COASTHILL NEWS

THE IKPS NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL- BEN SOUMILAS
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - MEL MCRAE
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - KATHY JONES

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EVERYWHERE, ALL THE TIME

Active Learners, Safe and Respectful

Edition 4 - 17th March 2025

Diary Dates

Date	Event
Monday 24th March	IPS - Curriculum Day - No Students at school KPS - Curriculum day - No Students at school
Tues 26th - Friday 28th March	Year 6 Camp - Wilsons Prom
Friday 28th March	Bright Colours Day - Wear your brightest coloured clothes to school
Monday 31st March	Year 5 Art Excursion to National Gallery of Victoria
Tuesday 1st April	Senior House Athletics
Friday 4th April	**Last Day of School - 2.20pm Dismissal**
Tuesday 22nd April	**First Day Term 2**
Friday 25th April	ANZAC Day Public Holiday - No School
Thursday 1st May	State Swimming Sports
Sunday 3rd May	IPS Working Bee please let Soum know if you can help out

Principals Message

WEEK 8/10 TERM 1, 2025

ENROLMENTS AND ATTENDANCE

Our enrolments have increased across both schools from 2024. At the census date on the last day of February, we had 464 students enrolled at Inverloch PS (up by 6 from last year) and 28 students at Kongwak PS (up by 10 from last year. The challenge now is for us to get our students to attend as often as they possibly can. At this early point in the year we still have quite a few students on 100% attendance, a large number of students above 90% attendance and a significant number of students above 80%. I want to remind our school community that 90% attendance at the end of the year is approximately 20 days off, that is equal to 4 full weeks….. 80% attendance sounds kind of ok, but it is 40 days. That's close to a term out of school.

As I've mentioned in the past, family holidays have wonderful benefits, illness requires rest at home, appointments and other important events sometimes just can't be helped. But when your children can be at school, please do your best to get them here. We're aiming to improve our average attendance this year. We are trying to make the break time in the yard more enjoyable, we're making adjustments in the classroom and we are trying to improve our teaching practice with learning and wellbeing. Check out the average attendance rate across our two schools:

Average attendance rate	2023	2024	2025 YTD
Inverloch	87.9%	87.8%	90.3%
Kongwak	85.5%	84.9%	90.9%

If you need any support with your child attending school, please contact your classroom teacher, or talk to the team leader, or check in with our wellbeing staff or come and see one of the Principal team.

WORKING BEE

Our IPS school council has scheduled a Working Bee for Inverloch Primary School on **Saturday 3rd of May**, which is Week 2 of Term 2. Yep you read that right, Week 2 of Term 2. Yep you're correct, Saturday 3rd of May, week 2 of term 2. Please put it into your calendars. We've got a heap of jobs planned including: Maintenance on the whole front of school garden, adding some contours to the back track, building some stairs up to the orchard, spreading mulch in the playgrounds, building a small performance stage in the yard, completing the netting for the orchard and more.

I'll put out a list of jobs soon with pictures and materials needed and I'm looking to lock in volunteers to specific jobs. Everyone is welcome, no matter what skills you have. I am particularly interested in any one with special skills, equipment or machinery. We need to utilise every opportunity we can within our school community. I'd love for you to put your name down to help or even better, dob a loved one in to volunteer on your behalf.

