



# Coomandook Area School

Term 1, Week 4

Newsletter

22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2022

## From the Principal

Mal Jurgs

We have had all year levels back at school for a week now and things are starting to get back to normal. We have had a few cases of COVID in our school community but there has not appeared to be any transmission at school, so fingers crossed it stays that way.

It has been great to see students get back into the swing of learning with minimal disruption due to the staggered start to the year. I thank all the staff at the school for the hard work that they have put in to making this so. I also appreciate the way that they have all engaged in our professional learning program, which is key to us meeting our goals from the Site Improvement Plan.

Under advice from our regional office, we have changed our Swimming Carnival to a time trial on the 1<sup>st</sup> March. Any student in Year 4 who will be turning 10 this year and Year 5 upward who wishes to try out for a place in the school's team to compete at the Interschool Carnival can nominate for the time trials. Nomination forms were sent home late last week and need to be in by Wednesday this week. Students in those year levels not wishing to participate will be provided with a supervised learning program at school. Preschool learners to Year 4's will have a "wet activity day" at school on that day. This will be an extra day for Preschool, one of those that we have from time to time to ensure that we meet our requirements for the year. We will explore having a "Swimming Carnival" later in the year at a time that will least impact on senior students and their exams etc.

## Calendar Dates Term 1

### February

28<sup>th</sup> Governing Council AGM

### March

1<sup>st</sup> CAS Swimming Trial at Coonalpyn Pool

7<sup>th</sup> 800m Race at 9am

9<sup>th</sup> 1500m Race at 9am

11<sup>th</sup> CAS Athletics Day

14<sup>th</sup> PUBLIC HOLIDAY

18<sup>th</sup> Mallee Formal (postponed Term 2 Week 8)

22<sup>nd</sup> Interschool Swimming Carnival at M/Bridge

24<sup>th</sup> NAPLAN Practice Test

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

The Interschool Swimming Carnival will be on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March at Murray Bridge. This carnival will serve as the selection for both the secondary USE team and the primary SAPSASA team.

Late Friday staff received an email from the department to say that interschool sports can now resume. As a result of this the Coomandook Athletics Carnival will be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> March on the school oval. We are not sure of when or where the Interschool Carnival will be held yet. This also means that excursions and instrumental music lessons can now go ahead, but there are still some restrictions of activities outside of school. Currently overnight camps are only approved for Year 11 and 12 students studying SACE subjects that require these as part of their assessment plan.

Principal: Mal Jurgs  
Governing Council Chairperson: Louise Pitt  
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[dl.0729.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0729.info@schools.sa.edu.au)



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

Respect  
Honesty  
Persistence

### Governing Council AGM

The Governing Council AGM will be held next Monday, the 28<sup>th</sup> February. This will be held in the Community Meeting Room in the library. As this is on school grounds, face masks will need to be worn and you will need to check in on arrival. The school's Annual Report, Principal's and Governing Council Chair's Reports, the school's Site Improvement Plan, the Preschool Quality Improvement Plan and the Financial report for 2021 will be presented at this meeting as well as election of new members of the Governing Council. I ask that you consider attending this and nominating for a position on the 2022 Governing Council. Please note that all members of Governing Council need to have a current Working with Children Check and a National Criminal History Check, and they will need to complete a short online course in recognising neglect and abuse. At this stage there is also a direction in place that means Governing Council members need to be up to date with their COVID vaccinations.

### 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. Please note that we will ring you if your child shows any symptoms of COVID and ask you to collect them from school.

We know that this can be very inconvenient, but we do have people in our school community who are vulnerable or live with vulnerable people and we want to do everything we can to minimise the risk for them. We are not authorised to use Rapid Antigen Tests on students, so we ask that you take them for a PCR test if they are sent home with symptoms.

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.

### GOVERNING COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to nominate myself for a one year / two year/or either term position on the CAS Governing Council.

I would like to nominate for:

one year  two year  either position

I would like to nominate: \_\_\_\_\_

For a :  one year  two year  either position

Please return nomination form to the Front Office or phone through on 8573 3007.

**From the Deputy Principal**

Jacob Dawson

It has been great to have students return to learning-at school. Teaching staff are working hard to support students catch up gaps in their learning and build their knowledge, skills and understanding across the curriculum.

**Primary HASS Inquiry**

It has been a joy this past fortnight to visit the primary classes and see their progress. I have especially enjoyed seeing the F/1/2 class discussing their ideas about places and identifying what makes them special. This included a walk around the school with the iPads to take some photos of what makes our school unique from any other school. The students' enthusiasm spread some joy among staff as we asked them what makes the school special. Our most popular response was the people.

