



Coniston Connection

Newsletter Term 4 Week 4

Celebration time!

Last week we celebrated World Teacher's Day with a lovely morning tea provided by the support / non-teaching staff.

It is an honour to work with such committed, intelligent and flexible teachers who consistently do their best to provide a happy and safe school where your children can succeed and thrive.



Coming events

Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
● Tuesday 11 November: 9 – 11am: Playgroup	● Tuesday 18 November 9:15 - 10:45am: Kindergarten 2026 Orientation ● Tuesday 18 November 9 – 11am: Playgroup ● Thursday 20 November: World Children's Day	● Monday 24 November 7pm: P&C Meeting in the Library ● Tuesday 25 November 9:15 - 10:45am: Kindergarten 2026 Orientation ● Tuesday 25 November 9 – 11am: Playgroup ● Wednesday 26 November 1:50pm – 2026 Captain's speeches. Parents welcome.

For your diary

- Monday 1 December 2:15pm: Whole school assembly in the hall – item by Kindergarten
- Tuesday 2 December 9:15 - 10:45am: Kindergarten 2026 Orientation
- Tuesday 2 December: Public High Schools Orientation Day
- Wednesday 10 December 5 – 8pm: Year 6 Graduation and Farewell
- Tuesday 16 December 9:30am: Presentation Assembly
- Wednesday 17 December: Celebration Mufti Day
- Friday 19 December: Last day of the school year for students and staff

What is overdue?

- The following items are now **overdue**:
- Kindergarten 2026 enrolments
 - Friday 7 November: **Swim Scheme** notes (Years 2 – 6) – students who return notes after 7 November will be considered if places are available



What is due?

- 2027 selective high school and opportunity class applications now open – see information in today's newsletter
- Thursday 13 November: Year 6 Jambaroo Day
- Wednesday 15 November: Fun Run forms and money
- Friday 21 November: Year 6 2026 Polo shirt orders

Contact Details

Coniston Public School
123 Auburn Street
Coniston NSW 2500

P: 02 4229 1117
E: coniston-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
W: coniston-p.schools.nsw.gov.au
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ConistonPS

Attendance – Every day counts!

The attendance graph below is for the period 23 October – 5 November 2025. The red line is the Department of Education's 95% expected attendance marker.

Congratulations, Year 3 - 97% and Year 5 - 96%!



Did you know ... in 2024, 64% of our students arrived late to school?

What will it be in 2025?

**School
starts
at
8:55am**

Minutes lost = days lost per year

A couple of minutes here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just... they miss days per year

5 mins per day = **3** days

30 mins per day = **18** days



Patterns of lateness can have a serious impact on your child's education.

education.nsw.gov.au

from NSW Department of Education resource: *Every day counts!*

Attendance – A message from the NSW Department of Education

It's always wonderful to have our students in classrooms, ready to engage and learn. Our teachers and school staff are committed to fostering growth and opportunity, and we are here to work with you to support your child to reach their full potential.

Consistently going to school has countless benefits – from learning, to creating social connections and improving wellbeing through access to support and quality education.

Students are required to attend school every day, whether it's the first or last day of the term, Mondays, Fridays or days dedicated to sports carnivals, school excursions and incursions.

As we look ahead to the remainder of the school year, I'd like to remind our school community that we are here to work with you to support your child to thrive. We know that families experience a variety of challenging circumstances, and we are committed to working with you to address any barriers to regular attendance.

If your child is absent from school, please let us know why as soon as possible, even if it's just a few minutes at the start or end of the school day. Of course, there will be times when your child is unable to be at school, like when they are unwell. Medical appointments should take place outside school hours where possible, and family holidays should be taken in term breaks.

If your child is feeling anxious about coming to school and you need support, please reach out. There are also helpful resources for parents and carers on the [NSW Department of Education website](#).

Thank you for being a part of our school community and for partnering with us to ensure students access the endless benefits of regular school attendance.

Selective high school 2027 and Year 5 Opportunity Class 2027

Applications are now open for entry in 2027 into a selective high school or opportunity class.

If your child is currently in Year 3 or Year 5, learn more and apply today by visiting [Selective high schools and opportunity classes](#). The information is available in several languages.

Please be aware that you must be available for the test dates.

