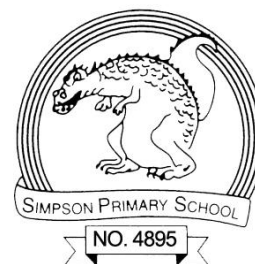


# DRAGON TALES

Principal: Melissa Berry  
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Email: [simpson.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:simpson.ps@education.vic.gov.au)  
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## SCHOOL COUNCILLORS

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

*Simpson Primary School  
Enriching learning through  
opportunity*

## SCHOOL MISSION

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

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025**  
**Term 4 Week 6**

## School Wide Positive Behaviours - SWPBS

### Co-operation Accepting Respectful Excellence

#### Term 4 focuses:

#### Excellence

Try my best to achieve my goals.

#### Co-operation

Be inclusive.

#### Excellence

Display how we behave in each area of the  
yard.

#### Excellence

Be kind to myself.



## Term 3 CALENDAR

<b>Week 6</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b> Breakfast Club	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b> Library  Last day for Library borrowing	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b> TAP's On! Excursion @ Timboon P-12 (Years 3-6)	<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b> Breakfast Club	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup></b> Art	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b> P-6 LSV Lifesaving Education Program @ Port Campbell	<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup></b> Library  <u>ALL</u> library books to be returned to school	<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>  Glasses For Kids program visit
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Dec</b> Final Breakfast Club	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> Art	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b> <b>PARTY DAY</b> 10am - 11am (party food)	<b>5th</b> Professional Practice Day (Pupil Free)
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b> Year 7 - Day 1 Transition Day Timboon P-12	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Statewide Transition Day</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b> Library	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b> Activities Day Werribee Zoo	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b> Final Assembly @ 11:30am  Year 6 Graduation – after the Assembly finishes.	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b> Enviro Day – no formal classes	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b> Enviro Day – no formal classes	<b>19<sup>th</sup></b> Staff Final Day

## Principal News

It's hard to believe that we are more than halfway through Term 4. Teachers are beginning end of year organisation-transition (Kinder to Prep, Year 6 – Year 7), transitions to new classrooms, Year 6 Graduation, end of year reports, the list goes on. We know as it gets busier, we can all forget things, so please if you are unsure about anything, please contact your child's teacher, myself or Tabatha.

### Swimming Program

Thank you to those who have completed the swimming survey. This will guide our program moving forward.

### Attendance

At Simpson PS we prioritise regular school attendance, even as we progress through Term 4. We work with families to ensure students are in class with their peers and teachers and enjoying all the benefits that brings.

We understand that there are times when your child will need to miss school but to ensure minimal disruption to their education, please consider scheduling your family holidays/ times away or medical/dental appointments outside of school time. If your child is well enough to attend but is worried about friendships, schoolwork or possible consequences of behaviour, please still encourage them to come to school. Avoiding school can make these feelings worse and can create a negative pattern of behaviour. If your child is having difficulty attending school, talk to their teacher or Emily or myself about getting support.

We know that parents and carers can be juggling challenges daily to get your children to school. If your child must miss school, notify us as soon as possible via phone call or Compass so we can work together to support them. For more information about the importance of everyday attendance, see [Attendance and Missing School](#)

Remember, Every Day Counts.

### Christmas Hamper Donations

This year we will be holding a Christmas Hamper Raffle. We ask families to contribute small items for the hampers. Please bring your donation to the front office. Raffle tickets and further information will be sent home during the coming weeks.

### Great South West Coast Network Principals' Conference

Last week I attended the Great South West Coast Network Principals' Conference in Lorne. Each year, our Network comes together for a two-day conference and meets twice per term to connect, support, and work collaboratively on our shared goals. Together, we continue to drive our vision to ensure that every student attending our Government schools can truly thrive.

In 2026, I will be joining the Network Executive, bringing a small school perspective while contributing to strategic planning and collaboration across our schools. I'm excited to work with colleagues to strengthen educational outcomes across the network.

