Coburg West Primary School

Friday 13th November

CWPS ACTIVITY CALENDAR		
DATE	**ACTIVITY**	**DETAILS**
TERM 4		
November		
Sunday 15th	Working Bee	9am to 1pm
Monday 16th – Friday 20th	Swimming	Grades 3 & 4
Thursday 26th	Transition Session # 3	Prep 2027 9:15am – 10:30am
	Celebration of Learning	Whole School Open Classrooms 2:45pm - 4:45pm
December		
Wednesday 2nd	Keyboard Concert	School Community Welcome to attend - 5pm in the Small Hall
Thursday 3rd	Extended School Day Onsite 6pm finish	Grade 1
Monday 7th – Friday 11th	Swimming	Grades 1 & 2
Tuesday 8th	Whole School Concert	After school event; Start time to be advised
Thursday 10th	Melbourne Zoo	Prep
Friday 11th	Luna Park	Grade 6
Monday 14th – Thursday 17th	Swimming	Prep
Wednesday 16th	Graduation Dinner & Ceremony	Grade 6
Friday 18th	Last Day of Term 4	**1:30pm Dismissal**

Dear School Community,

This week I had the opportunity to join the grade three students on their overnight camp to Sovereign Hill. While it was a jam packed two days of activity and learning, it was wonderful to see our students enjoying themselves so much. These experiences could not be possible for our students if it were not for our staff who put so much into planning, organising and supervising these camps. Please join me in thanking Mr Peric, Ms McKenzie, Ms Currie and Danielle who all gave up time with their families to attend and make this camp the success that it was for our students.

Open Streets Success

Today we celebrated our final Open Streets event for this year. Over the last three weeks we have seen the crowds growing each Friday, as more students and their families join us in playing, riding and having fun on Devon Avenue before and after school. Please join me in thanking the Student Leaders and House Captains who worked together with Mr Aitken and Mr Oberbichler, to ensure there were a variety of fun activities for children of all ages. While a special thank you goes out to parent leader Laura C who

guided our parent volunteers in providing snacks, treats and taking surveys across each session. We look forward to repeating Open streets next year.

Greek Students Acknowledged

Last newsletter we shared the success our Greek students had with their short film, this week we learnt about the writing pieces created by two of our students for the Hellenic Student Literary Competition. We congratulate Marcus and Flora for their written pieces which you can read later in this newsletter, along with a report about the film festival. Well done to them all.

Little Sparks Celebrate

This week we also saw the final session of our Little Sparks Club for this year. As such, it was time to party, with little ones dressing up with their parents or grandparents and enjoying the fun with their new friends, including our Student Leaders who have supported them each session across this year. By popular demand, we aim to continue the program in 2027. I wish to thank Ms Amerena who helped launch, lead and manage this weekly club for 3- to 5-year-olds, across the year.

Celebration of Learning

Coming up on Thursday 26 November, we will be opening our classrooms from 2:45pm to 4:45pm. This open afternoon will allow families to visit their children in their classrooms and help celebrate the progress being made in their learning. We look forward to welcoming families into our classrooms.

Planning for 2027

We are now planning for the 2027 school year.

For those families who currently have children in Grade Prep to Five, if you should decide to move your child to another school next year, we would appreciate you advising us in writing as soon as you can. This information will assist us greatly with planning for 2027.

Reminders:

