



Coomandook Area School

Term 1, Week 2

Newsletter

8th February, 2022

From the Principal

Mal Jurgs

Welcome to the 2022 school year. It is a different start to what we had planned at the end of last year, but I want to acknowledge the work that staff have done over the past few weeks to prepare themselves for this "hybrid" return to school. I would also like to thank parents and students for the role that you have taken in making the start to the year as smooth as possible in the circumstances. I recognise how difficult it can be to juggle child care arrangements and working life, especially in a rural area like this, and I appreciate the way people have made these accommodations.

It is pleasing to see that many students working from home are engaging in their online learning, but if they are having issues either connecting to Daymap or with the work that they have been set, please contact the school and we will provide as much support as we can to help them.

New Staff

Welcome to our new staff this year. Alisha Dutschke will be taking the Year 5/6 Class, Daniel Irvine will be teaching secondary Maths and HASS, and Harald Walther will be teaching German to the Primary Classes and Year 7/8. We welcome back Tiffany Leng, teaching Music and Art and Kerrie Frazer is also returning to teach Maths. We also welcome Vicki Jacobs to the school as the Finance Officer.

I have sensed a real positive vibe around the school and am confident that we have a team that will build on the successes of the past to keep moving teaching and learning at the school forward.

Changes to the start of the year.

The current changes to schooling due to the COVID situation have meant that we have had to postpone a

Calendar Dates

Term 1

February

28th Governing Council AGM

March

1st CAS Swimming Carnival

7th 800m Race at 9am

9th 1500m Race at 9am

11th CAS Athletic Day

14th PUBLIC HOLIDAY

18th Mallee Formal

22nd Interschool Swimming Carnival at M/Bridge

Items for the newsletter must be submitted by 9am, Monday morning. Newsletters are printed every fortnight. Thank you.

number of events that would normally occur in the first 4 weeks of the year. Among these are the Swimming Carnivals and our Acquaintance Night.

The Coomandook Swimming Carnival will now be held on the 1st March at the Coonalpyn Pool, while the USE Swimming Carnival will be on the 22nd March at Murray Bridge. The Coomandook Athletics Carnival will be held on the 11th March while the USE Carnival has been postponed to early Term 2. This will make the end of Term 1 even more crowded with sporting activities, so it is important that students attend those days when normal teaching and learning is happening to ensure that they stay on top of their work.

The Governing Council AGM was originally planned for the 21st February, but this has been postponed to the following week, the 28th February. Please consider attending this and nominating for a position on the 2022 Governing Council. More details will follow.

Principal: Mal Jurgs
Governing Council Chairperson: Louise Pitt
Phone: 85 733007 Fax: 85 733185
www.coomyas.sa.edu.au
dl.0729.info@schools.sa.edu.au



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Respect
Honesty
Persistence

COVID Guidelines.

The guidelines for what needs to be done should a member of the school community test positive for COVID are quite complex and nuanced, but in essence, if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID, there will be no necessity for other classmates to isolate or be tested, unless they develop COVID like symptoms. Teachers who are considered to be classroom contacts will be given Rapid Antigen Tests that they will need to take every day for 7 days. Providing they test negative they can continue to work.

If your child shows any symptoms, please keep them home and have them tested as soon as you can. If a child tests positive to COVID please notify the school as soon as possible so that we can put our protocols in place. We will notify you immediately should we find that your child has been a classroom contact of a positive case. If a child does test positive to COVID, their identity will **not** be disclosed publicly. SA Health will advise you of any quarantine restrictions that you will need to follow should your child or any member of your family test positive.

There have been a number of queries regarding vaccination and entry to the school. Only volunteers, including Governing Council members, contractors or paid employees of the Department for Education need to be vaccinated to enter the school. Parents who are not vaccinated may enter the grounds to drop students off, pay fees or meet with teachers, but they are required to wear masks whenever they are indoors.

New Programs

Children's University

During the holidays Ms. Dutschke, Ms. Lee and I met with Gemma Stanger from the Children's University. The Children's University is an international program that is hosted in South Australia by the University of Adelaide, which encourages children in about Years 4 - 7 to explore learning outside of school hours, and to recognise the learning that they do in many of the activities that they already undertake in life. Each student will have a Learning Passport in which they record the learning that they have done and when they achieve a certain number of hours they qualify for an award. For example when they achieve 30 hours they qualify for a bronze award. Toward the end of the year, those students who have gained enough hours to "graduate" are invited to a ceremony at the

University of Adelaide (COVID allowing) where they dress up in academic gowns and go on stage to receive their award. Apart from the initial membership fee there are no extra costs, as the University organises a bus to transport the children and their parents to the ceremony.

This is a voluntary program with a minimal cost for each student (at most \$5 per student for Coomandook students) and we will run some lunchtime activities that will go toward their award. They can also use their regular Saturday sports and other activities to count toward some of their awards. There are a number of learning destinations around our region that they can visit, and there are also a number of online destinations that children can work on at home.

