than one year level. The research suggests that there is absolutely no evidence that composite classes have a negative effect on teaching and learning. Teachers are used to teaching multiple academic ability levels in a classroom as we teach to the student's ability, not their age. For example, in a year 1 class, you will have students at the academic year Prep as well as students at year 2, possible year 3 level. This is nothing new to teachers. Composite classes are very different from years past.

There is a general agreement in educational research that suggests composite classes can have social and emotional benefits for students. For example, it is far easier to find someone to play with in a class of 18, than a class of 10.

If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

2024 Foundation Students

We have had our 2024 Foundation students participate in their transition sessions this term. Last Monday, we had our 2024 Foundation teacher, Jaria Bernaldo run the session and did a fabulous job with the support of Libby. The final Statewide Transition Day on the 12 December.

One of my favourite times in the week is visiting these sessions. I love seeing the joy on their faces and their engagement in the activities. We still have a few spots available for 2024, so 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!

Car Park Safety

For the safety of ALL children you are requested to leave and pick up your child/ren from the parent car park. The school car park is for the SOLE use of the Primary School Staff. If you require additional support, please contact Michael Smethurst (Principal).

Building Works

Poowong Consolidated School is currently having a toilet block upgrade. I would like to thank you for your continued patience, as I do know that this has made car parking difficult. This is scheduled to be completed by the end of term. Fingers crossed, even earlier!

Student Leadership 2024

On Monday, I visited the Year 5 classroom to discuss student leadership. I was thrilled to see Mrs Wilson had already started the conversation around what student leadership looks like, sounds like and feels like. We also discussed that you do not need a badge to be a leader. All senior students are role models to junior students as they look up to them.

During 2023, the Year 6 student leadership and I meet approximately every fortnight to discuss and set the direction for the school. The current Year 6 student leadership are now updating the role descriptions to give to the current Year 5 class in preparation for the leadership speeches. One of the areas that was missing that is of paramount importance is attendance. As a leader you must be visible (visible leadership). Therefore, attendance at school must be high. This also aligns with the school and Department of Education expectations.

We are excited to see our students embrace these leadership opportunities and are looking forward to their continued growth and development as they take on these important roles. Good luck to all those applying, I wish all of our current Year 5 cohort all the best in their preparation for their Year 6 leadership speeches.

Regards

Michael Smethurst

Principal

michael.smethurst@education.vic.gov.au



Students of the Week



L to R: Evie L and Xavier C.

Back Row (L to R): Jordyn M. and Kye C.

Middle Row: (L to R): Isabelle K., Brax F,
James R. Evie G. and Memphis F.

Front Row (L to R): Tyler C., Laileh M., Chelsea M. and Matilda M.



Billy G's Cookie Dough Fundraiser

HANDS UP WHO IS BAKING ALREADY!!

That's our second major fundraiser for the year and what a great outcome we achieved.

\$1,356 was the total raised for the school. That's 339 tubs of dough, which means 17 Christmas Cakes and 12,880 cookies to be cooked and eaten!

Thanks to everyone who fundraised, purchased, shared links and packed orders. Your support for YOUR School doesn't go unnoticed.

Please keep an eye out for a fundraising survey that will be sent out in the near future.





Science and Sustainability Bulletin

Week 7 Term 4 2023



The next Sustainability Action Team meeting is

Wednesday 29th November

During this meeting we are going to be brainstorming and finetuning the plans for our Harvest Festival set to be held February 2024.

Did you know?

Setting up our Worm Farm and Compost system was possible through our success with the 2023 Woolworths Junior Landcare Grant. We just recently finalised the paper work for this grant and realised, to our surprise, that we have kept roughly 70kg of food waste out of our general waste bins since August! Thank you to the Ms Wilmann and the Grade 2's who diligently empty and maintain the compost bins in the classrooms. Well done PCS for making a small change to how we process our waste with such a positive outcome!

Waste Free Wednesday

Can you believe our litter is down 48% on a Wednesday so far in November!

This is an incredible effort and has been an excellent learning experience for our school community, students, parents and staff to see what works and doesn't, to troubleshoot and to give feedback on how to make things easier. At the end of the month Green Team will send out a short survey that we encourage all families to complete to see how PCS and Green Team can continue to improve practice while also supporting the students and carers who buy and pack lunchboxes.

**Garden Club—Wednesday 2nd Half Lunch
(2—2:30 pm)**

Cleaning and mending bird netting for fruit trees

All PCS community welcome

We are on the hunt for:

Big Milo Tins
(empty)



UPCOMING

November



SAT 18	WARRAGUL FARMER'S MARKET 8am - 1pm
SUN 19	POOWONG LITTLE MARKET 10am - 2pm
THUR 23	SMILEY BREWING PAKENHAM 8pm onwards
FRI 24	GIPPSLAND WINE CO. LOCH 3pm onwards
SAT 25	GIPPSLAND WINE CO. LOCH 12pm onwards
SUN 26	SMILEY BREWING PAKENHAM 12pm onwards

THE UNTETHERED CHEF EST. 2022

Contact: Matt Wilson
0458003680

[f](#) [@](#)
theuntetheredchef

POOWONG'S LITTLE Market

SUNDAY 19TH NOVEMBER

- 🕒 10:00AM - 02:00PM
- 📍 POOWONG FOOTBALL OVAL
- 💰 GOLD COIN ENTRY ON ARRIVAL



SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

A wide range of stalls and a fun filled day for the whole family

GIVING GIPPSLAND

Toy & Treats Drive



Spreading Joy to Families in Gippsland

Please donate new, unwrapped toys, books, sport equipment AND Christmas treats by Thursday 30th November

Drop-off Location:
Poowong Consolidated School

For more information contact
Krista Mountford:
0400 617 368 or
givinggippsland@gmail.com



POOWONG LIGHTS UP

Each year at Christmas, the Poowong Community lights up the town with their own personal display of Christmas lights. Whether it be our local businesses or residential homes, we love looking at the beautiful bright lights on display. Every year, judges will hand in their vote on their favourite display. This year, the Grade 6 students from Poowong Consolidated School will be our judges.

**Judging Tuesday evening
December 12**

Make sure your Christmas lights are on!



THEIRCARE NEWSLETTER

www.theircare.com.au

November 2023



INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEARNING METHOD ★

This term we have started to take part in the schools recycling and composting program and the impact we have noticed is that our rubbish bin is not as full as what it was getting, our recycling box is full of materials that the children are able to take out and re use if they wish, and our compost bin is being used to its full potential over the course of the day with food scraps from preparation and snack time going in there!

We have planted dwarf sunflower seeds with hope they'll be big enough to take home and re plant before the end of the year.



I can't believe we have made it to the end of Week 8!
So far we have had an absolutely amazing term, with children enjoying their Halloween and Spring Carnival week activities and loving our kindness week experiences and talks about how we can be kind and compassionate people.



Our outdoor activities have been planned however we are absolutely loving kickball at the moment and we prefer to play kickball, especially when its sunny and warm. Some children opt to bring their art outside while the others play kickball and create in the afternoon sun!