

COWANDILLA

Primary School & Children's Centre



NEWSLETTER

Term 1, Week 9
2020

A Sincere Thank You

I would like to sincerely thank the entire school community for their patience, support and understanding around the vast number of unexpected changes that the school has had to make in recent weeks. We are communicating changes as we receive them from The Department for Education and will continue to do so. Please continue to communicate with your child's classroom teacher by phone or email if you have any questions around illness or changes moving forward. I am available and happy to respond to any questions or concerns that you may have, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the leadership team. We are here to support you as your children to connect to the teaching and learning program, paramount to this is our commitment to keeping everyone safe.

Student Goal Setting

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many parents that have attended student/parent/teacher interviews this term. These conversations are early in the year so that parents are aware of their child's learning goals and how we can all work together to support students to achieve these and reset their goals throughout the year. The partnership that we have with parents enhances the learning experiences and outcomes for children and enables teachers to better meet their needs and aspirations. Success for our children hinges on the respectful and positive relationships that we have with our parents and the wider community. Please continue to communicate with teachers to support your child's learning. If you have not been able to meet with your child's teacher, please contact the school and we will support this conversation to occur.

NAPLAN Assessment

As you are probably aware the National Assessment in Literacy and Numeracy scheduled for all Year 3, 5 and 7 students in May this year has been cancelled.

20 Year Anniversary of Harmony Day Celebrations

In 2019 Harmony Day was renamed Harmony Week to recognise diversity and inclusion activities that occur throughout the entire week. Harmony week includes the 21st March which is the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Since 1999 more than 80 000 Harmony Week events have been held in schools, preschools, childcare centre, community groups, businesses and local councils across Australia.

Last week students participated in a variety of activities at in classrooms to celebrate Harmony Week.

The ongoing message of Harmony Week is 'Everyone Belongs', the activities aim to engage people to participate in their community, respect cultural and religious diversity and foster sense of belonging for everyone. Our Term 1 wellbeing theme at Cowandilla Primary School and Children's Centre is Belonging.

Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Week. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversation. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect.

Congratulations Student Sports Day Leaders

Congratulations to the following students that have been selected as leaders of their Sports Day Teams. Sports Day will be rescheduled for later in the year.

Green Team: Riya, Finton, Maya and Cooper

Blue Team: Claire, Harrison, Mazin and James

Red Team: Holly, Panteli, Miggy and Ifthikar

Yellow Team: Felicity, Fiinn, Isaac and Narges



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

COVID 19 Site Actions: Assemblies and Excursions

Due to ongoing developments regarding the COVID-19 Virus and in consultation with our Governing Council, all assemblies, excursions (both internal and external) Sports Day and school cricket for the remainder of term have been cancelled.

Student and Staff Hygiene

Staff have reviewed safe hand washing procedure with all students and additional signage has been placed in all wet areas and toilets to emphasize effective hand washing. We are still referring to ongoing information from Department for Education and any changes will reflect information provided by Health SA and DfE. This will be shared with parents as it's received. Staff are talking about social distancing and personal hygiene with students daily.

Learning from home

At the moment the Department for Education has asked teachers to prepare learning for a possible two week closure of school. During the present time they may not be able to provide learning materials for families that have decided to keep their children at home as they are continuing to plan and teach daily learning programs for students continuing to attend school. Please communicate with your child's teacher in regard to your individual child's situation .

Please remember the importance of supervising your child when they are learning online.

What to say when responding to young people's questions about COVID-19.

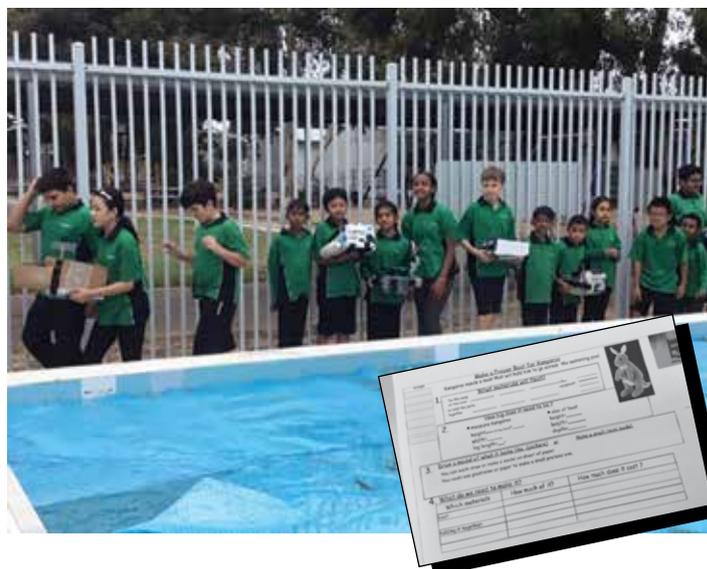
It is a very challenging and unpredictable time for all of us at the moment. Beyond Blue suggests families and caregivers of children and young people should discuss news of the virus with those in their care in an open and honest way. Try to relate the facts without causing alarm, and in a way that is appropriate for their age and temperament. It is important to listen to any questions they may have, to let them know that they are safe and that it's normal to feel concerned. If the media or the news is getting too much for them, encourage them to limit their exposure. This video has some useful tips for talking to young people about scary stuff in the news.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rURnXXK4Ag&feature=youtu.be>

