

# Concongella Primary School Newsletter

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Thursday 7th May, 2026  
Term 2, Edition 7



## CLUSTER ATHLETICS DAY

Our Cluster Athletics Day was a fantastic success, filled with energy, determination, and plenty of team spirit. It was wonderful to see every student get involved, give their best effort, and support one another throughout the day. From the track events to the field activities, our students demonstrated resilience, encouragement, and great sportsmanship.

A special mention goes to Solara Martin, Ava Ringin, and Oliver Grant, who each took out their age group championships - an outstanding achievement that reflects their hard work and commitment. We are incredibly proud of your efforts!

Congratulations also to all of our ribbon recipients on the day, your achievements are a testament to your persistence and willingness to challenge yourselves. To every student who participated and gave it a red hot crack, you should be very proud. Your effort and attitude did not go unnoticed. Lastly, we would like to extend a sincere thank you to our parent helpers and staff who supported the smooth running of the day. Your time and assistance are always greatly appreciated. A special thanks to School Council for organising a successful BBQ fundraiser, which was enjoyed by all and greatly appreciated by our school community.

## Term 2 Dates to remember

### Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May

- Cluster Cross Country - Hallsgap

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May

- Stawell Secondary College - Open evening

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May

- Mothers Day Breakfast

### Tuesday May 12<sup>th</sup>

- School Council Meeting 6pm

### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May

- Inquiry Incursion F-6

### Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May

- Inquiry Incursion F-6

### Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May

- Black Ranges Cross Country - St Arnaud

### Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

- Cluster Black Rangers Winter Sports - North Park

### Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June

- School Closure - Report Writing

### Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June

- Public Holiday - Kings Birthday

### Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June

- School Council Meeting 6pm

### Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June

- Student Support Group Meetings (SSGs)

### Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June

- Grade 5 & 6 Discovery Day Stawell Secondary College

### Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June

- Learning Showcase from 2:30pm

### Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June

- Grade 5&6 Elephant Ed Incursion

### Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June

- Last Day Term early finish 2:10pm

# A Word From The Principal

## Sport Highlights Cluster Athletics & Cross Country

Over the past fortnight, our students have been actively involved in both Cluster Athletics and Cluster Cross Country events. It has been wonderful to see such enthusiasm, determination, and sportsmanship displayed across both competitions. Our Cluster Athletics day was filled with energy and effort, with students demonstrating persistence and pride as they competed in a range of events. This was followed by the Cluster Cross Country, where students showed resilience and commitment as they tackled the course.



A special congratulations goes to Ava, Solara and Oliver, who all achieved the outstanding accomplishment of becoming age group champions. This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to their dedication and effort.

We also congratulate Toby, Oliver, Will, Hugh, and Tyler for qualifying to compete at the upcoming Black Ranges Cross Country in a couple of weeks. We wish them all the very best as they represent our school at the next level.

One of the most memorable highlights of the Cross Country event was seeing Toby, Will, and Oliver cross the finish line arm in arm. When asked about this moment, they shared, *"It is our last cluster cross country and we wanted to cross the finish line together."* This powerful gesture reflects the strong sense of camaraderie, friendship, and mutual respect that we value so highly in our school community. It reminds us that while striving for personal bests is important, supporting one another and celebrating shared experiences is just as meaningful.

## Upcoming Whole School Incursions PrimeSCI

Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome facilitators from the Swinburne University PrimeSCI program next Thursday and Friday for two days of engaging incursions. These sessions will provide hands-on learning experiences that connect directly to our curriculum. They will support our Term 1 Inquiry focus on Science: Sound and Light, as well as our Term 2 Inquiry unit with a Health focus on the digestive system and the brain. We are confident that these experiences will further enrich students' understanding and spark curiosity in these important areas of learning.

## Staff Professional Learning: Generative Artificial Intelligence in Education

During last week's school closure day, our entire staff also engaged in professional learning focused on the growing role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education. This was a valuable opportunity for our team to explore how emerging technologies are shaping education, and how we can thoughtfully and responsibly integrate them into our practice.

A key takeaway from the day was that Generative AI is a space we should lean into, rather than shy away from. As educators, it is important that we understand these tools, their capabilities, and their limitations so that we can guide students in using them effectively and ethically.

Our discussions highlighted the importance of being explicit and intentional about how we use generative AI. There was also a strong focus on maintaining privacy and confidentiality, ensuring that student information is always protected.

