



# Coniston Connection

## Newsletter Term 1 Week 3

### Principal's message

#### A busy start to the year Kindergarten 2024

Kindergarten commenced on Monday 2 February and are off to a flying start! Mrs Polyblank just can't stop smiling!



#### Got Game! Sport Program

Also last Friday, our sport program commenced with a focus on athletics skills. The team from Got Game! were very impressed with the positive attitude of our students as well as their manners and behaviour. Great work everyone!

A huge thank you to our P & C for subsidising this program to the tune of \$3000; this has made a huge difference to the cost for our families. Miss Aroney also successfully applied for a \$2000 Sporting Schools Grant that lowered the cost even further.

#### Whole School Assembly and Running Club

On Monday, we held our first whole school assembly for 2024. Along with students from Kindergarten – Year 3, this was my first assembly in the hall. It was lovely to have a small group of parents join us to see children receive merit awards, learn about Positive Behaviour for Learning, and say the school pledge before singing the school song and national anthem. Running Club followed straight after assembly with a number of parents taking the opportunity to watch. Families are welcome to join us at 2:10pm each Monday for assembly then join us for Running Club. Parents/Carers even have their own code to keep track of their distance. Why not join us for fitness, friendship and fun?

#### P & C Meeting

Our first P & C meeting was also held on Monday night and was very well attended. The P & C is planning some wonderful events for 2024 and it would be lovely to hear some other ideas about how our P & C can support all the students at our school.

*I look forward to seeing you next Tuesday at our Parent Information Sessions and Welcome BBQ!*

Mrs Morton (Principal)

### Coming Events

#### SCHOOL HAT EVERY DAY

#### HEALTHY LUNCH EVERY DAY

#### Every Week

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

#### Week 4

- Monday 19 Feb 2:10pm: School Leaders Induction Assembly
- 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.
- Wednesday 21 February: District Swimming Carnival – qualifiers only, parent transport

#### Week 5

There are no additional activities this week

#### 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.

### What's due

- Got Game! payment due Fri 8 March
- Camp deposit due 26 March

### Dates for your diary

- 13 – 14 June: Stage 3 overnight excursion to Canberra (all students)
- Friday 24 May: Photo Day**
- End of year events are on our Sentral calendar



### Thank you!

Thank you to all those who supported the P & C last year! All contributions big and small go towards the students at CPS! Getting involved is a great way to support the school and get to know other families and the school staff. You can get involved by attending a meeting or by volunteering at one of the events. Everyone is welcome!

### ❖ Last year...

In 2023, the P & C raised money through the pie drive, Mother's and Father's Day stalls, pizza day and sausage sizzles...

These funds directly support the students:

- \$3000 towards Got Game! Sport Program
- \$575.85 towards Sausage Sizzle for the Centenary Celebration
- \$530 donated to Stewart House
- \$435 towards the Year 6 Farewell
- \$377.50 towards prizes for the Easter Hat Parade
- Organising the Celebration Day Ice-cream van – a highlight for the kids!

### ❖ This year...

2024 is shaping up to be an exciting year with lots of opportunities to get involved!

### ❖ Meetings

- **When?** Twice a term on Monday 7pm - Week 3 and 7
- **Where?** In the library and on zoom!
- **Who?** Everyone! We love seeing new faces!

We are always looking for people to help with events or at home. Membership forms are available at the office and please reach out if you would like to get involved!

## National Random Acts of Kindness Day – tomorrow!



### Tomorrow is

### National Random Acts of Kindness Day.

What will you do to show kindness to a family member, a stranger, a friend or colleague, or yourself?

Will you be a role model to others, including your children?

Your children were presented with this concept at Monday's assembly and is their challenge for the week.

## Attendance – Every day counts!

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

Having three grades over 95% two grades at 95% and one over 90% is a remarkable achievement this early in the year. The challenge is to keep going at this rate.