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NAPLAN

The annual National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy is almost complete for our Grade 3 and 5 cohorts. The narrative and messaging around NAPLAN can often be mixed depending on who you talk to. Our objective here at Inverloch and Kongwak Primary School is to present a consistent program in classrooms to prepare students to showcase what they are capable of. We acknowledge that it's only one type of assessment that collects data on one moment in time for our students. We're not interested in teaching to the test, it's not the only measure of success we're looking for and the future success of a student isn't determined by their NAPLAN result. The NAPLAN results are just one of the many measures that are used across the system to assess how our schools are performing. It's not the most important thing we'll do this year, but it's worth looking at and doing as well as we can. For many students, the stakes are quite low for NAPLAN. Their results will barely even register on their radar, whilst for some others the stakes can be higher. For some students, achieving results that exceed the national average is valued in the home and it might be required to support an application for a select entry or extension program in secondary school. It's not our intention for students to feel highly anxious or stressed out by the assessments, however experiencing some level of 'healthy' performance anxiety can be of value. There can be a benefit for students in switching from the 'practise mode' (that they operate in almost every day) and into applying themselves in 'performance mode'. This experience of using helpful coping strategies to step up into performance mode, is a strategy that can translate into many aspects of our lives. Anyone who is involved in music or theatre will know the feeling of changing from practice mode to performance mode when the show begins. Anyone in a sporting team will relate too. Teams usually practice throughout the week and then try to apply what they've learnt in performance mode during a game on the weekend. Same at the surf club, at a swim meet, going for a job interview etc. If you're having a conversation about NAPLAN with your children, you might like to mention the benefits of them challenging themselves to stretch out of their comfort zone and do their best in performance mode. The aim isn't necessarily to get the best NAPLAN score, but we are aiming for our students to give their best to be their best.

WONDERFUL TO SEE

It's wonderful to see the staff at Kongwak and Mirboo North coordinating a visit for the MNPS students to come out to our beautiful Kongwak site. A walk in the reserve, some fun together and sharing a sausage sizzle sounds like a great day to me. I look forward to seeing our Kongwak students visit MNPS later in the year to check out their Koala corridor.

It was wonderful to see the students in grade 3,4,5 & 6 giving each other feedback on how to improve the Kids Clubs in our fortnightly team assemblies.

It'll be wonderful to see how the collaboration with the Men's Shed to build some big Marimba's goes. We love connecting with community groups and we're always on the lookout for more opportunities for our students to experience every opportunity that our local area has to offer.

It's wonderful to see how many people have ordered bulbs for the Kongwak PS bulb fundraiser. We're raising money for a junior height basketball ring. Jump on socials for a link to the fundraiser if you haven't put your order in yet.

It's an even week so we might even see some of our community at the whole school assembly on Friday afternoon at 2:30pm

Kind regards

Soum
Ben.soumilas@education.vic.gov.au
Mobile 0427 118 609

Inclusion News

MULTIAGE DAY THIS FRIDAY 21st MARCH-DRESS IN ORANGE

Multiage days provide a great opportunity for our kids to make connections with other students and teachers from across the school. We also welcome our brothers and sisters from Kongwak to join in the fun as well. The foundation students stay with their grade 5 buddies to make sure that our preppies feel safe and supported in moving around the school. The multiage groups remain the same for the whole year to foster strong connections.

This Friday March 21st will be our first multiage day. We will be celebrating Harmony Week and The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Harmony Week is a celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. It's about promoting inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. You can wear orange to show your support. While Harmony Week is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate cultural diversity, it is important to acknowledge that more targeted action is required to address racism.

On Friday, the children will participate in 3 different rotations.

Rotation 1- WHAT IS RACISM? EVERYONE BELONGS.
We will read a book called, 'The Other Side' and learn about racism and how people to be upstanders when you can see people being excluded/discriminated against. As a follow up task, we will create a team name/logo to build an inclusive space.

Rotation 2- WHAT IS CULTURE? DIVERSITY QUILT.
We will learn about what culture means and celebrate our cultural diversity. We will learn that culture is not necessarily about our ethnicity, and that everybody has a culture. The follow up task will be to complete a diversity quilt community installation.

Rotation 3-TEAM WORK. GAMES! GAMES! GAMES!
We will celebrate diversity and inclusion through participating in a range of indoor or outdoor games.

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SOCIAL MEDIA USE

Kids love communicating online, but not all social media platforms are suitable for primary aged kids. It has been reported that many students are using Snapchat at home. Here is a bit of information about Snapchat.

