Concongella Primary School Newsletter

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Thursday 22nd October, 2026
Term 4, Edition 16



Port Arthur Tasmania Camp & Local Legends Program

What an amazing week of adventures for our students! 🇦🇺
Our students who travelled to Port Arthur, Tasmania, had an incredible time exploring, learning and making memories, while the students who stayed back took part in our Local Legends program, embarking on their own adventures and discovering the fascinating history of our local area.
Both groups took a deep dive into Australian history as part of our Term 4 Inquiry unit, bringing their learning to life through hands-on experiences and exploring the stories that have shaped our past.
We are so incredibly proud of all our students for the way they represented our school, both out in the community and while travelling. They should be so proud of themselves for their behaviour, enthusiasm and the way they embraced every opportunity to learn and explore.
Two amazing adventures, so many memories made and plenty of learning along the way!

Term 4 Dates to remember

Friday 23 October
- Grandparent Celebration Day

Monday 26 October
- Whole School Transition Day 9.00-11.00am

Tuesday 27 October
- School Council 6.00pm

Monday 2 November
- School Closure - Report Writing

Tuesday 4 November
- School Closure - Melbourne Cup Day

Wednesday 11 November
- Remembrance Day Celebration
- Whole School Transition Day 9.00-12.30pm

Tuesday 24 November
- School Council 6.00pm

Thursday 26 November
- Whole School Transition Day 9.00-1.30pm

Saturday 28 November
- State Election and Artisan Market at Concongella P.S

Monday 30 Nov - Friday 4 Dec
- F-6 Swimming Program-Parents to pick up students from Stawell 3.10pm

Thursday 3 December
- Christmas Concert 5.30-6.30pm

A Word From The Principal



Our Epic Port Arthur Adventure!

It's hard to believe two weeks have already passed since our students kicked off Term 4 in the best way possible. In Week 1, from Monday 5 to Friday 9 October, our Concongella students travelled to Tasmania for a camp none of us will forget. It was our exposure to Australian History for our Term 4 Inquiry unit, and I couldn't be prouder of every one of them.

From the moment we left the school gate, our students showed what Concongella is made of. They wore their green vests, looked after their bags, and were kind and patient through every airport, flight and bus trip. They were fantastic ambassadors for our school, and the compliments we received along the way were well deserved.

Our itinerary was designed to bring Australian History to life. Students stood on the Tessellated Pavement at Eaglehawk Neck, then walked through the Port Arthur Historic Site and the Coal Mines Historic Site, where they stepped into the stories of our convict past and the colonisation of Australia. Hearing these stories on the ground, in the places where they happened, gave our students a depth of understanding no classroom could match. Our Grade 5–6 students who took part in the Guided Ghost Tour came back with plenty of stories of their own. We also visited the Tasmanian Chocolate Foundry, which was a hit, and finished at the Hobart Zoo and Aquarium for our final day of exploring.

What stood out most was the way our students looked after each other. Older students supported younger ones, friendships grew across year levels, and everyone had a go at new experiences. They asked thoughtful questions, listened carefully and made connections. They also shared their cards, books and colouring-in with their peers and made the most of a week without screens. That is the support, encourage, achieve spirit our school is built on.

None of this would have been possible without our community. Thank you to our School Council, whose two years of fundraising made this camp affordable for every family. Thank you to all the families who went above and beyond with our raffle. Thank you to our six parent volunteers and to our seven staff, who ensured every child was safe, cared for and learning. Thank you also to the families who trusted us with their children and to everyone who followed along with our updates.

To every student who came to Tasmania: congratulations. You were epic, and you have made lasting memories and a deeper understanding of Australia's history. As we settle into Term 4, I look forward to seeing how this experience continues to shape the learning back in our classrooms.

A Word From The Principal

Downball Wall Art Mural Complete

We are so excited to share our new mural on our downball wall is completed! This project began with a vision to create something special for our school and wider community that celebrates our history, connections and sense of belonging. We were passionate about bringing this idea to life and are thrilled to see our downball wall transformed into something colourful, meaningful and unique to our school.

A huge thank you to Ryan Peik, our talented artist, for bringing this vision to life. We are incredibly grateful for his creativity, time and work in helping us create something special for our school community.

As a school established in 1872, we have a proud history spanning 154 years, and this mural is another way to celebrate the people, stories and connections that make Concongella Primary School such a special place.

We look forward to our students enjoying the mural for years to come and hope it continues to bring a little extra colour, pride and connection to our school grounds!

Step Up 2027: Stepping Up Together

Our Step Up program begins on Monday 26 October, and we can't wait to welcome our incoming Foundation students and their families to Concongella.

