



COBURG WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

TERM 1

20th March, 2020

DATE	ACTIVITY	DETAILS
Wednesday 25 th March	Kaboom Sport POSTPONED	Prep-Grade 6
Thursday 26 th March	Life-Education POSTPONED	Preps
Thursday 26 th March	Last day of classes for Term 1	3:30pm Dismissal
Friday 27 th March	CURRICULUM DAY END OF TERM 1	Pupil Free Day
Tuesday 14 th April	CURRICULUM Day START OF TERM 2	Pupil Free Day
Wednesday 15 th April	Term 2 classes begin	Students return at 9am
Friday 17 th April	Victorian Premiers Reading Challenge	
Wednesday 22 nd April	Curriculum Day POSTPONED	Pupil Free Day
Friday 24 th April	ANZAC Ceremony CANCELLED	School Assembly
Tuesday 12 th May	NAPLAN CANCELLED	Writing
Wednesday 13 th May	NAPLAN CANCELLED	Reading
Thursday 14 th May	NAPLAN CANCELLED	Numeracy
Thursday 21 st May	School Photos	Students MUST be in full school uniform
Monday 8 th June	Queen's Birthday	Pupil Free Day
Wednesday 24 th June	Parent Teacher Interviews	12-7pm
Friday 26 th June	END OF TERM 2	Dismissal at 2:30pm
Monday 13 th July	START OF TERM 3	All grades start 9am
Wednesday 29 th July	Family Maths problem solving night	
Monday 17 th - Friday 21 st August	Science Week	
Monday 7 th - Wednesday 9 th September	Grade 4 Camp	
Friday 18 th September	END OF TERM 3	Dismissal at 2:30pm
Monday 5 th October	START OF TERM 4	All grades start 9am
Monday 2 nd November	Curriculum Day	Pupil Free Day
Tuesday 3 rd November	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday	School Closed
Friday 18 th December	END OF TERM 4	Dismissal at 1:30pm

Dear School Community,

It has been a very busy and unusual time across our school this past fortnight. While we are all trying to come to terms with the impact of the COVID-19 Global Pandemic, our staff have been working hard to provide some normality for all students, while also planning for Term 2 and for the potential closure of schools. This is a very difficult situation and the staff are working toward establishing suitable systems by which we can provide continuity of learning for all students in the event of long-term closures. We will continue to keep you informed.

NAPLAN CANCELLED

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) and the DET have announced the NAPLAN testing will not proceed for 2020. This decision was made in recognition of the disruption caused to schools by COVID-19.

ADDITIONAL PUPIL-FREE DAYS ALLOCATED

Staff in schools are working hard to prepare for the possibility that we will need to move at some stage to more flexible learning arrangements, including remote learning. In acknowledgement of this, the Minister for Education yesterday approved an additional two pupil-free days for all Victorian

government schools. These two days will provide our school with an important opportunity to consolidate our preparations for remote learning. DET have allocated the first day as the last day of this term – **Friday 27 March** (next week) – and the second day will be on the first day of Term 2 – **Tuesday 14 April** (after the coming school holidays). Please make note of these dates.

STUDENT ABSENCES

As reported through COMPASS, our student absences have been increasing as we progressed through the week. By Friday, we had reached a total of 113 students absent. While these absences are for a range of reasons, I appreciate that some students are being kept home for precautionary measures around the COVID-19 Pandemic. Regardless, I urge all parents/carers to access COMPASS and lodge your child's absence.

I remind you also, of the following directives from the Victorian Chief Health Officer and DET:

- Any child who presents with illness (eg cough, sneezing, fever, sore throat, runny nose) should be kept home or sent home from school
- Any child who has been in direct contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 or has been confirmed as having contracted COVID-19, must be quarantined and kept away from school. In such an instance, I urge you to contact me immediately to inform me of this situation.
- If you as a parent make the decision to keep your children at home as a precautionary measure, you must code the reason as '807-Parent Choice School Approved/Authorised' and include the word 'COVID-19' in the absence comments.
- If the student absence results from self-isolation in accordance with advice or direction from health authorities then the following code MUST be used '929-Pandemic'.

