COWELL AREA SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 25TH, 2026

NEWSLETTER

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DATES TO REMEMBER

TERM 4

WEEK 7
23-25/11 - SAPSASA Cricket
23-25/11 - Yr 9 Camp
26/11 - Yr 8 Science Excursion
27/11 - Student Free Day

WEEK 8
30/11 - Student Free Day
1/12 - Presentation Evening, 6pm
4/12 - Whole School Assembly

WEEK 9
YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE
7/12 - Primary Christmas R.E.
8/12 - Yr 6 Graduation
11/12 - Final Day of Term 4, school finishes @ 2:20pm



LEADERSHIP NEWS

Hi All,

I have had a very enjoyable first week back at Cowell Area School, I have been well looked after by all the staff and students who have made me feel most welcome and have been very supportive as I learn all that is Cowell Area School in a very short time frame. I thank you all.

This week has seen our Yr 9's on the Aquatic camp, (my hats go off to them for braving the cool conditions on Monday and Tuesday, hopefully the weather warms up for them). We follow that over the next few weeks with the presentation night, Yr 6 graduation, reports coming home, more preschool transition and the Children's University Graduation being held in Port Lincoln next Thursday.
I would like to acknowledge the work of Cowell Staff in facilitating the camps, excursions and activities that make up the end of the school year. Also, the many parents and students who also have put in time and effort to support these events.

BUT Learning Continues

It is important though that learning continues to be the major focus of school right up until the last day, these events add value to the school curriculum and student experiences, but it must not be at the expense of the day to day curriculum, literacy and numeracy learning.

LEADERSHIP NEWS

Student Free Days Friday 27th November & Monday 30th November
Student free days are scheduled so that teachers and school staff can work on activities that improve teaching, student learning, and school operations without students being present. The rationale is that investing a small number of days in staff development and planning can improve the quality and consistency of teaching across the entire school year, which ideally leads to better student outcomes.

Staffing news
It has been great to welcome Shona Porteous to work with our 4/5 class for the remainder of the year. Experienced long term local teachers are gold to have on reserve when needed and we greatly appreciate her willingness to come back and support us at this time. Congratulations to Emma Wykamp who has won the position of Coordinator: Teaching & Learning Primary for 2027. Emma will join Rebecca Walton, Deputy Principal and Jess Schiller Coordinator: Teaching & Learning, Secondary along with the Principal to lead Cowell in 2027. We welcome Sally-Anne Tickner to the front office for the remainder of this year and next. Sally will be replacing Michelle Elson who is taking 12 months leave in 2027.

Final work is happening around 2027 class allocations and once finalised information will be provided to families.

WHAT TO DO WHEN THINGS GO WRONG AT SCHOOL
As much as we want as parents/caregivers/teachers for all to go well all the time. It won't. Even at Cowell 😊 There will always be moments in students' schooling life that upset the balance.
From my 40 + years experience, I know how schools and family connect at this time is extremely critical in ensuring the best way of dealing with the issue and ensuring students learning is maximised in a caring and supportive way.

Some thoughts on this:

1. We all want to spring to our children's defence when they are upset or life seems unfair. Before taking any action, it's a good idea to sit down with them and let them tell you, without interruption, what has happened. Find out what has upset them. Ask them what they think would put things right. Children, like us, need the chance to unload to a sympathetic ear. Often children are prepared to fight their own battles and just want to vent. There's nothing worse than charging into the fray and discovering your child has got over it and moved on.

2. Help them think through what has happened. Often, clearly thinking about events gets things into perspective or helps them see how they contributed to what happened. A good lesson for children is to learn which battles to choose. Life holds many irritations and we learn to take most of them in our stride. Erupting over minor incidents is no way to build sound relationships with classmates or teachers – or our own credibility.

3. After you have slept on it, if you are still worried, or your child asks you to, contact the class teacher. The teacher may be worried too and will be able to suggest the next step. Or you will be able to get a clearer picture of, for example, class dynamics or reassurance that the incident was a minor one with no consequences for your child.

4. If you are still concerned, my door is always open to parents. Schools really appreciate parents who want to find solutions rather than lay blame, especially when you show them you understand they have to take into account the interests of all the children in their care and cannot be pushed into punishing other children.

5. Build on your relationship with your children's teachers. Being familiar with the school and the other children helps you put together a more complete picture of what goes on at school. When you and your child's teachers keep communications open, trusting and positive, your child is the one who will reap the benefits.

