

## Principal Report

Dear Parents and Carers,

### The Habit of Reading

As your children settle into the term, this is a great opportunity to encourage and support them in making reading for pleasure, a regular part of their daily routine.

Reading is central to academic success, but it is also linked to positive wellbeing, improved empathy, increased understanding of self and a better understanding of one's place in the world.

As parents and carers, we are our children's first literacy teachers and the ways we engage with reading will fundamentally shape our children's attitudes.

### How can you create a supportive reading environment?

1. Establish a reading routine: Many families have bedtime reading routines when their children are young, but these tend to drop off when children begin to be able to read independently. Having a routine where everyone (adults and children) reads before bed is both conducive to good sleep, as well as habit forming.
2. Make reading a pleasure: The research is clear; when we enjoy reading, we read more. Create positive associations around reading by reading to or with your children.
3. Show you value reading: The visible presence of adult books in the home is a key measure of academic achievement for children.

### Home Reading Program – Foundation to Year 3

We are excited to share that all students in Foundation to Year 3 have now commenced their Home Reading Program. This week, students received their home readers and reader diaries, supporting their literacy development and fostering a love for reading.

Foundation to Year 3 students have been actively engaging in phonics learning through the *InitialLit* program, building essential early reading skills.

We kindly ask for your support in reminding students to pack their reader bag and bring it to school each day. This ensures they have access to new books and can continue developing their reading confidence.

Thank you for your ongoing support in your child's literacy journey!



# Principal Report continued.....

## **NAPLAN**

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is scheduled from Wednesday, 12 March to Monday, 24 March. This assessment involves students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 across Australia. The tests are conducted within schools under supervised conditions, primarily online, with Year 3 students completing the writing test on paper.

The assessment covers four key areas:

- Writing
- Reading
- Conventions of Language (spelling, grammar, and punctuation)
- Numeracy

## **Car Park Safety**

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 our school buses. If you require additional support, please contact Michael Smethurst (Principal).

## **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](#).

Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy, available to view on our school website, ([Website Link](#)), describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [Microsoft 365](#) and [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 Microsoft 365 or Google Workspace for Education, please contact Michael Smethurst.

## **Volunteers**

To comply with the Department of Education's OHS Management System (OHSMS) guidelines, all volunteers are required to complete a Volunteers Induction Pack. Whether you are a parent helper in the classroom, assisting in garden maintenance or cooking with our students, you will need to have a current Working with Children's Check and complete the Volunteer OHS Induction Checklist. These Packs are available at the office.

Regards

Michael Smethurst

Principal

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

# IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

## MARCH 2025

### 10th March

Labour Day Public Holiday

### 12th—24th March

Grade 3 & 5 Naplan

### 13th March

Regional Swimming

### 27th March

House Athletics

## APRIL 2025

### 4th April

Easter Raffle Draw

Last Day of Term 1  
(2.30pm Finish)

### 21st April

Easter Monday  
Public Holiday

### 22nd April

Term 2 Starts

### 25th April

ANZAC Day Public Holiday

### 30th April—2nd May

Grade 3 –6 Camp  
The Summit

## MAY 2025

### 9th May

Mothers Day Morning Tea

### 9th May

House Cross Country

### 11th May

Mothers Day

### 22nd May

Division Cross Country



**POOWONG**  
CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL



# Get to know our staff...

EAST FIVE  
?

## with Mrs Slidders



**Favourite food** – Any kind of pasta

**Favourite sport** – Netball

**Favourite weekend activity** – spending time with my family

**Favourite movie/tv show** – School of Rock

**Favourite thing about being a teacher** – supporting students to learn new and challenging things.

## Student of the week



### TERM 1—WEEK 4 AWARDS

**Back Row L to R:** Shyla, Willow, Eric and Christopher.

### TERM 1—WEEK 5 AWARDS

**Back Row L to R:** Will, Isabella and Macey.

**Front Row L to R:** Lily and Keegan.





# What's happening in Grade 5/6?



## In our Year 5/6 classroom ...

Our Year 5/6 students have been exploring the imaginative genre of Narrative and have been working on expanding their sentences with descriptive language to create a vivid picture for their reader.



The brutal sandstorm had just finished. Our home was encased in grainy sand and wind beaten fragments of timber. Furious and annoyed, my mum and dad went to collect leftover wood and thick sticks to fix our home.

by Hugo, Year 6

Bubble, bubble, hunting for my prey in the dark, green, murky water. I am a green scaly crocodile, and I live in the Amazon. I hunt for meat, and I sneak up like a fox.

by Joel, Year 5

I was so anxious, I went left, left, right, left, and then right, I got even more lost. Plus, I was in the woods! "Creak, creak." It was dark, I was so desperate to be saved.

by Kealey, Year 6



My dinner is ready so I'm going to devour my food. "Nom, nom, nom, yummy." I wish I could have more! When I wake up from my luxurious sleep, I find all of my stuff packed up.

by Memphis, Year 6



The sound of the car's engine comes to a stop momentarily, until the garage door shuts. Then I hear a rustle of keys as the shiny and complex garage door to the house opens. My tail starts to wag, and I get really overjoyed.

by Ryan, Year 6

I felt an intense knocking on my shoulder that really infuriated me, then I slowly and curiously looked beside me, it was just another possum like me.

by Matthew, Year 5



# **NEW** CBFC Lunch Order Menu

## **Lunch Order Menu.**

### **Lunch**

★ <u>Potato Cake</u>	<u>\$1.50</u>
★ <u>Fried/Steamed Dim Sim</u>	<u>\$1.50</u>
★ <u>Chicken Nuggets</u>	<u>\$1.20</u>
★ <u>Party Pie</u>	<u>\$1.50</u>
★ <u>Sausage Roll</u>	<u>\$3.50</u>
★ <u>Battered Hot Dog</u>	<u>\$3.50</u>
★ <u>Hot Dog</u>	<u>\$4.50</u>
★ <u>Chicken Strip, Cheese &amp; Salad Wrap</u>	<u>\$6.00</u>
★ <u>Chicken Strip Salad</u>	<u>\$5.50</u>
★ <u>Ham &amp; Cheese Sandwich</u>	<u>\$5.00</u>
★ <u>Ham, Cheese &amp; Tomato Sandwich</u>	<u>\$5.50</u>
★ <u>Ham &amp; Salad Roll</u>	<u>\$7.00</u>

### **Sweets**

★ <u>Moro Bar Slice</u>	<u>\$2.50</u>
★ <u>Muffins- Apple Cinnamon, Blueberry, Chocolate Mud Cake.</u>	<u>\$2.50</u>

### **Drinks**

★ <u>Primas- Apple Blackcurrant, Tropical</u>	<u>\$2.50</u>
★ <u>Nippy's- Chocolate, Strawberry</u>	<u>\$3.00</u>

***Please write an order on a bag with the child's name and class. Include correct cash for the order.***

***Orders to be placed by 9:30***

***Lunch Order Days- Thursdays.***