

Somers Primary School



SPS NEWSLETTER

Term 1 - Issue 2 Thursday 22nd February, 2024

Principal's Report



Dear Families,

It has been fantastic to see all of our students working hard in their classrooms over the last two weeks and settling well into the 2024 school year. Across the school, students are working hard and demonstrating our school values of engagement and learning.

In writing, students across the school have been learning about sentence structure and how to increase the complexity of sentences in their writing. Students have been learning about the parts of simple, compound and complex sentences, and how to effectively use conjunctions to join their ideas together in sentences.

Our Maths and Writing Extension programs have started up with students in years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Year 3 and 4 students in the Maths Extension group have been learning about visualisation of 3D shapes, working in small groups to create a design for a sculpture that they design using Minecraft, and then create in real-life. Year 5 and 6 students participating in the Writing Extension group are working on creating their own short stories that they will publish later this term.

Meet the Teacher Interviews

Thank you to all of our families who met with their child's teacher this week at meet the teacher interviews. This important event allows us to get to know more about your child and how to best support their learning and wellbeing at school.



Welcome Ms Ryrie!

Prep/1A teacher Jessica Skinner will be taking leave between 28th February and 28th March. Jess will be spending this time travelling overseas with her family. During this time, Prep/1A will be taught by Tess Ryrie. Tess is an experienced teacher and is currently doing some relief work at Somers Primary School. Tess has been teaching in Prep/1A on Monday, Wednesday and Friday this week. We welcome Ms Ryrie to our Somers PS school community!

Canberra Camp Cancellation

Due to lack of interest, our planned 2024 Year 5 and 6 Canberra Camp that was scheduled for 6th May – 10th May will be cancelled.

We are currently in the process of selecting an alternative camp venue for our Year 5 and 6 students, which will be communicated to our students and families once a booking has been made.

Student Attendance

Our aim this term is to reduce the number of unapproved absences across the school. Our target this term is that on average, students have less than 1 unapproved absence in term one. Currently our whole school average for days absent where the reason is unapproved is 0.8 days.

To help us keep the number of unapproved absences down, families can do the following:

Avoid being absent from school unnecessarily – for example, taking a long weekend on school day, visiting family or friends on a school day or taking a day off for a birthday,

Planning family holidays during term breaks. Where this is unavoidable, please work with your child's teacher to develop a learning plan to support your child's learning whilst they are absent.

Notifying the school of the reason for your child's absence – absences where no reason is given will be marked as unapproved. Our administration team will follow up with families who do not give a reason for children's absence.

School Council Elections

Elections for our school council are taking place at the time of writing, and nominations for the 7 parent positions are open until Friday 23rd February. Nomination forms are available from the office. All parent are encouraged to consider joining this important group that assists in setting the broad direction of the school.

Thank you to our outgoing school councillors Jen McKeachie, John Hyslop and Nikki Holmes (outgoing School Council President) who have contributed significantly to our school during their time on school council



Mobile Phone Ban

A reminder that the Department of Education has in place a mobile phone ban that was introduced across Victoria in 2020. The ban requires students who bring mobile phones or wearable communication devices (including smartphones) to school to have them switched off and securely put away during school hours. The department is requiring all schools to ensure this ban is in place and enforced from the start of the 2024 school year.

The ban applies equally to all government schools right across the state. This helps ensure that school is a learning environment free from unnecessary distractions and disruptions. By ensuring mobile phones are kept away at recess and lunch times, students can interact with each other face-to-face, without the distractions and social pressures that mobile phones can cause.

Lockboxes are available in all Year 3-6 classrooms, and students are required to switch off and hand any devices

brought to school to their teacher at the start of the day.

I ask for the support of all our families, staff and students in continuing to support the implementation of this policy in our school.

For a small number of students with particular health needs, an exception to the policy may be granted. Please contact me if you would like to discuss this. In the event of an emergency or if you need to immediately contact your child, I ask that families contact the school office who will pass on a message as required.

A copy of our school's local mobile phone policy, which implements the government's mobile policy in line with our local context, is available on our website. The [Mobile phones in schools](#) webpage provides links to resources for families to help them balance their children's time using mobile phones.

Thanks Westernport Concrete Constructions!

Thanks to Harri, Chris and Maddison (Westernport Concrete Constructions) for their donation of new sand for our sandpit! We are very grateful for the generous donation.



Student Birthday Treats



Our school's healthy eating policy states that children may bring food to share to celebrate special occasions (such as birthdays). Students who receive food will be asked to take that food home so parents can decide on whether or not this food is appropriate for their child.

