DRAGON TALES

Principal: Melissa Berry
T: 5594 3298 M: 0458 943 298
Email: simpson.ps@education.vic.gov.au
Website: www.simpsonps.vic.gov.au

SCHOOL COUNCILLORS

M Berry, D Capizzi, S Costin, B Davies, D Smith, K McVilly, O Perrett, P Vines, M Cunnington, W Hollick

SCHOOL MISSION

Provide high quality education in a positive, supportive environment, enabling all students to achieve their potential.



Simpson Primary School Enriching learning through opportunity

Thursday 3rd April 2025 Term 1 Week 10

School Wide Positive Behaviours - SWPBS

Co-operation Accepting Respectful Excellence

Week 7 Focus

Excellence

Bounce back when things tough and be kind to myself.

Week 8 Focus

Co-operationAttend school every day with a positive mindset.

Week 9 Focus

Accepting
Able to play fair and to follow the rules.















CALENDAR					
Week 10	Breakfast Club Gymnastics – Springers Excursion P-6 W'bool	1 st April District Athletics – C'down	2 nd LIBRARY	3 rd	4 th Last Day of Term for Students – 2.15pm finish
School Holidays					
School Holidays					
	21st April	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th
Term 2		Parents Club	ART		
	Easter	Meeting		Anzac Service	ANZAC DAY
Week 1	Monday	10.15am in Library		Jayee's Park	Public
	Public	Library		10.30am	Holiday
	Holiday				
	28 th	29 th	30 th	1st May	2 nd
Week 2	Breakfast Club Timboon P-12 On Display	'Josephine wants to Dance' performance P-4 COPACC School Council – 6.30pm	School Photos LIBRARY	1 iviay	Assembly 2:45pm
	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th
Week 3	Breakfast Club	District Cross Country - Noorat	ART		Simpson PS Open Day – 2026/2027 Prep families – 10.15am
	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th
Week 4	Breakfast Club	NLC Maths Conference – Pupil Free Day			Assembly 2:45pm

Principal News

'Josephine wants to Dance' performance COPACC - P-4 students

Our Prep to Year 4 students will be attending a perfromance of the beloved Jackie French book 'Josephine wants to Dance' on Tuesday 29th April. Information has been sent home via Compass regarding this.

SCHOOL PHOTOS - 2025

Our annual school photos will take place on Wednesday 30th April. More information will be sent out as we receive it. Please take note that photo orders will be able to be completed on Compass or paper form.

2026/2027 Prep Open Morning

We will be welcoming all our prospective 2026/2027 Prep families on Friday 9th May. It will be wonderful meeting them and showing them through our amazing school.

Staff Professional Learning / Student Free Day

On Tuesday 13th May all staff will be attending the WSW Numeracy Learning Community 'Maths Conference'. Staff will be involved in various sessions throughout the day. *No classes will run on this day.*

Report Writing Day - Friday 6th June

Friday 6th June is Report Writing Day for staff. *This is a Student Free Day.*

These written semester reports allow you to monitor how your child is progressing in their classroom and in specialist classrooms. This is our way of providing feedback to you on these very important areas and we encourage you to discuss these scores with your child/ren.

2026 Enrolments

It is hard to believe that I am mentioning 2026 enrolments. Information will be sent home at the start of Term 2. Enrolment due dates are as follows:

2026 Year 7 - returned to the school by *Friday 9th May*.

2026 Prep – returned to the school by *Friday 25th July*.

Sounds-Write

Our school implements the Sounds-Write program at 9am every morning as part of a Structured Literacy Program. Sounds-Write involves 30 minute daily explicit teaching and practice in phonological awareness and phonic knowledge skills and understandings.

Sounds-Write is effective in teaching pupils to read, spell and write, because it starts from what all children know from a very early age - the sounds of their own language. From there, it takes them in carefully sequenced, incremental steps and teaches them how each of the 44 or so sounds in the English language can be spelt. The words used in the teaching process and the conceptual knowledge of how the alphabet code works are introduced from simple to complex, in accordance with the fundamental principles of psychological learning theory.

Sounds-Write provides opportunities for practising skills on a daily basis until pupils achieve the automaticity required for fluent reading and spelling. Below is a link explaining 'What is Sounds-Write', 'What decodable readers?' and 'How you can support your child using decodable readers'.