Kind Regards
Dean Angus



SCHOOL NEWS

Year R/1 Igloos - Port Gibbon

Ms Gale took the R/1 class on an exciting trip to the Port Gibbon Igloos which they have been learning about in HASS. The students had a wonderful time engaging with the igloos, connecting with the local area and enhancing their learning with this hands on experience.









Year R/1 Social Skills Visit - Franklin Harbour Village Hostel

As part of our social skills lessons this term, the Reception/Year 1 class recently visited the local hostel to spend time with the residents. During our visit, students enjoyed taking part in painting and craft activities and having conversations with the residents. It was an amazing opportunity for students to build kindness, confidence and connection within our community.







SCHOOL NEWS

Year 8/9 Art

All hands-on deck in the Art room this semester, students and grandmas alike. We have been creating 3D sculptures using a gourd as the base, then chicken wire, mod rock and modelling clay. We have then chosen coloured tiles to mosaic their sculptures, and learnt adding food dye to grout makes coloured grout (great for the Adelaide cricket ground grass). These amazing sculptures will be finished and ready for viewing at the Presentation night, Tuesday 1st December at 6pm.





Cowell Area School

Whole School Assembly

Friday 4th December 2026
10.50am at the school

Hosted by the Year 9 and 2/3 classes
All welcome to attend



The Cowell Interchurch Council kindly thanked staff with a delicious morning tea on Tuesday 24th November to provide encouragement during report writing time.

SCHOOL NEWS

Cowell Area School

PRESENTATION EVENING

Tuesday 1st December,

at the Institute.

Doors open 6:00pm for a 6:30pm start

All welcome to attend as we celebrate the fabulous work of our students, staff and school community throughout the year.

This is a formal school event and all students are expected to attend and wear full school uniform.

There will be a short 10 minute interval between the Primary and Secondary Awards where photos of award winners will take place in the Supper Room.

Primary families may leave after this if they wish to, R-6 students who stay are to sit with parent/carers for the second half of proceedings.

Cowell Area School

STUDENT FREE DAY

Friday 27th & Monday 30th November

Staff will be undertaking training & development



Colour Run & Zooper Doopers

I am organizing a colour run on the Wednesday 2nd of December during lesson 7 to raise money for The Mental Health Foundation Australia. Children that want to be involved in the run are required to have a white T-shirt and bring a gold coin donation. The starting line will be at the school oval, and the run will be approximately 1.5km. Participants can either run or walk. Bring asthma puffers if required. After the run the Year 8 class will be selling ice blocks for $1.

Hope to see you there.

Zoe Flavel , Yr 10

LIBRARY NEWS

WHAT'S ON

Armchair Yoga

Every **Tuesday at 11am** with Lynda Turner on the big TV. $10 per session.



Frustrated by technology?
Need help with your phone or laptop?
Don't know how to spot a scam email?



Help is here!
Book in for a one on one with us. Appointments available every Wednesday morning.

Libraries SA

Contact the library on 8629 2320 to book in.

SCHOLASTIC BookClub

We will not be giving out physical catalogues to the students for this last book club edition for the year. Orders can still be placed via your 'LOOP' app, and will still be delivered to the library for collection. Orders will close off by the 2nd of December. Catalogues can be viewed via the link below.

https://scholastic.com.au/book-club/book-club-parents/issue-preview/

DID YOU KNOW ?

Lowering end-of-year stress. *Reading can calm the nervous system faster than many other quiet activities, making it a great way for kids to unwind from the excitement and fatigue of end-of-year school events.*



NEW RELEASES

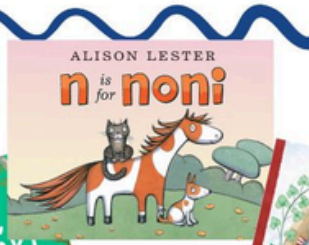




Best for: Ages 8-12

The scoop: Fast-paced, full-color historical fiction adaptations of Lauren Tarshis's bestselling books, the series follows fictional young characters as they use bravery and resilience to survive real-world disasters—like the sinking of the Titanic, Hurricane Katrina, and the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.The illustrated, comic-style format makes dense history accessible and engaging for kids who prefer visual storytelling over traditional chapter books.

BRAND NEW





BE THE FIRST TO BORROW!

