



# Coniston Connection

## Newsletter Term 1 Week 1

### Principal's message

#### Welcome

Welcome to the 2024 school year! It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces yesterday and to hear the laughter and chatter as the students caught up with their friends. We are off to a great start with all our classes settled into their rooms with their teacher.

Our staff are also off to a great start with a range of professional learning topics covered on the first two days. These included a workshop delivered by occupational therapists, the first module in an extensive mathematics course, and mandatory Code of Conduct and Child Protection training.

The staff also engaged with the Department of Education's Plan for NSW Public Schools 2024 - 2027 and our own strategic improvement plan.



#### Lunch (healthy food) and recess

Our lunchtime is now our first break so that our children eat their healthy food first, which is better for learning in the middle session. Please ensure your child has **healthy food for lunch**, such as a sandwich, wrap, salad, noodles or rice and some fruit or vegetables. There is a guide at the end of today's newsletter to assist you.

Snack foods that tend to be high in sugar, fat and/or salt are now eaten in the afternoon.

#### School hat and uniform

Your child must wear our approved, sun-safe school hat if they want to play anywhere in the playground. Children without a school hat play in the shade, often with their friends playing elsewhere. School hats are available for sale at our office.

Please remember that we are phasing out the gold shirt with children able to wear their green sport shirt every day of the week.

### Coming Events

#### SCHOOL HAT EVERY DAY

#### HEALTHY LUNCH EVERY DAY

##### Week 2

- **Monday 5 Feb 9:30am – 2:30pm: Kindergarten's first day of big school! Parents / Carers welcome 😊**
- Tuesday 6 Feb: Kindergarten commences full days. Arrive 8:30 – 8:55am; pick up 3pm
- Tuesday 6 Feb 9 - 11am: Playgroup commences (parents & children)
- Friday 9 Feb 12 – 3pm: Swimming carnival – competitors only
- Friday 9 Feb: Got Game! Sport program commences, long hair tied back, hat.

##### Week 3

- Monday 12 Feb 2.10pm: Whole School Assembly (hall) then 100 Lap Club (oval) – parents welcome to either or both
- Monday 12 Feb 7pm: P&C meeting (Library or online)
- Friday 16 Feb: Got Game! Sport program

##### Week 4

- Monday 19 Feb 2.10pm: School Leaders Induction Assembly (hall) then 100 Lap Club (oval) – parents welcome to either or both
- Tuesday 20 Feb: Class information sessions
  - 3:15 – 3:45pm All classes
  - 3:50 – 4:20pm Years 1-6 only (repeat session)
- Tuesday 20 Feb from 4pm: Welcome BBQ after your class information session. Finishes 5:30pm.
- Friday 23 Feb: Got Game! Sport program

### Dates for your diary

- 13 – 25 March: Yr 3 & 5 NAPLAN online testing window
- **Friday 24 May: Photo Day**



## **Staff for 2024**

Welcome Mrs Kate Watt and Ms Janelle Walker to our teaching staff for 2024!

While parents/carers will have the opportunity to meet their child's class teacher at the Class Information Session on Tuesday 20 February, it's always handy to know who all the staff are:

### **Assistant Principals**

- Mrs Flynn (K-2, Wellbeing), Mr Whittaker (3-6) and Ms Thompson (Cedar)
- Mrs Risi - Assistant Principal, Curriculum and Instruction

### **Class teachers**

Eucalypt 1 (Kinder) – Mrs Polyblank	Darwinia 1 (Year 1) – Mrs Rodgers (M – Th), Mrs Hargreaves (F)
Darwinia 2 (Year 2) – Miss O'Brien	Acacia 2 (Year 3) – Mrs Jacobs
Acacia 1 (Year 4) - Mr Whittaker (M, T, Th, F), Mrs Hargreaves (W)	Banksia 3 (Year 5) – Miss Aroney
Banksia 2 (Year 6) – Mrs Piljevic	Cedar 2 – Ms O'Keefe
Cedar 3 – Mr Formica	Ms Daly – Learning Support Teacher
Mrs Smith – Library (Th, F)	Mrs Hill – RFF (Th, F)
Mrs Watt – Strategic Student Support and Teacher Release for Curriculum (M, Th)	Ms Walker – Cedar Release from Face to Face (W)
Mrs Hargreaves – additional programs, including Ganugan (T)	Mrs Dixon – New Arrivals support for specific students

### **School Administration Support Staff**

Mrs Marczan – Administration Manager	Mrs Jara-Vidal – Administration Officer
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### **School Learning Support Officers**

Mrs Petkovski - mainstream	Mrs Reh – Cedar	Ms Duffy – Cedar
	Mrs Brown – Cedar (M, T, Th, F)	Mrs Arnold – Cedar (Wed)

Mrs Donna will be working with Kindergarten for their first four weeks of school.

### **General Assistants**

Mr Green	Mr Hiscocks
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### **Class items**

Once again, the school has purchased stationery items for all students. This is to ensure they all have access to the equipment relevant to their stage of learning. It is also in recognition of the continued increase in the cost of living that may be affecting our families. Teachers will let you know if there are any additional items of equipment required for the classroom. If you have already organised equipment, your child's teacher will work with your child regarding items for school and items for home.

