

## Principal Report

Dear parents and carers,

### **Honouring Remembrance Day**

On Tuesday, our students showed a wonderful commitment to commemorating Remembrance Day by reflecting on the day with activities and discussions in their classroom. Their efforts help us all to pause and honour the significance of the 11th of November, remembering the sacrifices made by so many. Thank you to our Year 6 students for their dedication to this meaningful cause and Remembrance Day address to the school.

### **Disability Inclusion Profile Meetings**

Our school has been part of the Department of Education's reform of Disability and Inclusion Practices. Since 2023, our school has transitioned from the Programs for Students with Disabilities (PSD) to Disability Inclusion (DI). This year, I have had the pleasure of sitting in six of the Disability Inclusion Profile meetings and I have been impressed and amazed at how much our teachers, education support staff and our families are supporting our little humans!

### **Car Park Safety**

This week we heard about the tragic death of Eleanor Bryant when an out-of-control truck crashed into the Macedon Ranges Montessori preschool's playground. Last week, a car crashed into a Melbourne primary school. My thoughts are with those families, friends and communities.

For the safety of ALL children, please pick up your child/ren from the parent car park. The school car park is for the SOLE use of the primary school staff and buses. If you require additional support, please contact Michael Smethurst (Principal).

### **Building Works**

Poowong Consolidated School is nearing the end of the roof upgrade. I would like to thank you for your continued patience. This is scheduled to be completed by the end of term. Fingers crossed, even earlier!

Regards

Michael Smethurst

Principal

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# IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

## NOVEMBER

### 1st November

2nd Prep Transition

### 4th November

Student Free Day

### 5th November

Melbourne Cup  
(Public Holiday)

### 7th November

Grade 1 Dinner

Grade 2 Sleepover

### 8th November

3rd Prep Transition

### 15th November

4th Prep Transition

### 17th November

Poowong Little Market

### 22nd November

5th Prep Transition

### 29th November

6th Prep Transition

## DECEMBER

### 6th December

Crazy Hair Day

### 9th December

Curriculum Day

### 10th December

State-Wide Transition Day

### 12th December

Grade 6 Graduation Night

### 13th December

Grade 6 Big Day Out

### 16th December

Swimming Program

### 17th December

Swimming Program

### 18th December

Swimming Program

### 19th December

Swimming Program

**NO** Lunch orders this day

### 20th December

Bush Dance

Final Assembly

## JANUARY

# 2025

### 28th January

Staff return to School

### 29th January

Students Grade 1—6 return  
to School

### 30th January

Prep students start School

**NO** Lunch orders this day



## STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARD



### TERM 4—WEEK 4 AWARDS

**L to R:** Will, Keegan and Grade 1/2.



# Fishy Stories Writing Challenge



## Writing Challenge 2024

Last term, students in Grade 1-6 had the opportunity to submit a short story to the Fishy Stories Writing Challenge. Students wrote a short creative story which will be published in an online book being produced by Cambridge Press. A huge congratulations to all students who submitted a story!

Another congratulations to Evie Logan, whose story has been selected as part of the 20 stories to be performed/read on the day at the Fish Creek Children's Festival of Stories on November 17th. Evie's story titled 'The Magic Salad Bucket' will be performed three times throughout the festival.

### ***The Magic Salad Bucket by Evie Logan***

*Duncan was hungry he did not know what to eat. But he could not decide what to choose. He could eat meatballs or salad but what he didn't know was... the salad was a magic salad. Meanwhile in the fridge when Duncan was still deciding lettuce was getting squished by tomato. Well turtle was trying to escape from the salad. Duncan finally decided. I will have the salad. When Duncan was reaching out for the salad bucket there was a knock at the door. It was Goldilocks and the three bears. Everyone in the salad was escaping! Goldilocks wanted to know if everyone had seen her hairbrush (which was actually on the bench). 'Umm have you seen my hairbrush said Goldilocks. 'No' moaned Duncan. When Duncan came back nothing was in the Salad Bucket. So Duncan got the meatballs. When he got the meatballs out everything in the salad was in the meatballs.*

*The End.*



Fishy Stories

## School Preparations for the Bushfire Season

The Department of Education runs an annual fire risk assessment of schools and early childhood services. Some schools are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 4) and are published on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR).

All schools and early childhood services listed on the BARR and Category 4 list will also close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district.

When the Bureau of Meteorology provides public fire danger rating forecasts or fire weather warnings, they use fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries. Our school is in the **West and South Gippsland Fire Weather District**.



Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a Category 4 school. Our school will close on a day forecasted as Catastrophic fire danger rating in West and South Gippsland fire district.

Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day. Any information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you on the Compass App and our school Facebook page.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, even if the weather forecast changes. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will NOT operate on these days.
- All school bus services will be cancelled.

Families are encouraged to action their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children. For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

### *What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?*

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by downloading and login into the Compass App for Poowong Consolidated School.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed due to a Catastrophic fire danger.
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are actioning your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.