### Final Assembly / Year 6 Graduation

Our Final Assembly / Year 6 Graduation will be held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

The Final Assembly @ 11:30am with the Year 6 Graduation – after the Assembly finishes. More information will come closer to the date.

The Year 6 Graduation will run the same as last year. The awards will be given out during the Final Assembly, and Year 6 students and their parents will head inside for a short video and presentation.

### **Staffing 2026**

Our 2026 class structures have been finalised and passed at School Council. Student numbers, upcoming student numbers and funding has influenced the decision to run with three classrooms for 2026. We will have a Prep/1, Year 2/3 and Year 4/5/6. Teachers have not yet been allocated to classes. This will be announced to the school community in time for transition day in December.

In 2026 we will see some staffing changes. Miss Cunningham will begin family leave at the end of week 9 this term. We wish Miss Cunningham and Cooper all the best and look forward to meeting 'Baby Neal'.

Next year we welcome back Mrs Maddison Lucas. Mrs Lucas is returning from 12 months of family leave.

### **2026 Booklists:**

2026 booklists have been sent home with a letter of instructions. Payment will be made at the conclusion of your order. Once your order has arrived and been check, we are happy to store them at school for you.

If you choose to purchase your booklist independently, please ensure all products are purchased and that the writing books are those listed, as they are specific to each year level.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact myself or Tabatha between 8:30am and 3:30pm.

## **Prep News**

What a lucky bunch of students! Two great after-school activities in one week! It was wonderful to see so many happy students giving their all — cooperating, encouraging, and enjoying themselves — at both the Halloween Disco and Amazing Race activities.

Congratulations to the winning team of the Amazing Race – Group 1!

As for the Disco, I've heard you were all winners with your awesome dance moves!

A big thank you to all the staff for organising these two fantastic events.

We also received positive feedback from the pool staff about our students' behaviour and listening skills. They should be very proud of the way they conducted themselves throughout the four-week swimming program.

Our Sounds Write focus over the last few weeks has included the sounds /th/ and /ck/. The /th/ sound can be tricky and may take longer to develop in some students. We are using *cued articulation* (hand and mouth gestures) to help show the difference between the /f/ and /th/ sounds.

If your child is having trouble with words such as *three*, *with*, or *thing*, please model the correct pronunciation and have them repeat it. We use the same approach at school. Showing your child how your tongue sits gently between your teeth for the /th/ sound can be very helpful.

The Preps are excited to be hosting the assemblies this term! There are some very long and tricky words to read out, but they did their best with support from our Grade 6 buddies. We will have another turn to host on Thursday, 28th November, and you are very welcome to attend.

The rest of the term will be busy and go by super quickly. Please remember to check Compass for updates on excursions and any extra activities happening in Term 4.

Thanks,

**Mrs Berry and Mrs Jones**

## 1/2 News

### Swimming

It was wonderful to see how much progress students made throughout this year's swimming block. Many began feeling anxious about getting into the 'big pool', and by the end, all students were competing in the swimming carnival races organised by Blue Water. Their growing independence was also fantastic to see, from getting dressed to organising their belongings — they should all feel incredibly proud of their efforts and achievements.

### Testing

We have started our end of year 'testing' and it is so pleasing to see the growth students have made this year, especially with their fluency reading and their ability to segment and blend words. When results are shared, students have been so proud of themselves.

Although testing has begun, regular learning has continued in full swing! In Maths, students have been exploring division and learning how to share a total number of items between groups. We also investigated capacity, with students enjoying hands-on activities outside — measuring water and sand and comparing how much different containers could hold.

It's hard to believe how quickly the term is flying by! The students have been working so hard and we're so proud of all they've achieved. We can't wait to make the most of the last few weeks together.





### Swimming

Swimming has wrapped up! What a great experience for the Simpson Primary students. It was evident through the students' progress and confidence that the swimming lessons were a worthwhile program. The last lesson was focused on water safety, where students were taken through some real-life scenarios, such as falling in full clothed, wearing a life jacket and performing a rescue from the shore. The students also competed in some Swimming Sports Day style races! A big thanks to all the parents who washed, dried and made sure the swimming kit was ready to go each day!



