



Coniston Connection

Newsletter Term 1 Week 2

Dear Families, Students and Community Members,

Welcome back to a brand new school year! A very warm welcome to all our new families and students joining the Coniston Public School community. We are delighted you are here and look forward to supporting you as you settle in. It is wonderful to see our school buzzing with energy and enthusiasm as we begin 2026 together.

At Coniston Public School, our school motto is Friendship, and this simple word is at the heart of everything we do. Friendship means kindness, respect, support and inclusion. It's about building strong, caring relationships where every child feels they belong and are valued. As we work together this year, we will continue to foster a culture where friendship guides our actions, creating a safe and welcoming space for all.

This year, our focus remains firmly on teaching and learning excellence, alongside a strong commitment to student wellbeing. We believe that when children feel safe, supported and inspired, they thrive academically and socially. As a community, we will work collaboratively to foster a positive environment where every student can achieve their personal best.

As parents and carers, your role is crucial. We ask for your ongoing support in making sure your child arrives at school on time every day, ready to learn and engage. Attendance and punctuality are key foundations for success.

In Cedar, we've been busy enhancing our playground facilities to support active, imaginative play and social connection. We are excited to announce that the recent playground works have improved access making it more inclusive for all students. Additionally, our new cubby houses are now installed and ready to be explored - providing wonderful spaces for creativity, teamwork and fun during breaks.

Finally, I encourage all families to get involved with our Parent & Citizens (P&C) Association. The P&C plays a vital role in supporting school programs, fundraising and building our school community spirit. Your participation has a positive impact on our students' experiences every day.

Thank you for partnering with us. Together, let's make 2026 a year filled with learning, growth, friendship and wellbeing for every member of our school.

Warm regards,

Sarah Martin
Relieving Principal
Coniston Public School

Contact Details

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Coming events

2026 Term 1 Week 2	Week 3 (9th - 13th February)	Week 4 (16th - 20th February)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome back to our students and families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P&C Meeting - Monday February 9, 7-8pm (new parents and carers are welcome to come along and join our P&C.) • Playgroup - Tuesday February 10, 9-11am 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Leaders Induction Assembly - Monday February 16, 2:15-2:55pm • Playgroup - Tuesday February 17, 9-11am • Parent/carer classroom information session - Tuesday February 17, Session 1: 3:15-3:45 Session 2: 3:45-4:15 (repeat session) • Swimming Carnival –(Competitors only) Wednesday February 18, 8:30-3pm • PSSA Soccer trials - Friday February 20

For your diary

What is overdue?

What is due?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming Carnival permission note
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First week of 2026!





Keeping up to date with school news

This year, the school will publish a digital school newsletter four times per term - Weeks 1, 4, 7 and 10. This newsletter is coming out in week 2 as last week we didn't have students on site for school development days. If your family prefers to receive a paper copy of our school newsletter, please see our friendly office staff to let them know.

Thank you for your feedback regarding school platforms and communication. We are currently evaluating our communication processes and will update you as changes occur.



Attendance – Every day counts!

Thank you for a fabulous start with school attendance this week! School attendance and punctuality are critical for students in Kindergarten to Year 6 as they lay the foundation for consistent learning, social development and positive habits that support lifelong success. Regular attendance ensures children do not miss key lessons and activities that build their knowledge and skills, while being on time helps them start the day calmly and fully engaged with their peers and teachers. To support your child in getting to school on time and every day, consider these evidence-based strategies:

1. Establish a consistent morning routine to reduce delays and ease transitions
2. Use verbal or tangible positive reinforcement such as praise or a points system to motivate regular attendance
3. Ensure your child gets adequate sleep each night, as well-rested children are more likely to be punctual and attentive.

These approaches promote a positive attitude toward school and help children develop responsibility and resilience.

Internet Safety

There are many valuable resources that can be used to support your family's approach to using the internet at home. Please see the following [webinars for parents and carers](#) to learn more.