REMOTE LEARNING

As previously mentioned, between delivering regular classes and planning for Term 2, our staff are also preparing to implement remote learning. This is a very challenging prospect and a difficult one to fulfil in a very short time frame. However, as a staff, we have achieved a great deal and I am confident that we will achieve the DET directive to ensure continuity of learning in the event of school closures. While it will not always be perfect, we will all be learning as we go. This is where we are going to rely heavily on the support of parents and carers to ensure this remote learning runs smoothly. In the event of school closures, we will be providing families with information and plans as to how this will proceed. There will be a mixture of emails, online and practical tasks depending on the age group. Regardless, it is a DET expectation that all students and staff will engage in a full day of schooling in order to achieve that continuity of learning. Therefore, we would greatly appreciate your support in this process.

ADDITIONAL CLEANING

On Thursday, in light of the challenges posed by COVID-19, it was announced that DET is providing additional cleaning allocations as well as school cleaning products to all schools across Victoria through to the end of this school term. As such, on Friday an additional cleaner was onsite for four hours, cleaning high touch surfaces including toilets, taps, door handles and benches.

SCHOOL COUNCIL OFFICE BEARERS APPOINTED

In an effort to respect social distancing measures, this past Wednesday evening the CWPS School Council meet via teleconference. While it took a little getting used to, we managed to close the 2019 School Council and open the 2020 School Council. As such, we thanked and bid farewell to Heather McGiddy and Sabina Curatolo. While going on to welcome Jo Hatch and Joshua Wolter to our new Council. See the President's Report later in this Newsletter for more details.

While we only have four school days left for students before the holiday break, there is still a lot of learning to cover. There is also a lot of preparation still required for the transition to remote learning. Therefore, I ask that all parents and carers respect that staff are very busy at this time. We also ask that you respect social distancing measures and refrain from spending time on school grounds unnecessarily. We all, including staff, need to protect our health and that of our own respective families.

I wish you all good health over the coming weeks and hope to be welcoming you all back to school after the holidays, for the **start of Term 2, at 9am on Wednesday 15th April 2020.**

Kind regards,
Mark Colagrande
Principal

Protect yourself and your family

Cover your cough and sneeze



- 1** COVER your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- 2** Put your used tissue in the rubbish BIN.
- 3** If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, **NOT YOUR HANDS.**
- 4** WASH your hands with soap and running water. Dry your hands thoroughly with a disposable paper towel or hand dryer.

Stay germ free and healthy

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Protect yourself and your family

Wash your hands regularly



- 1** Wet your hands.
- 2** Put soap on your hands.
- 3** Rub the soap over all parts of your hands for at least 20 seconds.
- 4** Rinse your hands under running water.
- 5** Dry your hands thoroughly with disposable paper towel or hand dryer.

Stay germ free and healthy

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RESPECT HONESTY ENDEAVOUR

FRIENDLINESS RESPONSIBILITY CO OPERATION

Name	Grade	Value	Awarded by
Nicola M	1/2A	Respectful	Miss Alihos
Freya C	1/2A	Respectful	Miss Alihos
Murphy	1/2B	Respectful	Miss Blackman
Oliver	1/2B	Respectful	Miss Blackman
Aliki V	1/2D	We are Learners	Mr Peric
Ava M	1/2D	We are Respectful	Mr Peric
Alexander	1/2E	Respect	Mrs Esposito
Kitana	1/2P	Respect	Miss Preston/Mrs Pavich
Isabella	1/2P	Respectful	Miss Preston/Mrs Pavich
Ivy B	1/2S	Respectful	Miss Siciliano
Sophie B	1/2T	Respect	Ms Trevaskis
Panos	/2T	Respectful	Ms Tevaskis
Emily R	3/4A	Learners	Mr Rye
Mila M	3/4A	We are Learners	Mr Rye
Jarvis S	3/4A	Learners	Mr Rye
Kristian S	3/4C	Respectful	Mrs Spiteri/Ms Currie
Lainey M	3/4C	We are Learners	Mrs Spiteri/Ms Currie
Alessio A	3/4F	Learners	Miss Franco
Ashleigh H	3/4M	Learners	Miss Mardesic
Tilly F	3/4M	We are Respectful	Miss Mardesic
Massimo L	3/4R	We are Respectful	Ms Roberts
Amelie B	1/4R	We are Respectful	Ms Roberts
Georgie H	3/4S	We are Learners	Ms Spyrou
Hadley S	3/4S	We Care about each other	Ms Spyrou
Alice B	3/4Y	Learners	Ms Youla
Ayda O	5/6B	Respect	Ms Blatti
Tristan R	5/6B	Respect	Ms Blatti
John V	5/6J	Respect	Mr Jenkins
Stefanie P	5/6J	We are Learners	Mr Jenkins
Sasha S	5/6M	We care about each other	Ms Meagher
Jacoda G	5/6M	We are Learners	Mr Jenkins
Eli C	5/6N	We are Respectful	Mr Niciak
Owen M	5/6T	We are Respectful	Mr Torpey
Harper C	5/6T	We are Learners	Mr Torpey
Gervaise S	5/6 CAMPERS	Bravery	Ms Meagher
April R	5/6 CAMPERS	Singing	Ms Meagher
Teli K	5/6 CAMPERS	Helping	Ms Meagher
Dash L	5/6 CAMPERS	Involment	Ms Meagher
Lauren	5/6 CAMPERS	Flying fox	Ms Meagher
Amanda P	5/6 CAMPERS	Positive Attitude	Miss Amerena
Georgia T	5/6 CAMPERS	Positive Behaviour	Miss Amerena
Alessio G	5/6 CAMPERS	Bravery	Miss Amerena
Tyson W	5/6 CAMPERS		Miss Amerena
Matisse Z	5/6 CAMPERS	Supportive	Mr Jenkins
Neko	5/6 CAMPERS	Brave/Growth Mindset	Mr Jenkins
Henry M	5/6 CAMPERS		
Anna S	5/6 CAMPERS		

