

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, it was great to see our students back. We welcome Samarvir, William and Bentleigh to our school this year.

We hope we have fewer interruptions than last year.

Thanks for cooperating by keeping students home during the last three day remote learning period.

It was great to welcome parents/carers back into the school for SSGs.

On Tuesday, Lisa and I were involved in our first meeting with architects, discussing options for a garden and updated administration area, which will be the scope of works with the funding we received from the government. Establishing a master plan for future works was also part of the discussion.

Our cricket team came back from the All Abilities Carnival with a win. They were ecstatic about the day and their ability to be able to challenge teams from much larger schools.

This Friday we had a new Blueearth coach named Ross. He will visit once a term and teachers will deliver the program once a fortnight themselves.

We look forward to a productive term.

Leah Willis

Principal



Congratulations to Lisa Oliver who has been appointed to the Assistant Principal position at our school. Lisa will be working in this role one day per week. Lisa has been at our school since 2003 and we look forward to her continual involvement with leadership within our school.

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES

8 th March	Public Holiday-NO SCHOOL
10 th March	Swimming Carnival at Tocumwal Public Pool Live4Life Moira Crew Launch-VCAL students
11 th March	First RDA session
15 th March	Roadsmart Session-VCAL
16 th March	Immunisation session
1 st April	Last day Term 1
19 th April	First day Term 2



Student Awards

8th February	
<i>Respect</i>	<i>Shyanne & VCAL class</i>
<i>Safety</i>	<i>Boe, Ned & Boston</i>
<i>Try Your Best</i>	<i>Jeffrey & Anikia</i>
22nd February	
<i>Respect</i>	<i>Mortada, Ayjah & Bella</i>
<i>Safety</i>	<i>Xavier & Caitlyn</i>
<i>Try Your Best</i>	<i>Dylan & Sammi</i>

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. They participated in a PBS lesson about the importance of wearing school uniforms and helped to dress our class mascot, Milo the Monkey in the correct school uniform. Then they cut out school shorts, tshirts and shoes and dressed a cut out of themselves for a display.

Each morning the students begin the day with circle time where they join in singing the good morning song and we discuss who is here and how we are feeling. We have a brain break after our morning circle and complete some rotations out in the playground, which we have named 'Huff and Puff'. The students are learning to rotate around the different activities.

On Monday afternoon we go to the community garden and enjoy some time outdoors exploring what we can see in the garden. The students enjoy watering, weeding, raking and digging. We get very excited when we see fruit, vegetables or flowers growing. We have had a couple of sessions on the bikes and Samarvir and Will are enjoying the opportunity to practise their skills during Bike Ed.

On Wednesday our group go to Barooga pool for a weekly swimming lesson. Shyanne, Mortada and Luke are becoming very confident when in the water. Mortada and Luke are able to monkey crawl along the wall of the pool while Shyanne is practising kicking her legs and keeping afloat. It is fantastic to see all students are coming to school ready for new learning each day.



Hume Room



The year has started well and we are busy settling into our routines and programs. We welcome Bentleigh and his family to our school and our classroom. Our community access program has started again and combined with the Murray room, students participate in rotations of library, shopping and gardens. Many thanks to families for sending in a shopping list, the students are so excited to do their home shopping! At the library, students select books for their self-selected reading tubs and enjoy reading in a different setting, and when at the garden, students help Joel maintain garden beds and grow vegetables.



Murray Room

There has been an exciting start to the year in the Murray Room. Students have been busy making the room their own with all their work.

We have been working hard on our literacy and writing, having just completed our holiday informative report. We have been working extremely hard on our numeracy, practicing our number and location skills. We have also been learning and talking about our families and special events in history.

We have enjoyed being in the community with our friends from the Hume Room, going to the garden, library and supermarket for shopping. We have been demonstrating all of the school values and learning how to access our community.

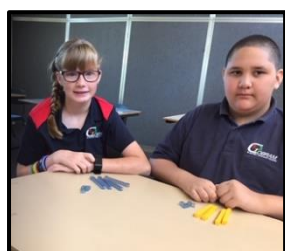
We were glad to return to the pool for swimming on Thursdays and have been practicing swimming to the end of the pool, treading water and floating. It has been great seeing people trying their best and giving everything a go.

We have all enjoyed Fun Friday doing art and sensory activities, making a Rainbow Fish, lava lamps, sensory bags, tasting pudding and cloud dough (which didn't turn out as great as we were expecting).

We are excited for the rest of the term!



Gwynne Room



The Gwynne Room has had a big focus on Mathematics, particularly whole number. Many of the students have been working hard on improving their skip counting, counting by 2's 5's and 10's. The game, 'Buzz,' has been a big hit, especially when you win a lolly. Others have been busy counting by ones and working on number formation. Place value is our new focus with lots of work using concrete materials, especially MAB blocks. Our new maths platform, Essential Assessments, has many students excited, as they can see

the improvements they are making. It such a privilege to see them pleased with their personal achievements.

We have also been learning and problem solving on the topic of bullying. We have been having discussions on what a bully is and strategies to use if we are being bullied. Many of these strategies work well with any situations not only for bullies. A strategy we have learnt about involves telling our peer to stop, and making an I statement, remembering that if it stops, we need to forget about it. If it does continue that is when we tell a teacher and let them help. A big part of our learning is not to argue back and forth with our peer. These are great strategies for our students to learn as you never know when and where they may find themselves in a situation where they need these skills.



