

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 back to the 2018 school year. A special welcome to our new students, Ben, Rivvah, Mia and Zoe.

Di is on leave this term to care for her husband who has had an operation. Kerrie Murrell and Melissa Wright have been teaching the Hovell room.

This term our school assembly is at 9.10am Mondays. Families and visitors are welcome to attend. For Literacy, we have grouped the students into ability groups. This is proving to be very successful and we look forward to seeing positive results at the end of the semester.

Lauren Haynes is a departmental speech pathologist who will be visiting our school fortnightly. She will be conducting assessments, running a social skills program as well as small group and individual sessions. This will complement the work Abby from SCOPE does during her fortnightly visits.

Thanks to Sporties Barooga for their generous donation of \$2500, to help fund our Blueearth program.

In the next two weeks, staff will be attending professional learning sessions on the law (social media), strategies for vision impairment and trauma. Kristy and Terry will be completing their Bike Education course in Wangaratta.

The secondary aged students will be attending the interschool swimming sports in Mooroopna on 14th March. Parents and carers are welcome to come along and cheer.

Have a safe and enjoyable weekend

Leah Willis

Principal

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES

2 nd March	Parent nominations for School Council due
12 th March	Labour Day Public Holiday-NO SCHOOL
13 th -15 th March	Hume Room-Deniliquin camp
14 th March	Interschool Swimming Carnival-Mitchell & Sturt Rooms
16 th March	Cadbury Chocolate Fundraiser money due
19 th March	School Council AGM
20 th -23 rd March	Duke of Ed Outdoor Camp-Gwynne Room
29 th March	Last Day Term 1
16 th April	First Day Term 2

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email rather than print out please advise the school via our email cobram.sds@edumail.vic.gov.au

Fundraising Group



The Fundraising Group are conducting a Cadbury Freddo & Friends Funpak fundraiser to raise funds for Kool Skools and the school community. Fundraising boxes will be sent home today and all money or unsold chocolates need to be returned by Friday, 16th March.

Your last chance to purchase a paver for the sensory garden is available until 9th March. Forms are at the office - \$30/paver.

Student Awards

12 th February	
Respect	Shakaya Graham & Cody Connelly
Safety	Taylor Gravener & Angus Linder-Mason
Try Your Best	Clancy Kennedy
Milkshake Uniform Award	Bella Brown-Singh, Ben Hall & Will Mills
19 th February	
Respect	Archie Shannon
Safety	Nathan Hendrie & Mitchell Viney
Try Your Best	Ned Quinane, Ben Hall & Caitlyn Koopman
Milkshake Uniform Award	Archie Shannon, Mia Giddings & Matthew Nieuwenhout

Hovell Room

Hovell room has been having a great time reading the book "How Loud is a Lion". We've made our own version and done some interesting art work. We even scared Leah!

Everyone is enjoying swimming lessons and looking forward to going to the stadium on Fridays. We have walked down to visit the town library to borrow some books.

Each student is taking home a reader to practise at home. Our new literacy groups seem to be working well with very targeted learning happening.

Being a good friend, taking turns and getting along are skills we continue to try.

Every day brings a new challenge and new skills to try.



Hume Room



We have had such a great start to the year and have settled into some new routines and programs. Under the guidance of Kaitlyn, our visiting OT, we have been working on improving core strength, which also improves posture, fitness and work habits. In our PBS sessions, we have been learning about and practising our classroom expectations, in particular, putting our hands up to speak.



In our music sessions, Ross has shown us his hidden talent on the organ and students are enjoying learning about beat, rhythm and how to play different instruments.



Mitchell Room

Mitchell room has had a wonderful start to the year. The new students to our class, have settled in well and as a group we have our daily timetable in full swing.

The literacy groups of a morning, are looking to be a great success, along with our other programs such as maths, cooking and Sporting Schools/Bluearth.

Throughout the year, Mitchell room are looking forward to many different activities. Some of the activities include- different sporting carnivals, school camp, and activity days.

I am looking forward to seeing the students grow as individuals throughout the year!

Senior Rooms



Sturt Room

Sturt room students fit lots of different activities into their week so they thought they would share what they get up to.

"In the Sturt room on Monday we have assembly and SPEC, then we have speaking skills. In the afternoon we do maths and reading, then home time.

On Tuesday we do sport then SPEC and Art/Metal. In the afternoon, maths and reading then home time. On Wednesday we do sport then SPEC and swimming. In the afternoon we do cooking cakes/Duke of Edinburgh and reading then home time.

On Thursday we do Breakfast then SPEC and BTN, in the afternoon we have maths and reading then home time.

On Friday we do Bluearth, then lunch orders then we do the lunches, in the afternoon we do music and reading then home time. My favourite thing is Bluearth. My favourite thing is BTN."

By Cody and Scott

Gwynne Room



The VCAL group will work on their VET subject every Wednesday in 2018.

Week one we travelled to Yarrawonga and worked at the Yarrawonga Lions Club shed. On this day we met Shauna our trainer and we learnt about food handling ideas and how important it is to wash our hands. When you are handling food orders we learnt how to carry 3 plates at once for clearing a table faster. As we study our Certificate II in Hospitality we will learn more about how to serve food to people.



Around the School



Greetings from Bluearth

Your child/children may have mentioned Bluearth or you may have seen the Bluearth Coach out in the playground over the past few weeks and wondered what it was all about.