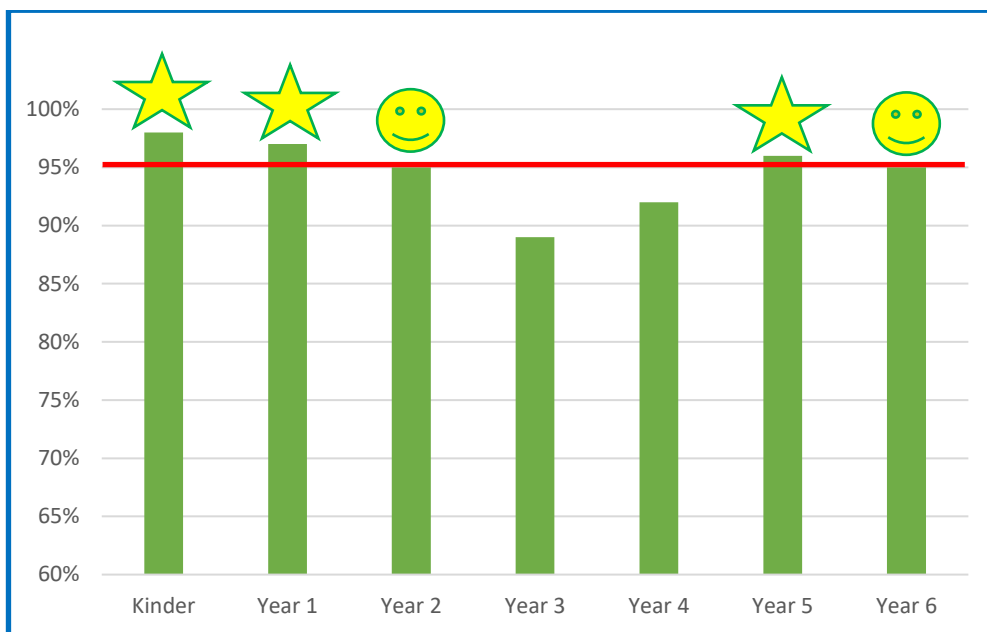
The attendance graph below is for the 1 - 13 February 2024. The red line is the NSW Department of Education's expected 95% attendance marker.

*Congratulations to Kinder, Year 1, Year 5 – all over 95%!!!*

*Well done, Years 2 & 6 – 95%!*

**Our shining stars this week are Kindergarten girls with 100% attendance.**

**Now that is something to celebrate!**



## Running Club – it's on again this year!!!

Coniston PS is again having our Running Club in 2024. Each Monday after assembly the whole school will run laps of our oval. On Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8:30am until 8:50am we will also be running laps for those who are at school. Parents/carers are welcome to run with the students. We have created special red 'Parent' cards. Students will be working towards their Parkrun (5km), Bridge Run (10km), Half Marathon (21.1km) and Marathon (42.2km) awards.

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

**WOLLONGONG  
RUNNING  
FESTIVAL**

## School Behaviour and Support Management and Anti-bullying Plans - mainstream

In 2023, the Department of Education released a new suite of policies designed to support the wellbeing, including behaviour, of our students. Each school was then required to create their own plans for both School Behaviour and Support, and Anti-bullying. Developed by the Positive Behaviour for Learning team, the P & C approved both these documents in 2023. With mandatory implementation commencing in 2024, both plans have now been published on our school's website at [Rules and policies - Coniston Public School \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.conistonpublicschool.nsw.gov.au/rules-and-policies).

To assist our parents with understanding what is expected of their child at school, the NSW Behaviour Code for Students is included into today's newsletter.

## Swimming Carnival

Last Friday, our school's swimming carnival was held at Unanderra Pool. A small but enthusiastic group of students swam to the very best of their ability in a variety of races. Congratulations to everyone who swam! Thank you to Miss Aroney for all her organisation and to Mrs Flynn who supervised the children at the carnival.

Results of our carnival are as follows:

