

COWANDILLA

Primary School & Children's Centre



NEWSLETTER

Term 1, Week 6
2020

2020 Governing Council

Our recent Annual General Meeting was very well attended on Wednesday 20th February with 19 parents attending the meeting and 9 parents nominating for the Governing Council. Thank you to everyone that nominated for Governing Council and attended the meeting.

Congratulations to the following parents that have been elected as Governing Council members for 2020. Our Office Bearers will be elected at our first meeting for the year:

Carolyn Oades
Swetha Choudry
Amy Patterson
Kathy Laube
Jill Newmann
Corey Barrett
Nicole Holmes
Melissa Farnham
Emma Burckhardt

The first Governing Council meeting for the year was held on Monday 2nd March and further meeting dates will be shared in future newsletters. The focus for our work this year will be monitoring our Quality and Site Improvement Plans, planning for the Year 7 to High School transition and developing enrolment guidelines to support our capacity management. Our Cowandilla Primary School and Children's Centre 2019 Annual Report and our 2020 Site Improvement Plan, will be placed on our website once approved by the Department for Education.

Learning Goal Discussions

Thank you to parents and caregivers that have been able to attend goal setting parent/ teacher/ student interviews over the last two

weeks. These discussions have been a great opportunity for parents to share with teachers, their child's strengths and to work together to develop achievable goals with your child. A priority for us at Cowandilla is to ensure that students know where they are at with their learning, what the next steps are and how they will get there. Throughout the term children will be reflecting on their progress and resetting their goals to ensure they are being challenged with their learning.

New Multi Purpose Room

Our new building which is a Multi-purpose room will hopefully be completed by the end of term one. This new building is a vibrant and bright space that has been site funded and will be a brand new area for our students to enjoy. Our Out of School Hours Care Service will use the space and other learning programs will also occur in this area. The space has been well designed providing internal access to the gym and toilets from the building. We are looking forward to using the new building.



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Parent Feedback Survey

Thank you to those parents that responded to the parent Feedback survey sent home in December last year. The feedback that has been provided has been very positive with some good suggestions for further ongoing improvement.

When asked about what the school does well, parents always comment on the integration of all the students. They clearly appreciate the multicultural nature of the school. Parents really like that their children will be learning and making friends with other children from all over the world. They comment on the relative harmony amongst the student body in Cowandilla Primary School. A typical comment was "I love the diversity my children are exposed to here at Cowandilla Primary school and preschool.

Feedback from the 2019 Parent Perception survey indicated that:

- 97% agree and strongly agree that teachers at the school expect their child to do their best.
- 87% agree and strongly agree that their child is provided with useful feedback about his/her learning.
- 92% agree and strongly agree that their child feels safe at our school.
- 89% believe their child likes being at our school.
- 95% agree and strongly agree that they can talk to their child's teacher about their concerns.
- 60% agree and strongly agree that parent's opinions are taken seriously.

Providing information and strategies for parents that help support their child's learning and providing opportunities to seek feedback from parents so their voices are heard and valued will continue to be a focus in 2020.

2020 Student Free Days and Closure Day

This year there will be four Student Free Days assigned for teacher professional learning in SA Government schools. To support improvement in pedagogical practice these days are to be used to support teachers to build their collective capacity to design learning to support growth for every child and to develop consistency in regard to assessment and moderation of student learning. Dates for our Students Free Days this year are:

Tuesday 10th March

Tuesday 9th June

Monday 7th September

Monday 12th October

Friday 6th November- Closure Day

Volunteering in our school.

It is wonderful to have so many of our parents and guardians volunteering at our school to support their child's learning and to assist with tasks that help the school to run smoothly. To make it easier for parents and guardians to volunteer their time,

the Department for Education has updated its relevant history screening policy and procedures. As a result, parents and guardians who volunteer to directly support their child will no longer require a relevant history screening. This will mean many of our volunteers can help out sooner.

A screening is still necessary for parents and guardians who are volunteering at school camps and anyone volunteering on a regular basis.

As has always been the case, a screening is not needed to attend single events or activities at our school. These include concerts, fundraisers, swimming week or sports day. Screenings are just one measure used to help keep children safe. Everyone who works with children plays a part in child protection, including watching out for inappropriate behaviour.

Find out more about relevant history screening and keeping children safe at <https://www.education.sa.gov.au>

We require all volunteers to go through 'Responding to Abuse & Neglect – Education & Care (RAN-EC) Training for Volunteers' every 3 years. If you have any questions about screening or these changes, please speak with school staff.

