

# Somers Primary School



## SPS NEWSLETTER

Term 1- Issue 1 Friday 6th February 2026

### Principal's Report



*Dear Families,*

Welcome back to school for 2026! It has been a great start to the school year, and it has been a pleasure to get to know all of our new students and their families. Our 36 new Prep students have made an amazing start to the year!

I have managed to catch up with nearly all of our students and hear about the fun things everyone got up to during the holidays. It's been wonderful to hear how students spent quality time with their families. I also had a great holiday break and enjoyed camping in New South Wales for a couple of weeks with my family.

A huge thank you to all of our staff for the work they did over the break to ensure a smooth transition for students in 2026. There is a great deal of work involved in preparing for a new school year (including setting up classrooms, planning curriculum and

developing consistent routines), and having a stable and dedicated group of staff helps immensely in ensuring continuity from one year to the next. It has been wonderful to see students feeling happy, safe and connected as they start a new year at Somers Primary School.

#### **Welcome Ivy, and Welcome Back Mrs Arrott-Watt and Mrs Wyllie**

Welcome back to **Anneliese Arrott-Watt** and **Kayla Wyllie** to Somers Primary School. Kayla will be teaching in **12B** on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and Anneliese will be teaching **Science and Digital Technologies** on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and **56A** on Fridays. We also welcome **Ivy Daff**, who is working in Educational Support in our Prep area, supporting teachers and students in the classroom.

#### **Meet the Teacher Interviews**

'Meet the Teacher' interviews will be held on **Monday 16 February**. The purpose of these interviews is for families to provide information to teachers about their child, as well as to establish a relationship and communication methods with your child's home group teacher. We hope that all families can make a time to catch up with their child's teacher.

Interviews will run from **1pm to 6pm**, be **10 minutes** in duration, and can be conducted either in person or online via WebEx. Bookings can be made via Compass from **Monday 9 February**.



### Vision, Values and Strategic Direction

At Somers Primary School, we believe learning enhances children's lives and prepares them for success. We apply evidence-based approaches to support children's development. This ensures children are happy, engaged and making strong progress at school.

Our school values are **Collaboration, Learning, Engagement and Respect** (our CLaER Values). These values form the basis of the work your child is currently undertaking in their classroom as part of the school-wide Engagement Program, where students work with their teacher to create an optimal learning environment for the year.

Somers Primary School once again achieved excellent learning and wellbeing outcomes in 2025, with performance in the highest categories for government schools.

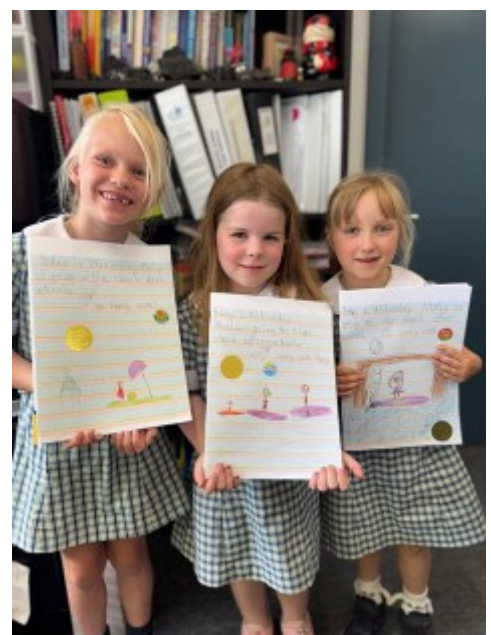
In 2026, we continue to implement our **2024–2028 Strategic Plan**. This year, our focus will be on building staff capability in explicit instruction for literacy and numeracy, strengthening instructional leadership, and embedding multi-tiered systems of support to enhance student learning, engagement and wellbeing.

Our school improvement actions in 2026 include:

- Providing staff with professional learning in Explicit Instruction and VTLM 2.0
- Reviewing and refining curriculum documentation in Reading and Spelling
- Establishing a practice observation and feedback approach for all teachers
- Implementing an instructional coaching program
- Strengthening and documenting our approach to multi-tiered systems of support in learning
- Developing and documenting an approach to multi-tiered systems of support in mental health and wellbeing

Ensuring regular attendance remains a top priority, and our aim this year is to reduce the number of avoidable absences across the school. To assist with this, we ask that families:

- Avoid taking 'long weekend' holidays. It is vital that students attend school on Mondays and Fridays to take full advantage of their learning. Family holidays should be planned around term breaks, or limited to weekends only.
- Inform the school office if your child will miss school due to medical reasons, illness or bereavement. These absences are unavoidable and will, of course, be excused.
- Seek support from your child's teacher if a family holiday must take place during school terms. If your child will miss more than three days of school, please work with the teacher to develop a holiday learning plan and complete this with your child while on holiday.



