



# Coniston Connection

## Newsletter Term 1 Week 5

### Principal's message

#### Leadership Induction Ceremony

On Monday of last week, we inducted our student leadership team for 2024. Congratulations to:

**Captains** (also SRC): Liam and Boe Meh

**Vice-captains** (also SRC): Archie M and Aliyah

#### SRC representatives:

- Darwinia 1: Shawn and Mona
- Darwinia 2: Evelyn T and Muhammad
- Acacia 2: Taj and Sadie
- Acacia 1: Noah M and Eden
- Banksia 3: Tiago and Emma M

#### House leaders:

- Emus: Xavier C and Axl
- Kookaburras: James F and Jace
- Magpies: Todd and Bo

**Ganugan Ambassadors:** Samuel, Hannah D, Hayden, Esme, Susanna, Aliza, Daniel and Hazel

**Library Monitors** (Semester 1): Thomas, Alex, Xavier S, Lizzie, Saja, Cheyenne, Lily H and Lilo

Thank you to all the parents who joined us for this special event on our school's calendar.

#### District Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to Saja, Esme and Lola who represented our school at the District Swimming Carnival last week. Personal bests all round – you couldn't ask for more than that! Thank you, Miss Aroney for your organisation and Mrs Risi for accompanying our swimmers. I had a fabulous time time-keeping for the day; a proud principal moment when our team took to the pool.



#### Welcome BBQ / Parent information sessions

What a lovely afternoon we had on Tuesday of last week. Many parents / carers took the opportunity to come along and learn more about what is happening in their child's class this year. Despite the rain, our Welcome BBQ went ahead under the COLA with lots of families staying to enjoy a sausage sizzle. Thank you, Mrs Flynn for your organisation, Mr Morton for cooking the sausages and to all the staff helpers. It's lovely to have our Welcome BBQ back on the annual agenda.



#### Sporting news

Best wishes to Liam as he trials for the South Coast Hockey Team next week.

Have a wonderful fortnight!

Mrs Morton

### Coming Events

**SCHOOL HAT EVERY DAY**

**HEALTHY LUNCHBOX EVERY DAY**

#### Every Week

- Monday 2:10pm: Whole School Assembly then Running Club – families welcome
- Tuesday 9:15 – 10:45am: Community Gardening – call in via the office
- Tuesday 9 – 11am: Playgroup
- Friday: Got Game! Sport program

#### Week 6

There are no additional activities this week

#### Week 7

- 11 March 7pm: P & C Meeting & AGM
- 13 – 25 March: Yr 3 & 5 NAPLAN online testing window. Info has been sent home.

#### Week 8 – Big Veggie Crunch week

#### Week 9

- Thursday 28 March 9:15am: Easter Hat Parade

#### What's due?

- Fri 8 March: Got Game! payment due
- Monday 26 March: Stage 3 Canberra Overnight Excursion deposit
- Thursday 4 April: Harmony Day poster competitions (no late entries)

#### Dates for your diary

- Friday 24 May: Photo Day
- Sunday 2 June: Wollongong Running Festival (info for our students to come)
- 13 – 14 June: Stage 3 overnight excursion to Canberra (all students)



### Coniston Public School P&C Annual General Meeting:

It's that time of year, time for the P&C AGM!

**When:** Monday 11 March, 7 pm in the School Library and via Zoom with the general meeting to follow.

All are welcome to attend.

At the AGM, all positions are vacated and new elections held for the positions of President, two Vice-presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. To be elected or to vote you must be a financial member.

Now is your chance to become a financial member (just \$1) and grab a role as an office bearer or a general member. You can also join the mailing list and stay up to date with events and ways you can lend a hand at fundraising events.

If you're a new or existing family to the school, the P&C is a great way to get to know the community, make some friends and support your kids through activities and fundraising for various equipment that benefits all students.

To become a financial member or join the mailing list follow this link for an online form [here](#)

This means...

#### **Financial member:**

Parents of students attending this school and other interested community members aged 18 years or over (including staff members) are eligible to become members of the P&C. The Annual Membership Fee of \$1.00 is payable with this application and entitles you to full voting rights as a Financial Member at the meeting following the one at which your membership fee was paid. You are also eligible to hold offices such as President, Treasurer, or Secretary.

#### **Mailing list member:**

If you choose not to be a financial member, you can still participate as an observer, but not vote or hold office. You will also be added to our mailing list to keep you up to date with news and opportunities to join in from P and C. Emails will come via [coniston-pc@googlegroups.com](mailto:coniston-pc@googlegroups.com) so please check your spam if you haven't received any correspondence recently.

#### **To become a member:**

Follow this link for an online form [here](#)

Or print a hardcopy form and complete your preferences, then drop by the office with money as appropriate.