This has been a very successful program in other schools, and I encourage parents of all students in this age group to attend an information session that we will organise once we get the all clear for parent meetings. Ms. Dutschke has volunteered to take on the coordinator's role for this program, and she will get information out to parents when this becomes available.

Cows Create Careers

Cows Create Careers is a program designed to expose students to the wide variety of rewarding careers that are associated with the dairy industry. The school has signed up to receive a pair of dairy calves in early term 2 which will be looked after by the Year 5/6 Class for 3 weeks. There are a variety of activities that the students will work in groups, to complete that link to a number of areas of the curriculum. Ms. Scott will run the program with the class as part of her Paddock to Plate lessons.

We will continue to explore ways to add value to the already extensive program that students at Coomandook are offered, and will keep you informed as we introduce them.

From the Deputy Principal

Jacob Dawson

Welcome to the new school year. Despite the difficulties of managing restrictions, it is an exciting time for our school as we launch new learning opportunities for all students. Here are just a few things that are happening:

New Subjects

In 2022 we are pleased to offer the full Australian Curriculum and new SACE subjects. The introduction of German as part of our language learning from Foundation to Year 8 gives students the opportunity to learn about people in other cultures, broaden their global awareness and strengthen their English learning. Did you know that learning a foreign language supports deeper understanding of the structure of English and improves children's writing?

I am also excited to welcome Tiff Leng back and the implementation of structured music learning from Foundation to Year 8. The Arts are a highly valuable learning area that develops expression and can often support younger children to understand emotions. Learning to read music and play an instrument has been shown to improve children's reading ability while also underpinning their development of partitioning in mathematics. We are working to broaden opportunities for students to access a range of instrumental lessons and I look forward to hearing secondary students contribute to assemblies in the near future.

As part of value-adding to our curriculum, we are also running Digital Technology classes through to Year 11 (SACE) this year. There are so many jobs of the future that are not yet invented and the need to build technology that supports the way we live is growing. Digital technology helps students develop their algorithmic thinking through developing and writing code, which strengthens their learning in mathematics.

We also have students studying Modern History at SACE level and continue to support a very broad range of subjects. Currently all classes are being run by our school and our strong team of educators.

Masterclass

Students in Year 7-9 this year are launching a new inquiry focus through Masterclass. The aim of this subject is for them to work from an area of personal interest and develop a project that in some way gives back to or supports the community. Students work through 4 steps: investigating, planning, taking-action and reflecting. In our first lesson last week, we started brainstorming possible project ideas and discussed our interests. Some students want to focus on farming, others on mountain bikes, drones, AR games and much more. I hope to share photos of their progress in future newsletters.

Primary HASS inquiry

Our primary team are working together to develop an inquiry focus to the HASS curriculum this year. Each class are working on the theme of Places this term and investigating different questions that develop their learning. The aim of this project is to work from student interests to develop creative thinking that sees learning connect across subjects and into their everyday lives. The teaching team are already hard at work planning together and developing activities that build curiosity in this theme.

Attendance

A friendly reminder that it's important the school knows where every child is each day. With many of our bus pickups in isolated areas, we want to make sure all are kept safe. The easiest way to let us know if your child is absent is by replying to the attendance SMS sent from the front office. This automatically syncs into the records and saves you needing to send in notes that might get left in a school bag.

For those supporting learning from home, please contact us if you or your child needs support with their learning. Our staff will do their best to assist you and make a smooth transition back to learning at school. There is also a Parent Support Hotline for ICT issues 1800 271 211 for support connecting from home.

From the Secondary Coordinator

Jared Wallis

Welcome back to the school year. What an odd start we have. The changes have shifted a few things around but we will persist and go with the flow. A few important notices: Swimming Carnival will be held on Tuesday week 5, 1st March at Coonalpyn Swimming Pool. Some PE lessons over the next few weeks will be in the pool so students will need to bring their bathers on PE lesson days. Athletics Carnival will also be held on Week 6 Friday, 11th March. In order to provide smooth running carnivals, we need lots of parent help with timing and other jobs on the day. Shortly a note with lunch orders and parent help nominations will be sent home. Look forward to some great racing on the days.

With school sport postponed until the end of Week 4 the State-wide School Sport has moved some sports around which has decreased time between events. Nominations for the term 1 state-wide competitions are now open for the below competitions

- Baseball year 10 to 12 boys
- Cricket year 5 and 6 boys and girls
- Softball year 10 to 12 girls
- Tennis
 - year 5 and 6 boys and girls
 - year 7 and 8 boys and girls
 - year 9 and 10 boys and girls
 - year 11 and 12 boys and girls
- Touch football
 - year 7 and 8 boys and girls
 - year 9 and 10 boys and girls
 - year 11 and 12 boys and girls

To nominate students, please contact the school before and submit by **Tuesday 15th February, Week 3 Term 1.**

New Reception Students

Crystal Berling



On Wednesday 2nd of February we had six new pre-schoolers start their schooling at Coomandook.

Welcome to this year's preschool students:

Everly, Ella, Reuben, Hudson, Henry and Josiah. They have been busy getting to know one another.

