

### **Commitment to Child Safety**

*Cobram and District Specialist School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all students at the school.*

*We are entrusted with the education of the child, in partnership with parents, guardians and caregivers who are the primary educators of their children.*

*Cobram and District Specialist School implement the Child Safe Standards to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students at the school and promote an organisational culture that manages the risk of child abuse and neglect.*

## **Principal's Report**

Welcome to term three. I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Benton Lucas is a new student who enrolled last week. Welcome to our school and we hope you enjoy your time with us. Courtney Broughton will resume her enrolment with us at the end of this week.

Thank you to the parents who attended the SSG meetings. This is a valuable time to discuss your child's progress and set new goals if required.

The Department of Education and Training are holding an NDIS information in the multipurpose room on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August at 3.30pm for parents/carers and the local community. Attached to this newsletter is our school's NDIS policy. Please read this policy as it outlines our involvement with NDIS. Therapists will visit students out of school hours, as it is too disruptive to the child to be taken out of valuable learning time.

Staff are currently involved in a mid-cycle review of their Performance and Development Plan. We discuss the progress of their goals and what help they need to achieve them.

As the leadership team, Robyn, Lisa and I will be attending a professional development session next week on developing high quality IEPs and running effective SSG meetings.

As our Learning Specialist, Robyn will be attending a series of study sessions and literacy workshops.

Lisa and Joe will be involved in a numeracy leaders' workshop in Shepparton in the near future.

Congratulations to Jayanna who will be studying her certificate IV in disability. She will attend Yarrowonga Neighbourhood House each Thursday for the next eighteen months.

Kristy will be on placement for the last four weeks of term, as part of her teaching degree.

Denise will be on Long Service Leave for the last three weeks of term. Lyn Hobley will be her replacement.

School Council have decided to sell our old school bus. This will be advertised on Facebook.

We are currently getting quotes for the engraved pavers to be laid in our sensory garden area. We hope this will be done in the next school holidays.

Keep safe

*Leah Willis*  
*Principal*



Last Friday was Principal's Day and staff made a lovely morning tea for Leah as well as present her with a voucher for a massage. At Assembly, our school captains presented Leah with some flowers and a lovely cake, made by Bree, to celebrate her 10<sup>th</sup> year as principal of our school. Congratulations Leah!



## IMPORTANT DIARY DATES

19 <sup>th</sup> August	Soccer v Wangaratta Special School in Cobram
26 <sup>th</sup> August	Parent Opinion Survey closes
31 <sup>st</sup> August	State Schools Relief BBQ & Free Dress Day
5 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> September	Sturt Room Camp to Ballarat
10 <sup>th</sup> September	School Council at 5.30pm
10 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> September	Mitchell Room Camp to Campaspe Downs
20 <sup>th</sup> September	Volunteers Morning Tea
21 <sup>st</sup> September	Last Day Term 3

## Fundraising Sub Committee

The Fundraising Sub Committee is having a fundraising-free term 3 but will have a cookie dough fundraiser and a 'Gift Card' fundraiser in term 4. Stay tuned for more information.

## Student Awards

<b>17<sup>th</sup> July</b>	
<i>Respect</i>	<i>Cody Connelly</i>
<i>Safety</i>	<i>Nick Harbrow</i>
<i>Try Your Best</i>	<i>Boston Haimona, Jeffrey Tomlin, James Carey, Chris Harbrow, Sam Donnelly, Ben Hall, Lliam Hall, Caitlyn Koopman, Keely Thorpe, Hayley Hendrie &amp; Anikia Welch</i>
<i>Milkshake Uniform Award</i>	<i>Hollee Clarke &amp; Charles Tomlin</i>
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	
<i>Safety</i>	<i>Seth Mumford &amp; Chris Harbrow</i>
<i>Respect</i>	<i>Nathan Hendrie &amp; Nick Harbrow</i>
<i>Try Your Best</i>	<i>Ella Stephens</i>
<i>Milkshake Uniform Award</i>	<i>Gus Ryan &amp; Cody Connelly</i>
<b>30<sup>th</sup> July</b>	
<i>Respect</i>	<i>Ayyah Nathan</i>
<i>Safety</i>	<i>Scott Johnson &amp; Shakaya Graham</i>
<i>Try Your Best</i>	<i>Hollee Clark &amp; Keely Thorpe</i>
<i>Milkshake Uniform Award</i>	<i>Sam Donnelly &amp; Caitlyn Koopman</i>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> August</b>	
<i>Respect</i>	<i>Liam Jeffers &amp; Caitlyn Koopman</i>
<i>Safety</i>	<i>Boe Dougherty</i>
<i>Try Your Best</i>	<i>Cooper Scott &amp; Matthew Nieuwenhout</i>
<i>Milkshake Uniform Award</i>	<i>Bella Brown-Singh &amp; Cooper Scott</i>
<b>PRINCIPALS AWARD TERM 2</b>	<i>Clancy Kennedy, Taylor Gravener, Lliam Hall, Peter Fitzpatrick &amp; Nick Harbrow</i>