To help families make informed decisions about this, we encourage families to individually package items to be sent home and display the item's ingredients. For this reason, many families sending treats find commercially produced items more appropriate.

We also encourage families to consider non-food items to recognise birthdays, such as inexpensive toys, stationary, puzzles, colouring sheets or games.

Student Free Day – Friday 8th March

Friday 8th March is a whole-school student free day. Teachers will be engaged in professional learning on this day.



Regards,

Hugh Greer, Principal

Email: hugh.greer@education.vic.gov.au



Assistant Principal's Report

Dear Families,

What is Bullying?

Bullying is a complex social issue. Bullying is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. Bullying can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it. For example, older, bigger people picking on smaller, younger people, or 'popular' people targeting someone who they see as being 'unpopular' or who could be struggling to make friends.

Sometimes, people get confused about what is and isn't bullying. Bullying is different from conflict or unkindness. Bullying behaviours:

- Are aggressive, unkind or mean behaviours.
- Are repeated behaviours.
- Happen on purpose.
- Must have a power imbalance.

Some other types of behaviours like discrimination, harassment and abuse can overlap with bullying and are actually against the law.

When isn't it bullying?

- Being rude by saying or doing something hurtful that wasn't planned or meant to hurt someone.
- Being mean by doing something hurtful to someone on purpose once or twice.
- Conflict, like having a disagreement with a friend.
- A friend putting in a boundary e.g. 'I don't like it when you keep telling me what to do.'
- Natural consequences in social situations e.g. a friend not trusting you because you shared a personal story about them.

The following advice is a great way to talk to your child about what to do if they find themselves being bullied and how best to respond:

- Stay calm - don't react emotionally (people who bully usually want you to get angry or upset)
- Report it - tell trustworthy adults and keep talking to them until the bullying stops; reporting it helps keep people safe (and isn't the same as 'dobbing' which is about getting someone in trouble over nothing)
- Get support - bullying can affect your mental health and self-worth - having the support of family, friends, teachers and/or professionals can make a big difference.

At school, we also teach students how to respond if they see unkind actions or bullying occur. We encourage students to be upstanders, not bystanders but we understand that some students may feel intimidated or worry the same will happen to them. These strategies are a great way to be an upstander:



- Show you disapprove, e.g. frowning at a mean joke, shaking your head to show you don't think it's right.
- Interrupt the bullying by talking to the person being bullied.
- Give the person being bullied an excuse to leave the situation. For example- 'Hey, the teacher is looking for you.'
- Let the person being bullied know that you saw the bullying and you don't agree with it and offer support. This can be done privately. Ask if you can help.
- Respectfully challenge bullying behaviour by saying 'we don't do that here.'
- Report it to trustworthy adults. This is the most important action.

At Somers Primary School, we have zero tolerance for bullying and any instance of bullying behaviour is dealt with directly by myself or Hugh. We encourage parents to get in contact with either one of us if you are concerned your child is being bullied.

Kind Regards,

Kirsty Egglestone, Assistant Principal

Email: kirsty.egglestone@education.vic.gov.au

Student Birthdays

FEBRUARY

Mahlia W, Millie C, Holly F, Safia C, Diesel T, Ben R, Arlo C, Aura C, Archie S, Lewis K, Micah A,
Flinders R, Ivy M, Harvey W, Sam B, Van C

MARCH

Eve S, Lil H, Finn M, Lulu c, Banjo A, Gwen C, Noah B, Chloe O, Mahli H, Logan L,
Paddy McL, Summer D, Elise R, Harri T, Georgia W, Davi B, Leo K, Adam C, Cooper G,
Lyda P, Paige W

2024 Term 1 Calendar Dates

Thurs 29 February	District Swimming
Friday 8 March	Curriculum Day—NO CLASSES FOR STUDENTS
Mon 11 March	LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Tues 19 & Weds 20 March	Year 6—Life Ed Program
Thurs 21 March	Summer Lightning Prems (Yr 5 & 6 students)
Thurs 28 March	Last day of Term 1
Mon 15 April	First day of Term 2
Thurs 18 April	School Photos

Runners Club



Runners Club

Runners Club meets every Monday & Thursday

on the school oval from 8.15am - 8.45am

(Arrive at any time from 8.15 onwards)

Certificates are awarded to all runners

Medals for 100kms+ | Trophies for 200kms+

(Parents/carers & younger siblings are welcome to join in)



Get fit & Have fun!