### Staff Professional Learning

Our first two curriculum days have focused on communicating our 2026 School Improvement goals to staff, revising our School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support program, learning about Positive Classroom Management strategies, and engaging in professional learning related to our new Spelling approach in Years 3–6. We have also continued refining our English curriculum to align with emerging evidence about how students learn to read and write. Our new spelling approach focuses on the development of phonology, morphology, orthography and etymology, and uses a highly structured explicit teaching model. More information will be shared over the coming weeks so families can better understand how and what your child is learning to become an effective speller in Years 3–6.



### Booklists

Thank you to all families for their prompt payment of curriculum contributions, as well as contributions to the School Building Improvement Fund and School Maintenance Fund. Payments can still be made via Compass or by direct debit:

**BSB:** 063000

**Account Number:** 14179077

**Reference:** 2026 Curriculum Contribution – Child's Name

### Supervision and Safety at School

Student absences must be reported to the school office or your child's teacher on or before the day of absence. Parents will be notified via Compass if their child is absent without prior notification, in accordance with Department policy. Absences can be notified via Compass, and our absence notification line is available 24 hours a day on **5983 5546**.



The school is responsible for supervising students on school grounds from **8:45am to 3:45pm** on school days. The OSHC program caters for children from **7am to 9am** and **3:30pm to 6pm**. Please note that students cannot be supervised by school staff outside of these times.

### Change to Student Details

Please advise the school office if there are any changes to student details, including phone numbers for parents or emergency contacts, change of address, or changes to a child's medical condition.

### Medical Conditions and Medication

If students need to take medication during school hours, parents must leave the medication at the school office and complete an **Authorisation for Administering Medication** form. This applies to both short-term and long-term medication.

For students with asthma puffers, EpiPens or medication for severe allergies, please initially bring these items to the office for processing. They will then be provided to your child's class teacher for secure storage in the classroom. If your child has a medical condition or develops one during their time at Somers Primary School, please advise the school in writing. If your child has a Medical Action Plan (e.g. for asthma, anaphylaxis, epilepsy or severe allergic reactions), please ensure a current copy is provided to the school.

### Out of School Hours Care Program

Somers Primary School operates an Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) program for families requiring care before and/or after school. Enrolment forms are available from the school office.

### Court Orders

If there are any court orders in place that affect your child, please bring the original documents to the school office so a copy can be made. Please also advise staff of any specific conditions at the time of providing the orders.

### Parent Volunteers – Working with Children Check

Parents volunteering at the school are required to hold a current **Working with Children Check**, which can be applied for online at

<https://www.vic.gov.au/working-with-children-check>

All volunteers must complete an OHS Induction and adhere to our Child Safety Code of Conduct, available from the office. On the day of volunteering, please sign in at the office and collect a visitor badge.

### Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card may be eligible to apply for the CSEF. If successful, funding is provided for each eligible primary school-aged child and is paid directly to the school to support costs such as camps, swimming activities and other school-organised sport programs, outdoor education programs, and excursions/incursions that are extracurricular as defined in the [Parent Payments policy](#).

If you believe you may be eligible and have not yet applied, please visit the school office with your Health Care Card or pension card and complete an application form by **28 June**.

If you received CSEF funding last year, your eligibility will automatically roll over and no new application is required unless your family circumstances have changed.

New applicants can obtain a form from the school office or download one from

<https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>.

### School Privacy Notice

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as outlined in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#) and the [Schools' Privacy Collection Notice](#).

Our [Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy](#) explains how we collect and use images, video and audio recordings of students, including when parent consent is required and how it can be provided or withdrawn. We encourage parents to review the guidance provided on the safe use of [Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education](#) and how families can further protect student information. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school.

For more information, refer to the [Schools' privacy policy: information for parents](#).

