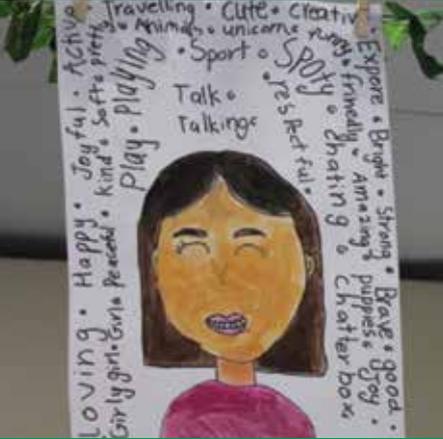


COWANDILLA

Primary School & Children's Centre



NEWSLETTER

Term 1, Week 3
2020

A Warm Welcome

A very warm welcome back to the 2020 school year. It is wonderful to have everyone back from holidays safe and well. I would like to welcome on behalf of our school community, new staff, children and families to Cowandilla Primary School and Children's Centre. Our children have enjoyed a very smooth start to the school year and have enjoyed catching up with friends, helping new students settle in and to connect with others.

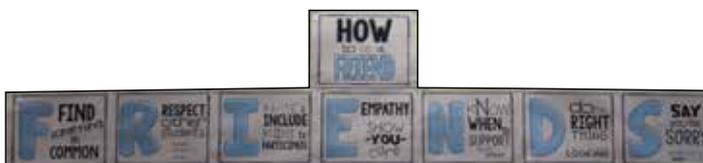
Welcome to our new reception and preschool children as well as our many new students in year levels throughout the school. We welcome all new families to our school community. I have been very proud of the way our students have welcomed and supported our new students. Thank you to our parents that have also warmly welcomed and supported our new families and caregivers

As well as our new families we welcome new staff, Emma de Cure and Maddie Elliot. Both Maddie and Emma are class teachers this year and have worked in our school previously as relief teachers. We welcome back Matt Cailes to our staff. Matt taught a year 2/3 class at Prospect Primary School last year and has taught a 4/5 and 5/6 class previously at Cowandilla Primary School. This year he is teaching the Year 5/6 class. Mr Stoyan is now working in a leadership role as our Digital Technologies Coordinator and Leanne Caire is now our English as an Additional Language and Dialect support teacher.



School Values: Respect and Responsibility

This term we will have a whole school focus on understanding the meaning of our school values and building a sense of "Belonging" in our school community. Each class will be exploring what it means to belong to their class, our school and the wider school community. Teachers will be explicitly teaching about our school values and anti-bullying and harassment strategies. You will hear more about this learning throughout the term. During the first few weeks teachers have been working closely with students to establish class expectations and to explore the language and actions students will use to develop a positive and supportive learning culture based on our values of Respect and Responsibility.



2020 Site Improvement Priorities

This year we will continue to implement a whole school approach to supporting student wellbeing in line with the DECD Wellbeing for Learning and Life Framework. Student wellbeing and improving attendance continue to be priority improvement areas. Our current attendance rate is 92%, the DfE expectation is 95%. This year we would also like to reduce lateness. When students are late to school they miss the important morning routines at the start of the day. These routines often include aspects of literacy and numeracy learning.

In Literacy our improvement will continue to focus on reading and reading comprehension. Our Numeracy focus will be to ensure students have strong counting and calculation skills, which will include a good understanding of our base ten number system and how it works.

Parent Communication

Newsletters are a critical form of communication for us. School newsletters will be published every 3 weeks on a Friday. This term we will continue working with the Governing Council to explore safe ways that we can share and communicate electronically with our parent community. Currently we are using email to communicate. Some parents have provided their email address on enrolment. If you need to update your email address please let the front office know. Class newsletters are also used by teachers to communicate with parents. Teachers will forward information at least once a term and like to use email to communicate also.

2019 Annual General Meeting Tuesday 18th February at 6:00pm

All parents are invited to attend Cowandilla Primary School and Children's Centre Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 18th. February at 6:00pm in the meeting room. Refreshments will be available from 5:30pm. This year there are five positions available on our Governing Council. If you would like to nominate for the Governing Council please let the front office know or attend the AGM and nominate at the meeting.

Please consider joining the Governing Council, we need parents to help set the direction of the school and support with the implementation of our school improvement plan. This is the role of the Governing Council. Meetings are currently held on Monday evenings once a month from 6:30-8:00pm. Thank you to Marcello Bronzin (eight years service) Anthony Davidson (seven years) Susan Knapp, Olivia O'Malley and Swetha Choudry for their work on the Governing Council. These members have completed a two year tenure.

At the AGM the Principal's and Chairperson's 2019 reports will be presented and the election of Governing Council for 2020 and 2021 (two year tenure) will occur.

Crèche

Whilst the AGM is in progress, there will be a crèche available from 6:00pm – 7:00pm. Please contact the front office for bookings by Monday 17th February.

