

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 1 2020. The days are full of learning as our programs are well under way. Hannah is back from family leave, teaching in Mitchell room, two days a week. Welcome to Max who is teaching the other three days. Max has taught in Special education for the past nine years and comes with a lot of experience. Lili completed her traineeship last year and was successful in gaining an ESS role this year. Di Wright has been working casually as an ESS this term in the Mitchell room. Di has previously worked at Echuca Specialist School. Jorja Goldman is a trainee this year. Jorja finished year 12 at Sacred Heart College last year.

It is exciting to have six new students start with us this term.

Term 1 is a short term however students have or will participate in extra programs such as food handling, first aid, fundraising BBQ at Woolworths, VCAL and Hume rooms camps, interschool swimming sports and district swimming sports.

School council elections will be held in March at the AGM. If you would like to nominate yourself as a parent rep please see Denise in the office for a nomination form, nominations close Friday, 28th February.

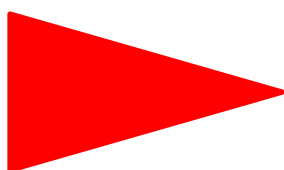
We look forward to seeing students settle into the term and enjoy their learning.

Leah Willis

Principal

2020 SCHOOL LEADERS

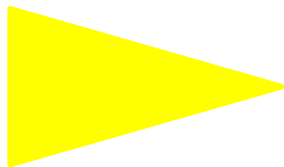
SCHOOL CAPTAINS - SHANELLE WELLINGTON & NICK HARBROW



Red House

Captain - Logan

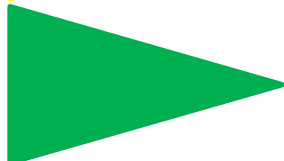
Vice - Lliam



Yellow House

Captain - Benton

Co Vice – Blake & Peter



Green House

Captain - Noah

Vice - Chris

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES

25 th February	Interschool Swimming in Mooroopna
4 th March	Billy Elliott @ Regent Theatre
9 th March	PUBLIC HOLIDAY-NO SCHOOL
11-13 th March	Hume Room – Mansfield Camp VCAL – Billabong Camp
23 rd March	Immunisations School Council AGM Easter Raffle draw at School
26 th March	Last day of Term 1
27 th March	Staff First Aid training
14 th April	First day Term 2

Student Awards

10th February	
<i>Respect</i>	<i>Alex Thompson, Xavier North & Tearnal Allcroft</i>
<i>Safety</i>	<i>Mortada Ghaloom</i>
<i>Try Your Best</i>	<i>James Carey & Nick Harbrow</i>
<i>Milkshake Uniform Award</i>	<i>Dean Cabading & Anikia Welch</i>
17th February	
<i>Respect</i>	<i>Sami Brown</i>
<i>Safety</i>	<i>Ayyah Nathan, Boe Dougherty & Sam Donnelly</i>
<i>Try Your Best</i>	<i>Luke Hoggard</i>
<i>Milkshake Uniform Award</i>	<i>Taylor Gravener</i>

Fundraising Sub Committee



Don't forget to send along your Easter donations (Easter eggs, chocolates, Easter activity/colouring books) by the 16th March to enable the committee to make up our Easter raffle prizes. Raffle tickets, sold or unsold, need to be returned by Friday, 20th March with the draw being held at assembly on Monday 23rd March.

Office News



If you would like to receive your newsletter by email rather than a printout please advise the school via our email

cobram.sds@edumail.vic.gov.au

This is particularly relevant to all our new families.



Don't forget that you are able to enter your child's absences directly onto our Compass administration program. If you have lost your password information or would like some help with setting up the app on your phone, please contact the office.

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

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trip. If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

If you applied for the CSEF at your child's school in 2019, you do not need to complete an application form in 2020 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools in 2020 or you did not apply in 2019.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2020.

Hovell Room



The students have settled in very well in the Hovell room. They are learning our school values of Respect, Safety and Try Your Best and are doing a great job displaying these values. They are learning to share and play games together. Each morning the Hovell room students go for a walk around the block, they are doing really well being safe while out in the community. They stay with the group and make sure that it is safe to cross the road. On Wednesdays our group go to Barooga Pool for a weekly lesson. They are becoming very confident when in the

water and are learning to float on their backs with a floating device. The students have been learning the letters s and m which we have incorporated in the Art room. We have made monkeys for the letter m and snails for the letter s. They are all coming to school ready for new learning each day.