Selective high school – Year 7 entry in 2027

Date	Activity
1-2 May 2026	Selective High School Placement Test (students are allocated to attend one test day only)
22 May 2026	Selective High School Placement Make-up Test

Opportunity class – Year 5 entry in 2027

Date	Activity
8-9 May 2026	Opportunity Class Placement Test (students are allocated to attend one test day only)
22 May 2026	Opportunity Class Placement Make-up Test

Check-in assessments

Recently, our students in Years 3 -6 completed their check-in assessments for reading and numeracy. In most areas, our students' results were above the group of schools that are statistically similar to ours. That is, they have a similar makeup to ours in terms of students who are Aboriginal or from a non-English speaking background as well as a similar socio-economic mix.

A big shout out to our Year 6 students who have consistently scored above the statistically similar school group since Year 3. This is a remarkable achievement!

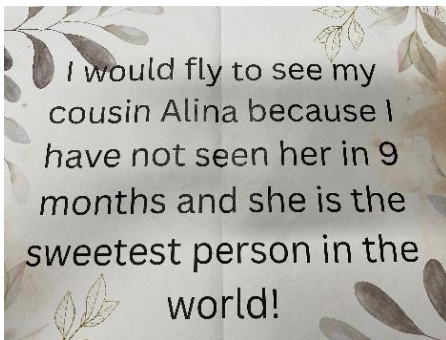


Year 4 Assembly item

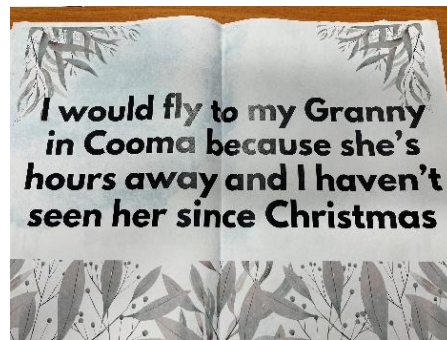
As part of their English lessons, 4D has been studying the novel “His name was Walter” by Emily Rodda. The novel is about a boy who had no one to care for him while he was growing up. Then, when he was finally an adult, he couldn’t be with the kind and caring people he’d met because of a range of difficult circumstances.

This novel made the students think about how lucky they are to have people around them who love them. To show their appreciation for these special people, 4D created posters about who they would fly to and why. As they sang ‘Aeroplane’, the posters were slowly revealed, bringing some members of the audience to tears.

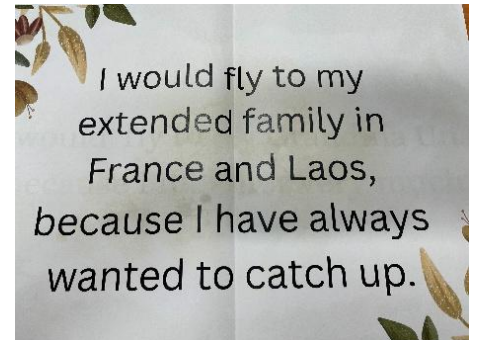
To lighten the mood, 4D then danced to ‘Ain’t no mountain high enough’! Congratulations 4D!



