

Somers Primary School



SPS NEWSLETTER

Term 1- Issue 2 Friday 20th February 2026

Principal's Report



Dear Families,

A big thank you to all of our students and teachers for the work they have done in setting up their classroom routines and environments at the start of the year. It has been wonderful to see students and teachers working collaboratively to establish effective learning environments and positive relationships.

Meet the Teacher Interviews

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

Teaching Spelling in Years 3–6

This year, our school has introduced a new approach to teaching spelling. This approach builds on the phonology learning that students undertake in Prep to Year 2 and further develops students' skills in two other important components necessary to become effective spellers:

- **Orthographic skills** – understanding spelling patterns and generalisations, knowing where certain letters or letter combinations can appear in words, and applying this knowledge when spelling.
- **Morphological skills** – breaking words into their smallest meaningful units (morphemes), including roots, prefixes and suffixes, and applying this knowledge when spelling.

Year 3–6 teachers are using the PhOrMes learning materials to teach spelling in 2026. These materials align with our explicit teaching model, with students being explicitly taught skills in orthography and morphology, alongside significant revision of phonological concepts (and previously learned orthographic and morphological knowledge) to ensure this learning is retained in long-term memory. This content is presented to students at a rapid rate, so students are getting through a significant amount of content with five thirty-minute sessions during the week.

Students are not required to learn lists of words at home under this approach. Instead, we encourage all students to engage in nightly home reading with an adult, according to the following guidelines (as outlined in our school's Home Learning Policy):

- Prep to Year 2 – around 15 minutes per day
- Year 3 and 4 – around 20 minutes per day
- Year 5 and 6 – around 30 minutes per day

If you have further questions about how your child is learning to spell, please contact your child's teacher or me.



2026 NAPLAN Assessments

The 2026 NAPLAN assessments will take place for Year 3 and Year 5 students between **Wednesday 11 March** and **Friday 20 March**. A timetable for each class will be sent home via Compass closer to these dates. Please ensure that your child's attendance at school is prioritised during this period.

If you have any questions about these assessments, please contact your child's teacher or me.

Student-Free Day

Please note that Tuesday 10 March is a student-free day. Teachers will be engaged in professional learning on this day.

2027 Enrolment Tours

We are currently conducting tours for 2027 Prep enrolments. If your family would like to book a tour, or if you know a family who would, please contact us via email at somers.ps@education.vic.gov.au or phone 5983 5546 to arrange a personalised tour with Kirsty or me.

Our school will also be hosting our 2027 Prep Information Evening on **Thursday 7 May at 6:00pm**.

Mobile Phone Ban

A reminder that the Department of Education introduced a mobile phone ban across Victoria in 2020. The ban requires students who bring mobile phones or wearable communication devices (including smartwatches) to school to have them switched off and securely stored during school hours. The Department requires all schools to ensure this ban is implemented and enforced.

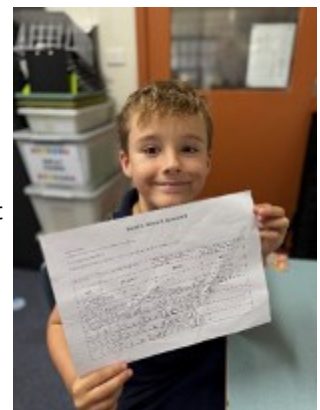
The ban applies equally to all government schools across the state. This helps ensure that school remains a learning environment free from unnecessary distractions and disruptions. By keeping mobile phones stored away at recess and lunchtime, students can interact face-to-face without the distractions and social pressures that mobile devices can cause.

Lockboxes are available in all Year 3–6 classrooms. 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 families, staff and students in continuing to uphold 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 contact your child urgently, please phone the school office and a message will be passed on as required.

A copy of our school's local mobile phone policy, which implements the government's policy within our local context, is available on our website. The "Mobile phones in schools" webpage also provides links to resources for families to help them balance their children's mobile phone use.



