NEWSLETTER

COLAC SOUTH WEST P. S.
PHONE: 52 32-1170

colac.sw.ps@education.vic.gov.au
http://www.colac-sw-ps.vic.edu.au

Respect Engage Achieve Care Honesty

Colac South West Primary School is a Child Safe School.

13th February 2026

Vision Statement: *At Colac South West Primary School we will provide opportunities for all students to achieve to a high standard in a supportive, challenging and engaging environment where all members proudly display the values of **R**espect, **E**ngage, **A**chieve, **C**are and **H**onesty in order to equip them with the necessary skills and values to prepare them for the future.*

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

Colac South West Primary School is committed to the **child safe standards.**
These standards are in place at our school to prevent and respond to allegations of child abuse.
Should you need further advice or wish to report a concern regarding child abuse you can contact:

- Colac South West Primary School Principal – Xavier Davis on 5232 1170
- DFFH Child protection on 131278
- Colac Police on 5232 8200 or call 000

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Colac South West Primary School is located in Gulidjan Country of the Maar Nation.
We pay our respects to the Gulidjan people - past, present and emerging, as the traditional custodians of the land and waters on which we live, work and play.

STUDENT PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION

The school offers yard supervision from 8:45am and after school until 3:30pm. Parents are reminded that there is no teacher supervision outside of these times. Children are invited to attend Breakfast Club on Tuesday and Wednesday between 8:15am and 8:45am in the BER.
All staff have a Briefing from 8:30am - to 8:45am each Friday.

February	
Monday 16th February	Welcome BBQ - 5.30pm-7.00pm Swimming Rm 10 – 2pm-3.00pm
Tuesday 17th February	Swimming Rm 7 – 2pm-3pm
Wednesday 18th February	No Preps Swimming Rm 9 – 2pm-3pm
Thursday 19th February	Swimming Rm 8 – 2pm-3pm
Friday 20th February	Colac Division Tennis
Monday 23rd February	Swimming Rm 10 – 2pm-3pm
Tuesday 24th February	Swimming Rm 7 – 2pm-3pm
Wednesday 25th February	No Preps **Student Free Day** – No students required at school
Thursday 26th February	Swimming Rm 8 – 2pm-3pm
Friday 27th February	Yrs 3-6 Swimming Carnival - 11.00am – 1.00pm

Congratulations to the 2026 Student Leadership recipients. A great group of students to lead our school in 2026.

House Captains

Saturn
Captains- Zayli Reimers and Lily Higgins
Vice Captains- Tyson Woods and Kaylum Morrow

Jupiter
Captains- Eleesiah Gass and Seth Currer
Vice Captains- Skye Ellis and Kaelyn Ross

Mercury
Captains- Charlie Ingwersen and Emily Clark
Vice Captains-Evangelina Coop and Isabell Fenton

Neptune
Captains- Addison Graham and Max Lloyd
Vice Captains- Ebony Edwards and Sarah Douma

Junior School Council
School Captains- Bluebell Gorman and Leah Kirkman
Room 7- Isaac Hill & Sasha May
Room 9- Lily Crosbie & Piper Keast
Room 8- Ahliah Ross & Willow Ellis
Room 10- Shelby Kent & Makereta Saulekaleka

Welcome BBQ! Next Monday 16th February

This year's Open Classroom & Welcome BBQ will be held next **Monday 16th February from 5:30pm to 7:00pm!** The Welcome BBQ is an opportunity for students to show and share with their families their classroom and possibly some work that they have completed so far this year. The Open Classrooms will be from 5:30pm – 6:00pm and will be followed immediately after by the BBQ/sausage sizzle at 6:00pm. School Council funds this event, and as such, there is no cost to families. This will also be a great opportunity to present Bluebell and Leah with their School Captain badges for the year.

Please keep this date free and we look forward to seeing as many families there as possible. This is a great opportunity for families to come together and get to know each other.

Upcoming Student Free Day: Wednesday 25th February

A key date for your diaries is that CSW has been accepted into a much sought after Professional Learning Day which fits directly with our Annual Improvement Plan. Our staff will visit Barwon Heads Primary School on the 25th of February. The focus of the day is Explicit Teaching, Collaborative Planning Practices and Lesson Observations. We understand that this is shorter than ideal notice time- however an opportunity not to be missed with the direction our school is taking with Teaching and Learning best-practice.

School Council Elections – 2 Year Tenure

If you are interested in becoming a School Council member, please contact the office for further information. School Council plays a vital role in shaping the direction of our school. **Positions are a two-year tenure with 3 parent positions available starting this March (AGM & Meeting March 18).** Each year the Council meets 8 times- generally, 2 per term. It is responsible for setting some of the school policies, managing cash finances (i.e. infrastructure), and ensuring our strategic plan aligns with student needs. The Council is not involved in daily school

operations, staffing, or individual student matters—these remain the responsibility of the Principal and Leadership Team. We encourage parents to engage with the School Council, as your voice helps guide the future of our school. If you're interested in learning more or getting involved, please reach out.