Late Arrival and Early Dismissals

All children arriving late to school, MUST enter via the front office to sign in and receive a "late arrival slip." This process ensures that children are recorded as being present at school as the roll marking process has occurred. Parents collecting their children early must also enter via the front office to sign out their child. This ensures duty of care is transferred appropriately and that we have a record that the child has left the school grounds. If a child is frequently late or picked up early they do miss the start and end of day routines which help your child to be prepared and organised for each school day. Please try to make any appointments for your child out of school hours.

Children absent from school:

It is a legal requirement with DECD that a child must have a reason for absence, late or early dismissal recorded on our system. Please phone 84437800 or text 0408873119 to inform the school that your child will be absent or late. If your child will be absent for 3 days or more for family reasons, you are required to complete an Exemption Form. Please contact the front office for this form. In the event that your child is ill and will be absent for 3 days or more, it is a legal requirement that you provide the school with a medical certificate.



Dental Health

Children with poor oral health are more likely to experience pain, to miss days from school and to perform poorly in the classroom. Untreated tooth decay can lead to problems with speaking, eating and learning.

SA Dental Service sees over 80,000 children for dental care each year, but data shows that 57.5% of eligible children in SA are not using the Medicare Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

There are no out of pocket costs for children covered by the Medicare Child Dental Benefits Schedule

Help us improve the oral health of children in your school by promoting SA Dental Service. Please include the attached insert in your next newsletter and online.

All children are welcome at SA Dental clinics.



MARK CHILVERS
Executive Director
SA Dental Service
Roma Mitchell House
Level 6, 136 North Terrace
Adelaide SA 5000
08 7117 0002
0404 066 183
www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/sadental



Literacy and Numeracy

This term Ms Ann's/Irene's class and Ms Min's class are learning together every Thursday afternoon. We have established literacy and numeracy learning areas where the teachers are guiding the students in their learning about phonemic awareness in reading, developing fine-motor skills and learning about "number" in Maths. These activities have enabled the students to also develop friendships.

Here are some comments from some students:

"It was fun. I was very happy." – **Megan**

"They are good activities. I didn't want to stop playing." – **Annabel**

"I love to play the games." – **Armaan**

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.

CALD NIGHT

On Tuesday 25th February parents from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and new-arrival families attended an evening parent session about The Intensive English Language Program and Cyber-Safety, (presented by Stoyan Stoianov, Digital Technologies Leader). We all enjoyed talking to families and supporting understandings about The Australian Education system and how to be better informed about online safety. Here are some of the recommendations based on current research:

- Children under 2 years old don't have screen time other than video-chatting. Over that age the maximum leisure screen time should be no more than 2 hours a day.
- Keep all computers, phones, ipads, tv's or other technology in a public place, (family room or lounge), not in a bedroom.
- Set a time limit for using devices. Health experts suggest these screen times:
 - Ages. 0-2. No screen time
 - 2-5. Less than one hour per day
 - 5-17 less than two hours per day
- You need to be 13 years of age to have a Facebook account
- Check that games, websites and tv programs are appropriate for your child.
- Ask your child to 'friend' you on social media. Friending your child means you can follow what he/she is interested in and who your child is connected to online.
- Find out how to make complaints about offensive or illegal online content.
- Safety.gov.au/languages



Clean Up Australia Day

Sunday the 1st of March was 'Clean Up Australia Day'. One of our local community families chose to spend their time collecting litter from around the school. It didn't take long for them to collect two large bags of rubbish, which have now been disposed of correctly and will not affect our water ways or impact our native wildlife.

If you are interested in getting involved once a month, we will be organizing a 'Litter Pick' at the school. Bring your gloves, hat, sunscreen, water and yourselves and help us keep our school rubbish free. We will meet after school on April 1st at the amphetheatre and spend no longer than an hour collecting rubbish. All children need to be supervised by their parent/caregiver.

