

Concongella Primary School Newsletter

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Thursday 30 July, 2026
Term 3, Edition 12

Term 3 Dates to remember

Tuesday 4th August

- School Council 6pm

Monday 16th August

- Dental Van Visit

Wednesday 19 August

- Black Rangers Volleyball

Monday 24-Wednesday 26 August

- Literacy Week-Book Fair

Friday 28 August

- Cluster Book Week Celebration Day

Tuesday 1 September

- School Council 6.00pm

Wednesday 2 September

- Black Ranges Athletics

Friday 4 September

- Father Day Big Breakfast

Monday 7 September

- Student Support Group Meetings (SSGs)

Thursday 10 September

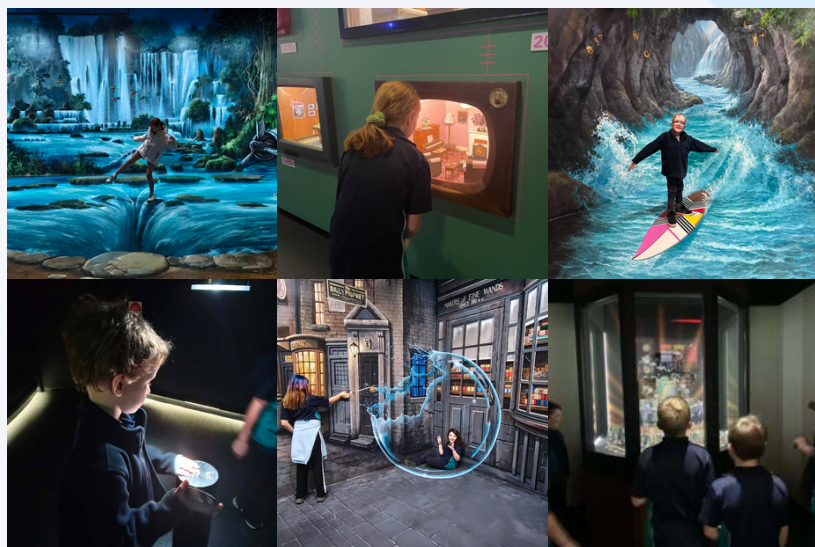
- R U OK Day Celebration Day

Friday 11 September

- Learning Showcase from 2.30pm

Friday 18 September

- Last Day Term 3 early finish 2.10pm



MELBOURNE EXCURSION A HUGE SUCCESS!

Our students recently enjoyed an exciting excursion to Melbourne, where they explored the interactive worlds of ACMI and ArtVo.

At ACMI, students discovered the fascinating history of film, television, games and digital storytelling through engaging hands-on exhibits. They then stepped into a world of imagination at ArtVo, where everyone had the chance to become part of incredible 3D artworks, resulting in plenty of laughter, creativity and memorable photos.

It was a fantastic day filled with learning, exploration and fun. The students represented our school beautifully, and it was wonderful to see them embracing every opportunity with enthusiasm. Both students and staff had an amazing time, creating memories that will be talked about for a long time to come!

A Word From The Principal



A Very Special Announcement

We are absolutely delighted to share some very special news with our school community. Nikeeta and her family are expecting a beautiful new addition in early February!

A huge congratulations to Nikeeta, Adam, Rhylen and Hayze. We are so incredibly excited for you all and cannot wait to meet the newest member of your beautiful family. We know this little one is already surrounded by so much love and will be welcomed with open arms by your wonderful family and our Concongella community.

We are so excited to share this special journey with you, Nikeeta, and to celebrate this very exciting next chapter in your lives.

As Nikeeta will be commencing maternity leave at the beginning of Term 1, 2027, we will advertise her position as a contract position towards the end of this year. In the meantime, we will be making the most of every moment we have with Nikeeta before she begins this very special adventure!

NAPLAN 2026: Building on Our Reading Success

Following last year's outstanding results, we have continued our school wide priority of strong literacy outcomes for every student throughout 2026. Guided by our Core Literacy approach and strengthened by our Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), our commitment to three hours of Literacy every day has remained steadfast, ensuring all students receive the right level of instruction, challenge, and support.

This year's NAPLAN results show that our strong outcomes are holding firm and broadening across the curriculum:

- **Year 3 Reading:** 80% of students are strong or exceeding proficiency – sustaining last year's outstanding result, and well above both similar schools (59%) and our school network (59%).
- **Year 3 Writing:** 80% of students are strong or exceeding proficiency – above similar schools (60%) and our school network (65%).
- **Year 3 Numeracy:** 80% of students are strong or exceeding proficiency – above similar schools (61%) and our school network (54%).
- **Year 3 Grammar:** 80% of students are strong or exceeding proficiency – above similar schools (43%) and our school network (46%).
- **Year 3 Spelling:** 60% of students are strong or exceeding proficiency – above similar schools (47%) and our school network (49%).