**Traffic Lights**

This week all staff will complete mid-term traffic lights for each student in every subject they study. These will become available on Daymap from Friday for parents to view. The idea of the traffic light is to provide an update of how your child is currently progressing in their learning so families and teachers can work together to acknowledge great work and support students who may be getting behind. Students with a green traffic light are on track to pass the subject and are completing all work for the class as expected. Those with an amber light show some areas of concern, maybe in their attitude, work ethic or understanding of key ideas. For students with a red light, we encourage parents/carers to speak with the class teacher so they can work together to develop a plan to help them get back on track. Parents/carers can access their child's traffic lights via Daymap at: <https://coomyas.daymap.net/daymapconnect/> If you have any troubles logging in or need a password reset, please contact the office and we can support over the phone.

**Masterclass**

Last week, the Year 9's returned to school and started brainstorming towards their project. Initially this was focused on areas of interest to them and then looking at how they could use their existing skills and new learning to help the community.

Meanwhile, the Year 7/8s refined their goals and worked on developing success criteria for their project – asking “how will I know if my project is successful?” As a key element of Masterclass this year is connecting to community, we expect that these students will be discussing with you their ideas and seeking input for their project. Some students are looking to work with their local sports club, others with local farmers and some with the elderly. If you are approached by our students, encourage them to share their project idea and how they can work with you to support their community.

**Staff Development**

This term, the leadership team, through our staff development, are focusing on building staff capacity in formative assessment. We are using the work of Dylan William and several resources provided by the Department to review our classroom practice and build clear learning for students. This focus addresses a number of actions in our Site Improvement Plan for this year and sees us making traction in all 3 goal areas: writing, numeracy and SACE improvement. In our first session last week, Mr Jurgs shared some resources on writing learning intentions and success criteria. Staff then worked in teaching teams to reflect on their practice and develop actions for improvement. As Mr Jurgs often says, “We don't have to be bad to get better”, so all staff identified their next steps for learning. As we focus on learning intentions and success criteria for the next month of professional development, we will be increasing our class walkthroughs to focus on student learning in the classroom. The leadership team will be speaking with students in classes to see if they can answer the questions: What am I learning today? Why am I learning this? How will I know that I learnt it? We see this as a crucial first step to our work on student agency, where students know what they need to do next in their learning and start to contribute to designing the tasks and sequence in the class. I encourage you to ask the same questions of your child at home to see how their responses change as we develop and deepen connection with their learning.

**From the Secondary Coordinator**

Jared Wallis

As sports are starting to kick off for 2022 it is now time to register for the Sports Vouchers.

**What is the Sports Vouchers program?**

The Sports Vouchers program is a Government of South Australia initiative administered by the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing. The program provides an opportunity for children from Reception to Year 9 to receive up to a \$100 discount on sport, dance and learn to swim fees. The purpose is to increase the number of children playing organised sport or participating in dance or learn to swim activities by reducing cost as a barrier.

**Who is eligible for the program?**

All South Australian children in Reception to Year 9 are eligible from 1 January 2022. This means if a child is 5 (or becoming 5 in the calendar year) to 15 years old are eligible.

Remember it is one voucher for each eligible child per calendar year.

Visit [www.sportvouchers.sa.gov.au](http://www.sportvouchers.sa.gov.au) to register for your voucher today!!

**SAPSASA News**

Barb Williams

The delay to school starting has forced changes to the SAPSASA program for 2022. Term 1 is always busy, and with sport only happening from week 5, it will seem even busier. The first trial for Softball will now be held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February at Lameroo Regional Community School from 2:30 pm. Girls Football trials will be held at Coonalpyn on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March, and the Boys Football trials will be held at Lameroo on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March. The softball carnival will be played at Barrett Reserve from the 11th to 13th April.

Interschool Swimming Carnival is being held in Murray Bridge on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. From this carnival the Murray Mallee Swimming Team will be selected to compete in Adelaide in Term 2.

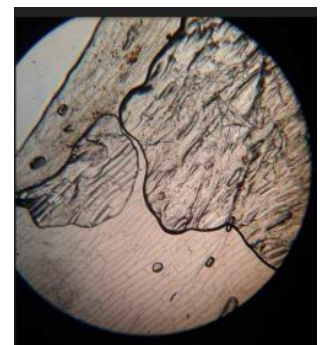
Every year businesses and individuals across the Murray Mallee District kindly sponsor our students, to help minimise the costs of them attending these events. If you or your business would like to support our students, please contact the school.