*Kind Regards,*

**Hugh Greer, Principal**

**Email: [hugh.greer@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:hugh.greer@education.vic.gov.au)**





## Assistant Principal's Report

*Dear Families,*

Welcome back! Our students have had a great start to the 2026 school year and are settling in well in their new classes.

### Creating a Positive Learning Space – Engagement Program

The first few weeks of the school year are dedicated to establishing the classroom learning environment through our school's Engagement Program. This program involves teachers and students working together to create a positive and productive learning environment, beginning with 'getting to know you' activities and opportunities to build positive relationships within the classroom.

One aspect of this program is the creation of an agreed set of classroom expectations aligned with our school values of Collaboration, Learning, Engagement, and Respect. Teachers and students work together to establish the foundations of classroom expectations and systems, ensuring a productive learning environment that is free from disruption.



Once classroom expectations are in place, students spend time learning and practising specific expectations. Examples include active listening, using the High 5 strategy to solve minor problems, and understanding how to move appropriately within the classroom and other school settings. In addition to the classroom matrix, students are also taught and given opportunities to understand and practise our Whole School Expectations.

While it is extremely important for us to recognise students when they demonstrate school and classroom expectations (via CLEAR Cards), it is also important that students understand the response when behaviours of concern occur. This ensures there are no surprises for students and allows staff to address behaviours using a consistent approach.



**Matrix of Expectations – Inside**

	Specialists	Library	eLearning/Online	All Settings
<b>Collaboration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We work productively in teams.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We wait patiently to borrow or return books.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We only post things that are constructive and positive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We get along with others and work together.</li> </ul>
<b>Learning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We allow others to learn.</li> <li>We arrive on time in the morning and after each break.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We try reading new books.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We only use educational programs and apps during school time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We try our best at all times.</li> </ul>
<b>Engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We listen to our teacher and peers.</li> <li>We show active listening.</li> <li>We focus on our learning.</li> <li>We have the confidence to give things a go.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are quiet in the library and focused on our reading.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We keep passwords and personal information safe and secure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We demonstrate our school values at all times.</li> </ul>
<b>Respect</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We put our hand up if we have something to say.</li> <li>We look after our belongings and classroom equipment.</li> <li>We keep our classroom and workspace clean and tidy.</li> <li>We work quietly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We handle books carefully.</li> <li>We return books to the right place on the shelves.</li> <li>We leave the library how we find it.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We return borrowed equipment in the same condition.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We say please and thank you.</li> <li>We listen when spoken to.</li> <li>We use kind words and apologise when necessary.</li> <li>Mistakes are made — we answer respectfully when asked a question.</li> </ul>

**Matrix of Expectations – Outside**

	Toilets	Moving Around School	Excursions	Play Areas
<b>Collaboration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We allow others to use the toilet privately.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We walk safely and speed up when we need to.</li> <li>We line up in pairs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We sit in our designated seats.</li> <li>We take care of other people's property.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We share equipment fairly.</li> <li>We take turns.</li> <li>We use our High 5 to solve problems.</li> <li>We include others.</li> <li>We offer others to join us.</li> </ul>
<b>Learning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We use the toilets and leave quickly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We respect learning spaces by walking quietly.</li> <li>We move to class when the music plays.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We complete any set tasks.</li> <li>We represent the values of our school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We use equipment for the right purpose.</li> <li>We follow rules, accept referees' decisions and play for the 'fun' of it.</li> <li>We leave the playground when the music goes.</li> </ul>
<b>Engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We wash our hands after toileting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We arrive at class on time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We stay with our teacher.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We use equipment safely and for the right purpose.</li> <li>We follow team rules.</li> <li>We share and take turns when playing games.</li> </ul>
<b>Respect</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We keep the walls, floor and ceiling clean.</li> <li>We flush the toilet.</li> <li>We wash our hands with soap.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We give space to the person in front of us.</li> <li>We accept who is walking next to us.</li> <li>We keep our hands to ourselves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We follow instructions from our teacher.</li> <li>We listen to teachers, parents, ES &amp; volunteers.</li> <li>We use please and thank you.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We put our rubbish in the bin.</li> <li>We eat in designated areas.</li> <li>We keep our 'hands off' others.</li> </ul>

**School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS)**

'School-wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) is an internationally recognised approach with an extensive evidence base that is shown to improve behavioural, wellbeing, and academic outcomes for students. It focuses on teaching and reinforcing positive behaviours while providing targeted assistance to students who may need extra support, leading to a more successful and inclusive learning community. When implemented well, it ensures that all students receive support to maximise behavioural, wellbeing and academic growth.'

