

Be Safe

Be A Learner

Be Respectful

August 2024

Dear families,

Our term is just flying by and we are now finishing our seventh week of the term.

We will be finishing school on Friday 20th of September with a 'Footy Dress Up and Hot Dog Day'. We are also asking for a gold coin donation towards United Way Glenelg and their generous work they do in our area.

I attended the Portland/Hamilton Principal's meeting in Hamilton on Thursday this week. Some of our agenda items were—Disability and Inclusion funding implementation and learning about the new Mental Health in Primary Schools Rollout. These are both new initiatives from the Department of Education to begin to be implemented in 2025.

Staffing

Jacinta—our artist-in-residence will be away on the 6th and 13th of September on a well-deserved holiday. Miss Bailey and Ms Ferrier will be taking additional art lessons.

Mrs. Arthur—our MARC teacher is currently on Long Service Leave and Mr. Lee Gibbons is replacing her while she is away for the remainder of the term. Mr. Gibbons is a former Principal at Bolwarra PS near Portland and has recently retired from full-time teaching.

Gymnastics

Each Tuesday, we are continuing our lessons with the gymnastics coach Tanya. Our lessons start 1.45 and conclude at 2.45. We have loved having some of our families come and watch, the Gymnastics Club is on Mt. Baimbridge Road. Families are very welcome to come and watch.

3HA Ad

We have also recorded a radio advertisement with our students and Miss Bailey. We will let everyone know when it's about to air.

Transition

We are welcoming Casterton Kindergarten to our school on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September for a morning visit. This is part of the kinder to school transition program for our future Foundation students. Ms Ferrier and Miss Bailey recently attended a meeting with the Kindergarten and local Casterton Schools to plan for these events.

Parent Survey

Please remember to complete the annual Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey. The survey is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of school climate, student behavior and student engagement. The survey is optional, but we encourage and appreciate your participation. Thank you to the families that have completed the survey and only 40% of families have completed this so far. Thank you for taking the time to do this.

[PLEASE follow this link to complete the survey](#)

<https://www.orima.com.au/parent>

The PIN is 875291

Lightning Premierships

On Monday, Steph, Xavier and Thomas represented Merino CS at the CDSSA Lightning Premierships at Silvester Oval in Coleraine. Conditions were cold, windy and with some very heavy rain but our three students played on and enjoyed every minute of their day. I was coaching Steph's netball team and by the end of their games, all students showed improvements in their skills. Glenda was over supervising the boys while they played football. Thomas and his teammates ended up winning the final. The canteen at break times was a big hit too!

I must congratulate the organising schools—Coleraine Primary School and St. Joseph's Primary School on their terrific organisation which allowed the day to run so smoothly.

Upcoming Excursions

This week all students received a permission note for our upcoming excursion to the Ballarat Wild life Park. In the note it said we were hiring a mini-bus from the Casterton Cricket Club, unfortunately this is now no longer available and we are looking at alternative arrangements. I will keep you up to date on our travel arrangements as soon as they are confirmed.

Kind regards,

Lisa Ferrier  
Acting Principal





### Some tips for home reading

- ◆ Establish a home reading routine. Read aloud with your child every day in your home language. Share your excitement for reading and this will be the model your child will adopt.
- ◆ Before you read a book with your child, talk about the illustrations and the title. Read the blurb and talk about the author.
- ◆ Find a reading time that works for your family.
- ◆ Ask questions that encourage your children to talk about what they have read. Questions such as: What was your favourite part? Tell me about the characters. What do you think will happen next? Where did the story take place? What do like/dislike about this book?
- ◆ Encourage your child to read independently. A bed light is one of the best enticements for your child to read before going to sleep.

### SCHOOL CALENDAR

#### September

11th Excursion to Ballarat Wildlife Park

17th BioLAB Excursion to Geelong Yr 5 & 6 only

21st Last day of Term 3—Football Dress Up Day

#### October

5th Term 4 Begins

23rd Year 3-6 Excursion to Dartmoor PS for 'Robotics on the Road'

#### November

11th Remembrance Day—Students read poems at the Cenotaph

19th Kinder Transition Morning 9am—11am

26th Kinder Transition Morning 9am— 11am

#### December

10th State Wide Transition Day for 2025 Year 7 and Foundations students

13th Last Kitchen Class

16th December Last Day of School For Merino CS students

17th Pupil Free Day Parent teacher Interviews

18th Pupil Free Day 2025 Staff Planning Day

19th Pupil Free Day 2025 Staff Planning day

20th Pupil Free Day—2024 Archiving



## Data snapshot

### Victorian education outcomes - NAPLAN 2024



Victoria's NAPLAN participation rate this year was the highest it has been since the first year of testing in 2008.



#### Victorian Year 3 Students

Victorian Year 3 students continue to lead the nation in reading and numeracy – the third year in a row in which this has been achieved.



#### Reading Performance

Victorian students in Years 3, 7 and 9 improved on their 2023 reading results, reversing the national trend, which saw the average score for reading decline in Years 3, 5 and 7 and improve only at Year 9.

Victoria's reading performance improved overall in 2024, with 5,000 more students reaching the 'exceeding' proficiency level for reading across all year levels compared to 2023.



#### Victorian Primary School Students

Victorian primary school students continue to produce the best results in the country, ranking first or second in 8 out of 10 domains – more than any other state or territory.



#### Reading and Writing

Victoria achieved the first or second highest mean scores of all jurisdictions in 7 out of 8 measures in reading and writing and achieved the top results in the country for writing in Years 5, 7 and 9.



#### Areas for improvement

There is work to be done to improve outcomes for disadvantaged students, Aboriginal students, and students outside metropolitan areas. Victorian students in these cohorts achieved stronger learning outcomes than in other states and territories, but there are still significant gaps to close. We also need to lift outcomes for our secondary students.

Source: NAPLAN 2024





# FUN IS IN FULL SWING!

Join Woolworths Cricket Blast

A safe way to have fun and stay active for kids of all abilities.

**Cricket Blast Program- Coleraine Cricket Club @ Turnbull St Oval.**

***Wednesday night 4.30pm – 5.30pm***

***23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 – 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024***

***For kids aged 5-10***

***For more information contact Christian Barker - 0468535502***



**SIGN UP TODAY!**

**Q Play Cricket**

**PROUDLY  
PRESENTED BY**