Step Up is our whole-school transition program. Every student steps up to their 2027 year level with their classroom teacher and education support staff, so that all of our students feel comfortable, connected and included before the new year begins. For our incoming Foundation students, it is a gentle first taste of school life: meeting their teacher, getting to know their classmates and finding their way around their new learning spaces.

There are four sessions in total, growing longer each time:

- **Monday 26 October:** 9:00am – 11:00am
- **Wednesday 11 November:** 9:00am – 12:30pm
- **Thursday 26 November:** 9:00am – 1:30pm
- **Tuesday 8 December:** 9:00am – 3:10pm (Statewide Transition Day)

A huge thank you to our students and staff, who worked incredibly hard last Friday to relocate to their learning spaces for the remainder of 2026, ready for our 2027 class groups. Many hands made light work, and the way everyone pitched in was a wonderful reflection of our school community.

We are also delighted to celebrate an increase in enrolments for 2027. It is a great vote of confidence in our school, and we warmly welcome every new family joining us. If you know of a family in our community who is still deciding on the best fit for their child's primary education, we encourage them to reach out. We would love to hear from them and show them what Concongella has to offer.

With thanks,

Amy Henderson.

Learning at Concongella Part 1 of 4

Two Hours That Shape a Reader

Inside our daily Literacy Block

Every morning at Concongella, every student spends three hours immersed in literacy. It is the single biggest block of time in our school day, and that is deliberate. Learning to read and write well is the foundation everything else is built on, so we protect this time and teach it with evidence-based practice.

The two hours morning block look a little different depending on a child's stage, but the same core idea runs through both: skills are taught explicitly, in a logical sequence, with plenty of practice and feedback, nothing is left to chance.

F–2: Building the Foundations

Our Foundation to Grade 2 students spend their Literacy Block on the five building blocks of early reading:

- Phonemic awareness- hearing and playing with the sounds in words
- Phonics- matching those sounds to letters and letter patterns, and blending them to read
- Fluency- reading with accuracy, appropriate pace, and expression
- Handwriting and dictation- forming letters correctly and spelling words as they are heard
- Storybook comprehension- talking about, questioning, and understanding what has been read aloud

These aren't taught in isolation, they're taught in a carefully sequenced program, each lesson building on the last, so a skill introduced in Term 1 is still being practised and applied in Term 4.

3–6: Consolidating and Extending

Two Hours That Shape a Reader
Inside our daily Literacy Block

Our older students continue to build the same underlying skills, with the focus shifting toward independence and complexity:

- Spelling- extending phonics knowledge into more complex and irregular words
- Fluency- continuing to build reading pace, accuracy, and expression with harder texts
- Handwriting - the transition to joined (cursive) handwriting
- Read, Discuss Vocabulary - with an explicit focus on building vocabulary

What this looks like in the classroom

- Short, focused segments rather than one long unbroken block
- Explicit teaching first, then guided and independent practice
- Frequent checks for understanding, so gaps are caught early
- Consistent routines students can rely on every single day

How families can help at home

- Read aloud together every day, even once children can read independently
- Ask your child to read to you and talk about what happened in the story
- Praise effort and sounding out strategies, not just getting the word 'right' first go
- Keep it short and positive- ten focused minutes beats a reluctant thirty

Look out for Part 2 of this series later in the term, where we explain how we teach writing through The Writing Revolution.

WATTLE HUB

TERM 4

What an exciting and busy start to term 4. Wattle Hub showed wonderful enthusiasm and a positive attitude throughout our school camp in Tasmania. Wattle Hub have also moved classrooms!We have settled in nicely and are really enjoying our new learning space. It has been lovely to see them taking ownership of the classroom, helping set it up and make it feel like home. If you are dropping by, please come and say hello and have a look around.

NEW CLASSROOM



LEARNING

Our literacy sessions will focus on:

- Persuasive Texts & Poetry
- Sentence Expansion
- Handwriting
- Writing Fluency

Our numeracy sessions will focus on:

- Addition & Subtraction
- Division & Multiplication
- Measurement

Our inquiry sessions will focus on:

