



COBURG NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter 21 14th December (pdf)

Dear Subscribers Name,

Welcome to the Coburg North Primary School's Newsletter we hope you find it an interesting and informative read. Below you will find all of the newsletter's articles; you can do a quick read or click through to read the full article.

Each newsletter article is posted as a 'Recent News' article on the [website](#) and can be read at any time. Newsletters, in pdf form, can also be downloaded from the school app or website. You'll also find the 'Event Quick View' on the school app and front page righthand side of the website this is useful for reminders about upcoming events.

If you have any feedback or suggestions about what you'd like to read in the newsletter, please contact us at coburg.north.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au.

If you would like to read the Community News please go to the [website](#).

Message from the Principal

In this Message from the Principal: Hot topics in the school yard, reports, building update and christmas message.

HOT TOPICS in the School Yard

CLASS SIZES

The talk of class sizes over the last fortnight has been a hot topic out in the school yard. Many parents are concerned regarding the increase in class sizes and would like to know why CNPS class sizes have increased for 2019. There are many reasons for this. The department guidelines on class sizes state that they should be planned on the minimum possible and planned on the following basis:

1. P to 6 – an average of 26 provided that the average class size of 21 at P-2 is maintained (Management of Teacher Work: DET, page 6)

Therefore, based on our school numbers of 537 students, we are only entitled to 21 classroom teachers.

Current Student Numbers: 537 students

	F	1	2	3	4	5/6
Students	89	109	103	78	73	85
Teachers	5	5	4	3	3	4
Average Class Size	18	22	25	26	25	22

Agreement Ratios

Entitlement

F-6 an average of 26 (540 students)	21 classrooms
F-2 an average of 21 (301 students)	14.3 classrooms
3-6 students (236 students)	7 (= average of 34)

Due to large numbers of students in the Junior School, we have had to include an extra 3 teachers to reduce class sizes in the middle school. This is a cost to the school and ultimately affects the organisational structure (short term) until our numbers even out. This has led us to allow for:

- 24 teachers (including 2 learning specialists)
- 4 specialist roles (24 + 4 = 28 hours = 1.2 per specialist program)

It is important to note that the class sizes for 2019 are still relatively low compared to other primary schools in Victoria.

There are other factors that have been considered when workforce planning. Considering that schools are provided with enough funds to provide the above ratios, this process can be quite difficult. The extra factors that have come into play when workforce planning for CNPS include:

Classrooms

Schools are given a set amount of classrooms according to the ratio above. CNPS has a cap of 650 students which means that according to our projected numbers, we are only entitled to 25 classrooms. Based on this, we have already reached our quota. We no longer will have any portables or extra classrooms that are funded by the department, therefore any extra classrooms that the school would like, will need to be funded by the school. This will also include the school to fund the cleaning and electricity/maintenance costs to the building as it will not be funded by DET. This is something that we can consider in the future once our new buildings are complete.

Middle Leadership/Extra Specialist/Extra Support

Leadership: A growing school requires extra leadership. It is typical for a school with a size of over 500 students to have 2 Assistant Principals. It is also a DET requirement for schools with over 18 classroom teachers to have 2 Learning Specialists. It is also typical for a school of this size to have a Leading Teacher. The school needs to factor these additional costs into the school staffing budget.

Specialist: Teachers are entitled to 2.5 hours of APT (time release), which means that primary schools are required to have, as a minimum, 2.5 specialists. CNPS has over this amount, employing another 1.5 teachers to have 4 specialist programs (PE, Art, Music and Italian). This enhances the curriculum and allows for students to have opportunities to shine in other areas outside of literacy and mathematics. This is an extra cost to the school.

Support Teachers: CNPS has extra support for students in terms of a part time Speech Pathologist and 3 part time teachers that provide support for intervention and extension, which supports all students in the school. In 2019 we are also self-funding a First Aid Officer to provide first aid support to students, as well as a full-time school technician to allow the school to run technology programs effectively. This will be needed for the introduction of a 1-1 iPad program as well as the introduction of the STEAM learning space in 2020. Both of these additional supports are a cost to the school.