### Literacy

We are nearing the end of our class text 'The Wild Robot'. We have thoroughly enjoyed reading the text together as it brings a whole new and different perspective than when reading a text independently. The students are also looking forward to watching the movie and doing a compare and contrast activity.

### Numeracy

In Numeracy, students in Years 3/4 have been exploring the topic of **Chance and Probability**, learning to describe and predict the likelihood of everyday events. They have

used words such as *certain*, *likely*, *unlikely*, and *impossible* to discuss outcomes and have conducted simple experiments using dice, spinners, and coins to test their predictions. Through hands-on activities and games, students have developed their understanding that chance can be described and compared, and that some events are more likely to happen than others. This topic has encouraged students to think logically, recognise patterns, and use mathematical language to explain their reasoning about chance in real-life situations.

### Remembrance Day

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of November the students enjoyed learning about Remembrance Day. We enjoyed learning about the history, the meaning and the significance of the day and what it represents.



### Pre Service Teacher

Next week the 3/4 class will welcome another Pre Service Teacher to our room. Belinda Quick will be with us for a four-week block and will be completing her placement by teaching her required allotment of teaching. It will be a great opportunity to have an extra teacher in the room to assist with student learning and bringing a different teaching style.

### TAPS On!

T TAPS On day at Timboon P-12 the 3/4's learned about a range of important environmental and safety topics. They explored the differences between **native and introduced animals**, understanding how each affects local ecosystems. Lessons on **fire safety** and **farm safety** highlighted how to stay safe around open flames, **tractors**, and **quad bikes**. Students also investigated **freshwater bugs and water quality**, discovering how



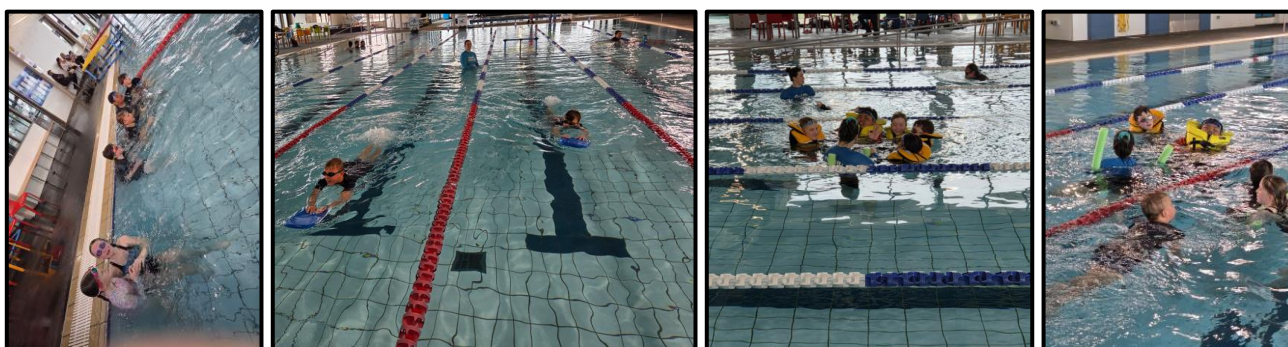
these tiny creatures help indicate the health of our waterways. To complete their learning, they examined **vegetable crop production**, gaining insight into how food is grown and the importance of caring for the environment to support sustainable farming.





### Swimming

It was fantastic to see the growth in students' swimming abilities and confidence over the swimming program. Participating in the swimming carnival organised by Blue Water was a real highlight, and the relay race against the instructors and some of the teachers (Ms. Hanegraaf, Miss Cunningham, and Mr Hollick!) was especially enjoyed by everyone — lots of laughs and great sportsmanship all round.



### Testing and Learning

As we near the end of the school year and report writing season, our classroom has been busy completing end-of-year testing. Despite this, our focus on quality learning continues, and students are still fully engaged in meaningful classroom activities across all areas.