What is Snapchat?
Snapchat is a popular messaging app that allows you to send images and videos to other users. These are known as 'Snaps'. One of Snapchat's unique selling points is that messages are normally only available for a short period of time and can only be viewed once.
What age-rating is Snapchat?
The platform is rated 13+.
How does Snapchat work?
The platform mainly operates as a messaging app where users can communicate with each other using videos and images. However, there are also other features available including private chat, games, and voice notes. You can also create short videos that can be posted to a public feed.
What are the risks?
-There is no way for parents to monitor what kids are doing/accessing because messages disappear.
-Children may think that because their message disappears, it is gone forever. The reality is that screen shots can be taken and shared.
-Children may think that an impermanent unkind comment is less harmful, but apps like this can lead to kids having nasty comments follow them home. Of course, the content isn't always unkind but there is a risk that kids (who don't have fully developed brains yet) don't think through the consequences of impulsive behaviour.
-There is potential for them to connect with people they don't know, and view videos from unknown sources. There is a risk of them accessing inappropriate materials.

What are some safer options?
We know that kids are keen to participate in social media, but there are options that are safer. Here's a list for you to explore at home.

Zigazoo
Azoomee
Kid Messenger

Please follow up at home with your kids by talking to them about what they are doing online. Encourage them to speak to you if they have any problems, teach them to leave a chat if it's not fun and report problem behaviour online. Also, it his highly recommended that they are always supervised when using devices

Natasha Bird (she/her)
Learning Specialist (Inclusion)

Kongwak News

Welcome to Pearl Hunter, who has joined us this week as Education Support! Pearl joins Kelly Flocas working in both the Junior and Senior Rooms.

3-6 House Athletics

- Practice: 9-10:30am Tuesday 18th March (drop off at Inverloch PS, carpool back, don't forget your runners!)
- Practice 9-10:30am Tuesday 25th March (drop off at Inverloch PS, carpool back, don't forget your runners!)
- House Athletics Day ALL DAY Tuesday 1st April (drop off and pick up at Inverloch PS, wear house colours and your runners)

If you haven't returned your carpooling note, please do ASAP so we can get you back from IPS this week.

Assembly

KPS Assembly is fortnightly at 9am on Mondays- even weeks. We welcome members of the school community to join us to talk about the week ahead and celebrate achievements from our students.

Sustainable KONGWAK

We are lucky to cover both STEM and Sustainability in our SusWak sessions this year with Damian! In Week 6, we made bolognese sauce and fresh fettucini, and shared a delicious lunch together. In Week 7, both Juniors and Seniors learnt about volcanoes and replicated them with vinegar, food colouring and baking powder. Fantastic, messy learning!

Kongwak News

Free Writing Friday!

Senior students have been enjoying Free Writing Friday- an opportunity to explore topics and genres of our own choice. We have seen recipes, biographies, autobiographies, and narratives over the last few weeks. It's been a great opportunity to sharpen our skills as writers! We've enjoyed using the new stage under the oak tree to share our writing with one another and give and receive feedback.

Notes & Forms to return

Car Permission: Students have taken home a Personal Car Permission form this week- this will give us permission to carpool your students between Inverloch and Kongwak for events. Please return this ASAP so that we are able to start getting started for Senior House Athletics practice this term.

Local Permission: Please give permission on Compass for students to attend local excursions.

Compass: Gr 6 Camp deposit and balance.

Compass: Gr 4 Camp deposit

Kongwak News

Parents and Friends

Hello families!

Question…. Have you heard of "PFA"? aka Parents & Friends Association?

At KPS, it's more about the P&F (and not so much the A!) and at the heart is our school community coming together to support the school.

Fundraising activities are the core of this - it's a fun, social and inclusive environment where great people achieve great things!

The major "goal" for the community this year is a new junior-height Basketball system which is exciting to "aim" for!

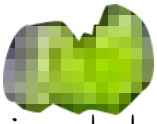
Here's what's happening at the moment:

Upcoming KPS Easter Raffle

Donations for Easter-themed hamper prizes can be left in the Donations Box in the KPS office.