New Reception Students

James Hillard

On Wednesday, five of our students had their very first day as Foundation students at CAS in 2022. All were very eager to commence learning and they have had an excellent first week of school. Lessons this week have been full of stories, drawing, playing maths games, writing and getting to know their classmates. I am very proud of the way they have transitioned to school and a big thankyou goes to the parents who have helped them through their first week.



I know I am excited for Foundation students to begin learning sounds as part of our synthetic phonics program commencing next week. With a

different focus each day, we hit the ground running so expect to hear and see students saying sounds, making their actions and noticing sounds everywhere.



New Staff at Coomandook



My name is Alisha Dutschke and I will be teaching in Year 5/6 this year. I am very excited to be joining this amazing school and community and look forward to meeting everyone throughout the course of the year.



The start of a new school year brings the start of a new teaching adventure.

Hi. My name is Harald Walther and I will be teaching German at Coomandook Area School to a number of classes ranging from Foundation through to Year 8. I live

at Meningie, so it's not a long drive to and from Coomandook. I started my teaching journey as a full time English and History teacher in NSW before moving to South Australia in 2010 and taking a four year break from teaching. In 2014 I rejoined the profession as a relief teacher (Foundation to Year 12) and have taught on a short term contract basis for the last few years. Having been born in Germany, and practicing the language at home, I jumped at the chance to do some German teaching.

My focus at the start of term 1 will be on helping students to pronounce fundamental words, developing a working vocabulary and spelling and being able to communicate with their peers and adults in German. At least as important as this will be for students to get some understanding of German culture and to be aware of similarities and differences between German and English.

I am looking forward to term 1.

Hi and welcome back to a new school year. My name is Tiffany Leng (Tiff) and I am really excited to be back teaching again after 12 years away raising my 3 kids, preparing them to start school and doing relief from Kindy to year 12!. Wow this parenting gig is hard work! Congrats to you all on your parenting journey so far! You are doing a great job and I hope that we can work positively together to help educate your kids. I'm a STRONG believer in it 'taking a community to raise a child'. When we work together we can help guide your child through life's ups and downs.

This year I will be teaching and guiding a state government push for music in our schools. This is VERY exciting because music has been given a 10-year

focus from the department as it is recognised to improve student's academic and emotional wellbeing. Each week I will have students from Foundation to year 8 for one music lesson. CAS will also be continuing instrumental lessons in both woodwind and brass instruments. Hopefully we can win a few grants this year to assist in improving what we can offer and deliver at Coomy. I know a few kids have expressed that they would be interested in a drum kit! I will also be taking the Foundation to year 8 students for Performing Arts (Drama & Dance), the F/1/2 class for Technology and the year 7 & 8's for Visual Arts. It has been a long time since I've taught secondary but I'm lapping up the opportunity while I can! It is so nice to work with a range of age groups and sooooo many kids that I've seen grow up.

If I haven't met you yet then please feel free to pop into the activity room or art room to say hi when COVID allows you too, or shout over the fence if COVID is stopping you from coming in! You will find me there on Tuesday afternoons, Thursday's and Fridays. I'm always up for a chat. The best time to contact me will be in the mornings as it is when I don't have classes. If I am in class or not at school then please leave a message with the office and I'll give you a call back ASAP.



My name is Vicki Jacobs, I am the new Finance Officer and I live in Coonalpyn. I'm married to Damian and we have three children, Brooke, Shay and Lachie. Some of you may already know me as I worked at Coonalpyn Primary School for 16 and a half years. I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone here at Coomandook Area School.



My name is Daniel Irvine and I am a secondary History/Maths teacher returning to the classroom after a 4-year break where I completed study for a master's degree. Previously I taught senior history and mathematics at Murray Bridge High School, where I also attended as a student many years ago having grown up in the town. I am excited to be starting out at Coomy this year having done my practicum here in 2009 and worked as a substitute teacher over the past two years. I live in Murray Bridge with my wife, Jasamine, and we have just shifted into a new house over the summer as we try to prepare to life with a new baby due in March.

Year 7 HASS

Steph Lee



The year 7 class have been exploring artefacts and archaeology.

In class, we attempted to excavate a cookie by carefully removing all the chocolate chips.



Turns out, it is really tedious work and archaeologists must work really hard not to destroy anything precious.

Bus Travel Notification

BUS TRAVEL SLIP

Student Name : _____

Year Level : _____

The above named student would like to travel on the _____ bus run

On (date/s) _____

(am) _____ (pm) _____

Travelling with _____

Reason: _____

Parent Signature _____

Planned Absences

Please either ring or email dl.0729.info@schools.sa.edu.au to inform staff of your child/rens absence. A message can be left on the answering machine when calling out of school hours.

Community News

NETBALL COACHES WANTED FOR 2022 SENIOR BDTNC TEAMS

Is this your whistle?



Details

- Coaches needed for A, B & C grade
- Training on Thursday nights
- Games played on Saturdays
- Pre-training commences late Feb

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST WITH LISA

lisamarietodd@hotmail.com