



## Newsletter Term 2 Week 8

### Relieving Principal's Message

Congratulations to our Stage 2 and 3 students who competed in the Premier's Spelling Bee finals on Thursday. The Spelling Bee is an engaging way for NSW public primary school students to expand their vocabularies and improve their spelling. You all put in an amazing effort spelling some tricky words in front of an audience. It was lovely to see so many parents in the hall supporting our students. Have a go at testing your family at the dinner table with these words: extinguish, schedule, disembark, impromptu, perseverance.

Teachers have been busy writing student reports ready to go home on Friday Week 10. All students will receive a printed copy to take home.

It was very exciting seeing our Stage 3 students head off to Canberra in Week 7. Have a read of their Canberra reports in this weeks newsletter and check out their photos. Lots of mentions from students about how cold the weather was! A big thank you to Mrs Piljevic, Ms Aroney, Mrs Hargreaves and Mrs Petkovski for accompanying our students.

If you have younger children or know of children who may be starting in Kindergarten next year please ask them to drop in to the school office or fill in the online enrolment form. Our transition dates and information will be sent home early next term.

Have a lovely weekend.

*Mrs Nicole Flynn  
Relieving Principal*

### Coming Events

**SCHOOL HAT EVERY DAY**

**HEALTHY LUNCHBOX EVERY DAY**

### Regular Events

- School Assembly - Mondays Week 4 & 8
- Running Club - Wed & Friday 8:30am
- Community Gardening: Tuesdays 9:15am -10:45am: call in via the office.
- Playgroup - Tuesdays 9am - 11am

### Term 2

#### Week 9

- Thursday 24 June Year 6 Keira High School Talk

#### Week 10

- Friday 5 July – Student Semester 1 Reports Issued
- Friday 5 July – Last Day of term 2

### Term 3

#### Week 1

- Monday 22 July – School Development Day (Staff only)
- Tuesday 23 July – Students return

### What's due?

- ICAS nomination and payment (optional)

### Dates for your diary

- Friday 5 July – End of term 2



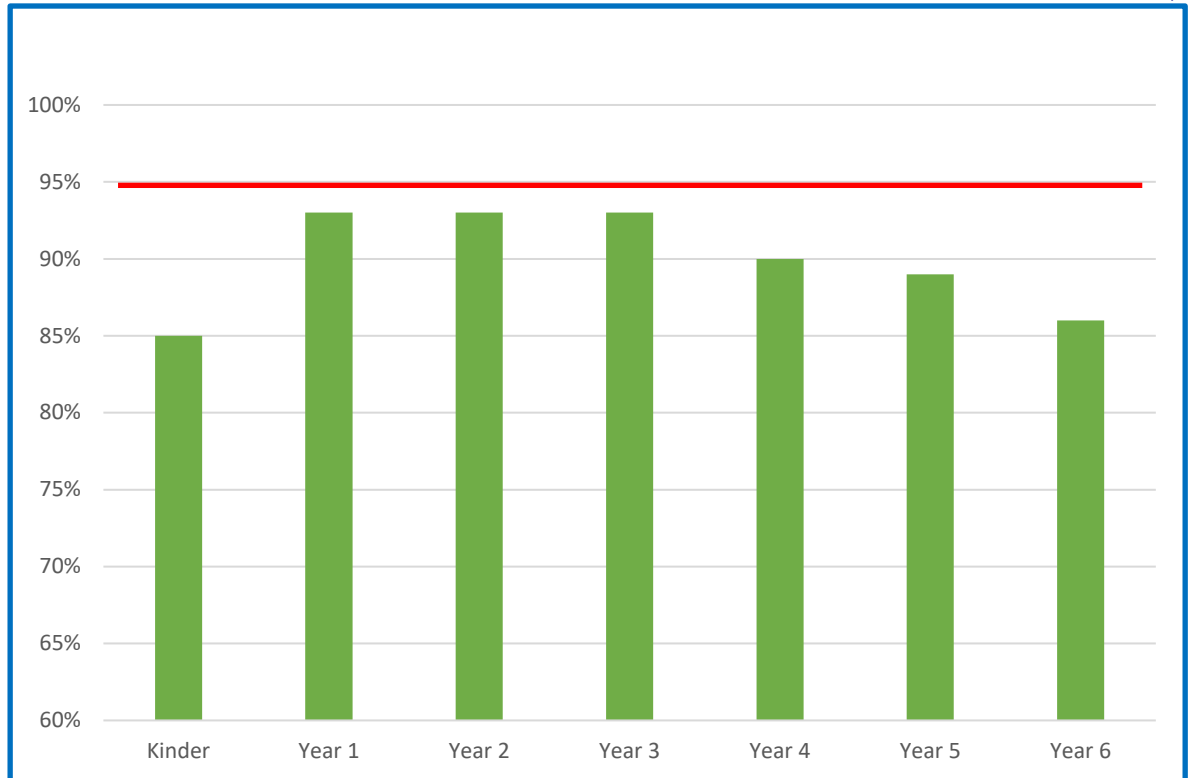
## Attendance – Everyday counts!