Support for using Sounds-Write decodables - Sounds-Write

School Council:

Last Tuesday night this week we had our School Council AGM and March meeting. Congratulations to the following parent members taking on an office bearer positions:

Dean Capizzi –President

- Sally Costin Vice President
- Bronwyn Davies Treasurer

School Council parent members: Phil Vines, Oscar Perrett, Kate McVilly

School Council Community members: Bronwyn Davies, Debra Smith

School Council DET members: Melissa Berry, Maddison Cunnington & Wes Hollick

Parents Club

We are seeking support with the development of the Parents Club and inviting parents who may be interested in joining as a regular or casual member. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday 22nd April at 10.15am in the School Library.

Staying Connected – Who to Contact

We value open and clear communication and want to ensure you know who to reach out to when needed. You can contact us through Compass, email, phone, or by arranging a time to meet in person.

- Teachers Your first point of contact for anything related to classwork, learning, wellbeing and excursions.
- Student Wellbeing (Emily) For wellbeing or sensitive matters.
- Principal For more serious or sensitive matters, please reach out to me directly.
- School Council Members If you'd like to discuss broader school matters, a School Council member can help guide you. The council focuses on strategic planning and policies.
- Office Staff For admin-related questions (Compass, finance, general inquiries), Tabatha is available to assist.

We're proud to be part of our local community and appreciate the strong connections we share. To ensure we all maintain a healthy balance, we kindly ask that school-related conversations take place during school hours or at school events. This helps us stay focused on supporting our students and families.

School Holidays:

We look forward to the upcoming term and all the opportunities it will bring to continue building a supportive and engaging learning environment for our students. Please be mindful of the short first week next term as we return to school on Tuesday 22nd April.

I hope Easter Bunny is able to find you all with some yummy goodies and to those travelling over the holidays, stay safe.

Prep News

Wow! The Preps have nearly completed their first Term of School. So many firsts for each one of them. Preps have been working hard with improvement made in the following areas throughout the term, routines, listening to and following instructions and stamina.

The students have been keeping a check of how many days we have been at school, and they are getting closer to 50, which is halfway, to our target of celebrating 100 days.

Literacy

The students are able to recall and write many of our new sounds (i, a, s, m, t, n, o, p, b, c, g, h, d, e, f, v). Some are beginning to blend the sounds to say a word and recognise these words when reading. The formation of their sounds is improving, and our names are more recognisable with less letters missing, being reversed and capital letters in the middle of names.

Numeracy

After completing lessons on pattern, length and place value we are finishing the Term with a focus on shape. The students (with the help of Miss Theodore) are learning to identify basic shapes in the environment and recognise the differences by counting the sides and corners of the shape. It has been a very busy Term with students participating in Gymnastics, PMP, Science, Auslan, P.E, Library and Art. Library and Art will continue next term on Wednesday, alternating from week to week.

Gymnastics fun...







Please have a safe and restful Easter break and we look forward to seeing your child back ready to go for Term 2.

Tiffany Jones & Melissa Berry

1/2 News

Wow! We've reached the final week of Term 1, and what a rewarding term it has been. Each and every student has made such great progress in not only their learning but their social skills as well, growing in confidence, resilience, and teamwork.

The past few weeks in Maths, the students have been learning all about telling time. They can now confidently identify the hour and minute hands on a clock and read o'clock times. At home, you can support their learning by asking them to read the o'clock time on analog clocks. You can also help by asking them to name the weekdays and weekends and practice saying the days of the week in order—this will reinforce their understanding of time.

One of the highlights of the term was our gymnastics excursion to Warrnambool. The students had a fantastic time balancing, jumping, rolling, and stretching. Despite some nerves about balancing on the high

beams, every student gave it a go and successfully completed all the activities. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and determination as they tried out new skills!

As we wrap up the term, I want to thank you for your ongoing support in and out of the classroom. I hope you have a wonderful and relaxing break, and we look forward to another exciting term ahead!

Miss Cunnington.













Grade 3/4

Well, what a term it has been! Time sure does fly when your having fun...and working hard!

I would like to thank all the students and their families for all their hard work and dedication this term. I wish all families and members of our community a happy Easter and a safe and restful holiday. Next term is going to be a long one!

Athletics Sports

On Friday 7 March the 3-6 students travelled to Timboon to join in with them for the Athletics Sports Day. As usual the Simpson students represented our school well by competing to their best ability, listening to their group leaders and displaying great sportsmanship. Thank you to all the parents who came to support the kids. It means a lot to them when they see family and friends

there cheering them on!