<b>Xavier C</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Senior Boys 50m Backstroke	<b>Felix</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> 11 year Boys 50m Freestyle 1 <sup>st</sup> Boys 100m Freestyle	<b>Amin</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 11 year Boys 50m Freestyle 3 <sup>rd</sup> Boys 100m Freestyle
<b>Archie W</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> 11 year Boys 50m Freestyle 2 <sup>nd</sup> Boys 100m Freestyle	<b>Lyla</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 11 year Girls 50m Freestyle 2 <sup>nd</sup> 11 year Girls 50m Backstroke	<b>Lola</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> 10 year Girls 50m Freestyle 1 <sup>st</sup> Junior Girls 50m Breaststroke
<b>Taj</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> 9 year Boys 50m Freestyle 1 <sup>st</sup> Junior Boys 50m Breaststroke 2 <sup>nd</sup> Junior Girls 50m Backstroke	<b>Esme</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> 11 year Girls 50m Freestyle 1 <sup>st</sup> 11 year Girls 50m Breaststroke 3 <sup>rd</sup> 11 year Girls 50m Backstroke 1 <sup>st</sup> Girls 100m Freestyle 1 <sup>st</sup> Girls 200m Medley	<b>Saja</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> 11 year Girls 50m Freestyle 2 <sup>nd</sup> 11 year Girls 50m Breaststroke 1 <sup>st</sup> 11 year Girls 50m Backstroke 1 <sup>st</sup> 11 year Girls 50m Butterfly
<b>Lavanya</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Junior Girls 50m Backstroke	<b>Grace C</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Junior Girls 50m Backstroke	<b>Fimmy</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> 11 year Boys 50m Backstroke
<b>Riley</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 9 year Boys 50m Freestyle 1 <sup>st</sup> Junior Girls 50m Backstroke	<b>Hazel</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 9 year Girls 50m Freestyle	<b>Molly</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> 9 year Girls 50m Freestyle

Best wishes to Felix, Esme, Saja and Lola who have qualified to swim at the District Swimming Carnival in the following events.

<b>Felix</b> 11 boys 50m Freestyle	<b>Esme</b> 11 girls 50m Freestyle	<b>Saja</b> 11 girls 50m backstroke	<b>Lola</b> 10 girls 50m Freestyle
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## Library News

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

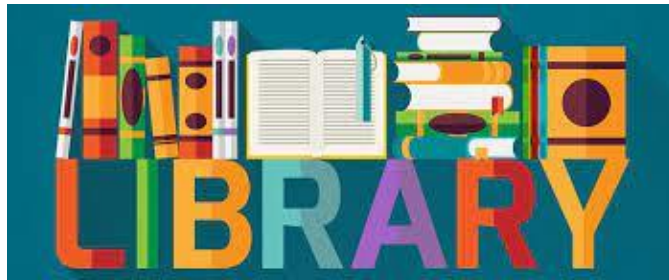
All students will have the opportunity to borrow books each week. Please make a note of your child's borrowing day:

Thursday: Acacia 1 (Yr 4), Acacia 2 (Yr 3), Cedar 2, Cedar 3, Darwinia 1 (Yr 1)

Friday: Banksia 3 (Yr 5), Banksia 2 (Yr 6), Darwinia 2 (Yr 2), Eucalypt 1 (Kinder)

Looking forward to a great year in the library!

Mrs Smith  
Teacher Librarian



## Kindergarten

What kindergarten have been up to...



## 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)*

## Playgroup

A poster for a playgroup. At the top, there is a colorful, abstract pattern. Below it, the text 'Multicultural Supported Playgroups' is written in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by 'PLAY, LEARN, CONNECT' in a smaller font. To the right, the 'IMS' logo is displayed, with 'ILLAWARRA MULTICULTURAL SERVICES' and 'advancing participation' below it. In the center, the word 'Playgroup' is written in a large, colorful, stylized font. Below this, there is an illustration of children playing. At the bottom, the text 'Playgroups are back in 2024!' is written in a bold, sans-serif font. To the right of this text is a yellow starburst shape containing the words 'FREE WELCOME TO ALL'. Below the starburst is a shield-shaped logo with the words 'CONISTON PUBLIC FRIENDSHIP' and 'TOGETHER'. At the bottom left, the text 'To register your interest, please contact Paulina!' is written, followed by 'Mobile: 0431 123 389' and 'Email: ppesavento@ims.org.au'. At the bottom right, the 'NSW GOVERNMENT' logo is displayed, followed by 'Communities &amp; Justice'.

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.