Parent, Teacher and Student Learning Goal Discussions

During weeks 4 and 5, teachers will be having meetings with parents and children to set learning goals for the year. This is a great opportunity for parents to share with teachers, their child's strengths and to work together to develop achievable goals for your child. Please make a time with your child's teacher. If you are unable to make any of the times offered by the class teacher please let them know and we will attempt to negotiate an alternative time.

On Wednesday 20th February the Resource Centre, language learning areas, the Hub and the hall will be open from 3:30-5:00pm for parents and children to visit.

2020 Materials and Services charge.

In 2020 our Governing Council has set our school fees at \$244:00 which is the Department for Education's Materials and Services fee. At the end of February families will be sent an invoice with information about the new process to apply for School Card. All types of School Card applications are now online.

Visit: sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard for more information if you would like to find out more. Information about how to go about the process and if you are eligible will be provided to families. We also have front office staff that are able to answer any questions that you may have.



Thank you!

Several staff and families spent a lot of time during the school holidays watering and looking after our school gardens. The garden is flourishing as a result of this care and attention. If you would like to assist with looking after our garden the Gardening Club meets on Mondays after school. Everyone is welcome.

Swimming lessons

During Term 1 of the year, Swimming and Water Safety Lessons for all students usually take place in our school pool.

There have been some issues with our pool, and as such, lessons have not been able to take place throughout the past week.

After advice from pool specialists, it has been decided that swimming lessons will not be able to go ahead this year. The surface of the pool is breaking down, causing concerns regarding the safety of the water. This is unfortunate and we know will be a disappointment to students.

The pool will need to be emptied and then assessed to see how serious this issue is. We are investigating the options for repairing.

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Free Bikes!

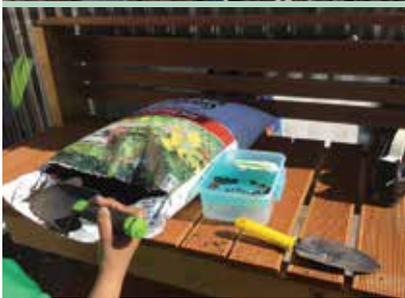
**Don't have a bike?
Want a bike?**

Cowandilla Bike Repair Club has donated and salvaged bikes in all shapes and sizes just waiting for a bit of love to get them back on the road — you do the work and they're yours.

Not just for kids, grownups welcome.

Don't need a bike? Come along and help fix up a bike for another family who does need one, or help fix a bike for the club to sell.

They meet on Thursdays after school near the playground.



Gardening Club

Cowandilla Primary School

Our school has a Climate Change Focus. We now have a subgroup that focuses on some gardening around the school. Last year we worked hard on planting new crops like tomatoes, corn and sunflowers; germinated seeds, looked after plants, grafted apples and pears and built some very useful structures. This year we are all set to do more to make sure our school can help students and the community learn the importance of plants.

When: Mondays after school (3.30 - 4.15pm)

Where: Meet in the back garden (outside Ms. Marcelle's class) to start. We always have a snack of fruit, sometimes from the garden and sometimes other food.

Who: Anyone can come along, as long as you want to dig or get your hands dirty! We would love parents and anyone in the community to help organise the garden and the work.

- Gardening jobs • Eating harvested crops • Sharing our produce with the community
- Activities that we can plan together to make our environment better

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Hello families of Cowandilla Primary School



My name is Emma de Cure (Miss Emma) and I am a new teacher in Year 4/5 at Cowandilla Primary School this year. Throughout late 2018 and 2019, I worked as a temporary relief teacher and part-time contract teacher at various schools. During this time I have worked in many classes at Cowandilla Primary which has allowed me to immerse myself into the school and build meaningful relationships with the students, staff and community.

Therefore, I am extremely excited to have the opportunity to teach my own class in 2020 and share my love of teaching and learning with my new group of students.

Introducing Maddie Elliot



This is my first year as a classroom teacher, I spent last year doing relief teaching, spending much time at Cowandilla and have been lucky to meet many of you during this time. Before this, I lived in Melbourne teaching a piano program in primary schools for six years while I completed university. I am passionate about creating a learning environment where everyone feels supported, safe and a sense of belonging, enabling each child

to achieve their potential and maintain a positive wellbeing. I look forward to becoming an active member of the Cowandilla Primary School community.

Introducing Matt Cailes



My name is Matt Cailes and I am the Year 5/6 teacher this year. I have been teaching for three years and I have spent the past year at Prospect North Primary School and am returning to Cowandilla Primary this year. I have a strong focus on literacy, numeracy and wellbeing throughout my teaching. I also have a passion for Design and Technology and will be incorporating it regularly into my teaching through different projects.

DATES

Friday 14th February
Whole School Assembly 9:00am

Monday 17th February
Parent Student Teacher Interviews begin

Tuesday 18th February
Annual General Meeting 6:00pm

Monday 24th February
Parent Student Teacher
Interviews continue

Monday 9th March
Public Holiday
NO SCHOOL

Tuesday 10th March
Pupil Free Day
NO SCHOOL for students,
OSHC available

Thursday 9th April
Sports Day
Please come along!

Thursday 9th April
Last day of school for Term 1,
2:15pm finish

Friday 10th April
Public Holiday
NO SCHOOL