Gymnastics in Warrnambool

What a fantastic experience for the students from Simpson were granted by completing two sessions of gymnastics lessons in Warrnambool. The students enjoyed learning some new skills and getting their bodies to bounce, spin and stretch in ways they may never had before!













District Athletics news

Well done to all the students who travelled to Camperdown for the District Athletics Day. All students competed to their best ability, listened to their group leaders, interacted well with students from other schools and displayed great sportsmanship. Congratulations to Jordan Beecher who has qualified for the Divisional athletics Day in Warrnambool next term. Jordan qualified in the 100m, 200m and 80m hurdles.

5/6 News

And that's a wrap!! Term 1 is done can you believe it!?

It's been a busy few weeks with copious activities taking place.

Our grade 6 leaders attended the regions *Student Leaders Congress* in week 7 hosted at Deakin University in Warrnambool. This is such a privilege for our student leaders to be able to take part in this event, something that is extremely unique to our part of the world. Around 270 leaders from different parts of the South West Victorian region attended the day, where students heard some incredible keynote speakers share their stories of inspiration, proving that any of us can do anything if we put our minds to it. Over the next 6 months, our leaders will work together to devise a plan for a project that will promote *'Mental Health & Wellbeing'* within our community. I will keep you updated with what they come up with. Grade 3 and 5 students completed their NAPLAN in weeks 7-8, we are all very proud of the way that the students managed themselves, and they should be proud too. NAPLAN tends to cause a lot of worry for some students, which should not be the case. They all handled themselves very well.

Thank you to each of you for attending our Parent Teacher Interviews in week 8. The interviews provide a valuable opportunity to discuss the progress of your child thus far in their schooling year and raise any concerns there may be. Not only this, but it gives an allocated time, specific for you, to get to know your child's teacher and vice versa. But, as always, I am here for you to contact if you have any concerns you need to discuss, you do not need to wait until interviews to talk about these things.

Our grade 6 students attended *A Taste of Timboon* (year 7 transition) last week. They all had a wonderful day and embraced getting to know new people in unfamiliar surroundings. They took part in some different activities such as P.E, Science & Art. They enjoyed bumping into some of our past students and some siblings while enjoying the facilities during recess and lunch times.





We were fortunate enough for our students to take part in a 2 week gymnastics program in Warrnambool over the past two Mondays. It was wonderful to see all students really immerse themselves into the activities, giving everything a go. A great activity to end a busy term with.









On Tuesday, the majority of our 3-6 students attended the District Athletics in Camperdown. It is always a positive experience when the students attend these events. It is a chance for them to all interact with students from other nearby schools, promoting socialisation and for them to see the level of skill they themselves have and who they are competing against. All students have a positive attitude throughout the day, displaying good sportsmanship, which at the end of the day, this is what it is all about. Well done!

Thank you to each of you for attending our Parent Teacher Interviews in week 8. The interviews provide a valuable opportunity to discuss the progress of your child thus far in their schooling year and raise any concerns there may be. Not only this, but it gives an allocated time, specific for you, to get to know your child's teacher and vice versa. But, as always, I am here for you to contact if you have any concerns you need to discuss, you do not need to wait until interviews to talk about these things.

Our grade 6 students attended *A Taste of Timboon* (year 7 transition) last week. They all had a wonderful day and embraced getting to know new people in unfamiliar surroundings. They took part in some different activities such as P.E, Science & Art. They enjoyed bumping into some of our past students and some siblings while enjoying the facilities during recess and lunch times.

I wish you all a safe and restful school holidays and Easter long weekend. Please note that term 2 is a 11 week term, so it will be a long one for the students. Allowing them plenty of time to recharge and rest so they are all energised upon their return later in the month. Thank you for your ongoing support and I look forward to another successful term to come.



Happy Easter to you all! Cheers Jannique Hanegraaf

Science, PE & Auslan News

Wow, what a term! It's hard to believe Term 1 we have already reached the end of Term 1. Our students have been working hard and making great progress in Auslan, Science and P.E.

Auslan Update

Our students have been learning new signs and expanding their vocabulary this term. We have learnt the signs for breakfast foods, transport, shops, fruit, vegetables, and things around the house. The older students have also been practicing their conversation skills, and it's been fantastic to see how much they've improved. I'm really looking forward to continuing this journey with them throughout the year!