### **Kindergarten 2024**

We can't wait to greet our 2024 Kindergarten students on Monday 5 February!

Please meet Mrs Polyblank underneath the COLA 9:20 – 9:30am. At 9:30am, the children will make their way to the classroom with staff. Parents/Carers are then welcome to join us in the library for a light refreshment. Pick-up time is 2:30pm; please wait underneath the COLA for your child. These times are for the first day only.

*Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and safe start to the new school year!*

Mrs Morton  
Principal

## Attendance and Pick-up Arrangements

Last year, we experienced a significant improvement in the percentage of students attending school more than 90% of the time. Great work, everyone!

### Late arrivals

Unfortunately, a number of students continued to arrive after 8:55am and this meant they missed valuable information required for the day or even the first part of their lessons.

Reducing the number of students who arrive late is a focus for us in 2024.

Often children are embarrassed when they walk into class late, so please ensure they arrive between 8:30 – 8:55am. After 8:55am, children not in attendance are recorded as absent and must attend the office for a late slip before going to class.

We will also be celebrating regular and improved attendance at our assemblies as part of our strategy to improve attendance.

### Pick-up arrangements

School finishes at 3:00pm, with students moving to their designated leaving points at 2:57pm.

Students who are being collected by their parents from outside the school leave via the front gate (A-L) or side gate (M-Z). Walkers who head west are escorted to the crossing by staff.

You are welcome to collect your child from inside the school, near the tree in the main (COLA) playground. Please **enter between 2:50 – 2:55pm** (new time), stand and wait for/with your child then follow the groups of students through the gates after the bell.

These procedures are for everyone's safety. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

NSW Department of Education

## Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to:

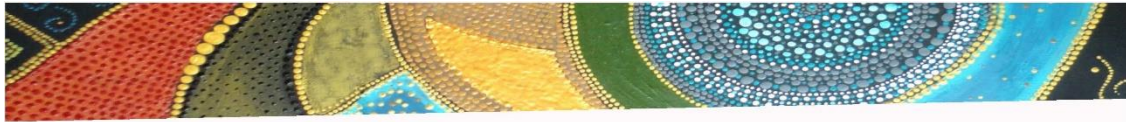
- Learn
- Make friends
- Build skills through fun

### Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...	they miss weeks per year	and years over their school life
1 day per fortnight	4 weeks	Over 1 year missed
1 day per week	8 weeks	Over 2.5 years missed





Multicultural Supported Playgroups

PLAY, LEARN, CONNECT



Playgroups are back in 2024!

Tuesdays (School Term only)

9:00am - 11:00am (ages 0-5)

Coniston Public School

123 Auburn St, Coniston NSW 2500

To register your interest, please contact Paulina!

Mobile: 0431 123 389

Email: [ppesavento@ims.org.au](mailto:ppesavento@ims.org.au)



Communities & Justice



Playgroup  
commences  
next week  
6 Feb 2024!

# Welcome to Your OSHC by Camp Australia.

A fun, social space for your child to grow.



Your OSHC.

Embrace the benefits of OSHC in 2024

Welcome to Term 1, 2024 and a big Happy New Year from all of us here at Camp Australia! Children are at the heart of everything we do, and our focus is helping them grow, learn and have fun. Through tailored experiences that nurture their passions, your child will embark on a journey that ignites their imagination and showcases their unique talents.



## OSHC Information Sessions

Discover everything you need to know about Your OSHC Before and After School Care, Rocketeers Extraordinary Holiday Programs, our inclusive CARE program, and everything else in between. From registration and bookings to billing and the Child Care Subsidy (CCS), the 2024 Info Sessions will cover everything families need to know about their journey with Camp Australia.

- Session 1: 13 February 2024, 7:00pm AEDT
  - Session 2: 15 February 2024, 12:30pm AEDT
- [campaustralia.com.au/virtual-info-sessions](http://campaustralia.com.au/virtual-info-sessions)

## Register your child for Your OSHC

Registering your child means we have all the information we need to safely care for them. By registering now, it gives you the freedom to book whenever you want! Register now for peace of mind later!

[pp.campaustralia.com.au](http://pp.campaustralia.com.au)

## A wide variety of experiences



Cooking



Active Play



Art & Craft



Mindfulness



Group Games



Lots more!

## Benefits of OSHC



For parents and families:

- ✓ Peace of mind, knowing your child is socialising and having fun!
- ✓ Convenient location
- ✓ Child Care Subsidy enabled so eligible families can save money!

For children:

- ✓ Builds confidence
- ✓ Meet new friends
- ✓ Explore new activities
- ✓ Learn through self-directed fun

Register for Your OSHC  
[campaustralia.com.au](http://campaustralia.com.au)



Child Care Subsidy available for eligible families.

by Camp Australia





# Go4Fun

A FREE 10-week program for children aged 7-13 and their families.

Come along for an afternoon of fun and learn about healthy eating and keeping active for the whole family.

Go4Fun includes:

- Fun games for the children each week.
- Discussions with parents/carers about healthy eating.
- Lots of goodies including handballs, skipping ropes and recipe books.

