



Dear Families,
It has been another great week here at Swan Reach Primary School. The weather has been fantastic, and it has been great to see the students do such a great job of wearing their hats and staying hydrated throughout the school day.



It was also amazing to see such a great turnout for our start of year 'Welcome BBQ' on Thursday afternoon. We would like to thank everyone who came out and supported us for the evening. A special mention goes out to everyone who brought a plate of food along. I think everyone left with very full stomachs!

Congratulations to the students who attended the TUBBS Swimming Day at the Lakes Entrance Aquatic Centre. All six students swam incredibly well and have qualified for the District Swimming Carnival held at Orbost on Wednesday, 19th February. We are very proud of you all for your efforts.

The students also got a visit from a furry friend on Friday, who came out to talk about responsible pet ownership. The students were fully engrossed during the presentation and took away some valuable lessons about how to look after pets safely.

I hope the weather stays fine for us next week, and I look forward to hearing about all the wonderful things the students are learning about!

*Travis Jorgensen
Acting Principal*

TERM 1 2026

Diary Dates to Remember

February

- Peer Connect Group - 16th
- Care & Go Round - 17th
- No Preps - 18th
- School Council - 19th
- Mobile Library Bus - 19th
- Peer Connect Group - 23rd
- Care & Go Round - 24th
- No Preps - 25th

March

- Peer Connect Group - 2nd
- Care & Go Round - 3rd
- Mobile Library Bus - 5th
- Public Holiday - 9th
- Care & Go Round - 10th
- Peer Connect Group - 16th
- Peer Connect Group - 23rd

April

- Last day of Term - 2nd
- Good Friday Public Holiday - 3rd



Students have the opportunity to order lunch each Tuesday. Lunches are supplied by the Nicholson General Store. Orders together with payment must be returned directly to the Nicholson Store no later than the close of business Monday the day before. If you do not have an order form, they can be found on display in the front office.

Year 4 Girls Peer Connect Group

The Year 4 girls this term will be involved in a Peer Connect Group which will run each week for a six week program beginning next week.

The aim of the Peer Connect group is to teach and develop social and behavioural skills that may be absent or ineffectively used.

To identify emotional regulation strategies and learning how this will look like in their day-to-day life.

To provide a caring environment for children to learn by encouragement, experience and practice.

The Peer Connect Group work collaboratively with the child, their teachers and parents/carers to work towards the child's individual goals within the group setting. Any further questions or queries you can email Annette Chandler direct.

Annette.Chandler@education.vic.gov.au

Things to Remember

Thank you to all the families who placed an order with the first issue of the Scholastic Book Club, the orders will be sent off this week.



Term 1 is a Hat Term, please remember to pack your hat. If a student doesn't have a school hat, they will be required to play under the covered part of the basketball court. Hats can be purchased at Nicks in Bairnsdale. **PLEASE NAME YOUR HATS CLEARLY.**

School Assembly will be held at the start of every week Monday at 9am



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Parental app



Facebook
Follow us on facebook



Meet Our Newest Members of the Teaching Team



A BIT ABOUT ME

**SASCHA
OPPERMAN**

Hi, My name is Sascha Opperman and I am very pleased to be working at Swan Reach Primary School. I have only recently moved to the area, but have been holidaying here every year for 26 years!! I loved it so much I decided to move.

I have one son called Bailey and he is attending Orbest Community College and completing Year 12 this year. I also have a beautiful dog, called Poppy, who is a Labradoodle.

I decided in Primary School that I wanted to be a teacher and that is what I have been doing since finishing my degree, straight after High School. The main school I worked at was Emerald Primary School. We had Puffing Billy go past multiple times a day and we would always wave.

When I am not working I love travelling, cooking and gardening.
I am looking forward to learning lots about you and helping you to achieve your best.
Mrs Opperman



A BIT ABOUT ME

**TRACY
BUCKWELL**

Hello everyone! I'm Ms Tracey Buckwell, and I'm excited to be joining the school in 2026.

I have several years of classroom experience and love creating a positive, supportive environment where students feel confident, safe, and inspired to learn. I especially enjoy celebrating student achievements and successes.

I'm looking forward to getting to know the students, families, and staff, and being part of such a welcoming school community. I can't wait for a wonderful year ahead!