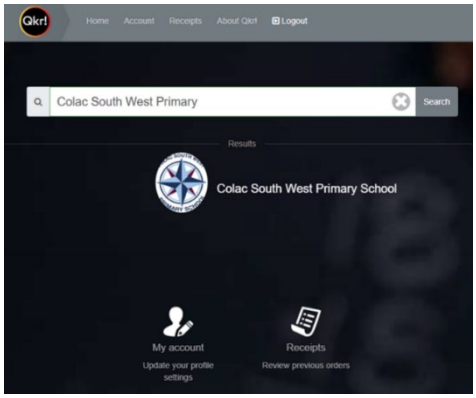
Policy Updates

As part of our regular policy review cycle, the school has recently updated several key policies in line with the **2022 Child Safe Standards**. These include the **Inclusion & Diversity Policy**, **Volunteers Policy**, **Bullying Prevention Policy**, and the **Student Wellbeing & Engagement Policy**. This round of review required only minor updates following guidance from the Department of Education Policy Division. Families are warmly invited to provide feedback. The policies are available to read within this newsletter and at the school office. A QR Code is later in the newsletter where you can provide any feedback on policies listed.

- Bullying Prevention Policy 2026 Draft
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy Draft
- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy Draft
- Volunteers Policy Draft

Xavier Davis
Principal
Colac South West Primary School

School Lunch Orders Friday – Students can order a lunch order on Fridays from Food-A-Rama. Lunch orders close 9:00am sharp each Friday.



You can download the Qkr! App, select Colac South West Primary, set up your account, then order and pay via the App.

Or you can set up using the following link: https://qkr-store.qkrschool.com search for Colac South West Primary School and click on the school name.

You will need your child's year level and teacher's name to set up your profile.

ART ROOM NEWS

Student Artwork on Display in the Library

Over the past few weeks, every student has created their own unique flower to contribute to a collaborative artwork, now on display in the library. The individual pieces have come together to form a spectacular piece, showcasing the creativity and effort of all year levels. Families are encouraged to call past the library on Monday night, on your way to Open Classrooms or the BBQ, to take a look. We look forward to sharing it with you.

The Smile Squad free school dental program is coming to our school

Dear Colac South West Primary School families,
The Smile Squad team from Oral Health Victoria are coming to our school.
Smile Squad is the Victorian Government free school dental program.
This means ALL students can get a free dental check-up, preventive services, and treatment at school.

How to access free dental care:

We need your consent before we can provide services. Consent is usually provided by a parent or guardian.
SDP Consent Form

Please complete and submit the consent form by 6/3/2026.

Paper copies of the consent form will be available. Please contact the school office if you would like to request one.

Smile Squad oral health packs

All children deserve a healthy smile, and the Smile Squad free school dental program is working hard to help make sure this happens.
Your child(ren) will soon receive a free oral health pack to bring home. The pack contains a toothbrush, full sized toothpaste, and an oral health brochure. Please take the time to read the brochure. It's full of helpful hints and tips to help your whole family eat well, drink well and clean well – for life.

Do I need to attend my child's appointment?

No, you do not need to attend your child's appointment. You can attend if you would like to, and you can take your child to the community dental clinic if you prefer.

The Smile Squad look forward to seeing you soon!

The Resilience Project

Colac South West Primary School is so proud to be partnering with The Resilience Project. Our whole school will be working on TRP on Monday afternoons. Ask your children what they have learnt about each Monday to come on the journey with us. The Resilience Project focuses on Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness and Emotional Literacy and every student in our school is receiving a special journal to help them complete The Resilience Project work. Follow the link below to watch a short video with more information.

https://vimeo.com/1124702592/bf8fa700fd?ts=15000&share=copy

WELCOME TO

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT™

Families

Why wellbeing?

1 in 4 primary students
experience high levels of depression or anxiety. [1]

1 in 3 secondary students
experience high levels of depression or anxiety. [1]

2 in 5 adults
experience a mental disorder in their lifetime. [2]

[1] State of the Nation Report 2024
[2] Australian Bureau of Statistics: National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing, 2020-2022.

School wellbeing program

With staggering statistics among children, young people and adults in Australia, The Resilience Project is working to **drive change through a preventative approach by building a culture of wellbeing in schools.**

Based on the evidence-based principles of **Gratitude**, **Empathy**, **Mindfulness** (GEM) and **Emotional Literacy**, our program equips students with lifelong wellbeing habits and **empowers families to support wellbeing at home.**

The whole-school wellbeing program involves explicit teaching through our **evidence-based curriculum** alongside wellbeing habits being integrated in school routines.

Supporting wellbeing at home

We know that when schools, families and communities **speak the same language around mental health, our young people thrive.** Throughout the year, you'll receive resources to help you develop wellbeing and resilience at home.

Proven impact

Through multiple independent evaluations, students participating in our School Wellbeing Program have shown **measurable improvements** compared to students at schools that aren't involved.

Scan the QR code or click here to learn more.

