

COWANDILLA

Primary School & Children's Centre



NEWSLETTER

Term 1, Week 6
2024

2024 Governing Council

On Tuesday 13th February, we held our 2024 Annual General Meeting. At the AGM, our preschool and school highlights of 2023 and priorities for 2024 were shared with the community. The 2023 Annual Report will be shared on our school website in the near future.

Thank you to parents and caregivers that were able to attend the meeting and also to those that nominated for the Governing Council.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chi Mach and Paul Edwards who have been valued Governing Council and community members. Their contribution to the governance of our school has been positive and significant.

I would like to congratulate the following parents on behalf of our community, who have been elected as new Governing Council members for 2024:

Lea Clark, Melissa Farnham and Poonam Ranchen.

Our continuing Governing Council members are:

Lynette Barrett, Sasha Carrol, Bridy Bartsch, Jonathon Pacis, Erin Flynn, Jeremy Coulthard, Mehrab Mashmoodi and Bart Smith – Community Member.

The first Governing Council meeting for 2024 was held on Monday 4th March at 6:00pm. At this meeting the following Office Bearers were appointed:

Chairperson – Melissa Farham

Deputy Chairperson – Sasha Carrol

Secretary – Bridy Bastch

Treasurer – Jeremy Coulthard

Parents and Caregivers are invited to attend all Governing Council meetings. The next meeting will be held on Monday 8th April at 6:00pm in the meeting room.

Year 6 Student Leaders

Over the past few weeks students in Year 6 have been writing and making speeches to nominate themselves for different student leadership roles at Cowandilla Primary School in 2024.

The staff were extremely impressed with how many students showed courage to stand in front of their peers and talk about what leadership characteristics they possessed and how they intended to help the school and their peers if they were voted into a leadership role. More than 35 students nominated for either a Student Wellbeing, Sports Team or Student Executive leadership role. We congratulate all student leaders who will be introduced to the school at our Friday morning assembly on the 8th March at 9:00am. The students are all looking forward to working together to build their leadership capacity and contributing to our school improvement journey.

2024 Mid Year Reception Intake

Cowandilla Primary School offers to families of children starting Reception at the beginning of Term 3 2024 were sent out to parents and caregivers last week. This year is the first year of Reception mid-year enrolments in Government schools. If you have received a mid-year reception offer please confirm acceptance with the school by Wednesday 13th March. If your child is eligible to begin school in July and they have not yet been offered a place please contact the school. We are looking forward to continuing to provide opportunities for our preschool children to build connections and to ensure continuity of learning, and providing a seamless transition into reception.

Government primary schools have two major enrolment intakes each year for children being enrolled by their parents/ caregivers in reception: intake 1 for children starting at the beginning of the year (Term 1) and intake two for children starting mid-year (Term 3).



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Starting School – Age of Eligibility

If a child turns 5 before the 1st May that year a child can start in Term 1 (intake 1) and undertake 4 terms in Reception

If a child turns five between the 1st May and the 31st October of that year a child can start at the beginning of Term 3 (intake 2) and undertake six terms in Reception.

If a child turns five after the 31st October of that year a child can start Reception at the beginning of the following year and undertake four terms in Reception.

2023 Parent Feedback Survey

Thank you to the large group of parents (129) that responded to the parent Feedback survey in Term 4 2023. The feedback that has been provided has been very positive with some good suggestions for further 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. Parents would like more tips on how to support their child's learning.

Feedback from the 2023 School Parent Perception survey indicated that:

- 87% agree and strongly agree that they receive enough information.
- 88% agree and strongly agree that the school communicates effectively
- 95% agree and strongly agree that people are respectful.
- 82% agree and strongly agree that their child receives useful feedback about their learning
- 89% agree and strongly agree that they have useful discussions about their child's learning
- 73% agree and strongly agree that they have input into their child's learning
- 40% of families would like to receive more learning tips about how to support their child.

Responses to the Preschool Family Opinion Survey confirmed high levels of satisfaction in Teaching and Learning. Families that responded indicated that teachers make learning interesting and enjoyable, that their child is happy and that they are comfortable to approach teachers to talk about their child's progress. "Cowandilla preschool is a welcoming place: where children feel included and valued." An area to strengthen will be to explore with parents how they can be further engaged in decision making.