Go4Fun is for children above a healthy weight. It is a program for the whole family so a parent or carer is required to attend each week. This can include a grandparent, aunt, or uncle.

Join in the fun next term!

**Mt Brown Public School**

Tuesdays in Term 1

3:30pm - 5:30pm

**UOW Sportshub**

Saturdays in Term 1

Time: 9am - 11am

Scan to register



For any questions or to register:



1800 780 900



go4fun.com.au



## Port Kembla Youth Project

**Port Kembla Youth Project is conducting the  
Homework Hub  
providing free Tutoring and Homework Help.**

*Small Group Programs open to:*

*Primary & Secondary Students*

*Enrolment Essential*

**Tutoring available in person and online**

Program run during school terms

**Contact our team on 4276 1229 or email [team@pkyp.org.au](mailto:team@pkyp.org.au) to book.**

Sponsored by:



BlueScopeWin, Port Kembla Youth Project, Macedonian Welfare Association of NSW Inc, Family and Community Services and Wollongong City Council.

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# Swimming Program

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- ✓ Young Mums & Bubs
- ✓ Water Confidence
- ✓ Learn To Swim
- ✓ Stroke Correction

**AustSwim/Swim Australia Qualified Instructors**

Swim Lessons are on Friday Afternoons  
Indoor Heated Pool  
Located in North Wollongong

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**Contact Port Kembla Youth Project**  
Email us at [team@pkyp.org.au](mailto:team@pkyp.org.au)  
Call us on (02) 4276 1229

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THE LORD MAYOR'S

# Picnic in the park

FOR 2024 SCHOOL  
STARTERS AND  
THEIR FAMILIES!

FREE entertainment and giveaways  
for all 2024 school starters.  
Join in the fun while finding  
out more about starting school!

Sunday 18 February, 10am-12pm  
@ MacCabe Park (southern end)  
Cnr Church & Ellen Street, Wollongong

[www.transitiontoschool.com.au](http://www.transitiontoschool.com.au)

For more information or to RSVP contact:

John Walsh on 4283 9943, or  
[transitiontoschool@bigfatsmile.com.au](mailto:transitiontoschool@bigfatsmile.com.au)

Tracey Kirk-Downey on 4227 7158, or  
[tkirk-downey@wollongong.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tkirk-downey@wollongong.nsw.gov.au)



Communities and Justice





# *Disabled Surfers South Coast Presents*

## **Port Kembla 'Smiles on Dials Day'**

**Saturday 2nd March 2024**

**Meet southern side of Port Kembla Pool, off Olympic Blvd, Port Kembla,**



***Check-in no later than 9.00am - Group-care facility participants limit of 6 per facility***

A fun day surfing experience for any person with a disability, no matter how challenging, with complete water supervision.

Registration for Participants is **FREE** and all **participants** receive a bag of goodies,

Thanks to the local participating surf shops and businesses some gifts are provided.

Free registration for Volunteer Helpers and for giving up your time you will receive **FREE** Sausage Sizzle on the day.

For more information and who to contact view

[disabledsurfers.org/nsw/south-coast-branch](http://disabledsurfers.org/nsw/south-coast-branch) or [www.disabledsurfers.org](http://www.disabledsurfers.org)

***See you there putting "Smiles on dials"***

## Family Services Australia

FSA Health and Wellbeing will be running the Westmead Feelings Program 2.

We are currently recruiting young people aged 8-11 years of age who have/are exploring a diagnosis of Autism and would like to build their social and emotions skills.

The group will run across 3 school terms and will begin on 15/02/2023 (3:30-5pm). There will be 5 child and 2 parent sessions per term and will run on a weekly basis.



There is a cost associated with the program, however NDIS funding can be utilized to cover the fees.

Expressions of interest to can be emailed to: [triage@familyservices.org.au](mailto:triage@familyservices.org.au).

## Healthy Lunchbox Guide

# YOUR *Healthy* LUNCHBOX GUIDE

**WHOLEGRAIN BREAD & CEREALS** (1)

**PLANT & ANIMAL PROTEIN** (2)

**FRUITS** (4)

**DAIRY & ALTERNATIVES** (3)

**VEGETABLES** (5)

Choose water and limit consumption of sugary drinks  
Pick whole fruit over fruit juice

*Examples*

**THE FIVE FOOD GROUPS**

- 1** WHOLEGRAINS provide long-lasting energy for the brain and body.
- 2** PROTEINS which are important for growth and to keep your tummy full!
- 3** DAIRY AND ALTERNATIVES for calcium to build strong bones and teeth.
- 4** FRUITS keep your body healthy. The more colours, the better!
- 5** VEGETABLES for a healthy gut and immune system. Enjoy a wide variety!

**Top Tip**  
Pick one from each food group

Healthy eating for everybody

For more information on healthy eating tips and recipes visit [nutritionaustraliansw.org.au](http://nutritionaustraliansw.org.au) or contact us [admin@nutritionaustraliansw.org.au](mailto:admin@nutritionaustraliansw.org.au)

## Contact Details

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Coniston NSW 2500

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ConistonPS](http://www.facebook.com/ConistonPS)