The Imperfects podcast

On this podcast, founder of The Resilience Project **Hugh van Cuylenburg**, his good friend **Ryan Shelton**, and only one of their brothers, **Josh van Cuylenburg**, talk to a variety of interesting people who **vulnerably share their own struggles and imperfections, or expertly pass on their wisdom on the subject of imperfection.** Whether it's in The Vulnerabilitea House, The Academy of Imperfection, or with their resident psychologist, Dr Emily, The Imperfects are here to find some valuable takeaways we can all apply to our own imperfect lives.

Happy Birthday to these students who celebrate a birthday this week. We hope you all have a wonderful day!

Jake Haslem
Skye Ellis

Leah Kirkman, Richard Riordan MP, Bluebell Gorman and Mr. Davis planting a Lone Pine seedling kindly donated by the Friends of Gallipoli.

Stars of the Week

Room 11 **Miss Mills**	**Lila Gutierrez**
Room 5 **Mrs Ellis**	**Charlie Hill**
Room 4 **Mrs Coles**	**Matilda Jeffs**
Room 6 **Miss Rodgers**	**Zeek Marr**
Room 7 **Miss Watts**	**Jayda Weatherill**
Room 9 **Mr Coop**	**Ella Kirkman**
Room 8 **Mrs Boyle**	**Charlie Ingwersen**
Room 10 **Mr Balboni**	**Skye Ellis**
Music **Ms. Trewavas**	**Isaac Hill**
Art **Mrs Allan**	**Lily Higgins**
Library **Mrs Allan**	**Bodhi Gass**

Kana – Saturday 21st March

We're excited to be participating in **Kana** once again this year! It's always a fun day filled with lots of colour, creativity and community spirit.

This year's theme is **"Once upon a time"**, and we're inviting everyone to dress up as their favourite **fairytale** characters. Costumes do not need to be bought – many wonderful outfits can be created using items already at home. Think princes (a crown) and princesses (party dress), knights (cardboard armour or a shield), fairies or wizards (wings, hats or wands), dragons, storybook animals or even a favourite fairytale hero!

We would love to see as many students as possible participate and help bring our walking float to life with a little fairytale magic.

Further details and permissions will be sent out via **Compass** as Kana approaches.

Indoor Soccer

Indoor Soccer at Colac Indoor Sports Centre – A perfect introductory program for our young ones to learn from Prep up.

Indoor Soccer is a fun high energy fast moving game.

*Senior Soccer: **New** 3 V3 Competition - Starting March
Register Now

*Junior Soccer:

Soccer Competitions: New Season starts March 2026:

- Mon: Div 2 Grades 3-5
- Tue: Div 1 Grades 4-6
- Wed: Div 3 Grades 1-4
- Thu: Div.4/5 Prep, Grade 1&2

Register your child today for new season with Paul

Term 4 will offer Junior Soccer for all Grades Prep to Year 6.

Policy Review February 2026

FUN SWIM

FUN SWIM provides young swimmers with a fun and engaging program to explore racing, and develop and improve 'race ready' skills.

Get in touch to find out more!

- Bluewater Leisure Centre
- Saturday 28 March
- 2:00pm-3:00pm
- shannon.lennie@vic.swimming.org.au
- 03 9230 9400

swimming victoria

Conni kids

TOILET TRAINING SEMINAR 2026

JOIN US 11 MAR 2026 • COPACC – 95–97 Gellibrand St, Colac VIC 3250 (Civic Hall)

TIME 6:15-8:30pm

REGISTER NOW

FREE REGISTRATION

Upcoming Locations

- Ballarat
- Shepparton
- Bendigo

Presentation by Monica Harrop

Director of Continence Regional Vic

SPONSORED BY SOUTH WEST TAFE

INCLUDED:
CONNI GOODIES & AMAZING DISCOUNTS, DOOR PRIZES AND SNACKS

CONNECT

CONNECT is a trauma-informed therapeutic program that focuses on strengthening the relationship between a mother/carer and her children following the impacts of family violence.

The group supports women to understand the impact of the trauma of violence on themselves and their children and enhances their ability to 'tune into' their children and respond in meaningful ways.

Through discussion, education and practical skills, the group supports women in their parenting following family violence.

CONNECT is suitable for mothers/carers and children who have experienced family violence where:

- At least one child is aged 7-11 years.
- The relationship between the mother/carer and children has been impacted by family violence.
- Mothers/carer and children are living with a level of safety and stability.
- Mothers/carers have a level of self-regulation and external supports that enable them to safely engage in the program.
- The family is able to commit to attending all sessions of the program, except where unforeseeable circumstances occur.

Colac Program

Meet & Greet: Tuesday 24 March

10 week program starts: Tuesday 31 March, between 12:45 - 2:45pm.

Where: Colac Area Health, 2-28 Connor St Colac

More information
Please contact Tracey Bayne on 5232 5100 or 0499 323 782.

CONNECT is a joint initiative of The Sexual Assault & Family Violence Centre and Colac Area Health, with group sessions held in both regions.

VICTORIA State Government Australia

CONNECT is proudly funded by the Victorian State Government.

The Sexual Assault & Family Violence Centre

COLAC AREA Health

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's financial circumstances and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS and EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school excursions, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or support an out of home care student you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid directly to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is $400 for all school students.

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments**: your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances:** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:
https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund