



NEWSLETTER

Term 4, Week 9
2019

Farewell Students, Families and Staff Parent Perception Survey

As we come to the end of year we are saying our final farewells to our Year 7 students and their families as well as other students across the school and preschool who are moving on. We wish these students and families well for the years ahead and thank them for their wonderful support whilst their child has attended Cowandilla PS and Children's Centre.

We say thankyou and a special farewell to Mary-Ann Hartley, our Special Education teacher and Vicki Newton, our Digital Technologies Coordinator who are taking leave in 2020 and then retiring. I would like to thank them sincerely for their outstanding commitment and combined service of 38 years to Cowandilla Primary School and wish them good health and happiness for the years ahead on behalf of our entire Cowandilla community.

2020 Staffing News

I am also very pleased to announce that Tess Lang and Maddy Favilla have been appointed to 2020 teaching positions in our preschool. Congratulations also to Marnie Max, Miranda Hatedakis, Marie Tragos, Marie Van Rensburg, Maddie Elliot, Matt Cailles and Emma de Cure who have been allocated to teaching roles at Cowandilla PS for 2020. We also look forward to keeping our temporary SSOs Ashu and Taran with us in 2020. It is wonderful that we are able to continue to have such quality teachers and ancillary staff placed in our school. I would like to thank all Cowandilla Primary School and Children Centre staff for their outstanding dedication, care and endless commitment to our students and their families throughout the year.

Thankyou to parents who have completed the 2019 Parent Perception survey. The data gathered from this survey is used by staff and the Governing Council to plan for improvement and to strengthen parent and community engagement in learning. Parents that have signed the email communication form were sent an email last week with a link to the survey. The survey will only take 2 minutes to complete. Please contact the front office if you would like to complete the survey and have not received this information.

Year 7 Graduation

This Thursday evening we will celebrate with our Year 7 Graduates their wonderful years at Primary School. The Graduation Ceremony will begin at 5:45pm. We are very proud of the fine young people our Year 7 students have become and wish them well for their Secondary schooling years. Thankyou to their 2019 teachers Michael, Louise and Eddie for the outstanding teaching, guidance and care that they have provided. I would also like to thank parents for working in partnership with all teachers as the quality of this partnership has a significant impact on a child's learning and wellbeing outcomes. We will farewell our Year 7's at assembly this Friday.

Thankyou Parents and Volunteers

A huge thankyou to all parents and community members that have volunteered their time to support the school this year. Thankyou and Farewell to Marcello Bronzin, our Governing Council Chairperson for the last 10 years. Your support as volunteers has been valued and very much appreciated by students and staff, as many quality activities and events would not have occurred without this tireless commitment. To all families and students who are leaving our Cowandilla school community, we thank you for your support and wish you well for the future.

On behalf of all the Cowandilla Primary School and Children's Centre staff I would like to wish students and their families a safe and enjoyable summer holiday break.

End of Year Concert

Our End of Year concert held last week, was also a wonderful celebration for our school community. Students thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to perform and showcase their confidence and unique talents for their peers and families. What a wonderful child-centred show it was. Our Early Years concert was extremely well attended and I would like to apologise to anyone that was unable to get into the hall to see the performance. Unfortunately more people attended than we expected and not everyone was able to enter the hall. As many family members love to attend to see the younger students perform we will rethink how we structure the Early Years concert program in the future so everyone is able to be in the audience. Thankyou for your attendance and patience on the night and for supporting your children to participate in this fun and memorable celebration.



Premier's Reading Challenge Awards

We held the Premier's Reading Challenge Award ceremonies in November. Thanks to Nick Muxlow who spoke to the Primary and Middle Years students about the importance of reading, and his journey as an author and sportsperson. This year 372 students received certificates and medals, with 19 of our students achieving the PRC Reader for Life 8 award.



National Reconciliation Week

Awari! Nyura palya?

This year people around the world celebrated the Year of Indigenous Languages. We have been doing this in our Pitjantjatjara language lessons at Cowandilla Primary School for over 30 years. We also celebrate and recognise all of our students who have family connections with some of the 270 Indigenous languages across Australia including Kaurna, Ngarrindjeri, Ramindjeri, Narrunga, Mirning, Bundjalung, Gumbaynggirr, Tiwi, Eora and Dharawal.

During Reconciliation Week, all of our Cowandilla students created nyalpi walkatjara wiru tjuta, leaves with beautiful, hand-painted designs for the river redgum tree and Kaurna shield canvas, which are installed in the office foyer. The concept for the shield was developed by Lionel Wilson, our ACEO.

This term, the Year 3–7 Pitjantjatjara students have been practising translating skills by listening to Pitjantjatjara voices in songs, documentaries and the children’s television show, Little J and Big Cuz. They have also translated a variety of written texts including examples of text messages sent and received in language. An example of the text messages is included here with an English translation (retroflex markers have been omitted).

These exercises encourage our students to practise dictionary and verb wheel skills, build their understanding of cultural influences on language, and hear the authentic voice of first language speakers.

Meanwhile the R-3 students have been learning about the interconnections of plants, habitats and animals as a context for learning to hear, read and write Pitjantjatjara. Malu means kangaroo. Malu punungka ila means the kangaroo is near the tree. Minga means ant. Minga tjanpingka tatini means the ant is climbing on the spinifex.

Palyau!



Yaaltji nyuntu? Where are you?

Patjangkana nyinanyi On the bus

Yaaltjikutun ananyi? Where are you going?

Kuwari kuli pulka It's sooo hot

Kan ma- pitjanyi urukutu? Ah so you are going to the pool?

Uwa! Yep!

Palyau! All good!



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Gardening Club News

Over the past 2 terms we have done a lot of work in the garden. You may have noticed a Garden Cart outside the staff room where you can get fresh produce. The cart was made by Molly's dad, Steve, from recycled materials! Many thanks to him because it has been great to share the beans, lettuce and other veggies from the garden. Also we need to thank Micheal, Isabella and Laughlan's dad, for welding together a rain water sink to let kids get water and wash hands while reusing the waste water for the fruit trees. Many thanks for his hard work. Also thanks to all the parents and students who show up each Monday afternoon even in hot weather to learn about plants, collect snails, weed, and put up trellises. If you haven't had a chance to see and enjoy the garden, feel free to come by anytime.

Next year we will continue our work in the garden. We are needing more recycled materials to do some projects. So over the summer holidays if you have some of the following recycled materials you want to get rid of, drop them by.

Recycled materials needed:

- old garden wooden chairs
- old eskies for worms
- used terracotta or large pots
- one old bathtub for a wormery
- long thin sticks / bamboo for garden supports
- old garden tools

Visit to the Hamra Library

Recently, some of our classes had a tour of the Hamra Library. Thank you to Josephine Gaskell & Melinda Williams who showed us around. We saw the automatic sorter and how books are sorted into different boxes when they are returned. We also had a look at the non-fiction books and how they are grouped by subject using the Dewey Decimal system, in the same way we sort the books in our school library. Students particularly enjoyed the children's area with all the activities happening there.

We are fortunate to have a public library so close by. It's free to join. As well as English books, the library has a variety of books written in other languages, a great selection of digital resources, and holds free English classes. They also hold many activities for children during the school holidays. Have a look at their website for more details:

https://www.westtorrens.sa.gov.au/CWT/content/Library/Hamra_Centre_Library

DATES

Thursday 12th December

Year 7 Graduation

Friday 13th December

Last Day of Term 4

Casual Day

Assembly 9:00am

School Finishes at 2:15pm

2020

Tuesday 28th January

First Day of Term 1 2020