A Word From The Principal

- **Year 5 Reading:** 100% of students are strong or exceeding proficiency – sustaining last year's remarkable result, and significantly higher than similar schools (64%) and our school network (59%).

This continued success is the result of:

- Three hours of daily Literacy dedicated to building strong readers and writers.
- Explicit, evidence-based instruction across all classrooms.
- Early identification and intervention for students needing additional support.
- Rich learning opportunities that build vocabulary, comprehension, and a love for literature.
- Consistent monitoring of student progress, ensuring no learner is left behind.
- The exceptional commitment and expertise of our teaching staff, who go above and beyond to support every learner.

We are incredibly proud that our students are not only sustaining these outstanding reading results, but excelling across writing, numeracy, and grammar as well. Our unwavering focus on daily, high quality, evidence based instruction continues to build a strong foundation for learning across all curriculum areas, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.

Major Raffle – Final Push!

We are getting closer to the final date for our Major Raffle, with the raffle draw taking place on 31 August 2026 (unless sold out prior).

As previously communicated, the purpose of our Major Raffle is to raise funds towards our 2026 Interstate Camp to Port Arthur, Tasmania, with the goal of significantly reducing the cost of camp for our families. If we are able to sell all 3,000 tickets, the cost to families could be little to none. This is an incredible opportunity for our students, and your support is crucial in helping us achieve this goal.

We still have approximately one quarter of our raffle booklets remaining, so if you are able to sell additional tickets, please contact or visit the school office. We would be incredibly grateful for your support!

We also strongly encourage all families who have sold their raffle tickets to please return the completed raffle booklets and corresponding money to the school office as soon as possible. This will allow us to keep our records up to date and ensure we are ready for the final draw.

Every ticket sold makes a difference. Thank you for getting behind this important fundraiser and helping us make this incredible camp experience accessible to all our students!

With thanks,
Amy Henderson.

Part 2 of 5 What AI Literacy Looks Like

AI IN AT CONGELLA · PART 2 OF 5

Why Teachers First

Part two of our series: why we're building staff confidence with AI before introducing it to students.

A considered sequence, not a race

A question we're often asked is: "When will students start using AI?" Our answer is deliberately unhurried. We believe teachers need to develop real understanding and confidence with these tools first, so that when students do encounter AI at school, it happens inside a framework that's been carefully thought through. This mirrors how we introduce any new practice at Congella PS. Just as our staff build deep expertise in explicit teaching methods before rolling them out school wide, the same care is being applied to AI.

What staff capability-building involves

- Hands on professional learning sessions where teachers trial AI tools on real planning and administrative tasks.
- Shared discussion of what worked, what didn't, and where the risks lie.
- Development of a whole school practical handbook so every staff member, regardless of prior experience, has the same clear guidance.
- Ongoing review against Victorian and national policy as guidance continues to evolve.

The payoff for students

When teachers are confident and well informed, they're far better placed to guide students safely, helping them understand AI's usefulness and its limitations, rather than students discovering these tools unsupervised. Staff capability isn't a delay; it's the foundation that makes safe, meaningful student use possible later.

In the next issue

Part 3 AI as a Thinking Partner, not a shortcut: how teachers are actually using these tools day to day.



Students Of The Week



Congratulations to the following students for displaying our school values of

Safe



Respectful



Responsible

WATTLE HUB F,1,2

Solara Martin: In recognition of always showing the school values by being a great friend.

Kaleb Todd: In recognition of your readiness to learn and focus during literacy and numeracy.

BANKSIA HUB 3-4

Odiah Kingsey: By demonstrating focus and determination in the classroom - well done.

WARATAH HUB 5-6

Finn Leonard: By demonstrating a positive attitude towards his learning everyday!

Aubree Russell: By showing initiative towards her learning and being a respectful class member!

MACQLIT

Congratulations to **Izzy, Jaxon** and **Ava** for successfully completing Part D of the MacqLit program.

Congratulations to **Toby** for graduating the MacqLit program! You have shown great perseverance and should be incredibly proud of everything you have achieved!

SPELLING MASTERY

Congratualtions to **Samera, Tyler, Izzy, Toby** and **Tyler** on being Super Spellers! Fantastic work!



WATTLE HUB

TERM 3

We have had a fantastic and busy start to term 3. Wattle Hub showed such enthusiasm and a positive attitude on our excursion to Melbourne. It has been wonderful to see everyone showing our school values on a daily basis. Looking forward to another exciting term.