**Science**

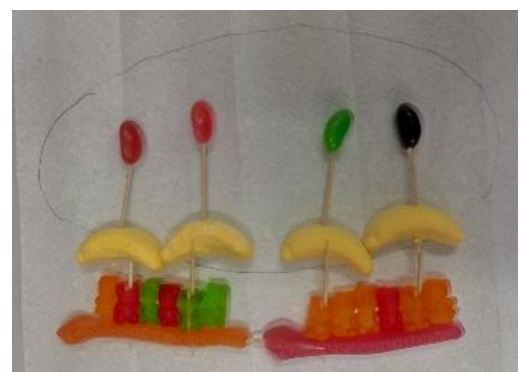
Hannah Scott

**Year 8 Cells**

Students in Year 8 have been investigating cells under the microscope. They created wet mount slides of onion cells and viewed them under the microscope before trying to draw them scientifically. We found that a phone camera held up to the lens allowed us to take some really interesting photos of the cells. We also looked at drops of trough water under the microscope and managed to find a living organism.

**Year 12 Biology**

The Year 12 Biology class have been investigating the structure of DNA and how translation and transcription takes place. Students used different types of lollies to represent the mRNA coding strand (snake and gummy bears), which they then matched to the appropriate amino acid sequence (jelly babies and bananas).



**From Pastoral Care Worker**

Mikayla Toka

Attendance is a vitally important aspect of a child/young person's school life and can positively or negatively impact their education and development. Attending school regularly ensures that children and young people get the best education available, and this starts with ensuring children attend school all day, every day.

'Learning success is characterised by consistent attendance and engagement with quality education opportunities. A whole-school approach to attendance and wellbeing supports families to recognise the importance of education and to address barriers to active participation.' Rick Persse – Chief Executive DfE.

Parents and carers have an obligation to ensure their children and young people regularly attend school, however this primary responsibility is often affected by various challenges. Many children and young people may deal with challenging circumstances, some of which may have a longer-term impact not only just on school attendance, but also on health and wellbeing.

There are often many factors that may impact a young person's attendance which may be challenges faced in and out of school. Out of school factors may vary through the ordinary course of family life. Illness, medical/dental appointments, family holidays and culturally significant occasions are all factors that may result in children being away from school.

There are also factors within the school context that may contribute to absences from school. These in-school factors can affect engagement, achievement, and wellbeing, such as:

- experiencing bullying or cyberbullying
- feeling isolated at school
- falling behind on schoolwork or feeling overwhelmed about keeping up
- disliking school subjects, not liking the choice of subjects, or not feeling challenged by the work
- not getting along with teachers or other students at school
- not feeling understood and fully accepted by peers or teachers

These internal and external factors that shape a child's perspective on their schooling affects a lot of their decisions on whether or not they feel comfortable attending school on any given day during the year. However there are supports within the school that encourage to support the holistic well-being and education of the child.

In 2019 the rate of attendance for students enrolled at school (Year 1 to Year 10 students) declined from 92% in 2014 to 91%. Completing school with a Year 12 certificate or equivalent vocational qualification increases one's chances for further study or training, getting a job, earning more, and being better prepared for future challenges.

The proportion of young people (Year 12 students) completing a senior secondary certificate of education qualification or equivalent by 19 years was 83% in 2012 and 88% in 2017. A total of 393 Aboriginal students, including 159 from country South Australia, achieved a South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) qualification in 2019 (up from 364 in 2018).

With research providing information on why attendance is important for children and young people we do encourage students to attend all school days and lessons they are required to unless there are reasons a child cannot attend (e.g. medical, appointments, family reasons) in which case the school must be notified, which can easily be communicated by returning texts from the front office.

Adapted from Child Development Council:  
<https://childrensa.sa.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/How-are-they-faring-SAs-2020-Report-Card-FINAL-2020-08-05.pdf>

Useful Resource:  
 Parent Helpline for support - 1300 364 100



### How you can support your child to make friends

Friendships are important to children. If your child is having a hard time fitting in, there are ways you can help them. Social skills don't come naturally to all kids. Impulsive and hyperactive children often act in ways that make it hard to have and maintain friendships. Some children have trouble taking turns and controlling their emotions when they don't get their way and inattentive children may act flighty or not know how to share or join in. You can help your children to make friends by coaching them at home on how to take turns and share.

Try using *role-playing* to practice different ways to handle disagreements or uncomfortable situations. Remember our children are watching us and we should be careful to model good social behaviours as we interact with others in our day-to-day lives.

*Social Scripts* can also be useful. These are everyday conversations that your child can practice with you. They are especially helpful for children who are very shy, socially anxious or on the autism spectrum. Practicing helps them learn things like eye contact and responding to other people's body language. Mikayla and I can help you select scripts and give you support on how to rehearse them with your child if you need.