Update on staff professional learning

Wow it's been a busy Term. We always hit the ground running in Term 1 but the school is buzzing with teaching and learning this term. It's so satisfying to see our staff learning and developing as well as the students. We have had lots of professional development opportunities over the last month and by learning together we strengthen our professional knowledge, build relationships and collaborate across the school... In other words do exactly what we expect the students to do!!

We had a most productive learning afternoon with Pamela Mathieson who is the principal of Northern School for Autism. She revised strategies for adapting the curriculum, providing visual cues and modifying instructions to assist neurodiverse learners. However we soon discovered all learners would probably benefit from these strategies. Pamela shared lots of resources, some very relatable stories and insights reminding staff to make sure that we cater for the learning needs of all our students.

We have been very fortunate recently to work with a Literacy Consultant - Julie Shepherd. Julie is the Victorian State President of ALEA (Australian Literacy Education Association) Part of her research has been with Pete Bouwers from Canada around the teaching of spelling. A staff representative from each teaching team as well as Patricia and Mark have been looking at utilising Julie's research into etymology and 'how words work' to look at ways that we can restructure the learning of spelling as part of our Writing program.

More very purposeful professional learning took place on Tuesday 11th March at our Curriculum Day. Many staff gave enormously positive feedback about the quality of the presentations and we really are lucky to have such skilled Leaders in Patricia Amerena, Fiona Currie and Trist Jones.

Our morning session focused on the Readers Workshop as part of the Literacy block. We have already had time as a staff on how to implement this strategy using the Reader's Notebook for independent book responses. We revised the importance of having a personal book box with a selection of 'just right' books across a range of genres and the impact of conferencing during independent reading time to set and check progress against individual reading goals.

I think this slide is very important to share with the community.

LET'S LOOK INTO THE FUTURE 2018 AND BEYOND AT COBURG WEST IN ENGLISH

2018 (Term 3 and Term 4)

Introduction and trial of:

- Classroom Libraries ✓
- Independent Reading ✓
- Individual Conferences ✓
- Individual Goal Setting ✓

Development of 4 main anchor charts:

(What are Classroom libraries? What makes a good reader? What is real/fake reading?
How to choose 'Just Right' Books) ✓

2019

- Refine work around initiatives introduced in 2018 ✓
- Introduce Book Boxes ✓
- Introduce Reader's Notebook ✓
- Write policies, procedures and protocols about reading ✓

2020

- Review Reading Program, results and engagement ✓
- Commence focus on Writing and Spelling Program at CWPS ✓

Patricia Amerena really does deserve a round of applause for her magnificent work in Literacy. The staff are sharing the student's excitement about reading and I'm so proud.

Our mid-morning session was entitled *REASONING - The forgotten Proficiency*. Fiona Currie our Leading Teacher in Mathematics. This session reminded us of the importance of the Proficiencies in mathematics: Fluency, Problem Solving, Reasoning and Understanding.