Hume Room

The Hume room welcomes Alex, who is new to our school, and Ella, Paul, Cassius and Gary, who have moved up from the Hovell room. This year, Carolyn, Haylea, Jorja and Joel will be assisting Lisa and Ross in the room. Since the start of the term, we have been lucky to have Jorja Dixon volunteering in the room but we will say goodbye to her next week, as she moves to Melbourne, to start her first year at university. Over the past few weeks, we have had some fun getting to know each other, been busy learning the routines and expectations, as well as starting our learning in the different subject areas. Our community programs have started and we thank families for their support in sending in a list and money, when it is their turn on the shopping roster. These programs teach students the behavioural expectations, when out in the community, as well as giving them opportunities to practise important independent living skills.



Gwynne Room

Gwynne room students have joined together from various grades, as well as welcoming two new students and Jorja (staff) to the school. It is great to have Trey and Beau join us on our learning adventure. We have spent some time getting to know each other, writing and agreeing on a class set of rules and learning our new routines. Also, we have begun to look closely at narrative stories. We have been working on; character descriptions, predictions, changing stories endings and identifying the characters, the setting, the problem and the solution. It is great to see everyone enjoying stories and the world of make believe.

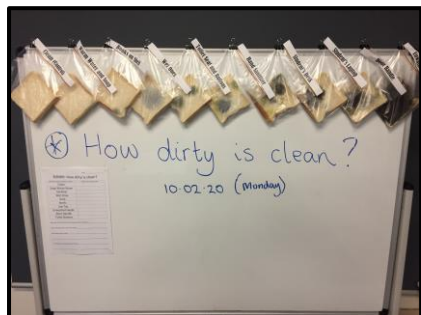
In maths we have been working on location and the accompanied language such as under, over, in front, behind, in, out, etc. This has proved quite a challenge for many of the students and we are all working at various levels to suit our needs. Some students are following directions whilst others are being encouraged to use the language of location themselves.

It is great getting to know the students and Helen, Kerry, Jorja and myself are looking forward to the year ahead.



Mitchell Room

This term in Mitchell room we have been focusing on literacy and numeracy. The students have all been doing a great job working on number, and time telling. They watch Behind News each week and discuss the events in our society that affect them directly.



Each student is putting in a fantastic effort during swimming lessons. Some students have started timing their laps and each week trying to beat their previous times.

Our science experiments have kicked off with a bang by learning that using hand sanitizer to clean your hands doesn't work as well as you might think! We also tested the cleanliness of our books, desks, computers, and door handles in our room. But as you can see in the photo, *unwashed hands* are the dirtiest! As a result, all of us in Mitchell room have now become avid hand washers.

Senior Rooms



Sturt



The Sturt room has had a busy start to the year, some of the programs we have been doing have been: gardening, maths, literacy, Art, STEM, Writers Workshop, cooking lunch orders and baking cakes. We go to the garden one or two times a week. We have harvested and our eggplants have flowers, there are also some chillies. We have also had some tomatoes that have been stolen.



Every two weeks we have Art with Hannah, in the first week we made a family tree. On the other week we do STEM with Joe and we learnt about coding.

For writers workshop we are writing our speech for Leo's Club. Leo's Club is the. We get to speak about something we like.

Every Thursday we cook the school lunch orders and we also cook and decorate birthday cakes for everyone in the school.

By Start Room Students.

VCAL

The 2020 VCAL year is off to a flying start this term!

Students have been busy planning whole school events such as the upcoming Purple Day, fundraisers such as this week's Woolworths BBQ to raise funds for the Bushfire Appeal and organising their term one camp to Billabong Ranch as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. The VCAL program aims to offer students the opportunity to build their employability skills and provides supports as students work toward further study, employment (at any time fraction) and being a volunteer in their communities.

With two VCAL students currently enrolled in part time study at Certificate II level courses, one on regular work placement and a series of short course lined up (Provide First Aide, Food Safety, White Card and CPR) for the whole group to complete, I believe we are well into our VCAL journey of being ready to complete our schooling with a well planned pathway.

Community News



COBRAM AMATEUR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION 2020 AUTUMN REGISTRATION



Registrations for the Autumn 2020 season are now open.

The season is planned to start the week of Monday 2nd March. Registrations are online at the [Cobram Basketball Association](https://cobrambasketball.com.au) website. Payment of fees will be via credit card at time of registration.

Registrations will close on Thursday 20th February 2020 to allow time for teams and draws to be arranged.

If you have any difficulties with registration please contact Luke Almond via email at cobrambasketball@outlook.com or phone 0438 004 402



The Cobram Basketball Association will run an Aussie Hoops program for 5 -10 year olds to learn the game, coached by senior players starting Tuesday 10th March.

Refer to the Aussie Hoops tab on the website for details and registration.