### Literacy

We've recently finished reading *I Am Malala* (Young Reader's Edition), which students found both inspiring and thought-provoking. They are now working on writing their own biographies about Malala, focusing on her family background and early life, major life events, and the incredible legacy she has created.

### Numeracy

In numeracy, we've been exploring division — including working with remainders and converting them into decimals and fractions. Next, we'll be delving deeper into the connections between fractions, decimals, and percentages.

### TAP's On! at Timboon P-12 School (Timboon Agriculture Project)

Thursday November 13<sup>th</sup> our 3-6 students travelled to Timboon P-12 School to take part in their annual TAP's On! day where students get to learn about different components to the agriculture industry and learn about some of the emergency services of Victoria. The grade 5/6 student's experiences included – Get Ready! (SES Grab Bag workshop), Fishcare 101 (learning about sustainable fishing), VEG Education (Velisha Farms from Werribee), CFA Burn Table (education around what fuels fire, lights fire and causes fires to spread), Micro:bits (coding micro bits to test moisture of soil for crop plantation growth). Our 3-6 students also were able to socialise with students from Timboon P-12 and Nullawarre

schools. It is always a pleasing moment to watch our students confidently broaden their social skills when interacting with new people.



### Looking Ahead

As we approach the end of the year, we'll begin to shift into some festive and fun activities, including Christmas-themed projects and celebrations. The class has also been discussing having a **Class Cooking Day** — I'll be in touch closer to the date with more information about this activity.





**As usual** we have been really busy in Science, P.E. and Auslan.

### Science

**Our Grade 5/6 scientists** have been looking at how animals survive in some of the toughest environments on Earth, including the amazing (and almost indestructible!) tardigrade. Students have also been learning about migration and hibernation and will soon be diving into how even small things, like turning off a light, can help protect animals such as baby turtles.

Our **Grade 3/4 class** has been exploring food chains and how energy moves through living things. They've loved finding out who eats who in the animal world, identifying producers and consumers, and discovering the important role decomposers play as nature's recyclers. We had lots of fun (and laughs) learning all about the gross, but amazing job dung beetles do.

After finishing our unit on how living things grow and change, **Grade ½ scientists** travelled back in time to the world of dinosaurs. The students have been learning how palaeontologists work out what dinosaurs looked like, what they ate and how they moved. Here's a question for you, why do you think the Tyrannosaurus had such small front legs?

Our prep scientists are continuing to explore what living things need to survive. Over the past few weeks, we've been learning all about bats, their special features, where they live, what they eat, and how echolocation helps them find their way in the dark.

### P.E.

In P.E. we've been learning all about softball. Each year level and student has been developing their skills at different levels. For our preps and 1/2's, the focus has been on correct throwing and catching techniques and learning how to run to base. From Grades 3–6, students have been building on these basics and learning skills such as striking, base running, catching (with and without gloves), throwing and fielding tactics, tagging, and teamwork. When it has been too wet to play outside, we've created our own indoor "ball of wool" softball, a faster, more intense game that still lets us practise and develop our skills and tactics and have lots of fun.

### Auslan

Our students continue to grow their Auslan skills each week. We've been focusing on how small changes in hand shape or position can completely change the meaning of a sign. Students have also started learning signs for asking questions, expressing feelings, describing themselves (like hair colour, hairstyles, and eye colour), using Auslan in conversations, holidays, junk food (a very popular topic!), telling the time, and even bathroom and laundry words!

The term just seems to have flown by. We've already passed the halfway mark. I'm looking forward to seeing how much more we can achieve before we finish up the year.