- Thursday 26 November – Celebration of Learning

Kind regards,
Mark Colagrande
Principal







Grade 3 Camp

Sovereign Hill



CWPS VALUES CERTIFICATES

We Are **Learners** / We Are **Respectful** / We Are **Safe** / We **Care**

Grade	Student	Value	Student	Value	Presented by
00D	**Huon**	**We Are Learners**	**Atticus**	**We Are Learners**	Ms. Zschunke
00L	**Leyla**	**We Are Learners**	**Emi**	**We Are Safe**	Ms. Lebon/Mr. Robinson
1C	**Billie**	**We Are Respectful**	**Hugo**	**We Care**	Ms. Corn
1S	**Tom** **Patrick**	**We Are Learners** **We Are Learners**			Ms. Saville/Ms. Sztrajt
2S	**Oliver**	**We Are Respectful**	**Donna**	**We Are Learners**	Ms. Spiteri/ Ms. Amerena
2P	**Dion**	**We Are Learners**	**Issy** **Noah**	**We Care** **We Care**	Ms. Preston & 2P
3M	**Ned** **Ashar**	**We Are Learners** **We Are Learners**	**Jett** **Artie**	**We Are Learners** **We Are Learners**	Ms. McKenzie/Ms. Franco
3P	**Chloe**	**We Are Learners**	**Issy** **Noah**	**We Are Safe** **We Are Safe**	Mr. Peric
4A	**Flora** **Ellery**	**We Are Respectful** **We Are Respectful**	**Grace** **Bo**	**We Care** **We Care**	Mr. Aitken & 4A
4F	**Will**	**We Care**	**Samiha** **Eliot**	**We Care** **We Care**	Ms. Fonte De Vos & 4F
5E	**Caoimhe**	**We Are Respectful**	**Jaxon**	**We Are Learners**	Ms. Esposito
5T		**We Are Learners**	**All of 5T**	**We Are Respectful**	Mr. Torpey
6O			**Archie** **Massimo** **Josie** **Keira** **Evie**	**We Are Learners** **We Are Learners** **We Are Respectful** **We Are Respectful** **We Are Respectful**	Mr Oberbichler/6O
6R					Ms. Rigby
P.E.	**Harrison**	**We Are Safe**	**Hamish B.**	**We Are Safe**	Mr. Harvey
V. Arts /Italian	**Cleo** **Dakota**	**We Care** **We Care**		**We Are Learners**	Ms. DiVincenzo/Ms. Peterson
P. Arts	**Andrew S**	**We Are Learners**	**Giuliana**	**We Are Respectful**	Ms. Sommer
STEM	**Harvey 5E**	**We Are Respectful**	**Aston**	**We Are Respectful**	Mr. Robinson

CWPS GOOD CITIZENS

These students are acknowledged and thanked by their House Captains for being Good Citizens by exhibiting positive behaviours which reflect our School Values.

	6th November	13th November
Green House	Declan 1S	Ned PL
Red House	Andre 5T	Flora 4A
Blue House	Goldie 4A	Max PL
Gold House	Shia 5E	Ruth 5E

The 14th Greek Student Film Festival!

FIRST PLACE
Primary School Entry

AUDIENCE AWARD
Best Film, Audience Choice



What an incredible achievement for our Grade 3/4 Greek Language students! We are bursting with pride as we celebrate their outstanding success at the **14th Greek Student Film Festival**, where their film, '*The Replacement*', took home not one, but TWO major awards: **First Place (Primary School Entry)** and the **Audience Award**.

This year's festival theme was **AI**, and throughout Term 3 the students embarked on an exciting creative journey. From brainstorming ideas to developing a storyline, creating characters, planning scenes, props and deciding on a title, the students worked collaboratively to bring their vision to life. Their goal was to create a five-minute film filled with suspense, creativity and a meaningful message. After a dedicated day of filming, their footage went off for editing before being submitted to the festival.

A little about the film 'The Replacement'

The five-minute film tells the story of students who discover that an AI teacher, despite being clever, cannot replace the kindness, care and connection of their beloved real teacher. The message was simple but powerful: **Technology can be clever, but it can never replace the human connection, kindness, care and compassion that make us who we are.**











Grand Screening at Palace Cinema Como

On Sunday 25 October, we were invited to the grand screening of all the festival entries at Palace Cinema Como. What an unforgettable experience! We were welcomed by a red carpet, photographers, drinks and popcorn. As the lights dimmed and the films appeared on the big screen, the excitement in the theatre was palpable. With nine primary schools and eight secondary schools participating, it was wonderful to see the imaginative ways students explored the theme of AI, from talking plants to artificial intelligence threatening to take over the world! We couldn't wait to see our hard work come to life on the big screen.