As a next step, our focus is currently on staff use of Generative AI. We are working towards developing a documented approach that clearly outlines how these tools will be used within our school. Once this work is complete, we will share this with families and invite your feedback. This staged approach ensures that our staff have the necessary skills, knowledge, and clear parameters in place before we explore what the use of Generative AI may look like for students.

*We take this opportunity to recognise and celebrate the wonderful female role models in our community; mothers, grandmothers, aunties, carers, and mentors. We wish you all a very happy and well deserved Mother's Day this Sunday, and sincerely thank you for the care, guidance, and support you provide each day.*

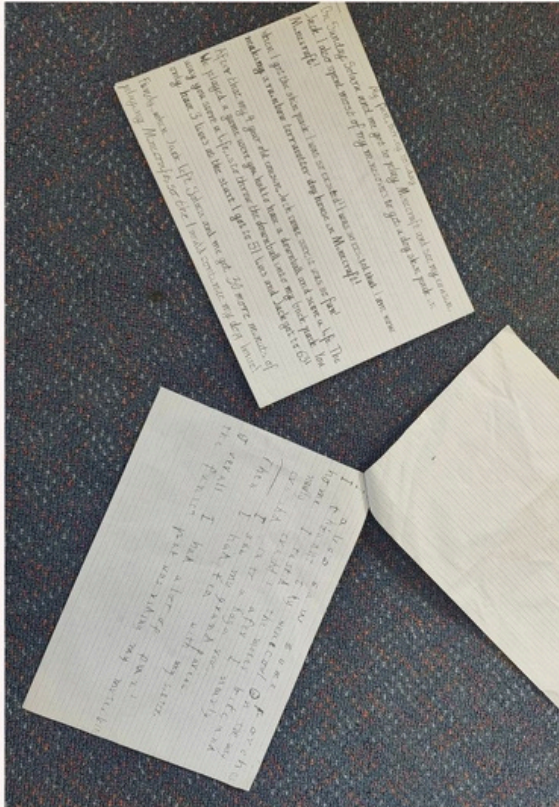
*"It takes a village to raise a child."*

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

# THE BANKSIA HUB

*never  
give  
up*

THURSDAY 7/5/26



## TOP NEWS LITERACY

GRADE 3 AND 4 STUDENTS HAVE BEEN REVISING THE STRUCTURE OF A RECOUNT. THEY HAVE ALSO BEEN LEARNING ABOUT TIME CONNECTIVES AND HOW TO USE EMOTIVE LANGUAGE TO CREATE MORE IMPACT ON THEIR AUDIENCE IN THEIR WRITING.

IT HAS BEEN EXCITING TO SEE STUDENTS PARAGRAPHERING AND CREATING SOME VERY WELL PUT TOGETHER RECOUNT PIECES. WELL DONE GUYS!

WORK FEATURED BY JAXON AND SAMERA



## MATHS

DURING MATHS, STUDENTS HAVE BEEN LEARNING ABOUT TIME. READING ANALOGUE CLOCKS CAN BE TRICKY, BUT WE ARE SLOWLY MASTERING IT.

MS. HENDERSON IS TEACHING A UNIT ON SHAPE! STUDENTS ARE LEARNING ABOUT 3D SHAPES, THEIR NETS AND HOW THEY CAN LOOK IN THE REAL WORLD!

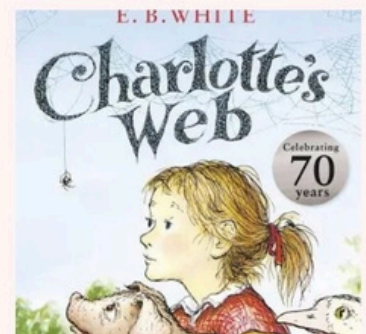


## MENTOR TEXT

WE HAVE BEEN READING CHARLOTTE'S WEB DURING READ DISCUSS VOCAB. LEARNING NEW WORDS AND DISCUSSING WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE BOOK HAS BEEN THE HIGHLIGHT SO FAR. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING WHAT HAPPENS IN THE REST OF THE STORY AND TO COMPARE THE FILM ADAPTATION LATER IN THE TERM.

IF YOU'RE EVER INTERESTED IN WHAT YOUR CHILD IS LEARNING, PLEASE DO DROP IN FOR A VISIT TO SEE FIRST HAND!