## 🍰 Happy Birthday 🍰

**November:** Thomas R 1<sup>st</sup>, Evaliah & Landon 6<sup>th</sup>, Chase 13<sup>th</sup>, Winfred 20<sup>th</sup>, Harry 27<sup>th</sup>, Henry 30<sup>th</sup>

**December:** Heath 4<sup>th</sup>, Kimble 8<sup>th</sup>, Carter P 18<sup>th</sup>



## Junior School Council

*Halloween Spooktacular Disco* was a huge success and loads of fun for those who attended. A huge thank you to Debra Smith who went to an extraordinary effort to organise everything and have everything looking 'scary' for the kids' arrival! We successfully raised \$102 from the door entry and the sales of bottles of water and glow sticks. What a great night, hopefully we can do it all again in 2026.

Our JSC also raised \$26.60 on our R U OK day in Term 3.



We will be running a *Christmas Raffle* again this year. Please see Mrs Berry's notes about this under the *Principal's News* section of this newsletter for more information regarding this.

## 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.



**Bus Notes:**

Please send in a note, email [simpson.ps@education.com.au](mailto: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.

### Lunch Orders:

Lunch orders are available every day from the Settlement Supermarket and are collected first thing in the morning. (Not available on Swimming Days)

## Community News







# light up camperdown

Friday 5 December  
4.30 pm – 9.30 pm  
Clocktower Avenue

The town centre comes alive with lights, music and festive cheer! Join us for a magical night of celebration under the Clocktower.

- Light installations
- Free movie – The Polar Express
- Lantern parade
- Music and carols
- Green Woman roving
- Youth performances
- Rich Royale Fire and LED shows
- Glow circus workshop
- Bethany's Christmas Bonanza
- Businesses open until 8.30 pm

Support local traders and enjoy a picnic in the avenue!  
→ [corangamite.vic.gov.au/LightUpCamperdown2025](http://corangamite.vic.gov.au/LightUpCamperdown2025)



**Rich Royale**  
FIRE PERFORMER



**Wild Honey**  
GREEN WOMAN



**Bethany Fisher**  
CHRISTMAS BONANZA



## Spring into Summer mini-fest

CELEBRATE COMMUNITY & EXPLORE SUSTAINABILITY

local music / face painting / craft activities / garden talks / workshops / market stalls / fresh produce

# Garden talks

JOIN US IN THE COMMUNITY GARDEN, BEHIND THE FLYING FOX FOR A SERIES OF INFORMAL AND INTERACTIVE TALKS ON SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER IN APEX PARK

**10-11am: Kylie Treble, A Place of Wonder**  
Also of REAL Pizza Pasta Salads in Port Campbell.  
On growing soil, vegetables and community.

**11am-12pm: David Brennan, Wannon Water**  
Wicking beds: varieties available, how to make them & how they work.

**12.30-1pm: Kim Cragg, Innerbloom Gardening Therapy**  
Tour of the community garden and exploring gardening for wellbeing.

**1.30-2pm: Warren Clementson, Harmonious Horticulture**  
Soil health and science

SUPPORTED BY CORANGAMITE SHIRE FESTIVAL GRANTS 2025



You're invited to

# Colac Primary School's 175 Year Celebration

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November**  
1pm – 4pm

Come and join in the celebration, honouring Colac's first Primary School.

- Opening Ceremony @ 1:20pm
- Cutting of the 175 Year Celebration Cake
- Displays in the Stadium and around the school
- Afternoon tea
- Commemorative keyrings available to purchase

We look forward to welcoming past and present staff and students to celebrate 175 years of education in Colac!

For more information please contact Julie in the Office 5231 2530



## COBDEN ROTARY MINI GOLF

# 25TH BIRTHDAY

FREE MINI GOLF  
FREE DRINKS  
BBQ-(ANY DONATION APPRECIATED)  
FREE FACE PAINTING  
FREE FAIRY FLOSS  
FREE BALLOON CREATIONS  
FREE LOLLIES  
LOTS OF PRIZES

**SUNDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER**  
11AM-3PM




# BUILD A FARM IN A DAY COLAC

COLAC SECONDARY COLLEGE  
SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER to SUNDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER

*Imagine a school that can feed its community  
A farm, built within a school*

*Be part of a meaningful project leading change  
Fostering sustainability, connection and education*

**Register Here**




Everyone welcome zero-waste event