Selective High School Opportunity Classes

Applications for 2027 entry into an opportunity class (OC) Year 5 or selective high school (SHS) Year 7 are currently open and close for both on 20 February 2026.

The online application link for parents and carers is available at [Selective High school and Opportunity Classes](#) until 20 February 2026.

Please call the school for further information or to discuss your child's suitability.

NSW Department of Education

Applications closing soon!

Apply online in less than 10 minutes



Selective high school or opportunity class entry in 2027

Apply now if your child is currently in:

- **Year 4** – for **opportunity class** entry in Year 5
- **Year 6** – for **selective high school** entry in Year 7.

Applications close 20 February 2026.



Playgroup



Communities & Justice

IMS 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: ppesavento@ims.org.au



www.ims.org.au | info@ims.org.au | 02 4229 6855

www.facebook.com/ims.org.au
www.instagram.com/illawarramulticulturalservices/

2026

Playgroup recommences at 9am
on Tuesday 10 February.

We can't wait to meet you!

Opal Card information



13-23 Investigator Drive Unanderra N.S.W. 2526

Phone: 0242 711322 Fax: 0242 721608

www.premierillawarra.com.au

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Always Carry and Tap Your Opal Card

The Opal Card system is a vital part of the **School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS)** and helps ensure safe, reliable, and fairly funded school transport services for our community.

WHY TAPPING ON AND OFF MATTERS

When students tap each trip on and off, it helps to: - Accurately record student travel - Maintain eligibility for free or subsidised travel - Ensure fair and accurate reporting to Transport for NSW - Meet government KPIs, regulations, and fare collection requirements - Track passenger numbers to support safe travel and capacity planning - Allow bus services to be adjusted based on real demand.

WHAT HAPPENS IF STUDENTS DON'T TAP ON?

If students fail to tap on or off, gaps are created in travel data. Over time, this can impact: - Future bus route planning - Service frequency and capacity - Funding allocations for school transport services.

- **Students who do not have a current OPAL card when travelling on our buses can be returned to the school by our drivers in the afternoon.**

WHAT WE ASK FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

- Always carry your Opal Card
- Tap on and tap off for every journey
- Parents and carers: please remind students that this quick action supports their school's transport services

Please visit <https://transportnsw.info/tickets-fares/eligibility-concessions/school-student-travel/apply-for-school-travel-pass-or-school>

Your cooperation helps ensure continued access to safe, efficient, and reliable school bus services for all students.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Together, we can keep school transport running smoothly.

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

Figtree Heights OOSH 
Fun, Adventure & Play Everyday

DRIVERS NEEDED

FOR AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Do you enjoy serving your community, working with children and have a current heavy vehicle license?

We're looking for a reliable driver to assist with after school care pick-ups.

Requirements:

- Light Rigid (LR) or Medium Rigid (MR) Licence or higher
- Active paid Working With Children Check (WWCC)
- Availability between 2:30pm-4pm weekday afternoons.

Join a supportive team and make a positive impact in your community!

please contact:
centre@fhoosh.net or call 0412 012 061

Not for profit
P&C run
service
for over 30yrs!

Safe and Healthy Screen Time



Screens are part of everyday life, so it's important to use them in a balanced, safe and healthy way. Here is information and resources to help you navigate screen use with confidence.

FAMILY RESOURCES



Swoosh and Glide storybook

Travel into the Australian bush, to the treetop home of eSafety sugar glider twins Swoosh and Glide as they learn with their family about being safe online.



Online safety: a guide for parents and carers

This guide covers some of the key online safety issues for young people and includes a range of practical tips and advice on what to do if things go wrong.



Parent Webinars

This toolkit provides online safety resources you can share to promote online safety at any time.



Screen time tips for families

Tips including what screens are, how much use is too much, and tips for keeping screen time healthy.



Social media age restrictions explained

The information on this page will help you understand why, and how you can help under-16s through the change.