HELPERS REQUIRED: putting tickets books together (ASAP), compiling tickets for draw (on day), wrapping hampers (on day) - see Kate Davis 0432521945

Cash for Cans



Every 10c container helps toward our basketball system! Save your eligible drink containers and drop them in the blue bin at school, or, if depositing at a collection point select "Kongwak Primary School".

Could you be the Coordinator who monitor the cans and organises depositing?

See Kate Davis 0432521945 if you can help.

Pre-loved Uniforms

There are currently plenty of size 8+. $2 per item - see Fiona or Sally.

Kongwak News

Tesselaar Bulb Fundraiser

closes this Friday, 21 March - don't forget to get your orders in at: bulbfundraiser.com.au/kongwak

Contact me if you can help or have any questions - 0432521945.

Kind regards,
Kate Davis - KPS School Council President

SWPBS

FORTNIGHTLY WINNERS

Congratulations to these students who had their SWBPS tickets drawn in todays raffle. It was wonderful to see the number of tickets and so many students being identified as Active Learners, Keeping Others Safe and Respectful.

Tully P 3/4R, Dane O 3/4D, Cooper R 3/4D, Chloe C 3/4T, Ruby T 3/4T, Riyoshan B PR, Peggy N PG, Felix L PG

CAN YOU HELP??

Hello All! We will be collaborating with The Inverloch Men's Shed and the great Ian Chambers to build some big MARIMBA's for our music department. We would appreciate donation of the following materials if any local businesses have them:

Builders:
Framing pine: 35mm x 70mm or 45mm x 70mm 400mm up to 2.4 meters
Edge pine: 42mm x 19mm any scrap longer than 400mm
Any ply sheets: 7mm or 9mm
Hardwood: 19mm thick x 70mm/100mm

Plumbers:
any lengths longer than 400mm of:
100mm pvc pipe (sewer pipe not second hand)
90 mm pvc stormwater pipe can be used

Anyone:
Old broom handles

If you are able to assist please email Nick Carver at nicholas.carver@education.vic.gov.au

Artist of the Week

Our artists of the week are Jane K in grade 2 at Kongwak with her Fauvist style boats painting and Tuscany J in grade 5 at Inverloch with her Kusama response drawings of flowers with polka dots.

Art Captains Gen and Isabelle say " The polka dots really pop with the colours. Good job Tuscany, this beautiful piece is amazing".

Inverloch

Kongwak

Regional Swimming

Heidi M, Matilda S, Andi F, Josie R, Mya R, Leo D, Ted D, Tully C, Harry L, Charles M, Tarquin S, Matthew T.
Absent from photo Pippa L, Jack H and Nathan M.

On Thursday the 13th of March, I.K.P.S. had 15 students travel to the Sale Swimming Pool to participate in the Gippsland Regional Swimming Championships. Our students represented the school with great enthusiasm and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Some of our students won medals and we also have five swimmers heading off to the State Championships next term. Congratulations to all our swimmers.

STEM

If you have expertise in the STEM field, whether this is your career or hobby, and you are interested in sharing this with our students please reach out

WE WOULD LOVE TO SHOWCASE WHAT ALREADY HAPPENS IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY AND EXPAND OUR COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS.

Please contact
Mr Earle
daniel.earle@education.vic.gov.au

Congratulations Nathan

SPORTS

Local clubs get behind Nathan

By Tayla Kershaw

LOCAL clubs are encouraging the next generation of sports stars. Among them is 10-year-old Nathan Moore, who is just two weeks away from competing in his first Aquathlon in the 11/12 Victorian team.

Having moved to Inverloch over a year ago, Nathan was warmly welcomed into Leongatha Little Athletics and South Coast Athletics.

Nathan has been involved in athletics for three years, but the extra support from his new clubs saw him compete at a state level at Casey Fields last weekend.

Nathan ran in the 1500 metre and shaved nine seconds off his personal best.

"He was really rapt with that result," Nathan's mum Anna said.