Mitchell Room

The boys of Mitchell room all cruised into the beginning of 2021 without a hitch. They were excited to see each other and enthusiastic to start a new year altogether again.

In literacy lessons this term we have been practicing spelling, re-counts, and comprehension. Students have been actively watching Behind the News and discussing the issues in



their world that they face today. We have been focussing on improving numeracy skills by having two lessons per day. So far we have practiced three digit addition, subtraction, place value, number lines, and location. Each student has shown a good understanding of each activity. We have learned a little about plants and how they grow by planting, and looking after grass seeds by individually making grass heads. So far not all of them have started to seed but we think it maybe something to do with the time *someone* accidentally watered them with glass cleaner (also a clear liquid in a spray bottle) instead of water. Whoops! But hey, it's all part of the experiment.

This year Mitchell room has taken over the responsibility of the lunch orders. The boys have proven to be excellent help and very efficient in the kitchen preparing, cooking, and cleaning up. We are especially looking forward to Taco week. *Adios!*

All Abilities Cricket

Written by Xavier, Sam, Jack, and Rivvah.

On Tuesday 23rd February we went to Shepparton to play cricket games. It was really windy throughout the day and we thought our gazebo was going to fly away. We won the first game 254 – 180 against Verney Rd. Then we ate burgers and sausages for lunch. In game 2 we played against Echuca and got 159 runs. They made 113. The batting pairs were, Xavier (our captain) and Alex, Sam and Jack, Trey and Bailey, Jeffrey and Rivvah. We all had a turn at bowling and Jack got a funny wicket bowling over the batter and hitting the stumps. Our team was in division 1 and we won the plaque for our school by beating the other teams! At the end of the day we had a photo with the Melbourne Renegades mascots, and each got a show bag with a ball, a flag, bangers, and hats. We celebrated with a frozen drink from KFC.



Senior Rooms



Sturt Room

Sturt room have been enjoying going swimming at the Barooga pool. We have been working on water entry, treading water and strokes. Each week we have a great time at the pool and gain more confidence in the water.

Every week we go to the library to get new books, we like choosing books about animals and outdoor magazines. When we go to the library we use hand sanitizer and Marian signs us in. As part of our independent living skills we have been going to the post office and shopping. It is fantastic to get out and interact with the local community.



On a Friday we have been cooking, some of the things we have made are cupcakes, pasta, and zucchini slice. We all get in and help each other and are learning skills we can use at home.



There has been two birthdays this term Caitlyn turning 17 and Peter turning 18. We have celebrated by going to Thompsons Beach and having cupcakes, fruit and a walk.



VCAL

On Tuesday we had our Leo Youth Of The Year event. I wrote about fishing all the VCAL students participated in it and one Sturt room student. After everyone read their speeches, we all went outside for a break while the judges talked. After the break we all came inside, and I found out I had won!! -BENTON

My thoughts on starting 2021 in the VCAL class has been good so far. We have been planning on what we are going to be doing, this term in the VCAL class. We have already got some camps planned for us to go on for our Duke of Ed. We are going to Billabong Ranch in Echuca and our second camp is in Melbourne. I am looking forward on going on both of these camps. – EMILY

This year I have moved up in to VCAL. The people who are coming to VCAL are Sami, Liam, Tearnna and me. We will be learning Duke of Ed, careers, media and many more. I think this year is going to be the best year of my life! – NOAH

On the 25/2/21 we had a school photos the Sturt Room started first then I think the Hume room went second then the Murray Room went third. VCAL Room. Rhonda takes the photos for each room. We all had a laugh as the photos were taken. – HAYLEY

I am doing a VET Course in horticulture, it has been fun so far. We have planting and putting soil in the pots, placement is at the Cobram nursery. - MATT

This February the whole of VCAL and some of the Sturt room wrote a story about something that they did over our holiday or something else, it had to be done by the 22nd of February as that was when we had to do our speech. We did our speeches in the morning, it was very scary to get up and talk but we all did it. Benton was very lucky to win it, he will now get to the next step and will get to go to Cohuna. - LOGAN



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



Office News

School Council approved new versions of our school polo and track pants at their meeting on Monday 22nd February. In 2020 it came up in a survey that students didn't particularly like the heavy pique knit of our school polo so we have opted for a fabric which is similar to our sports polo. It has a cotton backing which makes it soft to wear and more breathable. The track pants are a microfibre straight leg pant with a cotton lining and a side zip at the bottom of the leg. Please be assured that the old version of our polo and the fleecy track pants are still acceptable as part of our uniform, we will just gradually transition to these new items. Feel free to call into the office to view samples.

Price for the new polo is \$20.00 for sizes 4-16 and \$24.90 for sizes S-6XL

Link for the polo is http://www.lwreid.com.au/57605-coates-plain-polo?colour_id=98

Price for new track pant is \$27.95 for sizes 4-16 and \$29.95 for sizes S-4XL

Link for the track pant http://www.lwreid.com.au/flack-microfibre-straight-leg-track-pants?colour_id=98

Old stock of uniform items are available at a reduced price: All polos (sizes 6,10-16,S-XL) and fleece track pants (sizes 4,10-16, S-L) are \$15



If you would prefer to receive your newsletter via email rather than a printed copy please advise the school via our email

cobram.sds@education.vic.gov.au

This is particularly relevant to all our new families.



Compass

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.

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 while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

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.