## Office News

### ***Parent Opinion Survey***

***The online survey letter was sent home a couple of weeks ago and provided you with your parent login information. The survey is open until Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> August. Please take the time (10-15 minutes) to complete this survey as it assists with future management of the school.***

**Cobram & District Specialist School values are Respect, Safety & Try Your Best**





*Confidence  
to connect*

*To support the ongoing work that State Schools Relief provides to families in need, our school is having a fundraising BBQ and free dress day on Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> August. More information regarding the cost of the BBQ will be sent home in the next couple of weeks. Students are requested to bring along a gold coin donation for coming to school out of uniform.*

## Hovell Room

The students in the Hovell room had a special invitation to visit the 'Pink Pig', the Commonwealth Bank's fundraiser for Very Special Kids. We were treated like the guests of honour. We shook hands and played games with the pink pig, had our faces painted and had sausages for lunch. We had such a good time that we spent the next week drafting a letter, (to the pig of course, not the bank), to thank her for a fantastic day. On completion of our draft, we made a card and then ventured down to the bank again to send the letter to the 'Pink Pig.'

Thank you to all our families for remembering to send our bathers in each week. The children have been enjoying swimming and are practising to blow bubbles with our face in the water. They love to play games in the water and do not even realise that they are learning as we play, as they are having fun.



## Hume Room

On Monday, we participated in the Woolworths Fresh Food Discovery Tour. We were greeted by Sharon who took us around some of the different departments in the Cobram store. After putting on our special hair nets and hats we went out back, talked about waste reduction before helping to load the box and plastic crushing machines. The delivery area was a busy place and the freezer and fridges were interesting but very cold! We looked around the produce department and were able to choose a piece of fruit to put in our goodie bags before watching donuts being made in the bakery. We really enjoyed this part as we got to eat the fresh, warm donuts. The tour was very enjoyable and we thank Sharon and the staff at Woollies for making us feel very welcome. We have kept the activity books at school so we can complete some of the activities as a class before sending them home.



**Cobram & District Specialist School values are Respect, Safety & Try Your Best**



## Mitchell Room

The students in Mitchell room have been awesome students on their return to school this term. They have done extremely well to accept the many changes that have been happening in their classroom, whilst trying to get back into the swing of school life. They have a new teacher, Tarra and some of the furniture has moved around a little. There has also been the introduction of the PODD (Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display) a type of book with pictures, which some students find useful when trying to process some forms of communication.

GoNoodle is one of the favoured activities for the Mitchell Room students at present. There are many different activities from relaxation to dance to brain training and so on. These activities are used as regular movement breaks throughout the day and they are a way of making a long sensory day seem fun.

Daily activities still include all lessons, but there has been a lot of interest in the BBC's Dancemat Typing programme which helps with touch typing. Other collaboration activities have included playing the games "Twister" and "Uno" as well as listening to the children's book series "Horrid Henry", which students seem to enjoy as the main character "Henry" is just a little bit mischievous. Well done, for a positive start back to Semester 2. Keep up the good work!



## Senior Rooms



### Sturt Room

In the Sturt room we are reading a book called 'WeirDo' it is a fun book and good to read, we nearly have the whole set, and are starting on number 1.

Benton is a new student in the Sturt room, it has been nice to have a new student in our room. Camp is coming up in September, we are going to Ballarat and Bendigo. We will visit Sovereign Hill and we will go down a mine and gold pan.

*By Scott and Cody*



## Gwynne Room

### Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation

Our school based Leos Club, Cobram on the Murray, are supporting the current Lions V6 District fundraising raffle this term. The tickets are \$2.00 each with 3 prizes available. Prizes will be a \$200 Woolworths voucher, a \$200 Bunnings Gift Voucher and a \$100 Target Voucher. The raffle will be drawn at the District Convention in Cohuna on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

To purchase a ticket please send in the correct money in an envelope with your child's name.