"He won regionals to compete at state. The top 24 kids in Victoria were selected to compete at State Athletics. Nathan was coached by South Coast's Miles (Wrigley), who was incredibly supportive."

Since joining the local athletics club, Anna has enjoyed the backing Nathan receives, which often comes in the form of mentorship from experienced athletes.

"It's great to see teens and athletes in their 20s getting behind him and sharing their knowledge," Anna said.

"It's beautiful to watch – there's been no other club like it. They help him set up his blocks and cheer for him. It's a real community club committed to supporting the next generation. They've gotten him to the point where he can compete in the U14s."

Nathan's next big competition is the School Sport Victoria (SSV) Aquathlon in Western Australia.

He is an exceptional swimmer and was encouraged to join South Gippsland Bass (SGB) Swimming Club after a school sports event.

"What I have noticed in Gippsland is the helpful nature of these clubs," Anna said.

"Where Miles was helping Nathan with his running, fitness and transitions, his SGB coach in Wonthaggi, Sam (O'Keefe), has been teaching him to duck dive and open water swimming. Everyone really gets around him. It's such a good environment for a kid who just loves his sport."

The Aquathlon includes a one-kilometre run, a 200-metre open water swim and another one-kilometre swim to finish.

There is no bike component at primary level.

Regardless, Nathan has certainly made time to get out on his bike with his other inspiration – his grandfather Michael Reddie.

Also from Inverloch, Michael – or "Grumps" to Nathan – is 75 years old and continues to participate in the local parkrun.

"My dad has taken Nathan under his wing and really gotten him into fitness," Anna said.

"He has taught Nathan that he can do anything he wants to. He has really put in the hard yards to get Nathan to where he is."

This message particularly resounded when Nathan completed his first aquathlon during the selection period for the Victorian squad.

The selection process took place in Altona and the top eight were selected.

Following the Aquathlon, Nathan has made several goals for himself.

He'd like to make the SSV athletics and cross-country teams and go under the five-minute barrier in the 1500 metres.

He'd also love to continue seeing the country with his sport.

"He wants to keep having fun and he has really enjoyed getting to see Australia," Anna said.

"Western Australia isn't somewhere we've really considered before, but now we are so excited to have the opportunity to explore Perth and Fremantle as a family."

Anna expressed her gratitude to the amazing community offered to Nathan through the athletics clubs and SGB.

"I would all children who share these passions to sign up. They do a wonderful job," she said.

Ten-year-old athlete Nathan Moore with his biggest inspiration – his "Grumps" Michael Reddie from Inverloch.

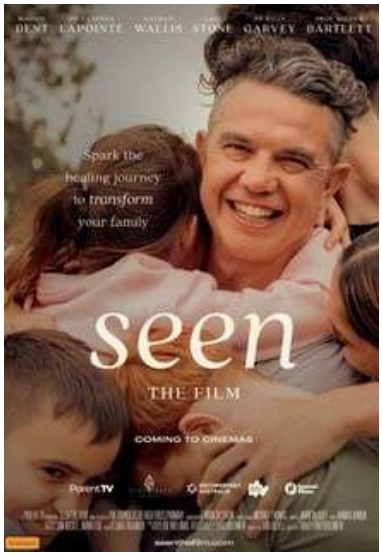
Inverloch's Nathan Moore recently took his athletics to state level.

Community News

I've managed to get a local screening of the documentary SEEN the film at **Leongatha Stadium 4 Cinemas Wednesday 2nd April 6.30pm.** Have you heard about it?

Seen is a groundbreaking documentary that explores the transformative power of personal healing for parents and also delves into the effects of such healing on parenting and its impact on child brain development.

Through the unfiltered and authentic narratives of real parents and experts in the field, Seen promises not just compelling storytelling but also the potential for profound societal impact. Together, we are illuminating the path toward emotional liberation and healthier connections—with both ourselves and our children.



To purchase tickets please go to:
https://tickets.demand.film/event/13132

For information, please like our Inverloch Auskick Facebook page and or contact coordinator Big K on 0408 281953

Community News