Children absent from school

It is a legal requirement with DfE that a child must have a reason for absence, late or early dismissal recorded on our system. Please phone 84437800 or text 0408731119 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, families are asked to provide the school with a medical certificate.

Student/ Parent/ Teacher Goal Discussions

Interviews which are focussing on students' goals will be held between Monday 25th March and Friday 5th April. Teachers will be forwarding information to parents and caregivers in the near future, about how to book an interview time. 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 year children will be reflecting on their progress and resetting their goals with support from their teachers to ensure they are being challenged with their learning. Please also remember that parents and caregivers can make a time to meet with teachers throughout the year outside of parent/ teacher interviews if they would like to discuss anything. You can communicate with your child's teacher to make a meeting time by emailing or leaving a phone message for the teacher to contact you when possible.

2025 Secondary School Enrolment Process

An information session about the 2025 Secondary School placement and enrolment process was held on Monday 26th February. The session was well attended. Families of Year 6 students will be sent a letter or email with their child's URL to access their online registration of interest form for Secondary School in **week 1, term 2**. Instructions on how to use the online registration form will be available on the Department for Education website. Please contact Kerry in the front office or your child's teacher if you need any support or have any questions about the Year 7 Secondary School Placement process.

Specialist Entry Program applications for Secondary School in 2025 close very soon. If you would like your child to be considered for a Secondary School Specialist program please access the information on the High School's website.

Children's Safety: Kiss and Drop Zone on Jenkins Street

The new kiss and drop bay and traffic signs installed at the front of the school on Jenkins St are a reminder to parents and caregivers that there is a 2 minute restriction between 8:00 and 9:00am and 2:30 – 3:30pm. Parent and Caregivers are not to leave their vehicles during this time.

Please adhere to these rules to keep our children safe and to ensure the traffic continues to flow on Jenkins St. The West Torrens Council will continue to monitor the street during pick up and drop off times.

The best place for parents to park and leave their cars is on Wilson Street. This is close to oval access and has limited parking restrictions.

Breakfast Club

Our new toaster is helping to feed lots of hungry people at breakfast club on Friday mornings. Toast and fruit are available every Friday morning from 8:15am. Thank you to our volunteers for providing this to our school community. If you are able to volunteer on Friday mornings by helping to prepare and serve fruit and toast, please let the front office staff know.

Volunteering in our School and Preschool

It is wonderful to have so many of our parents and caregivers 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. If you would like to volunteer please talk with your child's teacher.

A screening is still necessary for parents and guardians who are volunteering at school camps and anyone volunteering on a regular basis (more than twice a week).

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 Risk of Harm, Abuse & Neglect – Education & Care (RRHAN-EC) Training for Volunteers' every three years. If you have any questions about screening or these changes, please speak with school staff.



CPS Gardening Club

Why: Our school has a Climate Change Focus. The Gardening Club is a subgroup that focuses on gardening for the school community. For the past 6 years, we have had a very hard working group of students and parents developing the garden. Many thanks to those who came over the holidays to water and look after the plants. This year we will try to do even more to make sure our school can help students and the community learn the importance of plants in our environment.

This year we will meet every 2nd week. so only even weeks! (2,4,6,8,10)

When: Even Tuesdays after school (3:30 – 4:15pm)

Starting Week 4, 20th of February 2024

Where: Meet in the back garden to start. We usually have a snack of fruit, sometimes from the garden and some biscuits/cookies as a reward for the hard work!

Who: Any **students with parents/carers** can come along as long as you want to dig or get your hands dirty! We would love **grandparents** and anyone else in the community to help organise the garden and the work.

What will we do: Gardening jobs, eating harvested crops, collecting food to share with community and any activities that we can plan together to make our environment better.