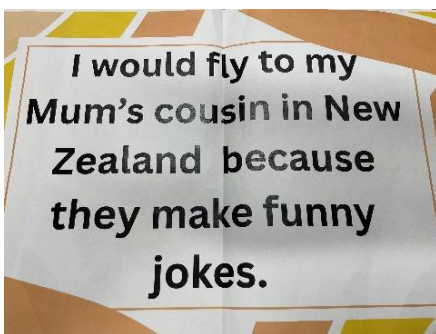
Alana



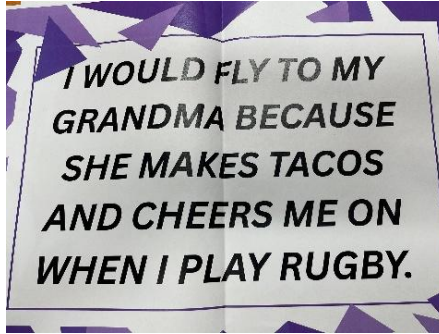
Daisy



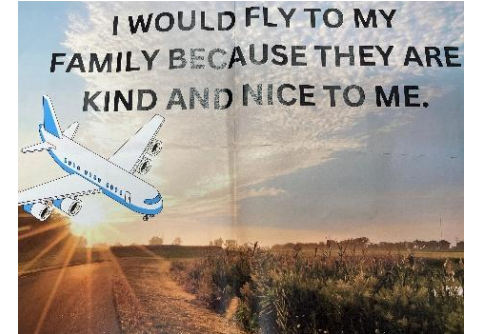
Matilda



Luca



Jai



Cyrus

World Children's Day – Thursday 20 November 2025

To recognise World Children's Day, please consider learning more about The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, by viewing and discussing the children's version with your family.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is an important agreement by countries who have promised to protect children's rights. The Convention on the Rights of the Child explains who children are, all their rights, and the responsibilities of governments. All the rights are connected; they are all equally important and they cannot be taken away from children.

To find out more, please visit [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](https://www.unicef.org/childrens-rights).



Out of hours school care – update for 2026

We are sad to advise our school community that Camp Australia has decided not to offer after-school care in 2026. Like before-school care and vacation-care, the numbers of students enrolled is no longer viable.

We thank Jaide and her team for providing our students with many engaging experiences and lots of fun over the years. Best wishes to the Camp Australia staff as they embark on their next adventure!

The good news is that our students will have access to before, after school and vacation care with Figtree Heights Public School OOSH. Some of our families already access this service.

The children who attend Figtree Heights Public School OOSH will be transported by bus to Coniston Public School in the morning, arriving before 8:55am. OOSH staff will accompany the students on the bus and supervise as they enter the school gate on Auburn St.

In the afternoon, the children will be transported to Figtree Heights Public School by bus, leaving school just after 3pm. These children will be supervised by a Coniston Public School staff member prior to leaving the school grounds with the OOSH supervisor who will then accompany them on the bus.



Figtree Heights OOSH
Fun, Adventure & Play Everyday

Services We Provide:

- BEFORE SCHOOL CARE:** 6:30am - School Drop Off
- AFTER SCHOOL CARE:** School Pick Up - 6pm
- VACATION CARE:** School Holidays 6:30am - 6pm
(Open to all children from any school)

Schools we service for Before & After School Care:

- Figtree Heights Public School
- Figtree Public School
- Mount Saint Thomas Public School
- Nareena Hills Public School
- Mt Kembla Public School
- Coniston Public School *NEW* Starting 2026
- Unanderra Public School (Before school Care only)

To make an enquiry please visit:
www.figtreeheightsoosh.com
ph: 0412 012 061
email: centre@fhoosh.com

SRC Talent Show



Coniston's Student Representative Council will host a Talent Show on Friday of Week 8.

Students who wish to be part of the show needed to have the details of their act to Ms Daly by the end of Week 4.

Parents are most welcome to be part of the audience on show day.

We can't wait to see all our talented Coniston stars!

Social media restrictions for children commence 10 December 2025

Social media age restrictions hub

The Australian Government is protecting young Australians at a critical stage of their development, through world-first social media age restrictions taking effect on 10 December. Find information in this hub to help you understand and prepare for the change.



Information for young people

Explore advice for under-16s, including what to do with existing accounts.



Information for families

Find resources and conversation starters for your family.



Information for educators

Use the resources and information to help your students with the change.



Information for children under 16: [How will the social media age restrictions affect me if I'm under 16?](#)

Information for families: [Social media restrictions and your family](#)



CONISTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

P&C

Future events

Term 4:

- **Celebration Day** Wednesday 17 December – volunteers needed to distribute the ice creams – more information to come

Next P&C Meeting: 7pm Monday 24 November 2025 in the school library.

Year 6 Fundraising

YEAR 6 ZOOPER DOOPER FUNDRAISER

ONLY 1 DOLLAR EACH!!!

SELLING AT RECESS PLAYTIME

ZOOPER DOOPER

TUESDAY WEDNESDAY FRIDAY
Starting Wednesday 22nd October
Limit 2 per person

Starts Wednesday 22/10

Lunchbox ideas



Healthy doesn't = expensive

Packing everyday foods in the lunchbox can actually save you money.