Somers Primary School is an SWPBS school. Implementation occurs through The Engagement Program at the start of the year and is re-taught throughout the year to support students in understanding, remembering, and practising these important skills. Further information can be found in our SWPBS Guidelines via the link below:

[SWPBS Guidelines](#)

*Kind Regards,*

**Kirsty Egglestone, Assistant Principal**

Email: [kirsty.egglestone@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:kirsty.egglestone@education.vic.gov.au)



# Student Birthdays

*Congratulations to the following students who celebrated or are celebrating their birthdays in January and February!*

### January

Gus B, Theo B, Evie G, Lily M, Mav H, Maci M, River A, Lillian J, Summer P, Ivy Rees, Nicholas B, Bodhi G, Wiley C, Lila W, Adele K, Juni P, Sabrina B, Will F, Olivia E

### February

Millie C, Diesel T, Ben R, Lincon R, RJ R, Lyla F, Arlo CB, Aura CB, Archie S, Ruby C, Micah A, Flinders R, Ivy M, Harvey W, Connie G, Sam B, Van C

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- 10th March - Curriculum Day
- 31st March - School Photos
- 27th to 31st July Yr5/6 Camp WOORABINDA
- 30th to 31st July Yr3/4 Camp SOVEREIGN HILL

## 2026 Calendar Dates

Please note Calendar Dates will be updated each newsletter as new events are scheduled.

Events are also on the Compass Calendar.

TERM 1	
Monday 9th February	Senior School Swim Carnival 
Wednesday 11th February	Prep Interviews
Wednesday 18th February	Prep Interviews Inspire - 1st Session
Wednesday 25th February	Prep Interviews Junior Ranger Program
Thursday 26th February	District Swimming (Selected Students Only)
Wednesday 4th March	Prep Interviews Inspire - 2nd Session
Tuesday 10th March	Curriculum Day
Wednesday 18th March	Inspire - 3rd Session
Tuesday 31st March	School Photos



## 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

2026 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 -\$23.00 - ASC \$24.00

##### CASUAL BOOKINGS

BSC -\$24.50 - ASC \$26.00



##### FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ENROLLING:

CALL: 5983 5546 OR

EMAIL: [somers.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:somers.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

Details are also on our website: [somersps.vic.edu.au](http://somersps.vic.edu.au)



FIND US ON FACEBOOK



# 2025 Somers Arts Fair Sponsorship



*Thank you to the following businesses and community groups who have sponsored our 2025 Arts Fair.*

**THE COAST**  
REAL ESTATE



**Community Bank**  
Balnarring & District

**B Bendigo Bank**

# Community News

## Crib Point Community Market

*Where the Community Grows*

*Feb 14th*

*9am-1pm*

Bring the kids down to enjoy our Cribby Koala Treasure Hunt

Handmade products: footy quilts, candles, cards, jewellery, clothing, mosaics, skincare, soaps, bags, pots. Upcycled goods. 3D printed products. Valentines photo stall.

Local face painter.

Devonshire Teas.

Barbecue: sausages, bacon and eggs. Hot Jam Donuts.

## UPCOMING QUILT & CRAFT SHOW

Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>

10am-4pm

Entries now open. Cost: \$2 per item (limit of 2 per person)

Entries close on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March

Proceeds go to the Crib Point Community House and community programs.

Location: Crib Point Community House, 7 Park Rd, Crib Point, Mornington Peninsula

Thank you, on behalf of Crib Point Community Market committee



**BALNARRING JFC  
BEACH TRAINING**

**THURSDAY 5TH & 12TH  
FEBRUARY 5-6PM**

**MEET AT THE BALNARRING BEACH  
ROTUNDA - BRING A DRINK BOTTLE,  
TOWEL & A MATE!**

**JOIN US AFTERWARDS FOR A FREE  
SAUSAGE SIZZLE, DRINK & A CHAT**

**NEW PLAYERS WELCOME** 

**BALNARRING THUNDER** 

The poster features three photographs: a group of players on a beach, a player in action, and a group of players huddled together. The background is dark blue with white and yellow text.