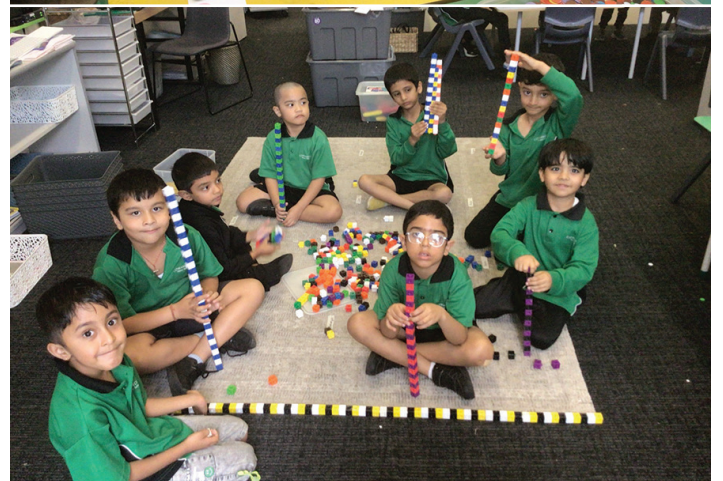
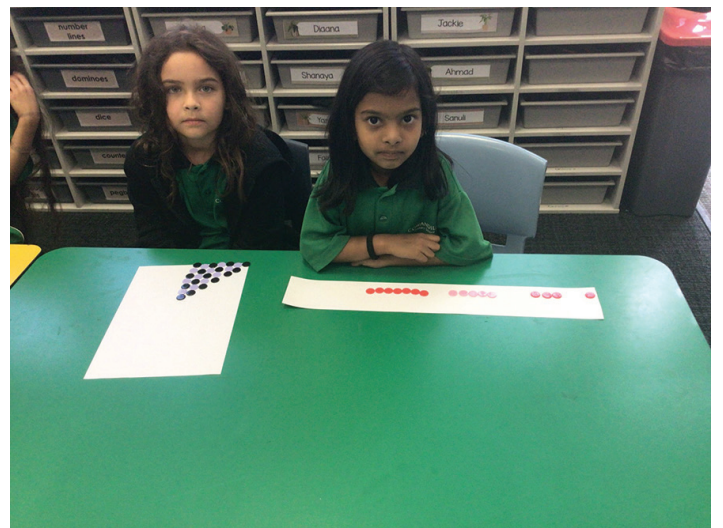
Learning with Ms Lisa and Ms Min

We have had a successful start to the school year in Ms Lisa's and Ms Min's IELC classes. We welcomed back lots of familiar faces as well as many new students and their families.

To support our students with building a positive sense of identity and broadening their friendship circles, we have facilitated many opportunities for children to engage in purposeful play and learning together. This has included combining our classes during developmental play sessions every Friday afternoons where students chose to play with children they had not played with before.

We have also worked together to explore mathematical concepts such as patterning. Students have learned about the four different types of patterns, including linear, growing, cyclic and symmetrical patterns. Children engaged in a variety of activities to consolidate their knowledge of using mathematical language, such as the 'unit of repeat', 'term' and 'infinite'.

Below are some examples of the activities children engaged in during our maths lessons.



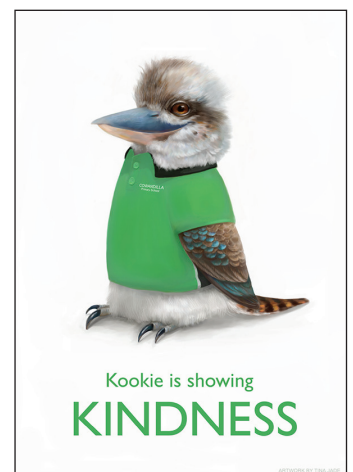
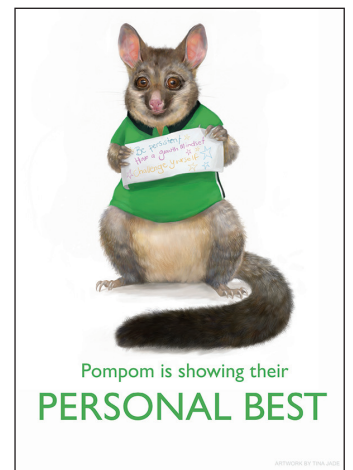
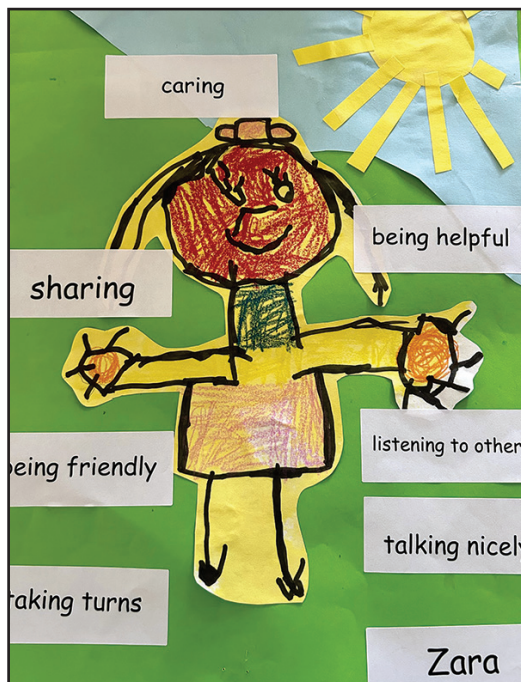
Talking Kindness