Kind Regards,

Hugh Greer, Principal

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



Dear Families,

Assistant Principal's Report



The Resilience Project Webinar for Parents

On Tuesday 14th March, The Resilience Project is offering a free one-hour webinar for families. The webinar outlines a whole-school approach to enhancing student wellbeing and provides parents and carers with practical strategies to practise Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness (GEM) at home.



Families can register via this link: [Single Event Confirmation - The Resilience Project](#)
The webinar will be recorded and shared with families who have registered after the session.

Free School Dental Program

The Smile Squad team from Bayside Health (formerly Peninsula Health) will be visiting our school soon. Smile Squad is the Victorian Government's free school dental program. This means all students can receive a free dental check-up, preventive services, and treatment at school.

How to Access Free Dental Care

Sign up to Smile Squad at: <https://bit.ly/smilesquadvic>
OR use the QR code.



Please complete and submit the consent form by 24 April 2026.



Kind Regards,

Kirsty Egglestone, Assistant Principal

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

Physical Education

Somers Primary Swimming Carnival



What a fantastic day we had at our recent Swimming Carnival! A huge congratulations to all of our amazing swimmers who competed with enthusiasm, determination and wonderful sportsmanship. It was fantastic to see so many students giving their very best in each event and proudly representing their houses.

A special shout out also goes to the many students who came along to cheer on their friends and support their house teams. Your encouragement, positive attitude and house spirit made the day even more exciting!

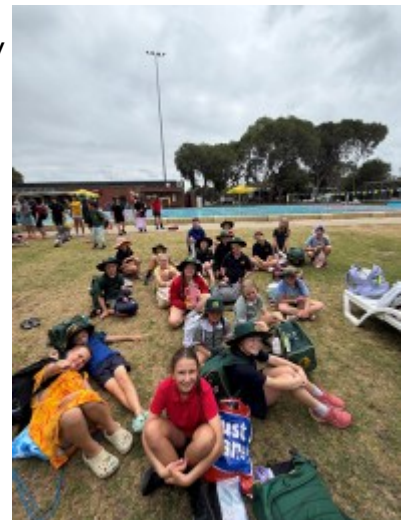
We were also thrilled to see so many students have a go in our fun novelty races, including the noodle and kickboard events. It was wonderful to see everyone jumping in, having a try and enjoying themselves in the pool.

Most importantly, the behaviour of all students was outstanding. They demonstrated respect, responsibility and teamwork throughout the entire day. We were even able to enjoy a free swim at the end of the carnival — a perfect way to finish a fantastic day!

Finally, a huge thank you to all of our wonderful parent helpers. Your time, support and assistance made the day run smoothly and successfully. We truly appreciate your help.

Good luck to the following students who are representing our school at District Swimming next **Thursday the 26th February:**

Ella G, Alice G, Paige C, Lil H, Bonnie W, Flinders R, Ben R, Nicholas B, Ollie D, Gigi F, Violet W, Fleur F, Lily M, RJ, Will F, Lincon R, Elian A, Billie H, Ruby P, Georgia WM, Adelaide B, River A, Theo F, Hamish L, Noah B and Harvey W.



Mrs Bannister



Student Birthdays

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

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	
Wednesday 25th February	Prep Interviews Junior Ranger Program
Thursday 26th February	District Swimming (Selected Students Only)
Friday 27th February	First Nations Day
Wednesday 4th March	Prep Interviews Inspire - 2nd Session
Tuesday 10th March	Curriculum Day
Wednesday 18th March	Environment Captains Dolphin Swim Inspire - 3rd Session
Wednesday 25th March	Division Swimming (Selected Students Only)
Tuesday 31st March	School Photos
Thursday 2nd April	Last Day of Term 1 - Students Dismissed at 2.30pm



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

Details are also on our website: 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



CROSSFIT. HASTINGS

"ITS A GREAT DAY TO START CROSSFIT"

- FUNCTIONAL MOVEMENTS
- HIGH INTENSITY TRAINING
- COACH LED WORKOUTS
- COMMUNITY DRIVEN ENVIRONMENT
- ALL LEVELS
- KIDS PLAY SPACE


(supervised at 9.30am)

SCAN TO START NOW!




strong coaching . strong community

CROSSFITHASTINGS.COM.AU

 CROSSFITHASTINGS
 CROSSFITHASTINGS

Season Launch

101 HENDERSONS RD, BITTERN

Sun, Mar 1st
10am - 1pm



PLAYERS WANTED







WESTERN PORT FC

  WesternPortFC  0493 593 665

All Abilities Welcome - No Experience Required - Kids & Adults Soccer

JOIN OUR NETBALL COMMUNITY!