Ms. Amy



# Book Club



MS. AMY'S RECOMMENDATIONS

# BOOK CLUB

We all know reading is good for us! But did you know that one of the most powerful ways to support your child's literacy is simply by letting them see you read? Welcome to our Book Club—a space where we'll share great reads for grown-ups, spark conversation, and encourage reading as a shared family value. Whether it's a page-turning novel, a thought-provoking memoir, or a quiet moment with a good book, your reading habits make a lasting impression. Let's inspire the next generation—one book at a time.



Secrets, choices, and the weight of a lifetime—**The Paper Palace** by Miranda Cowley Heller is a deeply compelling story about love, loyalty, and the paths we choose. On a summer morning at her family's beloved holiday home in Cape Cod, Elle Bishop heads for a swim carrying the memory of a passionate encounter from the night before. Over the next 24 hours—and through memories spanning 50 years—Elle is forced to confront the choices, heartbreaks, and hidden truths that have shaped her life. Richly layered and impossible to forget, this is a novel that lingers long after the final page. Can one single decision change the course of an entire life?



## Screen Time and Sleep – Helping Children Rest Well

Getting enough good-quality sleep is essential for children's learning, wellbeing and ability to concentrate during the day. One factor that can affect sleep is screen time, particularly in the hour before bedtime.

### How families can support healthy sleep habits:

- Encourage calm, screen-free activities in the hour before bed, such as reading, listening to music or a podcast, or practising mindfulness.
- If devices are used in the evening, help children choose relaxing content and turn devices off well before bedtime.
- Monitor and limit exposure to stressful or violent content, as this can affect sleep at any time of day.
- Encourage children to connect with friends earlier in the day rather than late in the evening.
- Promote regular physical activity and outdoor play during the day.
- Consider a family routine where phones and devices are left in a shared space overnight.

### How much sleep do children need?

Ages 3–5 years: 10–13 hours per night

Ages 5–11 years: 9–11 hours per night

Teenagers: 8–10 hours per night





# Students Of The Week



Congratulations to the following students for displaying the values of



## WATTLE HUB F,1,2

**Leon:** For making a positive start to Term 2 at Concongella. Well done!

**Sloan:** For showing enthusiasm towards his learning. Well done, Sloan!

## BANKSIA HUB 3-4

**Hudson:** By always demonstrating our school values inside and outside the classroom, well done!

**Samera:** by always being kind and considerate of her peers and always lending a helpful hand, well done.

**Lemuel:** By always trying his best and having a positive attitude in numeracy.

## WARATAH HUB 5-6

**Livia:** By being helpful and kind in the classroom and for putting in great effort into your learning! Well done!

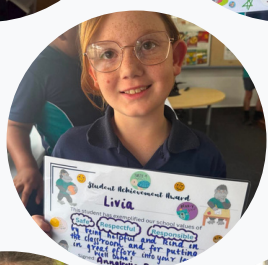
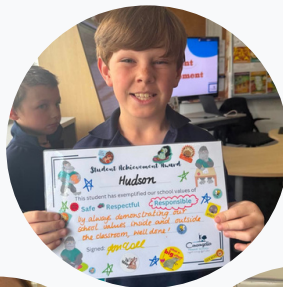
**Tyler:** By always contributing positively to the class with a respectful manner and putting in your best effort towards learning! Well done!

## SPELLING MASTERY

Congratulations to the following students for receiving Super Speller awards:

**Toby McGrath, Will Gibson, Samera Martin & Izzy Leonard.**

Well done, Super Spellers!



# School News

## CLUSTER CROSS COUNTRY

Our students showed incredible determination on at the Cluster Cross Country in Halls Gap on Monday, braving cold and rainy conditions with resilience and enthusiasm. Despite the challenging weather, they gave it their all, with many of our runners achieving fantastic results and securing ribbons. Congratulations to Solara, Kaleb, Odiah, Declan, Livia, Samera, Jordan, Hugh, Tyler, Will, Toby and Oliver on their outstanding efforts. We are so proud of all students for representing our school with such grit and sportsmanship



# Birthday Wishes

WE HAVE NO STUDENT BIRTHDAYS TO CELEBRATE THIS TIME, BUT WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECOGNISING THEM NEXT EDITION!

## School Assembly

Just a friendly reminder that our school assemblies are held every two weeks.

*Our next assembly is scheduled for*  
**Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> MAY at 2.50 PM.**

These assemblies are student-led and provide a valuable opportunity for students to develop their public speaking skills in front of an authentic audience. Your presence helps create a supportive environment and makes the experience even more meaningful for our students.

If your child is receiving an award during this time, their teacher will contact you directly.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support.  
We look forward to seeing you there!