Tickets are available in a 'first come' basis and once the book is sold the offer will close.

Purchased tickets will be sent home with your child.

Thank you in advance for assisting Lions Clubs to raise money to assist to beat the high rate of Childhood cancer in Australia.

### Past Student Update

Sunday evening the 5<sup>th</sup> of August saw the Tungamah Leo Club hold their 2018 change over evening. Forty people were in attendance on the night, including members of the new Yarrawonga Leos Club and several local Lions and Lionesses. Members came together to induct the club's new committee and to celebrate outgoing President and past Cobram and District Specialist School student, Jazmin Clarke's great year. Jazmin received a Leo of Honour Award for her ability to work hard and overcome the odds with a smile on her face. Well done Jazmin and best of luck with your part time work and studies in Hospitality!



## Community News



National Disability Coordination Officer Program  
An Australian Government Initiative

### NDIS Pre-planning Toolkit for people with disability entering Higher Education or Vocational Education and Training (VET)

The NDCO program is excited to launch eight new resources to support students with disability navigate who is responsible for providing what support while undertaking further education.

#### Getting the Right Support at the Right Time with the Right People - NDIS Pre-

planning Toolkits for people with disability entering Higher Education or Vocational Education and Training are designed to be used be-fore students start a tertiary course at university or with a vocational education and training provider. Or when they have an NDIS plan review.

There are eight specific resources for the most prevalent disability types accessing further education and training.

<https://www.adcet.edu.au/students-with-disability/planning-for-post-secondary-education/ndis-and-further-education-resource/>

## YOUTH COUNSELLING SERVICES

A **FREE** youth counselling service will be operating from Cobram Community House each

- Monday from 9am until 11am
- Tuesday from 10am until 12 noon.



This service **does not require a referral** and is available to young people (15 – 25 years) living in Cobram and district. Young people under the age of 15 will require permission from their parent or guardian.

### Appointments

Appointments can be made by calling **03 5872 2224** or calling in to Cobram Community House, 43-45 Punt Road, Cobram.

*This service has been made available with the support of the Youth Op Shop.*



# NDIS FUNDED THERAPY

## POLICY

*Cobram and District Specialist School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people and has a zero tolerance for child abuse. (Child Safe Standards)*

### Rationale:

- Cobram and District Specialist School currently has an enrolment of 47 students. Each of these students could potentially be in receipt of funding through the NDIS.
- This policy aims to clarify the school's obligation to allow NDIS funded therapists to operate within the school.
- The Principal, as the delegate of the Minister, has the right to permit or refuse entry onto Victorian Government School premises.
- The Principal will articulate reasons for granting or refusing NDIS funded therapy in school during school hours

### Aims:

- To ensure that Cobram and District Specialist School meets its responsibilities in supporting students with their educational attainment.
- To establish clear guidelines for supporting and information sharing with external therapists.
- To ensure that school-based therapy staff support the making of 'reasonable adjustments' to assist students to attain their educational goals.

### Implementation:

- As a general rule NDIS funded therapists will not be permitted to work with students on an individual basis in the school during the school day.
- The Principal does have the discretion to permit NDIS funded therapists to work in the school in particular circumstances where they deem it necessary to maximise outcomes for students.
- Cobram and District Specialist School will not permit NDIS funded therapists to work at the school during school hours unless the Principal agrees to a special request. In making such a decision, consideration will be given to the relative benefits of an external therapist providing therapy versus the anticipated impact on student learning, disruption to classes, ability to provide supervision, the availability of an appropriate space to work in and timing of such requests.
- Where the Principal approves an NDIS funded therapist to work with students during school hours they must be satisfied that appropriate checks (Working With Children or Criminal History check and evidence of appropriate qualifications) have been put in place to allow access in a manner that is compatible with the school's Duty of Care and that will not impinge upon the school's ability to adequately discharge this duty. ie provide adequate supervision.
- Following consideration of individual requests from parents for NDIS funded therapists to work in the school the Principal will provide a written response of their decision.
- The school will provide NDIS funded therapists with information as deemed necessary once parental permission is provided, to offer observational visits and attendance at Student Support Group meetings.

### Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's ongoing review cycle.