P.E. News

In P.E., our students have been putting in the effort to improve their athletic skills and overall fitness. Some of our students attended the Athletics Day in Timboon and the District Sports in Camperdown. As usual I was proud of the way they conducted themselves. I heard nothing but positive reports about their behaviour and sportsmanship. Over the term, it's been amazing to see their athletic skills improve, and

they should all feel proud of their hard work. On the 24th and 31st of March we travelled to Warrnambool to participate in a wonderful gymnastics program. Students had the chance to use equipment such as trampolines, uneven bars, balance beams and the gymnastic floor and so on. Students practiced moving their body in specific ways and overall had fantastic time.

Science Highlights

Our young scientists have been exploring some fascinating topics this term! They've been learning about weather patterns, how weather affects plants, animals, and landscapes, and the changes in the world around us due to various factors. They've also been investigating the movements of Earth and the Moon, the vastness of space, and all the mysteries still left to uncover. We'll continue this exciting theme next term, and I can't wait to see what they discover next!

Please see attached timetable



Prep

P.E. Tuesday 2:15 Auslan Wednesday 2:15 Science Friday 11:25

Grade 1/2

P.E. Thursday 2:15 Auslan Wednesday 12:25 Science Monday 11:25

Grade 3/4

P.E. Friday 9:55 Auslan Wednesday 11:25 Science Tuesday 11:25

Grade 5/6

P.E. Monday 9:55 Auslan Wednesday 9:55 Science Thursday 11:25

Thank you, Naomi Marr-Vogels.







Student Wellbeing



Students today have extremely busy schedules, with ever increasing responsibilities at school and at home. Many kids, especially adolescents, are going to bed later and later and are at risk of sleep deprivation. This affects three areas of a child's development: psychological, physiological and psychosocial. All three are

essential to a child's growth, learning ability and overall wellbeing. Sleep is vital to a child's overall development and is as important as diet and exercise.

Sleep also strengthens a child's immune systems and supports their ability to function properly on a daily basis. Children who do not get enough sleep show increased levels of aggressive behaviour, are less attentive and are much less active. Trying to catch up on sleep on weekends is not the answer and can still lead to severe sleep deprivation.

Junior School Council

On behalf of our Junior School Council representatives, I would like to thank everyone who donated to this year Easter raffle! We are beyond grateful for how much support we have received with this. A huge thank you also to everyone who sold and purchased raffles tickets – and an even bigger shout out to those families who sold multiple books of tickets! A huge effort from you all and we thank you. JSC will announce in term 2 what they are planning on raising money for, there have been multiple ideas so far, but are yet to narrow it down to something final. We will keep you posted. Raffle winners will be announced and contacted to collect their prizes tomorrow.

Regards,

JSC

Jannique Hanegraaf

(Ayla, Gabe, Matilda M-M & Henry)









Josh Vines



Harry Armistead Riemer



Tabatha Robb

Other Raffle Prize Winners: W Perrett, P Albaracin, B Weel, K Grant, Chesson family, M Salmon, S Benson, D Spaull, M Blasche Melany B. Winners have been notified Raffle Ticket Sellers Prize Reardon Family





Happy Birthday



April: Marc 4th, Miss Cunnington 7th, Hunter 9th, Jack 16th, Evie 18th, Liam 28th



Notes & Annual Reminders

Policies:

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy and the Schools' Privacy Collection Notice (see school website).

Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy – see school website, describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

The Child Safety Standards policies can also be found on the school's website.

CSEF Funding:

Families who hold health care cards are eligible for CSEF support funding each year. Please check in at school to make sure your family is eligible for this funding support in 2025. This process needs to be done by 28th June. Please see the information later in the newsletter.

Bus Notes: NEW TERM NEW BUS NOTES PLEASE

Please send in a note, email simpson.ps@education.com.au, text the school mobile on 0458 943 298 or ring the front office on 5594 3298 by 10am with any daily, weekly, or termly bus changes.

Parent/Visitor Sign In:

All parents or visitors who are coming into the school for more than 10 minutes are required to sign in. You will need to sign in and out of the visitor register at the office. This allows us to account for you in the event of an emergency.

Uniform:

We ask that you ensure your child is in uniform each day to continue the high standards we set for ourselves. Hats are to be worn until the end of Term 1, and again in Term 4, so please ensure your child has a broad brimmed hat (named) available every day. Those students without a hat must remain under cover, for the duration of recess and lunchtime. If your child requires a new hat, they can be purchased through the front office. Uniform orders can also be purchased from the office.