# Community News

THE COTTAGE



## Do you know someone who is doing it tough?

If you know anyone who is doing it tough, please tell them to come to the Cottage, 20 Sloane St. Stawell, Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays, between 10:30am and 1:30pm and we will help them. For out of hours emergencies ring -0408 038 949."

**RICH MARKET**  
— CAFE & NURSERY —



BOOK NOW FOR  
**MOTHER'S DAY**  
SUNDAY 10 MAY, 2026

"My child is trying so hard... but school still feels really difficult."

This is something many parents tell us before seeking a ADHD, autism or cognitive or learning assessments.

Stawell Clinic availability: 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Contact Bellarine Psychology to learn more  
[assessments@bellarine-psychology.com.au](mailto:assessments@bellarine-psychology.com.au)  
03 5356 2019



**IL SHIM TAEKWON-DO STAWELL**  
NEW STUDENTS WELCOME!  
JOIN US FOR **TERM 2**  
✓ BUILD CONFIDENCE  
✓ GET FIT & STRONG  
✓ LEARN SELF-DEFENCE  
CALL NOW TO BOOK YOUR FREE TRIAL!

Join us at WAMA for our Mothers Day Celebration

Treat mum to a day at our art gallery, gardens and a relaxing Devonshire tea for only \$25pp (includes gallery admission)  
10<sup>th</sup> May from 10am - 4pm | 4000 Ararat-Halls Gap Rd Halls Gap



# Term 2 Reminders



## **Water Bottles:**

Please ensure water bottles are sent with your child each day.

## **Supervision:**

The school yard is supervised between 8.30am and 3.30pm each day. Our staff are often in meetings or planning prior to and after these times. Please be mindful of dropping your children outside these times as they will be unsupervised.

## **Lunch Orders:**

Lunch Orders are available every Thursday weekly. All orders must be placed into the notes box in the office prior to 3pm on Wednesdays. These days are marked on our uEducateUs calendar, in the newsletter and on facebook. Lunch order forms and menu's are available from the office.

## **Voluntary Contributions:**

Our Voluntary Contributions were sent home with families at the end of last year. Thank you to those families that have made contributions already, your support is greatly appreciated. These contributions go towards essential classroom consumables, subscriptions, swimming program, whole school events, first aid equipment etc. This can be paid at the office. If you wish to discuss a payment plan, please contact Amy in the office on 5358 1811 or call in to see us.

## Communication - uEducateUs

uEducateUs is our main form of communication. Our newsletters, weekly updates, messages from your teachers, camps and excursions are all on this platform.

Parents and carers are able to record absences, message teachers and see the calendar on uEducateUs. If you are not logged on to uEducateUs please call the office on 5358 1811 for assistance.

## Second Hand Uniforms

Second hand uniforms will be available from our uniform stall every second Friday at our school assembly for a gold coin donation per item. Any good quality second hand donations are always welcome and appreciated.



# Dates to remember

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 3	<b>MAY 4</b>  Cluster Cross Country - Halls Gap	<b>MAY 5</b>  CHINESE	<b>MAY 6</b>  Breakfast Club  Years 5 & 6-Stawell Secondary College Open Evening	<b>MAY 7</b> Newsletter  NO lunch orders today  Mothers Day Breakfast 8:10am	<b>MAY 8</b>  Breakfast Club
Week 4	<b>MAY 11</b>  Breakfast Club	<b>MAY 12</b>  CHINESE  School Council 6.00pm	<b>MAY 13</b>  Breakfast Club	<b>MAY 14</b>  Specialist Inquiry Incursion F-6 PrimSCI  <a href="#">Lunch Order Day</a>	<b>MAY 15</b> Breakfast Club  Inquiry Incursion F-6 PrimSCI  Assembly - 2:50pm
Week 5	<b>MAY 18</b>  Breakfast Club Shelter in place drill	<b>MAY 19</b>  Chinese Caity - Prov Psych	<b>MAY 20</b>  Breakfast Club  Lunch Orders Due	<b>MAY 21</b>  Newsletter Riley Kelly Sports  <a href="#">Lunch Order Day</a>	<b>MAY 22</b>  Breakfast Club
Week 6	<b>MAY 25</b>  Breakfast Club	<b>MAY 26</b>  Black Ranges Cross Country - St Arnaud	<b>MAY 27</b>  Breakfast Club  Lunch Orders Due	<b>MAY 28</b>  Specialist  <a href="#">Lunch Order Day</a>	<b>MAY 29</b>  Breakfast Club  Assembly - 2:50pm