Staff responses showed the work we've put in on problem solving has really transformed their understanding of the importance of teaching for understanding rather than being process driven. Fiona guided us through a practical and engaging session on the essential questions teachers should ask their students in mathematics classes such as:

- What is your evidence?
- How did you get your answer?
- What convinced you that your answer was right?
- Why did you think that strategy would work?
- Can you explain the steps you took?

These are great questions to use at home when working with your children.

Staff representatives from each team have attended two days of School Wide Positive Behaviour Support training at the NMR offices. Jessica Wilcox our Hume Moreland Coach has been teaching staff how to progress the roll out of the behaviour matrix into every classroom. We need to teach the desired behaviours and recognise when students demonstrate them.

The following SWPBS mission statement has been created:

At Coburg West Primary School we work together to create and promote a safe, respectful, and caring learning environment for all.

The final piece of staff learning that I wanted to share with the community are our termly celebrations of learning. In the last week of each term we like to celebrate the hard work that has gone in the weeks before. This year we will be utilising a Learning Walk in Week 9 with a specific focus on the Reading conference. We will be looking for best practice in anecdotal note taking, differentiating in reading instruction, goal setting, conference prompts, Reader's Notebook and how lessons are set up.

As you can see we have a highly proficient teaching staff who are always working together looking at ways to refine their practice to achieve the best possible results for our students. I hope you share my pride in their dedication.

Dan Copping
Assistant Principal



Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge

The **Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge** is now open and Coburg West Primary School is excited to be participating.

Children will require permission to participate, which can be provided **via COMPASS by Friday 17th April.**

Following this date, all participating students will be given login details so that they can access the site and upload the books that they have read onto the website. However, start reading now, do not wait until you have the login!

To read the Premier's letter to parents, view the booklists and for more information about the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/prc and refer to the specific details in the COMPASS notification.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Patricia Amerena via the school email.

Thank You

Patricia Amerena

English Leading Teacher



To celebrate 20 action packed years of the explosive and best-selling Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz, Walker Books are running a short story competition that will be judged by Anthony himself!

The winner will receive an ebook of their story, a letter from Anthony, a scooter AND books for them and their school!

Entries are now open, head to <https://alexriderstory.com> to learn more!

The closing date for entries is **Friday 15th May 2020** and a parent/carer will need to authorize you submitting your entry.

Presidents Report for School Council Meeting of 18 March 2020

This past Wednesday night, the School Council met by videoconference for the first time as a way of minimising the risk to Councillors arising from the COVID-19 outbreak. Until further notice, it is likely that School Council will be meeting in this way. This may impact on the ability for meetings to be open and we will manage any requests from the Community to attend on a case by case basis.

You will undoubtedly have noted the significant debate around schools remaining open or shut, and the reasons proffered by the government to schools remaining open. It is enormously difficult to decide to close schools and indeed no less difficult to form the conclusion they should remain open.

Considerable discussion was held regarding whether the School Council is positioned to assist the school staff and management of the school in the present climate. All of the School Councillors are very concerned about the well-being of our teachers, students, staff and the executive of the school.

School staff and teachers are intensely planning for a range of outcomes including situations where the school would close and having to continue to provide education materials and classes for students at home. At this stage, the executive considers that they have all that is required.

No one has gone through the situation we are facing ever before. We are bombarded with information from the media, government and rumour mill, and we all have our opinions as to what should and shouldn't happen. For now though we know that our teachers and staff are remaining at the School. The School Council wishes to encourage everyone out there to be highly considerate of one another and, in particular, our teachers and staff in what is an enormously difficult time for all.

Outside Hours School Care

The School Council requested that Gina and Sonia provide a COVID-19 management plan. This was prepared in short order and was presented to Council. The plan is a comprehensive management plan for the operation of OHSC.

Thus far the plan has been reviewed by Scott Burchell, Sandy Vouch and myself, and will be further commented upon by other Councillors. Gina, Sonia and the OHSC staff are to be commended for their plan and also working in a very difficult environment which clearly has the safety of our children and OHSC staff at its heart.

The management plan will likely be a live document developing as measures implemented by the government change. It is largely an internal document, but if any parent would like to read the management plan please let one of your councillors know and this will be provided.