Named Clothing:

Parents are asked to check that clothing is clearly named. If you have second-hand clothes, please check that the name has been changed. If clothes are correctly named, we have some hope of returning items to the correct owners. All lost property of students will be stored at the front office where there are currently quite a few items. Please check to see if you are missing any items so they can be returned.

Communication:

If you need to speak with your child's teacher, please contact the office for an appointment or alternatively send your teacher an email. Please note: Staff are often busy in the mornings prior to instruction time, preparing for the day ahead. Staff also have meeting commitments after school on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 3.30pm onwards and therefore it is not always possible to meet after school on these days. If you have an urgent concern about your child regarding any start of year questions or concerns, please make contact through the office.

Daily Routine:

School commences at 8.55am and ends at 3.15pm. Students should not arrive at school before 8.45am. Students should leave promptly at 3.15pm at the end of the day. At 8:53am, the music is played; this signifies to the students that they should move into their classroom and prepare themselves for the daily learning. Recess: 10.55am – 11.25am. Lunch: 1.25pm – 1.35pm (supervised eating) and 1:35pm – 2.15pm (lunch play). 3:15pm is the end of the school day. Staff members are on duty until buses leave and town students collected.

Late Arrivals:

Students arriving after 8:55am should report to the office. Office staff will record their attendance as a late arrival and students will then go to class. Parents will be contacted by the principal if lateness is becoming a problem.

Early Departure:

If you wish to collect your child from school before dismissal time, they must be signed out at the office. This ensures all students can be accounted for in the case of an emergency. To assist, please phone the office prior to collecting your child so they can be ready for collection.

Breakfast Club:

Breakfast Club are on Mondays from 8.45am If you would like to help with Breakfast Club, please contact the office. Breakfast Club will resume Week 2 of Term 2 Monday April 28th.

Music Lessons:

Music lessons with Eileen McKenzie will commence on Thursday the 13th of February. If you wish your child/children to learn an instrument or if you are wanting to re-enrol, please contact Eileen as soon as possible to ensure a placement. Lessons taught are Piano/Keyboard, Vocal and Guitar. Phone or text 0400 486 948 for any enquiries.

Lunch Orders:

Lunch orders are available every day from the Settlement Supermarket and are collected first thing in the morning.

Community News





SIMPSON PRIMARY SCHOOL

WELCOMES

2026/2027 FOUNDATION ENROLMENTS

We invite you to join us to see our school in action & meet our welcoming staff.

School Tour & Information Session:

Friday 9th May @10.15am

Alternative tour times can be arranged by contacting the office.



5594 3298











SIMPSON AUSKICK

For boys and girls aged 5 to 12

Kicks off Sunday April 27th, 2025, 11am At Simpson Recreation Reserve

Register at play.afl/Auskick

For more information contact David Costin – 0427 750 750







Sign up now at **netball.com.au/netsetgo** and start your child's lifelong love of team sport today.

COME AND TRY DAY

Corangamite Hockey Club invites you to our Come and Try Day!

Saturday 26th April 2025

Mockridge Park, Thornton Street, Camperdown

All new and returning players are encouraged to attend

Primary school age children

9:30am - Registrations

10-11am - Hockey activities

Season begins May 3rd

Follow us on Facebook @ Corangamite Hockey Club Incorporated

For further information/enquiries please contact club President Leah Boyd on 0400 908 877

OR Secretary/Mod Comp Coordinator Megan Lucas on 0437 172 983



Sat 5th & Sun 6th April 10.00am - 4.00pm

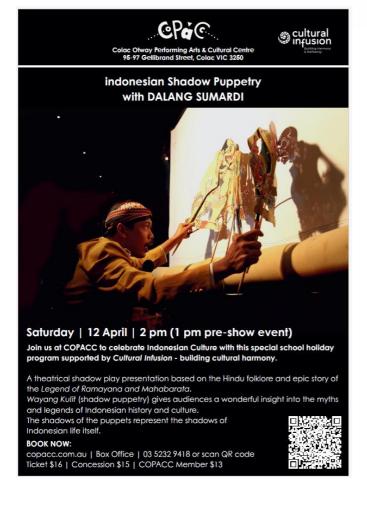
Cobden Uniting Church Hall

\$5.00 entry, students free

(includes morning / afternoon tea)
Both Eftpos & cash accepted.











Squash Pennant

Tuesday Nights 7.00 p.m.

New Players welcome

Men, Ladies & Juniors

Contact: Katrina Currell 0439 995 010