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

The attendance graph below is for 22 May – 5 June 2024. The red line is the NSW Department of Education's expected 95% attendance marker.



Well done Year 1 boys 97% and Year 3 boys 96%



It is a legal requirement for all absences to be explained within 7 days with a reasonable explanation. Please let the school know by phone, email or a written note if your child is away. You may reply to the schools SMS Attendance alerts sent out by the school.

## P & C News

Thank you to all our families who ordered pies and cakes. These were delivered to the school on Tuesday morning. Perfect weather for a hot pie! Thank you also to the parents who helped with sorting the delivery.

### Term 3 – Events coming soon

Next P&C Meeting: Monday 5 August 7pm in the library.

Kind regards

Coniston P&C

[conistonps.pandc@gmail.com](mailto:conistonps.pandc@gmail.com)



## Communication

Please use the school's email address for non-emergencies in the first instance or phone the office. Our staff will respond to your queries **within 2 school days** under normal circumstances.

For longer discussions or complex matters, we ask parents and carers to make an appointment to speak to teachers directly, at a time that works best for everyone.

For emergencies, please contact the office on 4229 1117. Emergencies include serious student health, safety and wellbeing issues.

School email: [coniston-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:coniston-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

## No Parking

Please be respectful of our neighbours and not park across their driveways at drop off and pick up times. This has been reported to parking rangers and they will be doing spot visits.

### 'No parking' signs

You must not park on a road or in an area where there's a 'No parking' sign.

This may be all the time or at certain times, as shown on the sign.

You can stop for less than 2 minutes if you stay within 3m of your vehicle,

if you're:

- dropping off or picking up passengers
- loading or unloading items.



Road sign showing do not park to the left of this sign

## Spelling Bee

Congratulations to the following students on their performance in the spelling bee. The winners will be moving through to the next round.

Junior – Stage 2

Winner - Liliana

Runner Up - Eden

Senior – Stage 3

Winner - Alice

Runner Up - Yati



## Stage 3 Camp

Last week, Stage 3 travelled to Canberra for a Civics and Citizenship overnight excursion. They had a wonderful time visiting a number of venues and participated in a range of educational programs, with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy. Some of the students have described the experience at each venue in their own words below.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion, the Australian Government contributed funding to our school in the amount of \$45.00 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program. The rebate will be paid directly to the school and has already been factored into the total cost of the excursion.

War Memorial: Brody D

My favourite thing in the Canberra Excursion was the Australian War Memorial because it was very interesting and I learned a lot of stuff that happened. This place was built on November 11th 1941 to commemorate the fallen soldiers and all the equipment or vehicles the Australians captured from enemy countries. I learned many things and I'll tell you 3:- that 102 Australian soldiers in WW1 were killed and lost their name tags so then Australia brought back one of them and built his grave in the Australian war memorial where the dome shape is; that over 60,000 Australian soldiers were killed in WW1 and each one of their names was written down on a wall to commemorate them and the last thing was that there is a fire on water in the Australian War Memorial and, that fire never gets extinguished no matter what happens. It has been lit for 80 years and it will not go out for rain, hail, wind or anything it just is permanently on.

Museum of Australian Democracy: Makenzie

My favourite place in Canberra was the Museum of Australian Democracy because we got to do a quiz and we got to see and go into the room where they held meetings with the prime minister. We got to see two outfits that two of the old prime ministers wore. The first one we saw was green and gold. There were gold squiggly lines and flowers on it and there was a hat to go with it. The hat had white feathers going everywhere along the top of the hat. The second one we saw was a yellow dress. It had a purple flower on it.