- History

MULTIPLICATION



INQUIRY



WRITING



Port Arthur Tasmania F-6 Camp

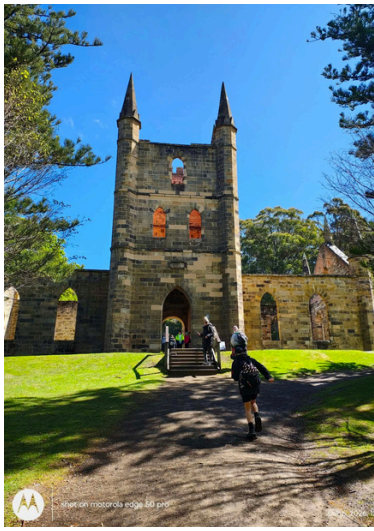


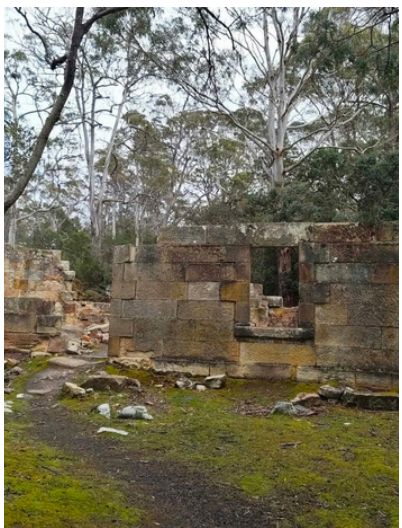






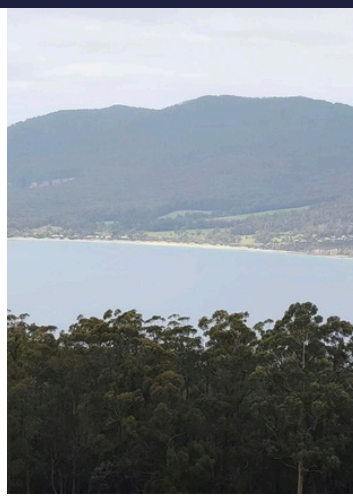
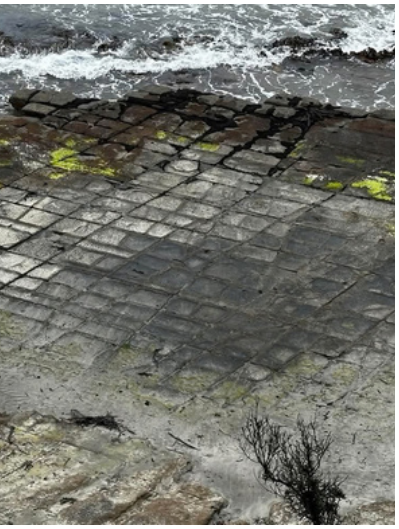


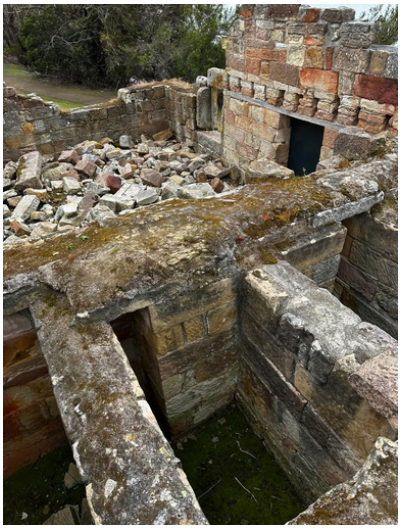




Port Arthur Tasmania F-6 Camp
















Local Legends Program













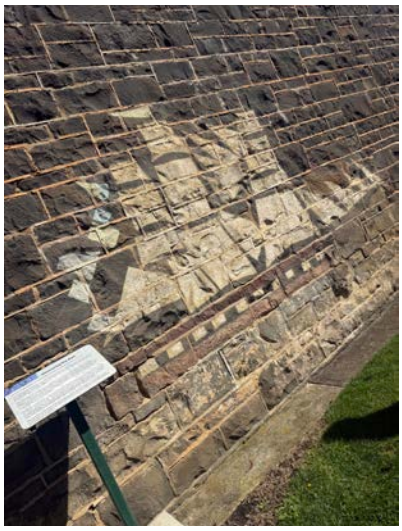





Local Legends Program



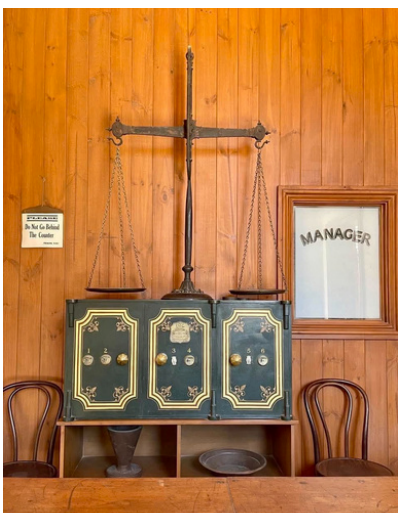










Students Of The Week

Congratulations to the following students for displaying our school values of







Congratulations to our Camp & Excursion Award Recipients!