For more information visit the Beyond Blue website at:

<https://www.beyondblue.org.au/the-facts/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

Or for more ideas about what to say or how visit; Kirrilie Smout, an Adelaide Child/Adolescent Psychologist @ <https://developingminds.net.au/blog/2020/3/19/answering-childrens-questions-about-coronavirus?rq=coronavirus>



The Intensive English language program

During this term Ms Marcelle's and Mr Russo's classes have been learning together in the STEM lessons. The focus has been floating and sinking or 'Buoyancy'. The student's final task in consolidating their understandings was to design and construct a boat that would hold a kangaroo and float in the school's swimming pool. All students have thoroughly enjoyed these lessons and engaged in their collaborative learning. These are some of the student's comments: " I enjoyed seeing which materials float and then using these to make a boat to test in the school's swimming pool, (Mattis – year 5); "I enjoyed working in groups and the team work", (Anh – year 5); "I liked making the boat and working with another class", (Iriy – year 7).



Pupil Free Day: Maths Professional Learning

On Tuesday 12th March our staff engaged in a day of Professional learning with our mathematics consultant, Lisa-Jane O'Connor. Teachers and support staff discussed and reviewed the explicit teaching of the rules for our base 10 system and shared where student learning is at this point in time. Understanding the Base 10 system is foundational for further learning in mathematics. At Cowandilla we aim to have this learning consolidated in the early years of schooling. Our specialist teachers explored how they are including learning from the Australian Curriculum Maths Continuum into their specialist area of teaching.

In the Australian Curriculum, students become numerate as they develop the knowledge and skills to use mathematics confidently across other learning areas at school and in their lives more broadly. Numeracy encompasses the knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions that students need to use mathematics in a wide range of situations. It involves students recognising and understanding the role of mathematics in the world and having the dispositions and capacities to use mathematical knowledge and skills purposefully.

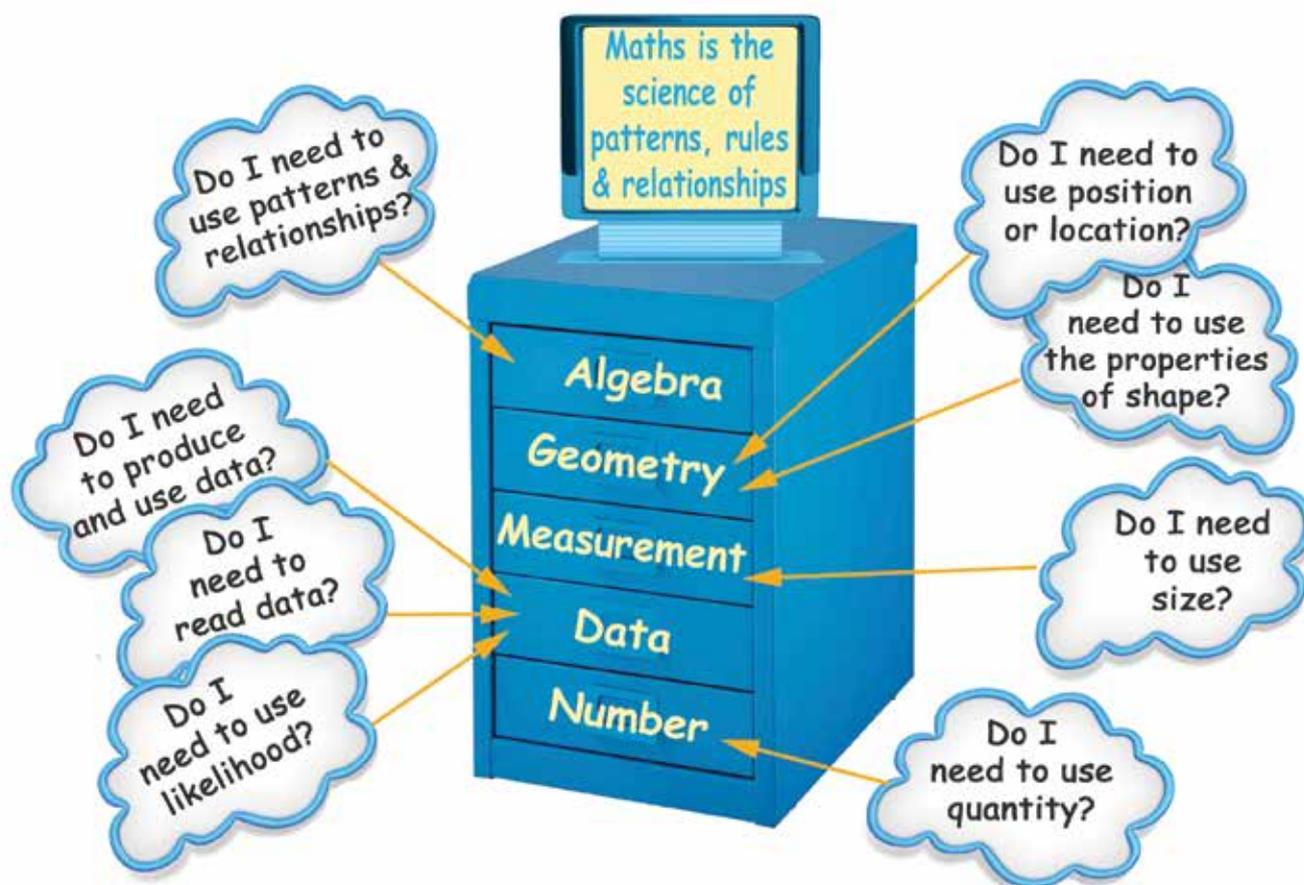
When teachers identify numeracy demands across the curriculum, students have opportunities to transfer their mathematical knowledge and skills to contexts outside the mathematics classroom. These opportunities help students recognise the interconnected nature of mathematical knowledge, other learning areas and the wider world, and encourage them to use their mathematical skills broadly.