Loss in Equity Funding: Over the past 5 years, CNPS's SFO (Student Family Occupation), has dropped significantly (currently at 0.2864), which means a loss of funding. The SFO is based upon the type of occupations our families have. DET bases equity funding on this with the belief that students who have educated parents don't need extra support. With new families coming into Coburg North, we have seen a massive decrease in this funding. This has impacted the school's budget.

With all these factors in mind, small class sizes of 20 students in each class are no longer sustainable. In saying this, CNPS has provided more than what the department has recommended in terms of extra teachers (x3), extra specialists (x 1.5) and extra support (x5). We have developed an excellent staff profile that is committed to providing the best educational experience for the students of CNPS.

If anyone would like to discuss the class sizes further, or would like some clarification on any of the things mentioned above, please don't hesitate to come up and speak to me before and after school.

CLASS LISTS

Another hot topic to fill the school yard, is the placement of students. As the end of year approaches many parents and students become anxious about where they will be placed the following year. I remember myself wondering what teacher I would have or if I would be separated from my friends. My sad story was that I was separated from my friends every year (except for one year) and I still remember the pain. But, I got over it. I still got to see my friends at lunch time and I also built some resilience skills. This is one of the hard parts of parenting, when we want to prevent our kids experiencing some disappointment or pain. However it can be helpful to see changes like this as an opportunity to build those resilience skills that are needed for their future social emotional development. I do understand that parents are active in wanting the best for their child, so in order to be as fair and just as possible, we have developed a process that ensures that the class lists are prepared as best as possible. The Class List Process is the same for every year level across the school.

Class List Process

1. At the beginning of Term 4, parents are asked to email the Principal with any request they have that they feel are essential to their child's educational development. These are confidential and are not shared with the teachers.
2. Students are asked to list 5 friends that they would like to work with in the following year.
3. The teachers in the current team meet together and have a list of all of their students with their student's friends, their academic strengths and challenges and any social or behavioral needs.
4. Teachers then place these students into the classes for the following year ensuring that every student has at least one of their friends on their list and that the classes are evenly spread with academic and social needs.
5. The class lists are then given to the specialist teams where they look at the class lists and offer input (as they see all of the students in the school and may know of any potential clashes).
6. The list then goes back to the teams to see if they are ok with any changes. A meeting is held with both parties if they feel a change doesn't work.
7. The list is then forwarded to the Principal and the Student Welfare Officer who look over the list and check to make sure that students are placed according to any confidential information that has been disclosed to the school.
8. The list is finally checked with the teams again. The list is then finalised and sent to the office to be placed onto the system.
9. Students are told where they are placed on transition day which is usually in the last week of school.

Taking into consideration the work, time and effort for all of these steps, it is easy to understand why changes cannot be made at the last minute. We ask that parents understand this process and ensure that all requests are made at the beginning of the process when the Principal sends out Parent Requests, as

stated in the newsletter at the beginning of term 4.

2019 Teachers

We would like to welcome six new teachers to CNPS. Ben Smith, Tamara Gray, Surbhi Raj Kumari, Geordie Corbet and Nicholas Baker will be the new members of our dynamic CNPS team.

F	1	2	3	4	5/6
Bridget Gibson	Anna Lam	David Bulley	Lillian Hancock	Lewis Bainbridge	Tamara Gray
Geordie Corbet	Hannah Dallas	Sebastian Fitzgerald	Nick Stubbings	Stephanie Dimovski	Ben Smith
Carmel Post	Laura Rossi	Laura Lamptey	Simon Presljak	Laura Mackinnon	Zoe Billing
Nicholas Baker	Surbhi Kumari	Raj Georgia McNaughton			Katrina Gouramanis
Marianne Roberts	Kathleen O'Callaghan				

Facebook Closure

The talk of the school's Facebook pages to be closed at the end of the year has joined the hot topic list at CNPS. This has been a hard decision as there are both pros and cons to having Facebook as a communication tool. Unfortunately there have been several incidents on both Facebook pages where comments were made that were not positive towards staff members and other members of our community. Although these messages were taken down as soon as possible, the messages did get out to the community and screen shots were taken. As a Principal, I can not allow any communication vehicle where my staff, students or community are put at risk. Language is powerful and can have damaging affects on not only a person's emotional wellbeing, but also on their reputation. I take my role of protecting my staff, students and community very seriously, and it is for this reason that I have decided to shut down the school's Facebook pages.