A huge congratulations to Livia, Aubree, Samera, Izzy and Solara who received the 'Cleanest Cabin' award during camp! These students were recognised for their excellent organisation, tidiness and cleanliness, and each received a special treat in acknowledgement of their efforts. Well done for taking pride in your cabin and helping to keep your space clean and organised!

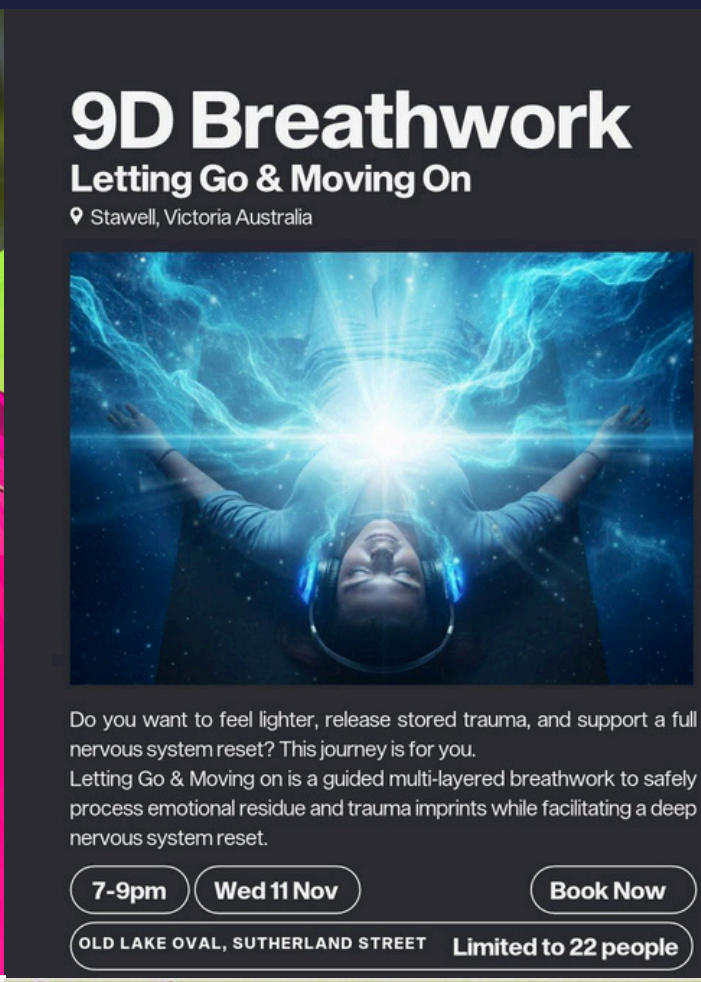
We would also like to congratulate every student on their individual awards. Each student was recognised for their own unique strengths, positive qualities and efforts demonstrated throughout the Port Arthur Camp and the Local Legends Program. These awards celebrated the many ways our students challenged themselves, showed kindness, demonstrated responsibility, supported others and contributed to a wonderful experience.

We are incredibly proud of all our students and the way they embraced the opportunities and challenges throughout week 1. Congratulations to everyone on your achievements, efforts and contributions! 🌟