During the past six weeks we have been talking about our four school values, respect, responsibility, personal best and kindness. Each one of these values is incorporated within setting up our class and creating a place where each student feels like they belong, feels safe, contributes and tries their best. Our focus last week was looking at kindness and examining what does kindness look like, and sound like in our classroom.

We used the stories in these books to help students develop their understanding of kindness. "Kindness makes us stronger", by Sophie Beer and "The Nice Book", by David Stein.

These stories helped students considered how kindness would look and sound like. They were caring, taking turns, sharing, being helpful, talking nicely, listening to others and being friendly. Each student created a poster labelling these aspects of kindness.

By Reception and Year 1 Students



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www.cowandilla.sa.edu.au

Cowandilla Choirs

At Cowandilla Primary School we support the teaching of music as there are so many benefits on different levels for the students.

It has been fantastic to see so many students attend our Festival of Music Information lessons over the last couple of weeks. This year we have over 40 year 5 and 6 students who are keen to be part of the choir for 2024, with many students joining for the first time. This is an impressive number of students keen to join!

Our lessons are on Wednesday from 2:15 – 3:15pm, with Tina Photakis as Choir trainer, Deb Postema as Choir support and Alla Dikovskaya as our piano accompanist.

In week eight, students from Torrensville Primary School choir will come to Cowandilla to join our own Festival of Music Choir students for a combined rehearsal. This will provide students with an opportunity to experience practising in a larger group.

The 14 song repertoire for 2024 includes a song from the movie "Rio 2", a song written by Australian singer songwriter, Uncle Archie Roach AO, and a couple of songs by the group, ABBA!

We are also very fortunate to be starting a new Year 3/4 Choir, at the same time as our previous Junior Choir time on Fridays, first break. The Department for Education has provided a special songbook aimed at year 3/4 students, filled with songs that have been written for South Australian students by composers and musicians who live in South Australia. Each song includes a special message for the students! We will have folders once again and the students will be receiving copies of the songs that we are learning as they are introduced.

We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

NAPLAN Assessments

Students in Years 3 and 5 will be completing the NAPLAN assessments once again, beginning on the Wednesday of week seven. Students will be participating in writing, reading, language conventions and numeracy tests across several days. The assessments will be completed on iPads, except for Year 3 writing, which is handwritten.

If your child is in Year 3 or 5 and you do not wish them to participate, or you would like more information, please contact Deb Postema or Katrina Sexton.

More information on NAPLAN Online is available at:
www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support/



Diary Dates

Friday 8th March
Assembly 9:00am

Monday 11th March
Adelaide Cup Public Holiday
School and Preschool closed

Wednesday 20th March
Student Free Day for school and
preschool
(OSHC available)

Monday 25th March to Friday 5th April
Parent/Teacher/ Student Goal setting
Interviews

Thursday 28th March
Sports Day

Friday 29th March and Monday 1st April
School closed due to Public Holidays

Friday 5th April
Assembly 9:00am

Friday 12th April
Casual Clothes Day and Student Disco

Friday 12th April
Last Day of Term 1

Term 2

Monday 29th April
Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 30th April
School resumes for students at 8:55am