Let's talk about being safe online book

An online family book designed to help children from age 7 explore online safety through simple, open conversations.



Digital child - Parent resources

Inviting children aged 5 to 12 to submit their imaginative concepts for a children's storybook.



Online safety Mighty Heros video

Our heroes are here to help you talk with your children about how to protect themselves online.



Safe Tech Gift Guide

Be smart, safe and secure when choosing tech gifts for children and young people.



Family Media Plan

How to Build Healthy Digital Habits: 5 Tips for Families.



Keep up to date

The Esafety Commissioner website has loads of parent resources, with current and relevant information for families.



Visit the ISLHD Health Promotion Service website for more healthy school resources.



Screen Time Tips for Families

Join us for a free 1-hour session with practical tips to help your family build healthy screen habits.

FREE WEBINAR



The session will explore:

- ✓ Screen time verse screen quality
- ✓ Tech tantrums
- ✓ Rules for technology use
- ✓ Online safety
- ✓ Children's digital citizenship

Presented by

Michelle Barry Healthy Cities Australia
Michelle Weisbaum and Lisa Barber
Life Ed

Bree Capel ISLHD Health Promotion

Workshop details



When:
Wednesday 11 February, 2026



Time:
7:30-8:30pm including Q&A



Where:
MS Teams



Register now

[Click the link or scan to register.](#)



In partnership with Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District and Life Ed.

Cook Chill Chat

Cooking Workshops



Do you want to **meet new people** while learning **healthy cooking tips** and kitchen tricks?

Join Us!

**Vinnies Hub
Cook Chill Chat**

Date: Thursdays 12th February to 19th March 2026 for 6 weeks

Time: 3.30pm-6.00pm (dinner included)

Cost: FREE

Bookings: To book your spot, contact Nat Nicastrì on 0429656886 or by email: nat.nicastrì@vinnies.org.au

Location: Vinnies Hub, 12 Miller Street Coniston

Cook Chill Chat is a weekly community cooking program to increase social connections, happiness and healthfulness.



This program is supported by funding from





2026 FOOTBALL SEASON REGISTRATION

MINI ROOS

**KIDS AGED BETWEEN 4-11
JOIN CRINGILA LIONS NOW!
REGISTER ON PLAY FOOTBALL**
<https://playfootball.com.au>

**CONTACT ALISA ON 0411 312 208
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

HOW TO REGISTER

STEP 1
Go to:
<https://playfootball.com.au/home>
Select "Find a Club"

STEP 2
Click the age group the player is eligible to play in

STEP 3
Search "Cringila" and select "Find out More"



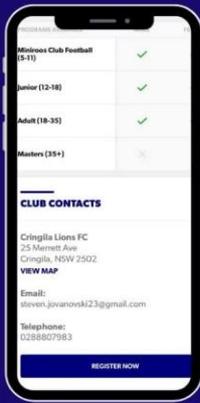



HOW TO REGISTER

STEP 4
Select "Register Now"

STEP 5
Login / Sign up to your Play Football Account

STEP 6
Select your registration product, complete the registration form, pay and submit!








Disabled Surfers Association South Coast

Presents

Port Kembla 'Smiles on Dials' Surf Day Saturday 14th March 2026

Southern side of Port Kembla Pool, off Olympic Blvd, Port Kembla



Check-in no later than 9.00am - (Earlier if you can) All sign ins done on the promenade Between Pool and Beach

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 All Surfing Equipment Supplied.

Registration for Participants is **FREE**, and all **participants (Surfers)** receive a giveaway bag of goodies, Surfer Trophy, BBQ lunch and a whole lot of FUN.

All thanks to our local participating Surf shops, Bunnings Port Kembla and all our local supporting businesses!

Free registration @ HUMANITIX.com.au or go to the below web pages for more details.

**For more information and who to contact view
disabledsurfers.org/nsw/south-coast-branch or www.disabledsurfers.org**

See you there putting "Smiles on dials"