Community News









SUNSMART SCHOOL

TERM 4 HAT POLICY

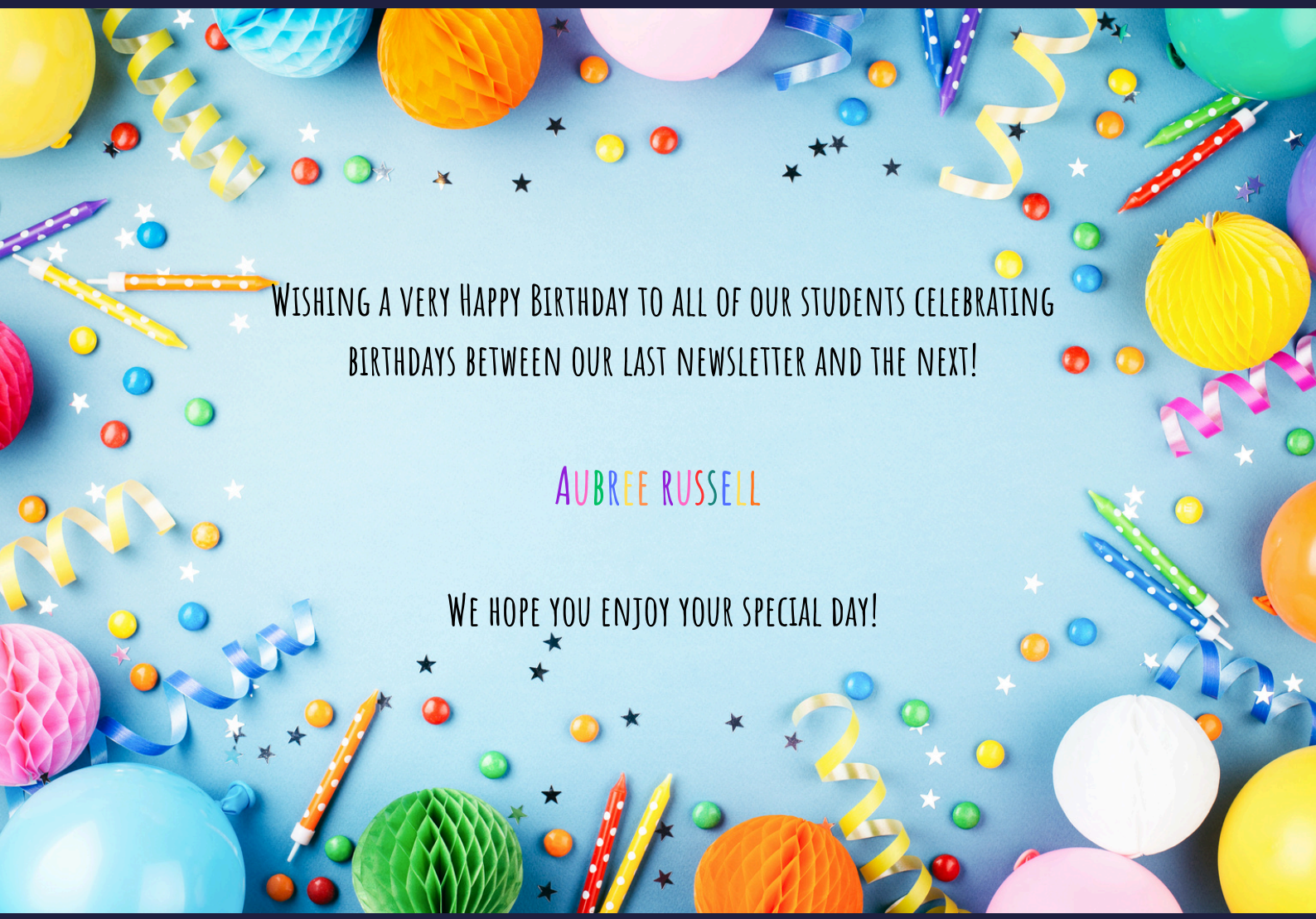
As a SunSmart School, we are committed to keeping our students protected from the sun.

From the beginning of Term 4, all students are required to wear their school bucket hat whenever they are outside.



Order forms for our 2027 Grade 6 bomber jackets have been sent home. Please be sure to have these forms filled out and handed in to the front office no later than Friday 13th November. Thank you! 🙂

Birthday Wishes



School Assembly

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

Our next assembly is scheduled for
Friday, 30th OCT 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 4 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.

Hats:
Just a reminder that in Term 4, students are required to wear their school bucket hats when outdoors.
If you need to purchase a school bucket hat, please see Amy or Nikeeta at the front office.
Thank you for your support in keeping our students sun safe! ☀️

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	**OCT 19** Breakfast Club Performing Arts	**OCT 20** Cluster Black Ranges Cricket Blast Chinese	**OCT 21** Breakfast Club Performing Arts	**OCT 22** Newsletter Lunch Order Day	**OCT 23** Breakfast Club Cultural Incursion at Halls Gap
Week 4	**OCT 26** Breakfast Club Transition Day #1 9:00am - 11:00am Performing Arts	**OCT 27** Chinese School Council meeting 6pm	**OCT 28** Breakfast Club Performing Arts	**OCT 29** Specialist Day Lunch Order Day	**OCT 30** Breakfast Club Assembly - 2:50pm
Week 5	**NOV 2** Report writing day - School Closure	**NOV 3** Melbourne Cup - Public Holiday	**NOV 4** Breakfast Club Performing Arts	**NOV 5** Newsletter Performing Arts Lunch Order Day	**NOV 6** Breakfast Club
Week 6	**NOV 9** Breakfast Club	**NOV 10** Chinese	**NOV 11** Transition Day #2 9:00am - 12:30pm Performing Arts	**NOV 12** Specialist Day Lunch Order Day	**NOV 13** Breakfast Club Assembly - 2:50pm

PROTECT
Protecting children & young people from abuse is our responsibility
THE EDUCATION STATE
VICTORIA State Government | Education and Training