Welcome back to the start of the 2016 school year, it has certainly been an eventful one. Thank you to all those parents who gave us such generous feedback regarding our recent evacuation, it was greatly appreciated and highlights yet again what a supportive community we are fortunate to live in. I’d like to also thank our students and staff for the calm and efficient manner in which they conducted themselves. Like all schools we have an emergency management plan in place for situations like this, and we practise it throughout the year. The safety and wellbeing of our students is always our top priority, and we took the incident seriously. Please ensure you notify the school if there is any change to your contact details including emergency contact details. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this or any other school processes please do not hesitate in contacting me at the school.

We welcomed two new staff members to our school this year. Tessa Johnston; who was a previous student of Cowes Primary School. Tessa is teaching grade one. We are also delighted that Simon Nolan who is an accomplished musician and teacher has accepted the position as a full time Music Teacher. We have welcomed Sarah Tyrrell back from maternity leave. Sarah is teaching a grade six class. Chris Wickes has accepted the position of a full time Literacy support supervisor. Chris will be assisting students strengthen their literacy skills.

All Principals have been advised to inform parents that the Education Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including transport costs. Reasonably low cost accident policies are available from commercial insurers.

On special occasions children will share celebratory cakes in their classrooms, if your child has a low tolerance for certain food or any allergies please inform your child’s class teacher so they can make alternate arrangements for your child. We have children in the school that have severe allergies to peanuts, we ask all parents to refrain from sending peanut butter, Nutella or any peanut products to school please.

If you wish to assist the class teachers in the classroom, swimming sports and on camps and excursions it has now become mandatory for all volunteers to have a working with children check. The application is now completed online after you fill in your details, print your Application Summary then make an appointment at the post office to show your proof of identity documents and have your photo taken.

The school newsletter is distributed on a fortnightly basis, and is available each Thursday. This is the only time it will be provided in hard copy. In future all newsletters will be sent online to your email address and will also be available on your Home Page. If you prefer a hard copy please ask your child to collect one from the office or advise your child’s class teacher.

Our Senior School Swimming sports will be held on Thursday February 18, please contact Diddy Cuthbertson or Nadine Newman if you are able to assist us with this event.

TiqBiz is an app utilised by our school (available to Android or Apple users) and allows us to easily communicate important information to families. It will help keep you informed of school events, whole school information and other messages specific to your child’s class. In the event that we experience a situation similar to last week’s evacuation then it will allow us to easily keep you informed.

If you already have the app downloaded then please update your class selection for 2016. For those families who have not yet downloaded the app please follow the steps below:
   1. Go into the tiqbiz app and click the menu button in the top left.
   2. Click “find & tick”
   3. Type in the school name, and click when it appears.
   4. Tap to select the grades/years you require.

I strongly recommended that you subscribe to your child’s class and the whole school.

Sue Becker
Principal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue Feb 9</td>
<td>Y5-6 Information session @ 3.45pm Snr Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Feb 10</td>
<td>Y1 &amp; 2 Information session @ 3.45pm in Room 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Feb 11</td>
<td>School Photo Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Feb 15</td>
<td>School Council nominations close at 4pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue Feb 16</td>
<td>Y5-6 Beach Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prep Information Session @ 3.45pm in Prep rooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Feb 18</td>
<td>Y3-6 Swimming Carnival 9.30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue Feb 23</td>
<td>District Swimming Carnival Cowes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri Mar 4</td>
<td>National Ride to School Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Division Swimming- Korumburra Prep Reading Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Mar 13</td>
<td>Annual School Fete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Mar 14</td>
<td>Labour Day - Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Camps sports & excursions**
Applications will not be processed unless a copy of your health care card is presented with your application. If you have already sent your application form to the office, please call into the school office between 8.30 to 4pm with your health care card.

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**Prep News**
On Tuesday February 16 the Prep information session will be held at 3:45 in the prep classrooms.
All Parents are welcome.

The prep teachers are looking for any helpers for PMP on Friday mornings. Room 8 and 9 will be from 9-10am and Room 10 and 11 from 10-11am.

There has been a change of date for Prep Reading Party from our class newsletter. The prep reading party is on Friday 4th March.

**Year 1 & 2 Information Session**
The Year 1 & 2 information session will be held on Wednesday February 10 in Room 12 at 3.45pm.
All Parents are welcome.

**Year 5/6 Information session**
The Year 5/6 information session will be held on Tuesday February 9 at 3.45pm in the Senior Building.
All Parents are welcome.

**Canteen**
The new 2016 Canteen menu has been sent out with the newsletter today. Please note: Slushies are no longer for sale at the Canteen.

**Term 1 ends on Thursday March 24 at 2.30pm. Term 2 begins on Monday April 11. Monday April 25 is Anzac Day.**

**Welcome to Camp Australia After School Care**
Our operation hours are 3.30pm-6.00pm
After school care contact number- 0424 483 477.
Please note: Camp Australia mobile phone number.
Cowes Primary School
School Council Elections 2016 Information for Parents

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within state-wide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?
For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected Parent category—more than one third of the total members must be from this Category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parents members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

A mandated elected DET employee category—members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The Principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional Community member category—members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year.
However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.
In view of this, you might seriously consider

♦ Standing for election as a member of the school council
♦ Encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.
If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidates or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.
DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council at that school.
Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.
Schedule 4 Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Cowes Primary School. Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on Monday 15th February.

The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on Tuesday 8 March.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership category</th>
<th>Term of office</th>
<th>Number of positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Sue Becker
Principal
Need help spelling, reading and writing?
English and Maths Tutoring
Primary and Secondary
Corina Suidgeest
B.A. Vis Arts, Grad Dip Ed
0435 502 693
corina.suidgeest@gmail.com
Teaching literacy using the Spalding method.
We can de-code the English language by learning phonograms
(letters and groups of letters) and the sounds they can make.
Learn spelling and the rules of English systematically.

Ready to make changes?
Jason Crestani: Your local psychologist
Specialising in children and adolescents.
Over 20 years specialised experience.
In schools and consulting rooms.
Jason is the only registered Autism/Aspergers psychologist
in this region. For diagnosis and treatment.
Quite simply: he gets results! Medicare rebates
Ph: 0425 764 733 BH
www.inspiredhoney.com

Dean Luke Guitar School
Phillip Island guitar lessons designed to achieve musical
goals, cater to musical preferences and help each student
become the guitar players they want to be. Call to book a
FREE, no-obligation guitar lesson. Phone Dean 0490 137 621 or visit: phillipislandguitarlessons.com

Any Two Wraps for $10
Offer valid till 14th Mar 2016
Subway Cowes
Shop 9, 119-135 Thompson Ave,
Cowes, Victoria. 3922.
035952 6631. Fax 035952 6632.

Get fit - have FUN!
Free, weekly, 5km timed run/walk for all ages and abilities.
Start/Finish: Meet at 7.45 for briefing - Churchill Island Cafe
Print out your unique barcode
Turn up with your barcode, run or walk and have fun!
WALKERS WELCOME

Wednesday's from 9.30am
FREE PLAYGROUP ACTIVITY
Morning Mums
Playful Puggles
$5 COFFEE & CAKE LONE PINE BISTRO
www.plrsl.com.au 5952 1004
Playful Puggles is presented by Dr Rebecca Orenne and is a 30 minute fun workshop
for mums and the littlies to interact together with like-minded mums and children!