Our recent professional learning also focussed on Proportional Reasoning or Partitioning. Our continued focus will be to explore and document the sequential learning design for partitioning from Preschool to Year 7 at CPS.

We are currently discussing with our Maths Consultant and the Governing Council ways that we can provide information for parents and caregivers about our current learning and teaching in mathematics. We will be sharing the language that we are using and more information about how you can support your child to understand how our Base 10 number system works. Ensuring continuity of mathematical language used between school and home will support students to consolidate their learning.

At Cowandilla we ask students to identify which of the 5 drawers of mathematics their learning belongs to:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Number | Do I need to use quantity? |
| Algebra | Do I need to use patterns and relationships? |
| Geometry | Do I need to use the properties of a shape? |
| Measurement | Do I need to use size? |
| Data | Do I need to produce, use or read data? |



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High School Open Days

As you would be aware, High School Open Days planned for coming weeks have been cancelled. These schools are now sharing information with prospective families and the community through other means such as Facebook, Instagram and their individual school websites. If you are interested in up to date information regarding enrolment, Special Entry Programs or events, it is important to access these sources. Please be aware that closing dates for some Special Entry programs are very soon.

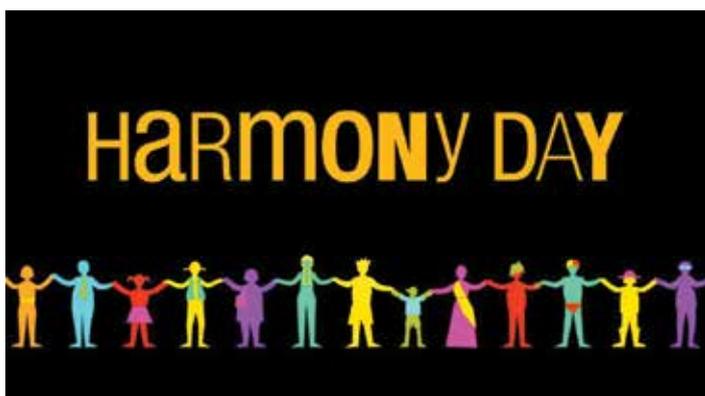


Last week we celebrated Harmony Week.

Harmony Week is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background.

We aim for our students to have a sense of belonging to their class and school community.

A sense of belonging is a basic human need, just like the need for food and shelter. It enables the ability to see value in life and to cope with challenges. A sense of belonging makes us feel like there is a community behind us. It can make us feel confident, involved, valued and motivated.



DATES

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

Monday 27th April
Term 2 commences

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?

After School Activities

Due to ongoing developments regarding the COVID-19 Virus, there will be no Gardening Club, Bike Club or Litter Pick this term.