Here is the link for the printable [hardcopy form](#).

If you have any agenda items you wish to add to the next meeting please email them to the P&C [here](#).

#### **Zoom meeting link:**

<https://nsweducation.zoom.us/j/63054441386?pwd=cG5WQVNRLzNHczVUb3ZXaVBzZ045Zz09>

Meeting ID: 630 5444 1386

Passcode: 122339

*Kind regards,*

*Coniston Public P&C*

## Attendance – Every day counts!

This year we are really striving to have every grade over 90% attendance every fortnight.

The attendance graph below is for 1 – 13 February 2024. The red line is the NSW Department of Education's expected 95% attendance marker.

*Congratulations to Year 1, Year 4 & Year 5 – all 95%!!!*



**Our shining stars this week are Year 3 and Year 4 girls with 98% attendance!**



## Random Acts of Kindness

In our last newsletter, we highlighted Random Acts of Kindness Day along with as a focus on being kind every day. A big thank you to:

- Liam, Xavier, Jack and Brodie who took it upon themselves to research then clean off some graffiti written by one of our Year 6 students on our Library mural.
- Evelyn, Leni and other Year 2 girls for supporting one of their classmates to come into school.
- Elena for the beautiful flowers that were presented to Mrs Morton at the gate on Monday (they were for the first staff member she saw that morning).
- Todd for using his initiative and offering a helping hand without hesitation.
- Samuel for guiding one of our Kindy students back to the correct playground after Wednesdays' morning run/walk.
- Mrs Polyblank for doing Mrs Morton's recess duty on Tuesday.
- Mrs Jacobs for taking over the organisation of our team for the Wollongong Running Festival.



**It's moments like these that brighten each and every day!**

## Professional learning



This year, our class teachers are working their way through *Becoming Mathematicians: Big Ideas to Start Strong*, an extensive and comprehensive course that supports the new mathematics curriculum. While there is a lot of theory and exploration of the new syllabus, we also complete practical activities that can be used in the classroom. This week, the focus was on equivalence. The photos below show teachers completing a task about shapes and equivalency.



Teachers participate in professional learning every Tuesday afternoon after school until 4:30pm (or slightly later). They also engage in professional collaborative sessions on Wednesdays of Weeks 5 and 10 and after school in Weeks 3, 6 and 9. Twice per term, each teacher spends time with Mrs Risi, Assistant Principal Curriculum and Instruction, focusing on the teacher's identified area for professional development. And after all that, we also engage in professional learning on the five school development days.

At Coniston Public School, we are very proud that our teachers engage with high quality professional learning that directly impacts the achievement and wellbeing of your children.

## Library News

### Library Borrowing Days

Welcome to a new year in the library in 2024! Library lessons and borrowing have both started and it is great to see the students so eager to borrow books!

All students have an opportunity to borrow books each week. The class visits are as follows:

**Thursday:** Acacia 1 (Mr Whittaker), Acacia 2 (Mrs Jacobs), Cedar 2, Cedar 3, Darwinia 1 (Mrs Rodgers/Mrs Hargreaves).

**Friday:** Banksia 2 (Mrs Piljevic), Banksia 3 (Miss Aroney), Darwinia 2 (Miss O'Brien), Eucalypt 1 (Mrs Polyblank)



Well done, Kindergarten for showing such enthusiasm for reading! Keep it up!

I am looking forward to a great year in the library!

## Library News continued...

### NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

The 2024 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge has started at Coniston PS and all the students are excited! The reading challenge is an initiative which aims to develop a love of reading for leisure and pleasure. It encourages students to engage with quality literature and promotes the benefits of reading. The Premier's Reading Challenge involves all students in K-6.



K-2 classes will be read to by their teacher and will complete the reading challenge in class at school. If students in Years 3-6 wish to participate in the reading challenge they need to read 20 Premier's Reading Challenge books independently and enter them online on the Premier's Reading Challenge Student Site. The PRC student site can be accessed through the Student Portal.

Also, please find the link below:

<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/studentExperience.html#/>

All students in Years 3-6 have been introduced to the reading challenge in library lessons and will be supported throughout the challenge at school. The 2024 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge finishes at the end of August.

Happy reading!

### Harmony Day Poster Competition

All students are invited to participate in the 2024 Harmony Day Poster Competition, which is open to students in all schools in Australia.

We have entered some amazing artwork from our students in previous years and all students are invited to participate again this year.



The poster design is to be completed at home, but students will have the opportunity to start their posters during library lunch time activities.

The theme for this year's poster is '**Harmony – What Can We Do?**'.

Please share the information below with your child/ren if you would like them to participate.