The National Electoral Education Centre: Saja

The National Electoral Education Centre was so exciting! Firstly, she/ the worker sat us down and explained everything we needed to know about the National Electoral Education Centre. We then got to sit in a small movie theatre which showed us how voting was established, and what people in Australia had to go through to make voting fair. 1901 was when democracy first made its way into Australia. Men were only allowed to vote, but these men had to be wealthy and own land. In 1902, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the first woman in Australia to lead the women suffrage rights fight, her dream came true. Women were finally allowed to vote, now just one fight for the Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders then everything will be fair. From 1902 to 1965 every state finally changed their laws to allow Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders. After we finished learning about how people in Australia gained the right to vote, we made our way into an interactive game room. We all had so much fun in that room, but had even more fun when we had a taste at voting!

Questacon: Samuel

Questacon was one of the best experiences of the trip to Canberra. It held lots of exciting hands on science experiments and little exhibition topics of all sorts of things! We first started off walking up a pathway that lead all the way to our first room, the Lego room. There were a lot of activities that involved mostly building with Lego. There was one where you had to build a station for astronuat to stay in on Mars, and one where you had to build a strong bridge too! We walked into our next room called Fundamental! It had some random illusions that made us wonder, how does this work? On the walls or on the tables of the exhibits would be writing explaining how the science worked. The next rooms were a breeze with Awesome Earth and Under the Moon. Awesome Earth had a big countdown for a huge lightning strike! Under the Moon had us sit under a gargantuan replica of the moon held floating above us by iron chains! There was a room with a concerningly high slide that had you hold onto a bar and

then let go to fall down! Scary and exciting. The last room was the Q Lab. Lots of random science about nature and the human body. After that we had to leave for our motel, sad but excited for tomorrow.

#### Parliament House: Brodie B

Day 2 of our Canberra excursion. First we went to Parliament House (the new one). It looked very nice but we weren't allowed in because someone graffitied on the War Memorial so the Federal Police thought maybe they should check Parliament

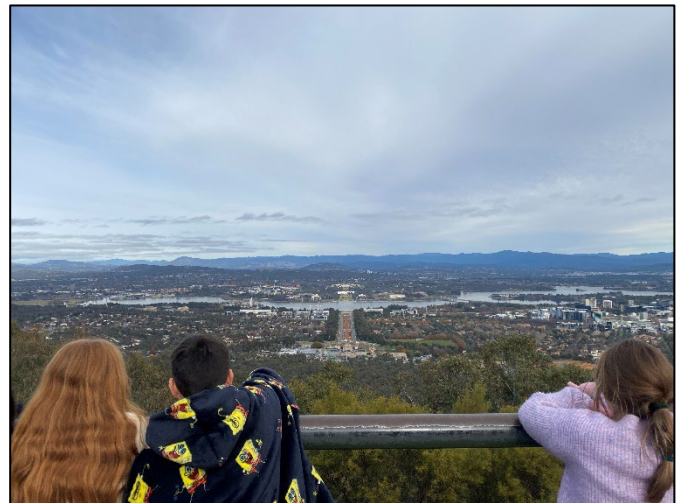
House, so we weren't allowed in. Then we had to stay outside in the freezing cold. We got to play some bullrush on the front lawn of Parliament House. After that a man came over and we played some fun games based on Parliament. Then we did geometry. We stood on an axis that led to the War Memorial, and if you open all the doors from the prime minister's office you will see the War Memorial.