UNDER 9s PLAYERS WANTED!
YEARS OF BIRTH 2017, 2018 & 2019



Come join the Crib Point Junior Netball Club!



- Have fun! • Make new friends!
- Be part of a team! • Enjoy playing sport!

cribpointjuniornetball@gmail.com
Email us for more info!

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



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

[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
Joys | 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



1st Balnarring
Scout Group



1800 SCOUTS
scoutsvictoria.com.au



Every day counts

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



vic.gov.au/education



Community News



SINGING & PERFORMANCE CLASSES!

PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Located in my Bittern Studio

Does your child love to sing, perform, or put on a show? Help them build confidence, skills, and stage presence in a fun, supportive environment!

★ WHAT I TEACH

- Vocal control & agility
- Microphone technique
- Stage presence & movement
- Live performance skills
- Songwriting & creativity
- Solo and group classes available



🎵 CLASS DETAILS

- 45-minute sessions
- Beginner to advanced welcome
- Limited spots available

📍 CONTACT

Dawn Shore
0408 300 194

Youth Road Safety Fact Sheet



Whether you're biking or riding an e-scooter, follow these simple road safety tips to stay safe and have fun on the move!

MODIFIED OR PETROL POWERED BICYCLES

- Illegal



MOTORBIKES

- To ride on or offroad it must be registered with a V.I.E or recreation registration
- Helmet must be worn at all times.



E-BIKES

- 25 km/h MAX speed
- Motor cannot provide power at speeds higher than 25km/h
- Helmet must be worn at all times
- No passengers
- Cannot be ridden on footpaths.



E-SCOOTER

- 16+ aged 16 yrs or over
- Max speed 20 kmph
- Helmet must be worn at all times
- No passengers
- Cannot be ridden on footpaths.



For more information, visit police.vic.gov.au/road-safety

Library news and information



Harmony Week at Morrington Peninsula Shire Library

Join us as we celebrate Harmony Week with Auslan storytimes, Greek Dancing, and our exciting bookmark design competition.

Free, bookings essential via morpen.vic.gov.au/harmonyweek



Greek Dancing for Children

Step into the vibrant world of Greek culture with this high-energy dance workshop just for children.

Led by the talented instructors from MANABIS School of Greek Dance and Culture, children will explore traditional movement, rhythm, and storytelling through dance.

Morrington Library
March 18, 10am



Auslan Storytime

A Deaf storyteller from Deaf Children Australia will be presenting a story in Auslan, alongside an English speaking storyteller. This experience not only provides children with deafness or hard of hearing access to Auslan and celebrates Auslan as another language used within our community.

Morrington Library
March 18, 10am
Hardings Library
March 18, 10am

Harmony Week: Design a Bookmark Competition



Design a Bookmark Competition

In celebration of Harmony Week, children (aged 6-18) can design a library bookmark inspired by the theme "Cultural Connects." The winning entries will be professionally printed and distributed by Morrington Peninsula Shire Library. Collect the entry form in branch and submit your design.

Competition open
18-22 March 2024

Connect with us

- [@morringtonpeninsulalibrary](https://twitter.com/morringtonpeninsulalibrary)
- facebook.com/usallibrarymorpen
- library.morpen.vic.gov.au

READ-ALONG STORIES ON BORROWBOX



Little readers can listen and follow the words on the screen with some of their favourite stories on BorrowBox!

library.morpen.vic.gov.au/read-along

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.