Try these cost saving ideas:

- Swap from a chocolate muffin to two pikelets and save 60c per serve
- Buy vegetables and fruit that are in season
- Buy a big packet of rice crackers instead of individual serves and save 15c per serve

SWAP FROM

Chocolate muffin



SWAP TO

Pikelets

Playgroup

**Communities & Justice**

**ILLAWARRA MULTICULTURAL SERVICES**
advancing participation

PLAYGROUP



Multicultural Supported Groups

مجموعات اللعب المدعومة متعددة الثقافات

လူမျိုးပေါင်းစုံ ကလေးကစားပွဲ

Muhimu Watoto Dada Kikundi



**FREE
Welcome
to ALL!**

Mondays 9:30 AM-11:30 AM	IMS Office - Level 1, 67-69 Market St, Wollongong
Tuesdays 9:00 AM-11:00 AM	Coniston Public School 123 Auburn St, Coniston
Thursdays 10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Wollongong West Public School 442 Crown St, Wollongong

ALL WELCOME!

*The groups are run in English

Contact Paulina to register your interest
Mobile: 0431 123 389
Email: ppsavento@ims.org.au

 www.ims.org.au  info@ims.org.au  02 4229 6855  www.facebook.com/ims.org.au  www.instagram.com/illawarramulticulturalservices/

Community News

Lowes School Uniforms



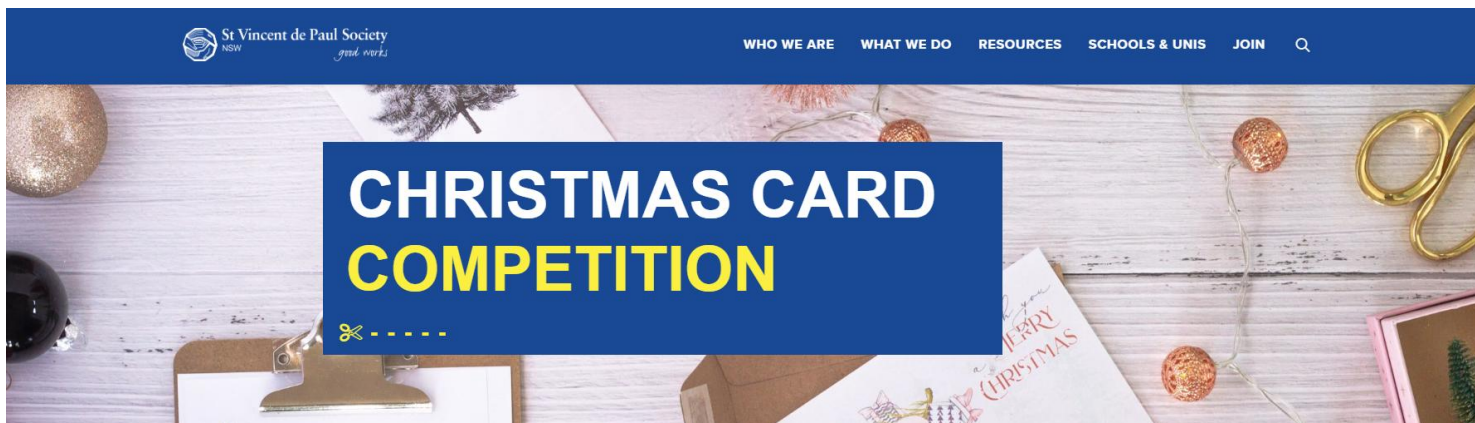
Lowes will have a price adjustment on school uniforms, which will take effect from Term 1 2026. The increase will average approximately 2.6% across Schoolwear garments.

This decision follows a careful review of rising production, distribution, and retail wage costs. While these pressures have continued to grow, Lowes have worked hard to keep any increase to a minimum ensuring they can maintain the quality, durability, and service that our school and families expect from Lowes.

To further support families, Lowes have kept prices on our core uniform range on hold, limiting the overall impact of these increases wherever possible.

Lowes' regular "20% off" sale events will also continue throughout the year to help families manage uniform expenses.

Vinnies Youth NSW Christmas Card Competition



Vinnies are looking for five beautiful designs to use as the official Vinnies NSW Member Christmas Cards for 2026! The designs for these cards are used by Vinnies NSW Members to gift to one another at Christmas time, and in some cases, to on-sell as a fundraiser for their good works.