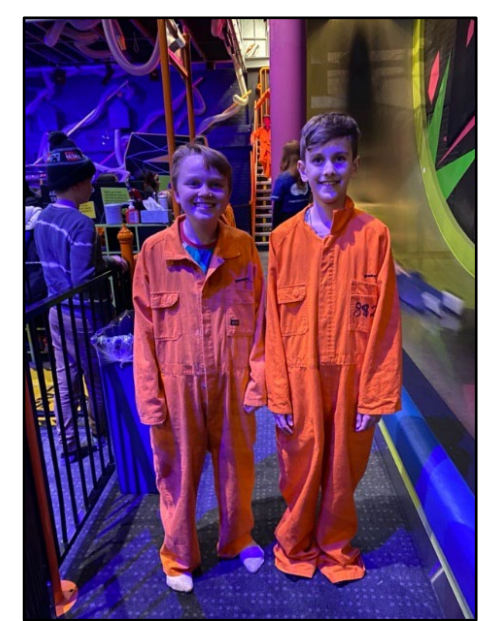
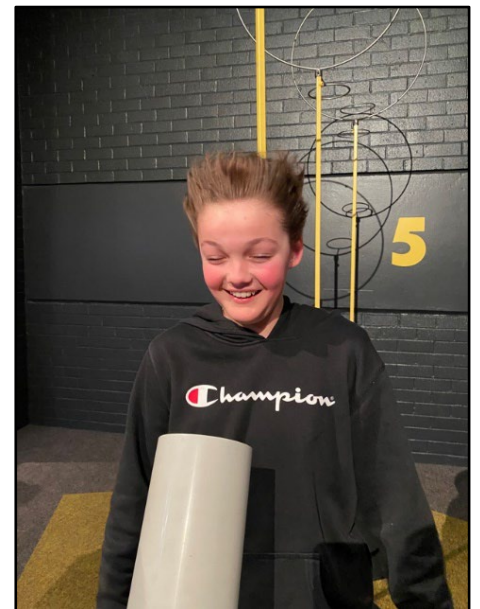
#### Australian Institute of Sport: Archie W

My favorite thing in Canberra was the AIS (Australian Institute of Sport). It was my favourite thing because I love sport and it was very fun. There was an olympic team there. It was the girls gymnastics team and also we got to see the senior girls volleyball team. I learnt that a lot of famous athletes train there.

#### National Capital Exhibition: Boe Meh

At the National Capital Exhibition, we learnt about the history of Canberra, how it got its name and who designed it. Walter Burley-Griffin won the federal capital design competition that was launched by King O'Malley. Before Canberra got its name, they were considering other names such as Cookaburra, Wheatwoolgold, Kangaremu, Caucus City and many more. At the end, we worked in groups to design our own capital city using lego.





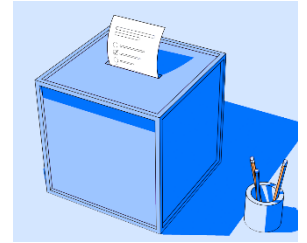
## New Arrivals Program

We have several students who are new to school in Australia and who are accessing the New Arrival Program. These students have been busy working with teachers and students at Coniston to learn about the routines of school and being exposed to new vocabulary. They have even been cooking making Anzac biscuits and smoothies.



## Who is reading our newsletter?

If you have read this far, get your child/ren to write their name and class on an envelope (or even a piece of paper) with the phrase "We did!" and pop it into the front office into the box at the counter. All names will go into a draw for a prize.



## Harmony Day Competition Results

Thank you to all the students who entered the 2024 Harmony Day Poster Competition. We submitted some incredible entries this year from students in Years K-6 and I was so impressed by the talent and creativity. I'm sure it was difficult for the judges to determine the 2024 winning entrants. The judging of the competition has now been completed but unfortunately, we didn't have any winning entries this year. Many thanks once again for the entries you submitted. I hope you enter again next year and continue to showcase your amazing creativity! Well done!

Mrs Smith

## Library News



The 2024 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge runs from 26 February to 23 August, 2024 and we have lots of students at Coniston PS participating again this year!

For our K-2 students:

Students in K-2 have been sharing lots of Premier's Reading Challenge books in library lessons and with their class teachers and are reaching their goal of reading 30 books. Please remember K-2 students will have their reading lists entered online by Mrs Smith.

For our 3-6 students:

Students in Years 3-6 who have been busy reading independently and entering their books online. We have been spending time on the reading challenge in library lessons and have had lots of practise accessing the PRC student site and updating their reading lists. To complete the challenge students in Years 3-6 are required to read **20 books**.

Students can choose to read:

- A minimum of 10 from the **PRC** list and a maximum of 10 **personal choice** books.
- Students may read up to 5 books from a PRC approved **series** as part of their reading list too!

If students in Years 3-6 wish to update their reading list please go to NSW Premier's Reading Challenge via the Student Portal or use this link to the PRC Student Site:

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

If students would like help entering their books online they can visit Mrs Smith in the library on Thursdays and Fridays. Please remember students are welcome to visit the library during lunch times to read PRC books update their reading records.