SOMERS PRIMARY SCHOOL

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE PROGRAM

FOR GRADES PREP –6

2024 Enrollments & Bookings are now open.

WHAT WE OFFER

Our OSHC service provides high quality affordable care that meets the Department of Education's National Quality Framework for primary school children. Our fun packed program includes a variety of craft, sports and other activities in a safe environment.

PROGRAM HOURS: MONDAY—FRIDAY

BSC—7.00AM—9.00AM

ASC 3.30PM - 6.00PM

PROGRAM FEES

PERMANENT BOOKINGS

BSC -\$20.00 - ASC \$21.00

CASUAL BOOKINGS

BSC -\$21.00 - ASC \$23.00



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ENROLLING, CALL 5983 5546 OR EMAIL

somers.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Details are also on our website: somersps.vic.edu.au



FIND US ON FACEBOOK

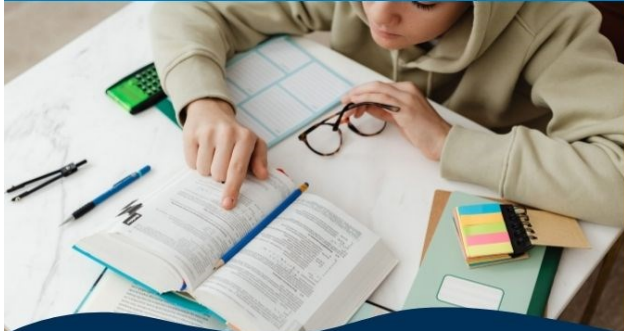




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Intergenerational Art

Join our [Intergenerational Art Program](#) to learn various artistic techniques. This program actively involves older adults and younger generations, encouraging them to break down barriers and discover common ground.

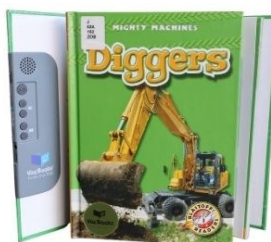
Hastings, Mornington and Rosebud Libraries.

ourlibrary.mornpen.vic.gov.au/art-program



Vox Books

Books that Talk!



VOX Books combines picture books and early chapter books with audio recordings that improve reading comprehension.

ourlibrary.mornpen.vic.gov.au/kids



COME & PLAY

JUNIOR GIRLS!

Come and Play Football with us down at Crib Point JFC for free! This is a great way to try football before committing to the season to see if you like it.

CRIB POINT JFC

Cyril Fox Reserve, Crib Point

19TH MARCH

4:30pm - 5:30pm



SCAN TO REGISTER



Mornington Peninsula
Koala Conservation

**ATTENTION LANDHOLDERS
FROM CERBERUS TO TYABB**

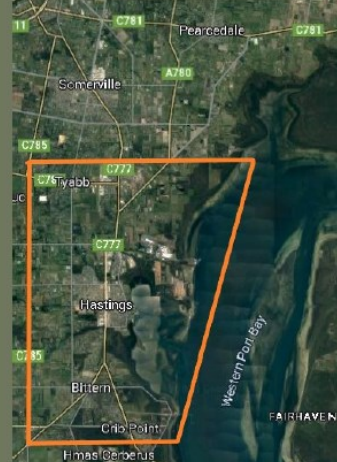
MPKC invites landholders to participate in the 2024 Biolink Project. If you (or someone you know) lives in or around our target area, please send us an email at mpkoalatreeplanting@outlook.com to find out how to get involved. It's as easy as that!

More than 70% of available koala habitat is on private property and is heavily fragmented. Habitat loss is one of the key reasons for declining koala populations.

Join us in creating a biolink across the Mornington Peninsula to ensure their survival and sustainable future.



Our Target Area for 2024



Mornington Peninsula Koala Conservation



mp_koalas



www.mpkkoalas.org.au



At Padua College we offer an education for life, one that encourages students to utilise their God-given talent, be the best that they can be, and make a positive impact on the world.

Mornington Peninsula families are warmly invited to join one of our campus tours to explore the rich curriculum, sporting, cultural and spiritual life that our College can offer your child.

Meet our staff, see the school in action, and learn more about our new Year 7-8 Centre at Mornington and smaller class sizes.

YEAR 7 2026 ENROLMENTS

Open: 1 February 2024

Close: 10 May 2024

 [Enrol online](#)

www.padua.vic.edu.au

 **125**
YEARS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