Announcing the Winners

The moment we had all been waiting for arrived! As the awards were announced, our Grade 3/4 students were overjoyed to hear their film, *The Replacement*, was awarded **First Place in the Primary School Category**. The excitement continued at the end when the audience had the chance to vote and Coburg West Primary School was announced as **Best Film(Audience Choice Award)**, competing against all primary and secondary school entries!

Two awards, two trophies and one very proud group of young filmmakers! We couldn't be prouder of our Grade 3/4 Greek Language students. Their creativity, teamwork and hard work have truly paid off with a powerful story that made people laugh, inspired an audience and left a lasting message.



Congratulations to our Grade 3/4 students who brought The Replacement to life!

The cast

Teacher	Paige Evripidou
Principal	Christian Striglogiannis
AI teacher	Flora Weiss
Students	Nicola Andrianakis, Gianna Andrianakis, Hendrik Vegter, Esme Brune and Petra Rongitis

2026 Hellenic Student Literary Competition

Celebrating our young writers

We are incredibly proud of our Greek Language students **Markus Kitsakis (Grade 6)** and **Flora Weiss (Grade 4)**, who took part in this year's Hellenic Student Literary Competition. The competition invited young writers from across Australia to reflect on the role of family and heritage in their lives.

*This year's theme, **'Grandfather, Grandmother, Family and Their Words'**, encouraged students to explore personal stories, cherished memories and shared experiences through a variety of literary forms.*

Markus Kitsakis

Grade 6

Markus wrote a heartfelt tribute to his grandfather, George, sharing his journey from a small village in Greece to a new life in Australia. He reflected on his grandfather's childhood, courage, kindness and the family he built. Markus also shared the special meaning of his grandfather's gold chain, which was passed down to him and remains a treasured connection to his memory.

Flora Weiss

Grade 4

Flora wrote a beautiful tribute to her great-grandmother, Krystalla, exploring her journey from Greece to Australia, the challenges of building a new life, and the traditions and values passed down through generations. She reflects on the special connection she feels through the family names they share, celebrating the importance of family, heritage and keeping memories alive.

Well Done, Markus and Flora!

Both students beautifully captured the importance of family, heritage and the stories that connect us to our past. Thank you for sharing such meaningful pieces that celebrate your Greek heritage.



MY GRANDFATER'S BIG INFLUENCE

Written by Marcus Kitsakis

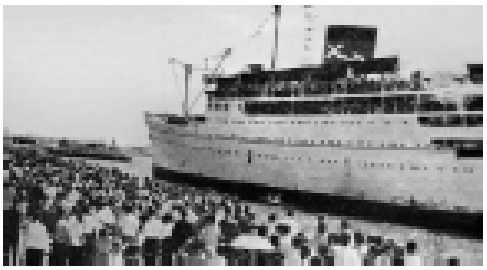
My grandfather's name was George. He passed away when I was only 10 months old, so I never had the chance to hear his stories from him. Fortunately, many of his relatives and friends keep his memory alive by talking about his past.



My grandfather was born during the Greek Civil War, on 7 December 1947. He had a twin brother, Nick, and was one of eight children: three girls and five boys. They were all born in a small village called Melia, in the Ioannina region of northern Greece. His parents were named Dimitris and Aristea.



There were difficult times during the Civil War. There was no food, and the family had to leave the village to escape the brutal conflict between Greeks themselves. My grandfather's mother remembered that difficult day when she had to make a heartbreaking decision about my grandfather and his twin brother. They had to travel a long way to leave their village, and she couldn't carry both children. So, she decided to leave my grandfather, who was very young, under a tree where no one would see him. She left him there for several days before returning to get him. Many years later, my great-grandmother often told this story, and it moved my grandfather deeply.