We have many students in Years 3-6 who have already accomplished their goal and completed the reading challenge. Well done ! What a great achievement to be finished so early!

Happy reading everyone!

Mrs Smith

Hi from Mrs Hill  
A.R.C.O. Representative



*Every school in N.S.W. has an ARCO representative. What does A.R.C.O. stand for?  
Anti-Racism Contact Officer.*

*At Coniston PS we have Mrs Hill as our ARCO.*

*What is the role of the ARCO? To support teachers, students and the wider community to ensure that we experience a racism-free school.*

**The Department of Education rejects all forms of racism and is committed to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination in NSW public schools. The Department's Anti-Racism Policy aims to ensure that no student, employee, parent, carer or community member experiences racism within the school environment.**

**The policy asks all members of the school community to assist in countering racism by demonstrating respect for the cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds of others, and by behaving in ways that promote acceptance and harmony in the school environment.**

**For more information, you can peruse the Department's Anti-Racism Policy**

**<https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/pd-2005-0235>**





## Swap it!



### Quick everyday lunchboxes

It doesn't take a lot of time to pack an everyday lunchbox.

To save time, try:

- Packing the lunchbox the night before
- Using leftovers from dinner in the lunchbox
- Packing whole vegetables and fruit, such as apples, bananas, cherry tomatoes or baby cucumbers



For more time saving tips visit: [www.swapit.net.au/savetime](http://www.swapit.net.au/savetime)

## Community News

## Playgroup



### Multicultural Supported Playgroups

PLAY, LEARN, CONNECT



# Playgroup



### 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**



Communities & Justice

## Saver Plus

Saver Plus is a free matched savings program to assist families living on a lower income to receive \$500 for educational expenses. We also provide budgeting workshops with the aim to improve long term financial wellbeing.



**Participants can double their savings. If a participant reaches their savings goal each month for 10 months, ANZ will match it up to \$500.**



laptops & tablets



books & supplies



uniform & shoes



sports fees & gear



lessons & activities



camps & excursions



**Participants can put that money towards educational expenses for themselves or their child or children. (including uniforms, books, laptops, music lessons, sport, swimming lessons and excursions).**

### To be eligible for Saver Plus –

- A Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card AND an eligible Centrelink payment\*
- Have a child in school (can be starting school next year) OR be studying yourself.
- Have regular income from work (either yourself or your partner)\* or receive child support payments.
- Be 18+ years old.

\* Many types of income and Centrelink payments are eligible

**Participants take part in MoneyMinded workshops to develop (and keep) good savings habits.**

Saver Plus fosters a sense of dignity and self-respect that extends beyond money matters.

**Back to school is a lot. Let's get ready.**

\*A lot of feelings, a lot of expenses, a lot of stress.

**Saver Plus can help.**

saverplus

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered in partnership with The Smith Family and Berry Street.

It is funded by ANZ and Department of Social Services. Learn more at [saverplus.org.au](http://saverplus.org.au)

Brotherhood of St Laurence saverplus ANZ



**KEEP THE FIRE BURNING!  
BLAK, LOUD AND PROUD**  
7-14 JULY 2024

WNDAC - Wollongong Northern District  
Aboriginal Cooperative

# NAIDOC Event

## Free

Wednesday 17 JULY

10.00AM – 1.00PM

BELLAMBI SURF CLUB

Join us in celebrating Aboriginal Culture  
with Dance, Song, Live music,

**Art & Boomerang Throwing workshops.**

Activities for children & young people.

**Elders Tent – Gift bags for the Elders.**

YUMMY FOOD – Tea, coffee, Sausage sizzle, Soups etc

For enquiries contact WNDAC Ph 0415 566898 Email

[richcath@tpg.com.au](mailto:richcath@tpg.com.au)



**KEEP THE FIRE BURNING!  
BLAK, LOUD AND PROUD**  
7-14 JULY 2024



## **Expression of interest!**

PCYC Bulli is looking for teams from school years 2-4 interested in competing in our term 3-4 basketball competition. Whether you are a basketball pro or new to the game entirely, team up with your friends and submit an expression of interest now!



Please contact PCYC for more information.

Phone: 42843878

Email: [bulli@pcycnsw.org.au](mailto:bulli@pcycnsw.org.au)

### **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](http://www.facebook.com/ConistonPS)