You can use any artistic medium you like – draw, paint, craft, digital design – just keep in mind that it's going to need to look good when scanned or captured by photo and re-printed. And of course, all designs must be your own original artwork.

Winners will receive a Vinnies Prize Pack and have their designs professionally printed for 2026! We're looking forward to seeing your festive designs!

Competition Closes on Monday, 1st December 2025 – Winners will be announced before the end of Term 4.

Click here to submit your entry [Vinnies Christmas Card Competition](https://vinniesnsw.snapforms.com.au/form/christmas-card-competition-2025) or go to <https://vinniesnsw.snapforms.com.au/form/christmas-card-competition-2025>

A dark blue poster for the University of Wollongong's 50th birthday party. It features colorful confetti and streamers. The UOW crest is in the top left. A red starburst graphic on the right says 'Free entry'.


UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA

You're invited to

UOW's 50th Birthday Party

Saturday 15th November,
11 am - 3 pm Wollongong campus

Free entry

A poster for skatepark community feedback. It features a photo of a skateboarder in mid-air. A blue speech bubble contains the text 'Let's Talk'. The title 'Skateparks' is in large white letters. Below it, text explains the proposal for two new skateparks. A QR code is provided for more information. Contact details and the Wollongong logo are at the bottom.



Let's Talk

Skateparks

We're proposing to build two brand new skateparks in Wollongong City Centre and the Northern Suburbs

Tell us your thoughts on the proposed locations:

- MacCabe Park, Wollongong for the City Centre
- WF Jackson Park, Thirroul for the Northern Suburbs



Complete the survey by 17 November 2025
Scan: QR code or visit our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au
Visit: your local library
Call us: 4227 7111
Email: engagement@wollongong.nsw.gov.au



Warrawong Plaza

Warrawong Plaza is excited to share that they will be offering **FREE** Santa Photos this Christmas season! Below is a flyer with Santa's hours, which you're welcome to:

- Print & send home with students, or
- Include in your school newsletter or online updates.

We'd love for your school community to take advantage of this FREE festive and family-friendly offer.



Santa Photos

Saturday 29th November SANTA'S ARRIVAL 9.30am
(Photos 10.30am - 4pm)

Sunday 30 th November	10am to 4pm
Thursday 4 th December	12pm to 5pm
Friday 5 th December	12pm to 5pm
Saturday 6 th December	10am to 4pm
Sunday 7 th December	10am to 4pm
Thursday 11 th December	12pm to 5pm
Friday 12 th December	12pm to 5pm
Saturday 13 th December	10am to 4pm
Sunday 14 th December	10am to 4pm
Thursday 18 th December	12pm to 7pm
Friday 19 th December	12pm to 5pm
Saturday 20 th December	10am to 4pm
Sunday 21 st December	10am to 4pm
Monday 22 nd December	9am to 5pm
Tuesday 23 rd December	9am to 5pm
Wednesday 24 th December	9am to 2pm

WARRAWONG plaza

Illawarra Edible Garden Trail 2025

Dates: 22 & 23 November, 10am-3pm

Location/s: Between Helensburgh to Shell Cove, over 35 gardens!

What: Backyard veggie patches, native habitat gardens, verge gardens, community gardens, school gardens, community & local farms

Extra about: This year's trail celebrates the diversity of growing & gardening, not only featuring a variety of edible gardens, but also an incredible lineup of native habitat gardens.

Why: Meet like minded people, get inspired from a variety of 'gardening' approaches, enjoy a fun community event, learn what grows well in the different microclimates of the Illawarra, and grow more food from home!

Links:

Garden Profiles <https://foodfairnessillawarra.org.au/join-the-illawarra-edible-garden-trail/?preview=true>

Tickets <https://events.humanitix.com/edible-garden-trail-2025/tickets>

Proudly sponsored by @gillyskitchengarden

Supported by @healthycitiesaustralia and @food_fairness_illawarra



ILLAWARRA
EDIBLE GARDEN TRAIL

22ND - 23RD NOV
10AM TO 3PM

BOOK YOUR TICKETS

Healthy Cities Australia

FOOD FAIRNESS ILLAWARRA