Specifications: A3 drawing, painting or mixed media work (A3 paper supplied by the school)

Starting Date: Participating students are to come to the library during lunch time on Thursday 7 March to collect their A3 paper and start their poster designs.

Closing date: Please deliver poster entries to the office **before Thursday 4 April** so they can be posted for judging. Mrs Smith will send the posters on this date so no late entries can be accepted.

Important: Please ensure finished artworks are clearly labelled on the back with your child's

- Full name
- Class
- School grade (eg. Year 4)

**Prizes** will be awarded in the following categories:

\*Primary (Year K – 6), Secondary (Year 7 – 12)

\* Competition Winner: Primary & Secondary \$500 each

If you have any questions, please ask Mrs Smith (Thursday, Friday).

Looking forward to some fantastic entries again this year!

*Mrs Smith*  
Teacher Librarian



## Running Club

It's been wonderful to see more parents/carers joining us for Running Club that happens after assembly on Monday and each Wednesday and Friday morning from 8:30am.

The Monday session forms part of the mandatory 150 minutes of physical activity and sport that we have to timetable for every child across the school week.

The Wednesday and Friday sessions are optional.

While it is called Running Club, many children walk or do a run/walk. It's all about physical activity for improved health, wellbeing and socialisation.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Wollongong Running Festival Sunday 2nd June. Cost \$15 per student. Details to come.



## Year 6 Fundraising



Year 6 students will be selling Zoooper Dooper ice blocks on Wednesdays and Fridays in Term 1. They can be purchased during recess (second break) for \$1 each.

All money raised will go towards Year 6 end of year activities.

Students may purchase a maximum of 2 ice blocks.

Thank you to everyone who is supporting our fundraiser!

*(Poster designed by Yati, Year 6)*



## 4 simple steps to a healthy lunchbox

Packing an everyday lunchbox is as easy as:

- Step 1:** Pack vegetables for Veg & Fruit Break (e.g. carrot sticks or cherry tomatoes).
- Step 2:** Pack fruit and an everyday snack for recess (e.g. popcorn, reduced fat yoghurt, rice crackers and cheese).
- Step 3:** Pack a sandwich, wrap, roll or leftovers (e.g. pasta, rice or roast vegetables) for lunch.
- Step 4:** Finish with water as the perfect thirst quencher.

Don't forget to pack an ice brick to keep food safe!



Carrot sticks



Banana  
Reduced fat yoghurt



Vegetable fried rice



Water

For easy ideas on healthy lunchboxes visit: [www.swapit.net.au/ideas](http://www.swapit.net.au/ideas)



## Multicultural Supported Playgroups

PLAY, LEARN, CONNECT





## Playgroups

### 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)

**FREE**

**WELCOME TO ALL**








NSW Department of Education

## Behaviour code for students

Information for students and parents or carers

NSW public schools are committed to providing safe, supportive, and responsive learning environments for everyone across a range of settings. We teach and model the inclusive and safe behaviours we value in our students.

**In NSW public schools students are expected, to the best of their ability, to:**

- show respect to other students, their teachers and school staff and community members
- follow school and class rules and follow the directions of their teachers
- strive for the highest standards in learning
- act in a courteous and respectful way that makes all members of the school community feel valued, included and supported
- resolve conflict respectfully, calmly and fairly
- meet the school's agreed uniform policy or dress code
- attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- respect all property
- be safe and not be violent or bring weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol, vapes, e-cigarettes or tobacco into our schools
- not bully, harass, intimidate, or discriminate against anyone in our schools.

Schools take action in response to behaviour that is detrimental to self or others or to the achievement of high-quality teaching and learning.

**All students have a right to:**

- safety at school
- access and fully participate in their learning
- be treated with respect by other students, teachers and school staff
- express their views, set goals and self-advocate.

The principal and school staff, using their professional judgment, are best placed to maintain discipline and provide safe, supportive and responsive learning environments and apply an appropriate action when students are not meeting these expectations.

The department is responsible for the provision of a policy framework and resources such as legal issues bulletins, access to specialist advice, and professional learning to guide principals and their staff in exercising their professional judgment.

In this context, the NSW Government and the Department of Education will back the authority and judgment of principals and school staff at the local level.

### **Behaviour code for students: Student actions**

Promoting the inclusion, learning, wellbeing, and safety of all students in NSW public schools is a high priority for the Department of Education.

We implement teaching and learning approaches across a range of settings to support the development of skills needed by students to meet our high standards for respectful, safe and engaged behaviour.