# Community News



## Year 7 2028 Enrolments Now Open

If you are interested in learning more about Padua's comprehensive curriculum offering, award winning VCE Vocational Major, exciting sports and performing arts programs, smaller class sizes, and vibrant learning spaces, we invite you to take a tour to see why one in four secondary school students on the Peninsula choose Padua College.

### [Book a tour online](#)

[www.padua.vic.edu.au/enrolment/college-tours](http://www.padua.vic.edu.au/enrolment/college-tours)

### [Enrol now](#)

<https://enrol.padua.vic.edu.au/enrolment/start>

Enrolments close 29 May 2026



Ready to try something new?

## Join Scouts

**1st Balnarring Scout Group is welcoming new members to unlock adventure and start their Scouting journey!**

Our Section meeting nights are  
Joey's | ages 5-8 | Tuesday 5:30pm - 6:30pm  
Cubs | ages 8-11 | Wednesday 6:30pm - 8:30pm  
Scouts | ages 11-14 | Tuesday 7pm - 9pm  
Venturers | ages 14-18 | Tuesday 7pm - 9pm

We meet at St Mark's, 1 Balnarring Rd, Balnarring

For more information or to join, please email [gl.1stbalnarring@scoutsvictoria.com.au](mailto:gl.1stbalnarring@scoutsvictoria.com.au)



**1st Balnarring**  
Scout Group



1800 SCOUTS  
[scoutsvictoria.com.au](http://scoutsvictoria.com.au)

## CRIB POINT JUNIOR NETBALL



## Net Set Go!



**Join Term 1, 2026**

**\$99 to Join**

**Tuesdays 4:00-4:45pm**  
**Starting 10th February**

**Crib Point Recreation Reserve**

**8 weeks Term 1**

**Terms 2 & 4 Membership**  
**included in the \$99 fee**

# Community News



## SOCIAL DAY



12:00 - 4:00 PM  
SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

BBQ FOOD, WINE, BEER,  
CIDER & SOFT DRINKS  
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

FUN GAMES &  
ACTIVITIES WITH  
PRIZES, BALL  
MACHINE

SOCIAL  
TENNIS ....  
BRING YOUR  
RACQUET!



ALL MEMBERS, NON-MEMBERS,  
FAMILY & FRIENDS WELCOME!

WWW.SOMERSTENNISCLUB.COM.AU



## Every day counts

Missing **one day per fortnight**  
adds up to missing  
**four weeks** of school a year.

### Library news and information





**Story Dogs**  
Story Dogs is a wonderful volunteer run literacy program that improves primary school aged children's reading and communication skills by having them read to a trained companion dog and their handler.  
Dogs are ideal reading companions because they allow children to proceed at their own pace and are less intimidating than peers or adults.  
We are now taking expressions of interest for 2024 at our Hastings, Mornington and Rosebud Library.  
[library.mornpen.vic.gov.au/storydogs](http://library.mornpen.vic.gov.au/storydogs)



**Join us for Greek Storytime!**  
A joyful way for families to connect with Greek language, culture, and traditions through stories, songs, and play.  
This fun, immersive program brings together the local community, helping children discover the richness of Greek heritage in an engaging and age-appropriate way.  
**Recommended for ages 0-5**  
**Mornington Library:** Thursdays 10am during the school term.  
[library.mornpen.vic.gov.au/greek](http://library.mornpen.vic.gov.au/greek)

**Fiero Code**  
Fiero Code is a self-guided online software program for ages 8+ offering a gamified learning experience.  
Through this web-based educational software, you can learn how to build websites, video games, phone apps, animations and more.  
Free with your library membership.  
[library.mornpen.vic.gov.au/games](http://library.mornpen.vic.gov.au/games)



**Discover OLiv - Our Library Van**  
Now running program!  
[library.mornpen.vic.gov.au/oliv-events](http://library.mornpen.vic.gov.au/oliv-events)

**Connect with us**  
@morningtonpeninsulalibraries  
facebook.com/ourlibrarymornpen  
library.mornpen.vic.gov.au



**Can you give us a hand to protect your community?**  
Somers is looking for help in a number of volunteer roles... Full training and ongoing support is provided, so you can learn new skills to fulfil a vital role in your community.  
**CONTACT DANIEL 0402 105 229**



Scan the QR code to find out how you can help.