My grandfather left the village when he was 11 and went to work in Athens because there were no jobs near his village. At the same time, he continued his schooling. In **1965**, at the **age of 18, he emigrated to Australia**. His older brother was already there, so he went to live with him. It was a big decision to move to such a distant country without knowing the language and with a different culture.

He spent most of his life in Australia, where he worked as a taxi driver. There, he met the love of his life, Lorna. They married and had two wonderful children, Jason and Aristi. My grandfather also lived to see two grandchildren, Estelle and me, Marco, whom he loved very much.
My grandfather always wore his favourite gold chain around his neck. Before he passed away, he took it off and placed it around my neck. This chain means a great deal to me and will always hold a special, warm place in my heart.

His friends and family always said he was the kindest and most generous person they had ever known. I wish so much that I could have shared more adventures with him, but I know he is always supporting me in his own way.

My grandfather was an incredible man, and I hope I make him proud.



Melias, Ioannina (Greece)-My grandfather's birthplace

The life of a Greek female immigrant

Written by Flora Weiss

My grandmother's mother was Krystalla, as is my mother's name. My great-grandmother Krystalla was born on 10 December 1933 and died on 17 March 1982. My grandmother Flora was born on her mother's twentieth birthday, and my mother, Krystalla, was born on the third anniversary of the death of her grandmother, Krystalla. **Isn't it interesting how all these dates are connected?**



Krystalla's father, Emmanuel, came to Australia in 1917, and her mother, Flora, whose name I share, came in 1929. They both came from Greece. They married through an arranged marriage and had five children: Angelo, who was called by his "Australian name," Angie; Yianni; Peter; my grandmother Krystalla, who was called Grace; and Anastasia, who was called Daisy. Their parents may have chosen these names by asking local people for English names.

Life was very difficult for Krystalla's parents because they did not speak English and had to learn it quickly to work. Her father ran a greengrocer's shop in Balaklava for 35 years. Her mother, Flora, looked after the home.

They spoke Greek at home, and Krystalla attended a Greek school. Krystalla's parents were strict. When they were not at school, all the children worked in the greengrocer shop, including on weekends. The two girls did not have much fun. They had to help their mother with the housework and make embroidery for the family, while the three boys ran around freely. They always looked forward to Christmas or Easter to get new clothes. My life is very different! They had a difficult time because they experienced racism both inside and outside school. The boys managed to finish high school, but Krystalla and Anastasia had to leave when they were 14.



Their house was small. Krystalla shared a room with her sister Anastasia, and they divided it with a sheet so they could have a little time to themselves. But they often argued when one crossed into the other's space. "You came into my space!" "No, you came into mine!" Their parents were always telling them off for their daily arguments.

Krystalla married Michalis Loukidis when she was 19 and he was just 17. She worked in all of her husband's businesses, which included a milk bar and fish-and-chip shops, and she also worked night shifts in factories. Krystalla and Michalis had two children. Their first child, my grandmother Flora, was born when Krystalla was 20. At 21, she had a little boy named Nick. Krystalla loved knitting, cooking, and spending time with her friends and family. Her life revolved around her children, who always brought her joy. Her greatest dream was to travel outside Australia, with Greece at the top of her list. Sadly, she never got the chance to travel.
Although I never met my great-grandmother Krystalla, I feel a deep connection to her. There is a bond that unites us. One value Krystalla passed down was the importance of family, something that is carried on through the names that continue to be passed down in our family. My name is Flora. My mother's name is Krystalla. My grandmother is named Flora, my great-grandmother was named Krystalla, and my great-great-grandmother was also named Flora. My grandmother has also told me that Krystalla was very elegant, just like me!

Krystalla had a difficult life. When she was only 48 years old, she died of cancer. If she were alive today, she would be 92. Although I never met my great-grandmother Krystalla, I am very interested in learning more about her.