PLACE VALUE



LEARNING

Our literacy sessions will focus on:

- Information Reports – Migaloo The White Whale
- Sentence Expansion
- Handwriting
- Reading Fluency

Our numeracy sessions will focus on:

- Measurement
- Place Value
- Multiplication

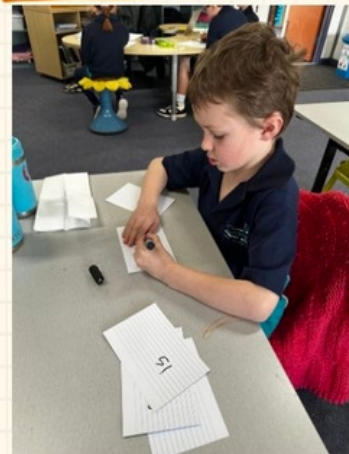
PLACE VALUE



LITERACY



WRITING



WELLBEING NEWSLETTER



Podcast For Kids (That Parents Will Like Too)

Podcasts are becoming a fast-growing part of the audio industry.

Here are 4 that are great for shared listening, whether you're on the school run, winding down at bedtime, or simply spending time together at home.

Short & Curly - ABC

Short & Curly takes often tricky philosophical questions and turns them into a mix of story telling, conversation and humour.

DirtGirl's Nature Adventure Academy

This podcast is full of fun things to do and real-life nature sounds to connect you with the outside. It's a great way for kids to switch on their senses.

Squiz Kids

It's Australia's only current affairs program for kids. It covers International and Australian news in a fun and engaging way.

At Home With Brie

Every week on At Home With Brie, hear about what other Aussie kids are up to in their home towns.

Available on all podcast Apps

Safe Respectful Responsible

ARTVO MELBOURNE

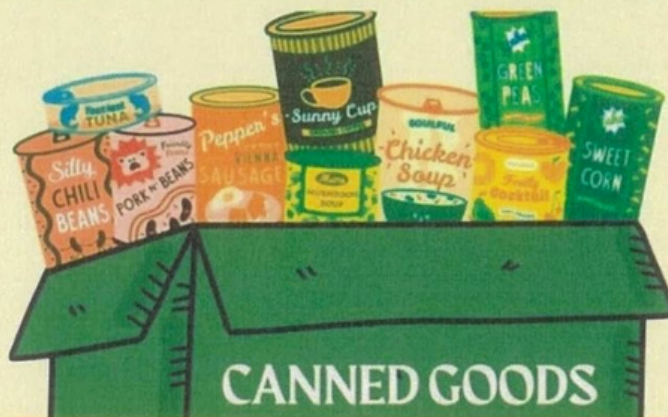


Homelessness Week Fundraiser

Friday
7th of
August



CASUAL CLOTHES DAY



Bring a canned food item to
donate to a local homelessness
charity

Community News

East Grampians Health Service
invites you to attend our annual



East Grampians
Health Service

*improving the health
of our community*

Research Showcase

*Join us to launch the Modified
Sport for Older Adults in Rural
Communities Toolkit.*

*Research posters will also be
on display.*



DATE: 3 SEPTEMBER 2026
TIME: 2:00PM – 3:00PM
VENUE: MT WILLIAM ROOM,
EAST GRAMPIANS HEALTH
SERVICE

Light refreshments will be provided.

Please register via the QR code.

For further information, contact
developmentandimprovement@eghs.net.au
or ph: (03) 5352 9467

This event is supported by:



Birthday Wishes

WISHING A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF OUR STUDENTS CELEBRATING
BIRTHDAYS BETWEEN OUR LAST NEWSLETTER AND THE NEXT!

SAMERA & ASHER

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR SPECIAL DAY!

School Assembly

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

Our next assembly is scheduled for
Friday, 7th AUG 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!



Term 3 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	JUL 27 Breakfast Club	JUL 28 Chinese	JUL 29 Breakfast Club Lunch Orders Due	JUL 30 Newsletter Lunch Order Day	JUL 31 Breakfast Club
Week 4	AUG 3 Breakfast Club	AUG 4 Chinese School Council 6:00pm	AUG 5 Breakfast Club Lunch Orders Due	AUG 6 Specialist Day Lunch Order Day	AUG 7 Breakfast Club Casual Clothes day - & Can Drive Homelessness Week Assembly - 2:50pm
Week 5	AUG 10 Breakfast Club	AUG 11 Chinese	AUG 12 Breakfast Club Lunch Orders Due	AUG 13 Newsletter Lunch Order Day	AUG 14 Breakfast Club
Week 6	AUG 17 Breakfast Club Dental Van Visit	AUG 18 Chinese	AUG 19 Breakfast Club Lunch Orders Due	AUG 20 Specialist Day Lunch Order Day	AUG 21 Breakfast Club Assembly - 2:50pm