Supervised *playdates* are also a good way to help your child make friends and build their social skills. Before the other child comes over, talk with your child about how to host. How will they make their guests feel comfortable? Have them pick out a few games in advance. How will they know when it's time to change game? Ask them how they'll know if guests are having a good time. As long as the children don't veer into play that's outright dangerous, let the playdate unfold. Children learn from the natural consequences of their actions, which is why it's important to let them practice socialising. When you review, focus on the good behaviours you want to reinforce. Children are more motivated by specific, labelled praise. Placing a timeframe on the visit gives a boundary for all involved and can reduce stress and miscommunication around when to leave. If your child is reluctant to try something new, suggest inviting a friend they're already comfortable with to come along. Parents can help kids rehearse ahead of time

for a situation that makes them nervous, like going to a birthday party or meeting a new group of people.

We all know *schoolyard friendships* are important. Friends enrich our lives, boost our self-esteem, and provide the moral support we need when things get tough. Developmentally, making a friend in school is every bit as important as getting good grades. Learning how to form successful peer relationships is a critical skill for all children and adolescents, and one that they will be using—and refining—all their lives. Teachers understand a child's peer interactions so if your child has a hard time making friends we suggest setting up a meeting with their teacher. Often kids will say 'everyone hates me,' but they may not be able to describe what's going on.

Some kids are natural social butterflies while others need more time to warm up to new situations. Don't worry if your child is a little hesitant in social situations. However, it is important that we don't make the mistake of keeping more tentative kids at home, either. For all children, but particularly shyer children we want to give them a variety of opportunities to meet others safely, and it is important to support them with love and kindness as they build their social confidence.

It is important to remember there is also a difference between children who are shy and children who are simply more introverted and prefer spending their down time by themselves. Children within the same family can have different social limits and degrees of comfort. A child who prefers quiet time or being in small groups isn't necessarily avoiding other kids. But it's essential that more introverted children still get opportunities to make friends. Understanding how much your child can handle and setting expectations accordingly is important. It's enough for some kids to find just one thing they like to do once a week. Finally, it's important that as parents/caregivers we do not place too many of our own social expectations on children. Children need just one or two good friends.

If this article has raised any questions for you, please do not hesitate to contact me, Stacy Seidel (Youth Worker) at school on 8573 3007.

Information developed from:

<https://childmind.org/article/kids-who-need-a-little-help-to-make-friends>

**Kitchen Garden**

Phil Roberts

The F/1/2 Class had fun with Mr Roberts and Rachid in the kitchen garden. They got to take some tomatoes home with them.



**Home Economics**

Angela Thorley

Have you recently had a clean out of your cupboards? We are looking for a number of items which you may be able to donate to the Home Economics centre.

In the kitchen, we would accept plastic recycled meat trays as they provide a large base for students to take home baked items. Most trays are a hard plastic which can be washed and then recycled. They are safe to use particularly as they are lined with paper towelling and then covered in gladwrap. Plastic food containers with lids can also be recycled and would be a useful addition to our supplies.

Last year the textile item the Year 8 students made in Home Economics was a small cushion. Students needed to decorate it with an applique design and include a button. Students sorted through our supplies of fabrics and buttons. We are always looking for fresh supplies of any useful materials or haberdashery items. If you have any surplus items like buttons, fabric or trims, we would gladly accept them from you.



**Preschool at the Coop**

Crystal Berling

The Preschool children have really enjoyed the dress ups this week. They discovered there were not enough crowns for everyone so we made our own!

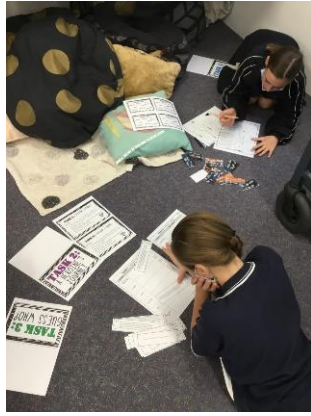
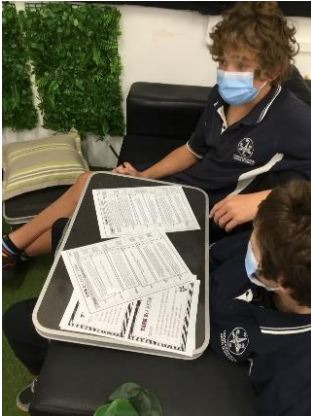
All the children were very engaged in the experience and used glitter and sparkles to decorate their crowns. Don't they look fabulous!