School Nurse

We discussed the School Nurse in the context of whether the Council needed to release additional funds to obtain supplies of equipment for the nurse. We understand that the nurse has been purchasing supplies, but has been having difficulty in obtaining alcohol based hand sanitiser (other sanitiser has been obtained). If anyone in the community is able to source this type of sanitiser for the School, please let one of your Councillors or the front office staff at the School know.

Minimisation of Contact

With the risk of infection from COVID-19, the School Council asks all parents maintain strict 1.5 metre distances from others when at the school. This includes other students, parents, teachers and staff. Please minimise your time at the school as much as you can.

New Office Bearers

Last night was the last meeting of the 2019 School Council and also the first meeting of the new 2020 School Council. We said goodbye to Heather McGiddy and Sabina Curatolo and welcomed Jo Hatch and Joshua Wolter to the Council. Congratulations to Jo and Joshua on their election to the Council for the first time and also to Josh Rowe and Mel Gangemi for being re-elected.

The new Office Bearer positions for the 2020 Council are as follows:

- President – Ian Drew
- Vice President – Sandy Vouch
- Secretary – Melissa Gangemi
- Treasurer – Josh Rowe
- Vice Treasurer – Joshua Wolter
- Minutes Secretary – Patrizia Amerena

Other positions were also appointed as conveners of various subcommittees and working groups as follows:

- Buildings Grounds and Sustainability Sub-Committee – Helen Myroforidis
- Canteen Sub-Committee – Jo Hatch
- Strategy Working Group – Elliot Scott

We are working toward appointing further Councillors to the Policy and Grants sub-committees, but this was held over until the next meeting in light of the need to discuss more pressing matters. We will keep you all advised.

We also note that the Council co-opted two further members to Council for a one year term. These are Scott Burchell as the representative for OHSC and Louise Harrison for the renamed CWPS COMMUNITY GROUP.

Confirmation of Community Group Office Bearers

As required the Council confirmed the following Officer Bearer positions for the Community Group:

- President – Louise Harrison
- Vice President – Meg Breese
- Secretary – Catherine Sartorello

Congratulations to all and thank you for being involved in this very important aspect of our school.

The Community Group is still looking for a member to step into the Treasurer role. We encourage all members of the community to be involved in the group and strength is derived from the wider community rather than the few.

A number of events which are being proposed by the Community Group have either been put on hold or are being re-evaluated. At this stage, it is simply too early to tell where we will be as a community going into the next school term. The School Council will continue to monitor the situation.

Greek Teacher

The Principal provided an update at the meeting in relation to the Greek teacher starting at the school. Whilst a teacher has been appointed, we still await the Department of Education to finalise the appointment. Our Principal Mark is following up regularly with the Department and will keep all advised.

There is a lot of stress in the community in the moment coming from a wide range of sources. Remember we are all in this together and together we will be stronger and safer. Please keep well, look after your families and be considerate of others in our community in this difficult time.

Best wishes

Ian Drew

School Council President

Pascoe Vale Girls College invites prospective students and parents to attend our Open Day on Monday 20th April 2020

Information Sessions followed by tours of the College will be held at the following times:

Morning: 9.00am – 10.30am

Evening: 7.00pm – 8.00pm

Parents and children only need to attend one session. There is no need to register attendance.

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN: YEAR 7 SEAL PROGRAM 2021

The SEAL Program provides differentiated teaching and learning that meets the needs of gifted and talented learners. The Program provides stimulating learning experiences that challenge, extend, and develop the gifts of students by offering acceleration and enrichment. SEAL students will study faster paced curriculum and have the opportunity to study concepts in greater depth. There is a greater emphasis on higher order thinking and learning skills and independent learning and research. The SEAL program is suited to students who are capable of studying curriculum at a faster pace, have a strong passion for learning, are capable of working independently, enjoy intellectual challenges and have superior problem solving abilities.

Visit the College website for further information and to apply for the SEAL program:

www.pvgc.vic.edu.au

If you are unable to attend our Open Day sessions, the College also conducts tours with the Principal or an Assistant Principal throughout the year. Bookings can be made by contacting the College on **9306 2544** or online through the College website at **www.pvgc.vic.edu.au**



OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 23 APRIL 2020

Everyone welcome. Book today at:
www.coburg.vic.edu.au/open

We warmly invite you to visit us at Coburg High School to learn more about our school. For more information, including dates & times of our school tours, visit us at www.coburg.vic.gov.au or call 9353 1700.