**To meet the expectations set out above, students in NSW public schools, to the best of their ability, should adhere to the following principles.**

### **Respect**

- Treat one another with dignity.
- Communicate and behave courteously.
- Act and work cooperatively with other students, teachers, and school staff.
- Develop positive and respectful relationships.
- Value the interests, ability and culture of others.
- Respect the learning needs of other students.
- Dress appropriately by wearing the agreed school uniform or dress code.
- Take care with school property and the property of staff and other students.





Thanks to feedback from our families, children and educators, Big Art is back and bigger than ever. It's not just here for a week or two, but it's here to stay – giving your child the chance to explore their creative individuality every week.

Big Art is all about providing the ultimate platform for your child to unlock their potential and showcase their artistic talents.

In 2024, we are expanding our Big Art program to feature weekly **Big Art Fridays** in After School Care, as well as **Big Art Days** every holiday season and a termly **Big Art Competition**, creating unmatched opportunities for children to shine, grow, and be recognised in their communities.

Unlock your child's creative potential and add a splash of colour to their days with Big Art. Register with Camp Australia to stay up to date with everything happening in Big Art 2024!



On Fridays we pARTy!  
Art-inspired activities every Friday in Your OSHC After School Care.



Adventures in creativity!  
A full day of diverse art activities exclusive for Rocketeers holiday program.



Show the world your true colours!  
Showcasing children's talents on a national stage with awesome prizes.

9 Feb to 1 Mar

## OSHC Information Sessions

Discover everything you need to know about Your OSHC Before and After School Care, Rocketeers Extraordinary Holiday Program, 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.

### 2024 Info Sessions

- Tuesday 13th February 7pm AEDT
- Thursday 15th February 12.30pm AEDT

[campaustralia.com.au/virtual-info-sessions](https://campaustralia.com.au/virtual-info-sessions)



Register now for free

## Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts Open Night

Attached is the “Open Night” flyer for Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts (WHSPA)

Bookings are essential. Below are the links to book a place, there are four sessions, two for “In Area” students and two for “Auditioned Students” – this is for students specifically interested in the Performing Arts Programs.

In Area Students – Session 1 – 5.00pm

<https://www.trybooking.com/COXDH>

In Area Students – Session 2 – 6.00pm

<https://www.trybooking.com/COXDN>

Auditioned Students – Session 1 – 5.30pm

<https://www.trybooking.com/COXDQ>

Auditioned Students – Session 2 – 6.30pm

<https://www.trybooking.com/COXDS>

### Audition Information

Audition Applications are open. The Sway link is below for interested parties with information on how to apply. Applications close Friday 22 March. Auditions are held in the first 3 weeks of Term 2.

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/QV7zS1WDQRc3z5tL?ref=Link&loc=play>



### Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts Audition Information

Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts (WHSPA) is a comprehensive, co-educational high school with a specialist performing arts focus. The school has the twin goals of “academic exce...

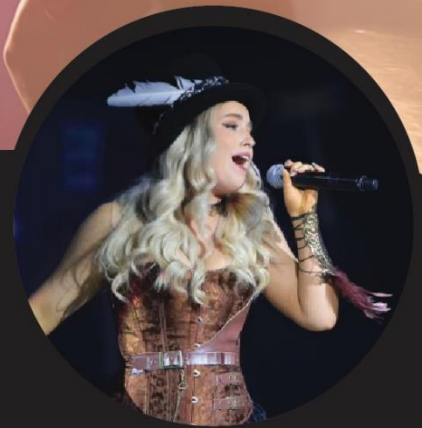
[Go to this Sway](#)



WOLLONGONG  
HIGH SCHOOL  
OF THE PERFORMING ARTS

# OPEN NIGHT

WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH



Year 6 Parents &  
Students are invited  
to attend WHSPA's  
Open Night.

**BOOK YOUR TOUR**

#### **In Area Students**

5.00pm (<https://www.trybooking.com/COXDH>)

6.00pm (<https://www.trybooking.com/COXDN>)

#### **Auditioned Students**

5.30pm (<https://www.trybooking.com/COXDQ>)

6.30pm (<https://www.trybooking.com/COXDS>)





## Try out Cub Scouts

(ages 8-11)

Monday 11th March  
6pm-7.30pm  
120 Ocean Street  
Mt St Thomas



**1st Mt St Thomas**  
Scout Group

## Health in Motion

Do you know how much  
sugar your child is drinking?



Choose  
water!



- ✓ It's free
- ✓ Good for teeth
- ✓ ZERO sugar



## Contact Details

Coniston Public School  
123 Auburn Street  
Coniston NSW 2500

P: 02 4229 1117  
E: [coniston-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:coniston-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)  
W: [coniston-p.schools.nsw.gov.au](http://coniston-p.schools.nsw.gov.au)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ConistonPS](https://www.facebook.com/ConistonPS)