Communication between the school and parents will not be affected as we have moved all communication to Compass. We anticipate that shutting down Facebook will move more people over to the platform which will increase parent's awareness of what is happening in the school.

I have spoken to many parents and school council members about why Facebook is necessary for the school and the main reason was for keeping our school community strong. I acknowledge this, and have added a significant project to our planning, placing a focus on community. The group will be lead by a staff member and a group of community members who will work at creating initiatives that will keep our community involvement strong. Members from the 'People Power' working party will join this group.

Reports Feedback

Reports will be released this Monday. We would like to ask parents for feedback on their child's reports in regards to:

- Information given
- Format
- Comments and
- Any ideas on what you would like from a report card

We will send more communication out next year to work on improving our student reports.

Building Update

The building of Block L is running along its expected timeline. The building is anticipated to be open on the 15th of March, 2019. We will then have 1 week to move into the building before the hall area is blocked off from the school to commence Stage 2. Currently the completion date has moved to the end of September 2019.

Lisa Rochester Leaving

Lisa Rochester has picked up a position closer to home at Carisbrook Primary School. We are very sad to see Lisa go but understand that a 10 minute drive to work beats the 1.5 hour drive Lisa takes to get to CNPS. During her time with us, she has made a valuable contribution to our community. Her work as the Literacy and Mathematics Coordinator and Team Leader has been significant to improving the programs at our school. We wish Lisa the very best of luck for 2019 and beyond.

Parent Helpers

This week we held our Parent Helpers' Morning Tea. We do this each year to acknowledge and thank the many parents and families who contribute so much to the daily activities of our school. We are extremely fortunate at Coburg North to have such a wonderful, hardworking group of parents who give so freely of their time to help the kids.

Reminders

- Students will meet their new teachers on Tuesday, 18 December.
- Last day of school is Friday 21st December, with dismissal at 1:30pm.
- School Fees will be ready for payment on the first day back at school when teachers return on Tuesday 29th January
- Years 1-6 students commence on Wednesday 30th January
- Foundation students commence on Thursday 31st

Christmas Message

I would like to wish all of our CNPS parents, students and friends a safe, happy Christmas and holiday season. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of staff, parents and students. Walt Disney once said 'You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful ideas in the world, but it requires people to

make the dream a reality'. I am very proud to be a member of such a fantastic team that will continue to dream, create, design and build the most wonderful ideas in the world.

Merry Christmas to all and have a safe and happy holiday season.

Monika Gruss

Principal

Parents and Friend's News

In this Parents and Friends news: Christmas stall and thanks!

That's a wrap

The Parents & Friends group wants to thank everybody who helped out, made the crafts, baked the muffins, rolled the sushi, heated the pies, served the tea, spun the tunes, propagated the plants, ran trivia nights and mango drives, and, and, and The high level of participation in the school's fundraising events is a reflection of the level of community and connection which the school enjoys, so thank you all!

We should have a fundraising total available in the next newsletter which will be in February 2019! Merry Christmas and a splendid 2019!

Christmas stall

Organisers of the P&F's annual Christmas stall (next Wednesday, December 19) still need people to help on the day with serving all the children, and ... it's not too late if you wish to bake or make something. Anyone who can make or bake, or who can help on the day, please contact either [Mandy Gordon-Lee](#) or [Kirrily Noonan](#), or email the P&F at cnps_pf@hotmail.com



Parent Payment 2019

In 2019 CNPS will continue to grow and evolve offering rich and diverse learning opportunities for our students. Here is the parent payment letter sent home in each student's report outlining [school fees for 2019](#). Payments on Qkr! or at the school office from Tuesday January 29 2019.