#CleanUpAustralia #StepUpToCleanUp

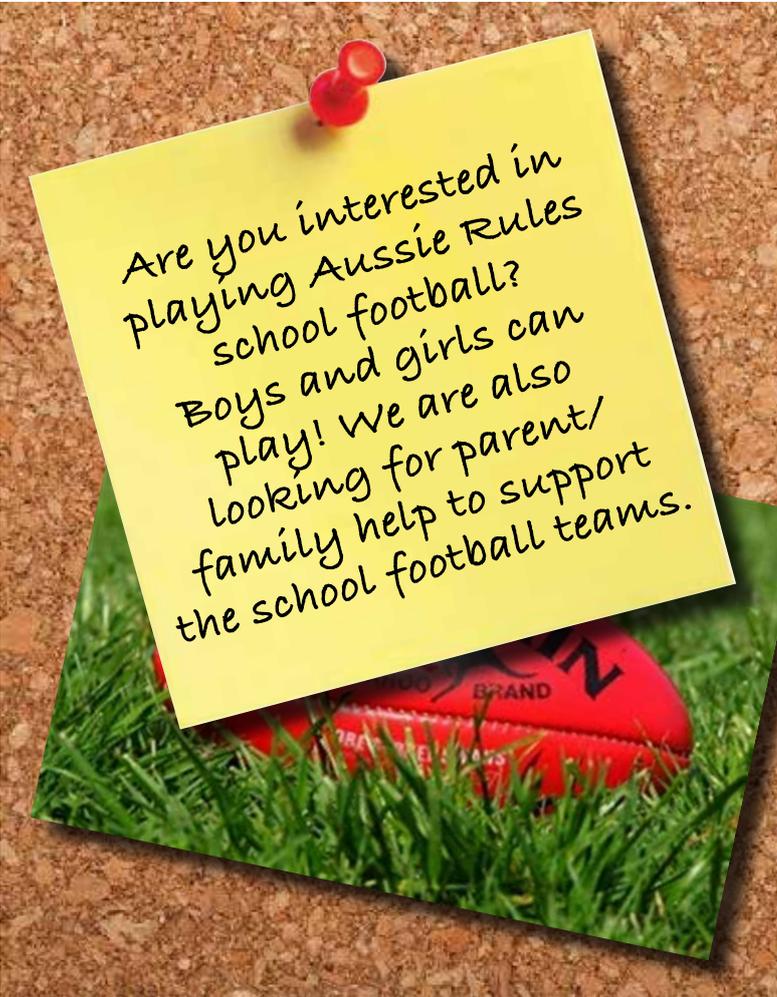


Growth Mindset

At Cowandilla Primary and Children's Centre we are supporting students to have a Growth Mindset towards learning and their wellbeing.

Here are some questions parents/caregivers can ask children as Growth Mindset conversation starters:

- What did you do today that made you think hard?
- What challenge or problem have you worked on today?
- Can you think of something new you tried today? What was it?
- Was there anything that made you feel stuck today? Great! What other ways might there be to solve this?
- What would you like to become better at? How do you think you can do this?
- Can you think of something that you could have done better today? Great!
- Who can you ask feedback from to improve this?



Are you interested in playing Aussie Rules school football?
Boys and girls can play! We are also looking for parent/family help to support the school football teams.

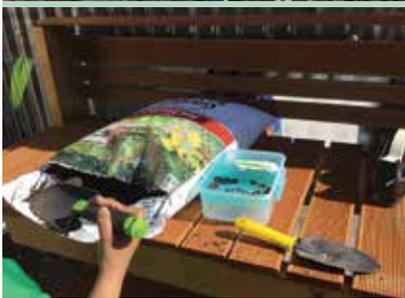
If there are enough interested students there could be a year 2/3 team, a year 4/5 team and a year 6/7 team. Games are played at various schools on Saturday mornings and we would have training after school one day per week.

At this point we are asking for 'expressions of interest' for students wishing to play. We are also keen to find parents or carers who can help with the teams.

NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY FOR PLAYERS OR HELPERS.

If your child is interested, or you can help, please collect a registration of interest form from the front office.

For any queries please email Jill Newman on jillnewman@hotmail.com



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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Our Big Backyard Project (OBBY)

On the 5th of February, five Year 7 students from the Climate Change Student Group attended a meeting at Lockleys North Primary School. These five students were Finn, Harrison, Isaac, Risha and Riya.

OBBY aims to identify outdoor spaces in the local community that are available for children and adults to use. Last year, a survey was sent to various groups to record information about the regularity and location of their outdoor play. The survey was filled out by students, educators and parents.

The meeting mainly involved the adults speaking, but when the students had a chance to join the conversation, they all jumped in enthusiastically. We contributed ideas, and supported students from Lockleys North PS, regarding a variety of topics the adults asked us about. For example, we had to make choices about how the information will be presented, whether to create a booklet or a pamphlet that combines to make a bigger map. In the end the meeting went well and the education workers were impressed with our ideas. We finished setting up a timeline so we know the different deadlines for our main objectives.

Our ideas have helped in making the final design of the map to remind families of enjoyable outdoor spaces in our community. We still have some work to go before the project is finished, including being part of a bus tour around the community to identify the locations that will be included on the map. More information regarding how to access the map will be provided in the near future, with Come and Try days and the final OBBY launch happening in October this year.

By Risha and Riya



DATES

Friday 6th March
Whole School Assembly 9:00am

Monday 9th March
Public Holiday NO SCHOOL

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

Friday 27th March
Whole School Assembly 9:00am

Thursday 9th April
Sports Day
Please come along!

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

Monday 27th April
Term 2 commences