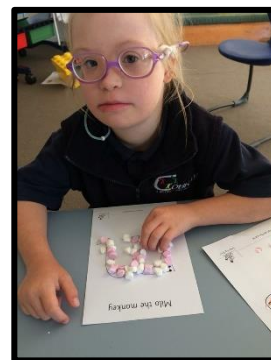
Bluearth is a movement and activity based program that uses the joy of movement to help children better understand themselves, peers, teachers and the important relationships that exist between them. In an inclusive and fun environment students experience a range of individual, partner and group activities to improve posture, function, self awareness and mindfulness. This helps build lifelong habits in physical activity and movement that is so important for children's development, health and wellbeing. With skilful guidance and reflection, amazing results have been achieved.

Bluearth provides on the job training for teachers so that the program can be sustained long term within the school. The Bluearth Coach will be working with teachers and their classes on a regular basis – please feel free to speak with them if you would like to know more about the program – or join in.

You might also like to visit the Bluearth website www.bluearth.org and look at our parents section for more information and activities for the whole family. We also encourage you to read some latest research in how mindfulness improved children's learning: <http://time.com/3682311/mindfulness-math/>

Literacy

This term, we are trialling a new Literacy approach across the school in which students from Hovell to Sturt rooms are divided into five groups. Groups are levelled and students selected according to their abilities. The focus of these Literacy Groups is phonemic awareness and alphabet knowledge, giving students the skills they need to read, spell and write with confidence. The phonics programs have been developed from evidence-based literacy research. Literacy groups are held in the mornings for four sessions a week and students will move between groups upon completion of the different levels.



Office News



Book Club LOOP for Parents

LOOP is the Scholastic Book Club
Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for parents.
To order and pay for Scholastic Book Club by credit card visit:
www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP



SCHOOL COUNCIL

We have three parent positions open for School Council. If you are interested in taking on one of these two year positions please complete the attached form and return to school by Friday, 2nd March, 2018. If more nominations than positions available are received we will need to conduct a ballot.



VOLUNTEERS

If you are volunteering at the school in any capacity, whether it be on the Fundraising Committee or helping out at excursions you will need to have a volunteers Working with Children Check.

Please visit the following website for more information -

<http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/> . The check is free of charge you will just need a passport size photo.

CAMPS SPORTS & EXCURSION APPLICATIONS

If you applied for the CSEF at your child's school in 2017, you do not need to complete an application form in 2018 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances. Your child's school will apply for the CSEF on your behalf.

You will only need to submit an application form in 2018 if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments:** your child has started or changed schools in 2018 or you did not apply at the same school in 2017 or
- **changed family circumstances:** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2018.

Schools are able to accept and process applications up until the end of term two each year.

CSEF payments are made to schools from March onwards each year. Please contact the office if you would like an application form.

Community News



If you reside and play sport in NSW you are eligible to apply for a \$100 voucher to assist with costs of registration, participation and membership costs for sport, fitness and active recreation activities. Information can be found at the following website. <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-active-kids-voucher>

Cultural Diversity Week



Share your heritage

With a
Harmony Day Luncheon

It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone
Food brings joy, happiness and friendships

Bring along your favourite dish that represents your heritage
(and could serve approximately 10 people)
and enjoy the diversity our community offers

Local speakers:
Dr Treahna Hamm
Kate Straight
and
Nabila Mahboob
will tell us why they are
"Proud to Belong"
in
Yarrowonga

Wednesday 21st March
12pm – 2pm
Uniting Church Hall
(corner of Tom and Piper Streets)

For more information and to register your dish:
Contact Yarrowonga Neighbourhood House 03 5744 3911
or office@ynh.org.au
RSVPs required by 14th March 2018

We need your story too:
Share why this dish is important to you
Share the recipe (list of ingredients essential for people with food allergies)
Templates available from YNH





SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

SCHEDULE 5A: SELF-NOMINATION FORM

FOR PARENT MEMBER CATEGORY

I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent member on the

..... school council.
Name :

.....
Residential address:

.....
Contact phone (mobile or landline):

.....
Email:

I am the parent/guardian of who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

I am an employee of the Department of Education and Training but not engaged in work at and for the school
Yes / No (please circle)

I am prepared to serve as a Parent member of the above-named school council. I hereby declare that I am not:

- an undischarged bankrupt
- of unsound mind
- currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence; or
- a registrable offender within the meaning of the *Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004*.

Signature of Candidate Date / /

You will be notified when your nomination has been received.

Personal information provided in this form is collected as part of the school council election nomination process. The information may be used to determine your eligibility as a candidate. Your personal information may be disclosed as a result of inspection prior to the commencement of voting or at any time up to one year from the declaration of the poll.

Your name will be included in a list of school council candidates and nominators (where applicable) posted in a prominent position at the school and for candidates, on a ballot paper (where applicable).

Further, the name, membership category, gender, term of office, office held (if any) of school council members and notification whether the member is an employee of the Department will be forwarded to the Department of Education and Training by the principal by 30 April each year as a record of council membership and may be used for statistical purposes.

You can access your personal information by contacting the principal on

If you choose not to give some or all of the information requested your nomination may not be accepted. If you have any queries about the school council nomination process, please contact the principal.