A BIT ABOUT ME

**LIZ
ALLENDER**

Hi, My name is Liz but many of you know me as Mrs A. I started at Swan Reach primary school back in 2013 in Mrs B's prep classroom. I spent the last couple of years at Relationships Australia Victoria working for Iconnect, an early intervention mental health program. I have returned to my favourite school community this year, supporting the learning and wellbeing of students in the Grade 6 classroom. My educational background is in science/mathematics and education. I love helping kids find their own deep understanding of mathematical concepts and I encourage curiosity as a pathway for natural learning and understanding the world. My hobbies include painting portraits and landscapes, camping and exploring, hiking up mountains, cooking, swimming and I love the beach. I look forward to reconnecting with the school community again and meeting all the lovely new families too 😊

See you at the BBQ!
Cheers Liz



A BIT ABOUT ME

**KASCHA
SPONA**

Hey Everyone! My name is Kascha.

I have always wanted to be a teacher and I am currently studying a Bachelor of Primary Education! I previously worked at a school camp, Coonawarra, for the past 4 years. 😊 Originally from Belgrave South, I continued my schooling at Swan Reach Primary School in grade 4, with very fond memories of spending my time here.

I love traveling, camping, 4wding, spending time with my partner, Labrador puppy, and of course my friends!

I am so excited to join the school community and I cannot wait to get to know everyone!



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

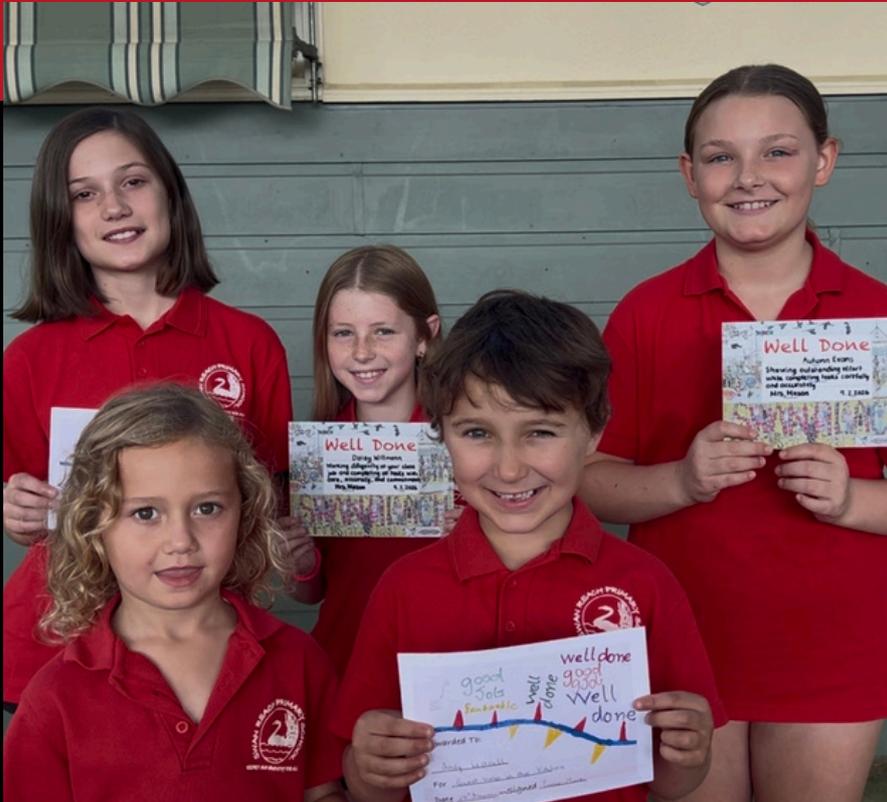
For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>





Student of the Week Awards



Imlay received her award for the Kitchen Garden Program for helping clean up during her lunch time.

Daisy for working diligently at her classroom job and completing all tasks with care, accuracy, and commitment.

Autumn who has shown outstanding effort while completing tasks carefully and accurately.

Louis & Andy did some amazing helping in the kitchen.

School Council Elections

**Nominations are now open for School Council 2026.
Please check uEducateUs for a separate notice with more information.**

Vacancies

- 1 Parent Representative position**
- 2 Department Representative positions**

Nominations close 4:00 pm, Friday 20 February

**Nomination forms available from the front office or via uEducateUs.
You are able to
nominate yourself for a position on council.**

Please contact Travis Jorgenson (Acting Principal) or Heather Wilkins (SC President) if you have any questions.





This Week in the Kitchen Garden Featuring Mrs Morton & Garry



Kitchen Garden News Friday 13 February 2026

Over the holidays our garden has been producing lots of beans and basil. The tomatoes and zucchini are also growing well, as has our favourite silverbeet so we have been taking advantage of these veggies in our programme.

Grade 6 made a delicious basil pesto to complement our home-made pasta/ They also made a very tasty bran, thyme and tomato salad.