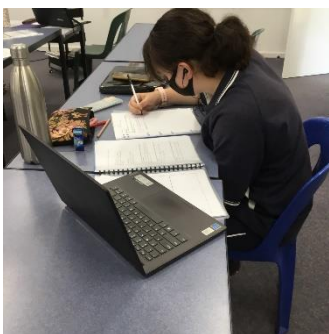
## English

Steph Lee

The Year 7 Class have been learning about the hero's journey genre in English. To review what we know, we worked in teams to complete an escape room which included a series of puzzles and tasks. Neither team quite made it out in the time limit but they got pretty close!



The Year 11/12 English/Literary Studies class have been studying an array of poems from different poets, including Sylvia Plath, Emily Dickinson and Oodgeroo Noonuccal. They are now starting their own analytical responses which is their first assessment for the year. Wish them luck!



## Governing Council

The Governing Council AGM will be held on **Monday 28th February in the Coomandook Library at 7pm.**

The AGM welcomes all parents to find out how the school is performing against our current Site Improvement Plan, as provided in the Annual School Report, and details the plan forward for 2022. The 2022 CAS Governing Council will be consulted toward the end of the year regarding the new Site Improvement Plan beginning 2023.

There are 7 seats that need filling;: 4 two-year parent positions, 1 twelve month parent position and 2 twelve-month Community Representative positions (Community Reps do not have to be current parents of school students).

We take this opportunity to thank the councillors who are not continuing in their positions for the work that they have put in to the Council during their term.

Nominations are preferred in writing (see nomination form next page) or can be provided verbally on the night.

If you would like to know more about becoming a Governing Councillor, further information is available from Governing Council Members or the front office.

We are looking forward to a productive, successful year in 2022.

If you would like to nominate for Governing Council or would like to make a nomination for Governing Council please complete the form below and return it to school prior to the AGM on Monday 28th February. Thank you.



**GOVERNING COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM**

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to nominate myself for a one year / two year/or either term position on the CAS Governing Council.

I would like to nominate for:

one year  two year  either position

I would like to nominate:

For a :  one year  two year  either position

Please return nomination form to the Front Office or phone through on 8573 3007.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

**IT'S BACK!** JABUK COMMUNITY HALL ARE HAVING A

**POCKET MONEY SALE**

**Jabuk Football Oval**  
Sunday 10th April  
9AM TO 2PM  
Sites only \$10  
Clean out those garages and kids tidy up those rooms!!

**Gold coin entrance**  
Sausage sizzle  
Hot dogs  
Drinks  
coffee/tea available

**ALL BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRES TO TAMMY 0428 134308 OR HEATHER 0438772287**

**EARN YOURSELF SOME EXTRA CASH**



**NIGHT TENNIS IS BACK!!!**

**Jabuk Tennis Courts**  
**\$2.00 /Player**  
**FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**  
**7PM START**  
**TEAS, DRINKS & ICE-CREAMS AVAILABLE**

IF INTERESTED (for catering numbers) OR NEED MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT HEATHER WAIT 0438772287 OR PHILIP SMITH 0428736548

**Community News**

The Murray Bridge United Football Club (Soccer). All Enquiries and/or Player Nominations to Grant please: [klenkegc@internode.on.net](mailto:klenkegc@internode.on.net) or 0411057039. The playing season is expected to start early April.



# Tuning into Kids

Emotionally Intelligent Parenting



PARENTS or  
CARERS of  
children 5-12  
years

4  
3hr  
sessions

Tuning into Kids is an evidence-based parenting program that focuses on the emotional connection between parents and children. In particular the program teaches parents skills in emotion coaching, which is to recognise, understand and respond to children's emotions in an accepting, supportive way. This approach helps the child to understand and manage their emotions.



*A FREE parenting program for parents of children aged 0-12 years.*

**Taking \*Expressions of interest\***

**now for 2022**



ONLINE via



Coorong Families  
Karoonda Families

**Would you like to learn how to:**

- be better at talking with your child?
- be better at understanding your child?
- help your child learn to manage their emotions?
- help to prevent behaviour problems in your child?
- teach your child to deal with conflict?

**Children and Adolescents with higher emotional intelligence:**

- are more aware, assertive and strong in situations of peer pressure
- have greater success with making friends and are more able to manage conflict with peers
- are more able to cope when upset or angry
- have fewer mental health and substance abuse difficulties
- have more stable and satisfying relationships as adults
- have greater career success

**To register your interest:**

**Email: [c4c@tbcc.org.au](mailto:c4c@tbcc.org.au)**

**Phone: 8572 3513**

Communities for Children Murraylands is facilitated by ac care, funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services and delivered by our Community Partner—Tailern Bend Community Centre