Last year was the 100th anniversary of the Castellorizian Association of Australia. This is the island in Greece that Krystalla came from. My mother and I dressed in traditional costumes for a special calendar, and the photographer added us to an old photograph of Krystalla at the 25th-anniversary celebration in 1950. Photographs of my mother and me were exhibited at the Hellenic Museum in Melbourne.









A special thanks to the 35 hard workers who volunteered their time, hopefully we can get even more next time ... many hands make light work!

CWPS Holiday Program

Activities



DIY Squishy making and disco party



The Tiny Chef excursion



Jumping castles all day in the gym



Obstacle courses



Animal incursions



Crocs playcentre excursion



Water day
(water sponge races, water balloons and more)



Bike and scooter days

When

Week 1 – Monday 11th of January to Thursday 14th of January

Week 2 – Monday 18th of January to Thursday 21st of January

Contact Us

3941-holidayprogram@schools.vic.edu.au
OR 0417 032 288
OR come sown to OSHC building to chat with us!

Holiday Program

Week 1

Monday



Obstacle courses and games day

- Obstacle course
- Tug of war
- Parachute games
- Egg and spoon race
- G-ball
- Cooking LCM bars

Tuesday



Animal day

- Animal encounters of endangered animals
- Animal scavenger hunt
- DIY animal mask
- Air dry clay modelling
- Cooking pizzas

Wednesday



Crocs Playcentre excursion

- Play centre with slides, climbing, jumping pillows etc
- Gaga tournament
- Gardening
- Switch games

Thursday



Water play day

- Water sponge tag
- Water balloon games
- Fill the bucket challenge
- Sandcastle competition
- Pom poms
- Cooking cupcakes

Holiday Program

Week 2

Monday



Bike and scooter days

- Track to ride bike or scooter
- DIY wash station for bikes/ scooters
- Among us game
- Mosaic art
- Cooking sausage rolls

Tuesday



The tiny chef excursion

- Make pizzas, cupcakes and milkshakes at Tiny Chef
- Outdoor capture the flag
- Interactive games
- Play dough
- Afternoon tea pasta

Wednesday



DIY Squishy and disco party day

- Make your own squishy!!!!
- Disco party
- DIY party hats
- Glow sticks
- Jewellery making
- Dress up station

Thursday



Jumping castles all day

- Face painting
- Popcorn station
- Guess the lolly jar
- Carnival games
- Movie and ice poles

BRUNSWICK
SECONDARY COLLEGE

TWILIGHT MARKET

Friday November 27

5.00pm to 9.00pm

Featuring

- Food Trucks
- Bar & Refreshments
- Sausage Sizzle
- Market Stalls
- Live Music & Performances

ART, DESIGN & MEDIA
exhibition

Nelson Alexander

Proudly Supporting Our Community

WEST COBURG
F C

WEST COBURG FOOTBALL CLUB



ALL GIRLS UNDER 8 TEAM

REDUCED REGISTRATION

FUN | FAMILY | COMMUNITY CONNECTION

SCAN TO REGISTER

REGISTER ONLINE AT:

https://www.playhq.com/afl/register/eabf26

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
JUNIOR COORDINATOR RAOUL WOODS ON 0416 556 625
OR AGE GROUP COORDINATOR SHEA GODSIL ON 0409 138 387
OR EMAIL JUNIORS@WCFC.COM.AU

BIG Bundoora Showcase



MARKET STALLS & STUDENT ENTERPRISES



FREE KIDS ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY
28
NOVEMBER 2026
11.00am - 3.00pm

SAVE THE DATE



LIVE MUSIC & PERFORMANCES



GREENWOOD FARM CAFÉ OPENING

Everyone Welcome!
Join us for a day of celebration at Bundoora Secondary College.



FOOD & DRINKS

SCAN FOR EVENT DETAILS



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



LEARNING SHOWCASES

Bundoora Secondary College

bundoorasc.vic.edu.au