Lunch orders 2019

D'1 UNO will be recommencing lunch orders next year from Thursday January 31, 2019. Lunch orders will continue to be ordered and paid via Qkr!. A reminder that the payments will appear on your credit card as "Maher Jajjo Brunswick".

Qkr!

In 2019 Qkr! will still be used for parent payments, OSHC payments, fundraising and lunch orders. Here are the [instructions how to set up Qkr!](#)

Thankyou from Friends of the Arts

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all the members of the Friends of the Arts for supporting us in being able to run our programs this year.

Thank You to All the members and supporters of the Friends of the Arts Program
We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all the members of the Friends of the Arts for supporting us in being able to run our programs this year. Your assistance, enthusiasm and participation has been invaluable with assisting us with the daily running and implementing our programs. Some of the things that these parents have been involved in have included sourcing and assisting in preparing materials, creating and making props and costumes for the concert as well as assisting in the mounting of artwork for the Young Archie's exhibit.

Looking forward to 2019, we already have some larger scale projects in mind that we would love some assistance with. We have noticed that there was quite a large number of parents that were keen to participate in the 'Friend of the Arts' however they were restricted by our after school meeting times. Next year we anticipate changing the format of the group to be more working bee based than formalised meetings. We will keep you posted in the new year.

Thank you,

From The Arts Department

Outside School Hours Care

Outside School Hours care will close at 5.30pm on Friday December 21. On behalf of the children and staff at OSHC we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy, safe and relaxing New Year. Please read more for details of fees for 2019.

Fees:

Keeping in line with other OSHC providers in our local area, School Council and the Management Committee have increased OSHC fees for 2019 by \$2.00 per session. Morning care will increase from \$15.00 to \$17.00 and Afternoon care will increase from \$18.00 to \$20.00.

Enrolment fees for 2019 are now due, \$40 per family can be paid via Qkr or at the program

All fees MUST be paid in full by the 20th December 2018

This term has been very busy. We have introduced the new enrolment system and sign in/out system. We thank you for your patience during this transition.

The program will close at 5.30pm on Friday 21st December.

On behalf of the children and staff at OSHC we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy, safe and relaxing New Year.

School Council Meeting November 28

School council met on Wednesday November 28. This was the final meeting for this school year. Please read more for items discussed and further important dates.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING 28th November, 2018

During the last meeting, items discussed included:

- Building update – General update provided. There are also discussions regarding fencing of the staff parking area to allow for another access point to/from the oval for stage 2 of the build. This will provide an access point on the west side of the school for students to use.
- Traffic update – Parking restriction changes will take place soon outside the school grounds on Jersey St, Bishop St and O'Hea St, as well as the installation of a crossing point in Jersey St. This is dependent on Moreland Council receiving the signs. Moreland Council has notified neighbours of the changes that will take place.
- Camp Working Party – A working party has been formed to review the school's Camp policy and program. The policy has been reviewed and the programs will be reviewed in early 2019.
- OHS Volunteer Induction – Documentation has been put into place for induction of volunteers. The first training for volunteers will take place later in the term for those volunteers who will be caring for the gardens over the summer school holidays.
- 2019 Budget – A draft overview of the budget for 2019 was presented. A more detailed budget will be submitted for approval in the new year.
- After school activities 2019 – The school council has approved some after

school activities to complement the OSHC service at school and to alleviate pressure on the spaces available at OSHC. There will be Kaixin Learning Hub Mandarin language classes available on Mondays and Thursdays after school next year, and Kelly Sports classes available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. These classes will run from after school until 5 pm.

- Reports – reports were presented from Finance, the Principal, Education sub-committee, Buildings Grounds and Development sub-committee, and Parents & Friends. Reports were also presented from the Camp, and Sustainability working parties.
- Sub-committee and Working Party meeting dates are as follows, (all are welcome to attend):
 - Finance: 13/12 at 4.30pm in the principal's office

*Please do not reply to this email as responses will not be read