Grade 5s's also made the bean salad, which was enjoyed alongside a crustless silverbeet and pinenut tart. A delicious zucchini bread was also made to accompany a very tasty Indian Carrot soup.

It has been a great start to our year in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen garden programme, Thanks again to Gary and Heather for their ongoing support.

We are always looking for more volunteers. If you have any time on Wednesdays to spend with us you would be very welcome. A volunteer working with children check (free for volunteers) is required. Please contact us if you are interested.

Lorraine Morton





This Week in Around the Playground





This Week From the Prep/1 Room Featuring Mrs Lewis & Blake



Over the past few weeks, the Prep/One classroom has been a hive of activity as we warmly welcomed eight new smiling faces. Our Grade One students have been wonderful leaders, setting a positive example and supporting our newest learners. Students have enjoyed a range of engaging learning experiences, including creating pinwheels to explore wind turbines in STEM, designing pirate hats to support our writing tasks, strengthening our phonics knowledge, and expanding our understanding of numbers. It has been a fantastic start to the year, with plenty more fun, exploration and learning to look forward to in the months ahead.



SWAN REACH PRIMARY SCHOOL

TRANSITION TO PREP

COME AND PLAY

We invite all families with three and four year old kinder children to come along to our come and play session on Friday 6th March 2:30-3:30PM.



- FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2026
- TIME: 2:30-3:30
- WHERE: PREP/ONE CLASSROOM

SWAN REACH PRIMARY SCHOOL WARMLY INVITES ALL 3 AND 4 YEAR OLD KINDER STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO A COME AND PLAY SESSION. JOIN US FOR AN HOUR OF FUN FILLED ACTIVIES IN THE PREP/ONE CLASSROOM.



THIS IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO:

- MEET THE PREP/ONE TEACHER
- EXPLORE THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
- ENGAGE IN INTERACTIVE PLAY
- MEET SOME CURRENT PREP STUDENTS
- CONNECT WITH OTHER FAMILIES

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU AND YOUR CHILD FOR A FUN AND RELAXED INTRODUCTION TO OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY. NO RSVP REQUIRED- JUST COME ALONG!

**RESPECT & EMPATHY
FOR ALL**

21 School Road, Swan Reach
swan.reach.ps@education.vic.gov.au
03 5156 4287



Welcome BBQ, Thursday the 12th





This Weeks Community News

UV AHEAD

SunSmart

Slap! on your **hat** and Slop! on **sunscreen**, when the UV is 3 or above.

Even on cool and cloudy days.

In Victoria, UV is 3 and above generally from mid-August to the end of April.

sunsmart.com.au

Use all five forms of sun protection: Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek, Slide.

A partnership between: VicHealth, Cancer Council Victoria

FEBRUARY

Happy Birthday

Charlotte.D	Brodie
Summer.C	Harry
Penny.M	Emma
Lexi	Chelsea
Indi.G	Ethan
Eddie	

BOOK NOW
Teach a skill for life

SCAN CODE TO GET STARTED

Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety

being held at:
Lakes Entrance Aquadome
43 Palmers Road, LAKES ENTRANCE, VIC 3909
Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 February 2026
8.30am to 5.00pm
1300 885 666 www.austswim.com.au

AUSTSWIM TSW
AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety™

AUSTSWIM
Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety

AUSTSWIM TSW

ENROL NOW!
89.9% of our graduates get jobs

TEACHER OF SWIMMING AND WATER SAFETY

- Calendar icon: Saturday 21 & Sunday 22, February 2026
- Clock icon: 8:30am - 5:00pm
- Location pin icon: Lakes Entrance Aquadome - VIC

LAKES ENTRANCE

AUSTSWIM



This Weeks Community News

**EAST GIPPSLAND
CONVOY FOR KIDS
2026**



14th March 2026

Open 9am to 4pm at the
Great Lakes Air Field Colquhoun Rd
Lakes Entrance

Entry \$5 - Per Person or \$10 Per Vehicle

TRUCKS CONVOY FROM TRARALGON & ORBOST TO LAKES ENTRANCE

Trucks Expected to arrive at 11am

Truck Entry Is Free

CONVOY START TIME TRARALGON 7:30AM & - ORBOST 9AM

All Trucks Welcome - Show 'N' Shine - Charity Auction

Food Trucks - Merchandise Stalls - Family Fun Day - Truck'n With Tim

ALL PROCEEDS DONATED TO CAMP QUALITY & ANGEL FLIGHT

This Event Is Alcohol Free.

CONTACT DETAILS/ Chelsea: 0455 531 991 Chris: 0418 804 508

Email: egconvoyforkids@gmail.com / Facebook East Gippsland Convoy For Kids