## 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)

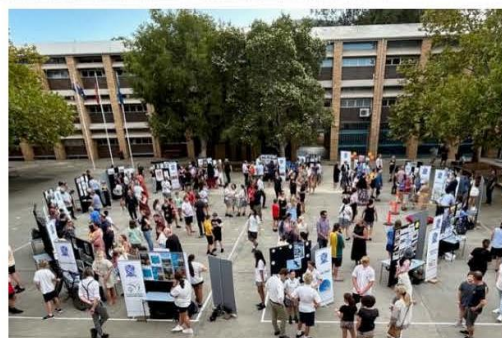
← Register now for free

## 1. Keira High School Expo Evening



# Keira High School

*The school of choice for our local community*



# EXPO Evening

4:30pm Wednesday 28 February 2024

*We look forward to meeting you at our Expo Evening*  
**Find out why Keira is your outstanding local school**



**Welcoming Year 4, 5 & 6 students and their families**

For further information please contact the school on **4229 4644**  
or visit our website at **[www.keira-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.keira-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)**  
Keira High School, Lysaght Street, Fairy Meadow

*Great traditions, a confident future.*

## 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>)

## Adventure and Veg

Are you looking for ideas to get your children away from their screens and to eat more veggies?

Sign up for free text messages for fun weekend ideas and simple health tips for you and your kids on:

- healthy eating
- physical activity
- screen time

For more information and to register, visit [bit.ly/HPSPage](https://bit.ly/HPSPage)

\*You must live within Illawarra or Shoalhaven to receive these texts.

**FREE**

Fun weekend ideas and simple health tips for you and your kids.

**Sign up now**  
Visit [bit.ly/HPSPage](https://bit.ly/HPSPage) or scan the QR code.

Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District, 2024.



Healthy Eating  
Active Living



## Picnic in the Park



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



## Lego Club



# LEGO CLUB

After school STEM program for ages 7-12

- ✓ Returning Term 1 2024 (starts 13th Feb)
- ✓ 3:30pm - 5:00pm Tuesday afternoons
- ✓ 10% discount for Science Space members & UOW Staff
- ✓ LEGO engineering challenges, coding, robotics & more!
- ✓ All materials and equipment provided
- ✓ Certificate of participation

**BOOK NOW ONLINE!**

[sciencespace.com.au](http://sciencespace.com.au) | Ph. 02 4286 5000





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

*See you there putting "Smiles on dials"*

## Auskick



# JOIN THE FUN!

**It's not too late, join Wollongong Lions  
Auskick Centre today.**

Register today to get  
exclusive goodies!

Running Now  
Thursday's 5pm - 6pm  
at North Dalton Park



Only \$55 for remaining 5 weeks!

Peter Frith 0499 333 182

[play.afl/auskick](https://play.afl/auskick)



# AusBike

AGES 5 - 12



A new national program, designed by Australia's peak cycling body, AusCycling, is running at the Illawarra Cycle Club.

AusBike gives kids the essential skills to experience the freedom, fun and adventure of life on a bike.

**AusBikers are safe & active kids!**

Our accredited coaches will help build your child's competence and confidence on two wheels...and who knows where their love of riding will take them?!



REGISTER NOW

The AusBike program has been developed with the support of the Australian Government through the Australian Sports Commission.



Australian Government

## Foster Carers wanted

**There's an urgent need for foster carers in the Illawarra, Shoalhaven & Southern NSW districts.**

**Do you have room in your home and your heart for a child?**



The NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) is urgently looking for potential foster carers in the Illawarra, Shoalhaven and Southern NSW. We need people who can provide care anywhere from a few days to a few months and beyond for children and young people aged between 0-18 years old. We also need people who can care for siblings.

Foster carers support families by caring for children who are unable to stay at home while their parents get help to change. Foster carers come from all walks of life and their families reflect the wider community we live in. They can be single, in a relationship and be with or without children of their own. Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islanders and people from culturally diverse backgrounds are also encouraged to apply.

All carers receive training and ongoing support. There are numerous financial support packages available to foster carers to support the child through education, medical needs, food costs and other daily costs of living. By working together, we can give every child and young person a safe, loving and home in which they can thrive.

If you are interested in making a difference in the life of a child, please call 4255 6666 or email our Foster Care Team: [CFDU.ISSNSW@DCJ.NSW.GOV.AU](mailto:CFDU.ISSNSW@DCJ.NSW.GOV.AU)



## Welcome to Health in Motion

2024 has snuck up on us quicker than we all expected. Here are a few quick ideas for an active, healthy and successful start to the year!

<https://greenarrow.health.nsw.gov.au/ga/webviews/4-0-433-20445-21996-0-0p709822e8>

## 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](https://coniston-p.schools.nsw.gov.au)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ConistonPS](https://www.facebook.com/ConistonPS)