



Invermay Primary School

187 Swingers Rd, Invermay Vic 3352

Phone: 5332 6396

<http://www.invermayps.vic.edu.au/>

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Banking: BSB: 063502

Account number: 10137566



We are proud to be an inclusive school community representative of many cultures and backgrounds

Commitment Cooperation Respect Responsibility Honesty & Excellence

Friday 10th February, 2023

Edition 23-1

DATES TO REMEMBER:

****Prep Rest Days**

Each Wednesday throughout the month of February

****Fri 10th Feb**

PUPIL FREE DAY at IPS

Wed 15th February

MARC Van - Gr 3-6

Friday 17th Feb

Fire Drill for students & staff
Parents & Friends meet @ 2pm
Multi Purpose room - all welcome.

Wed 22nd February

MARC Van - Gr P-2

Fri 24 Feb

Gr 1-6 final day to return Tennis,
Guitar, Ukulele & Golf Coaching
forms for those interested in lessons
this year.

Wed 1st March

MARC Van - Gr 3-6

Wed 8th March

MARC Van Gr P-2
School Council @ 7pm

Fri 10th March

Parents & Friends meet @ 2pm
Multi Purpose room - all welcome.

Mon 13th March

Labour Day
Public Holiday

Tues 4th April

IPS P-6 Athletics Carnival
- whole day at Llanberris Reserve

Wed 5th April

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Thurs 6th April

Final day of Term 1
2:30pm finish

WELCOME TO 2022

Happy New Year everybody! A warm welcome to all new and returning TBird students, for a school year in which we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of Invermay PS, the breeding ground of 'happy kids & high achievers' since 1873.

At this time I'd like to officially welcome the Costello, Currie, Garlick, Hill, McCumber, Neale, O'Hagan, Sloper-Kerry, Westmoreland & Wood families into our Invermay PS community. Many join our school community for the first time, however it is lovely to note that again this year we have new parents who themselves attended Invermay PS in years gone by. We also have a staff member who kicks off 2023 in the dual role of teacher & parent.

After a long Summer break, it's natural that our kids may exhibit signs of tiredness, anxiety or challenge at school and home as they adjust back into a busy routine. The Department of Education and Relationships Australia have put together a lovely support sheet of tips and ideas to assist families through the start of the school year, which you can find at:

<https://www.relationshipsvictoria.org.au/media/mivelOsc/covid-19-tip-sheet-returning-to-school-21107-web.pdf> These tips will resonate with many families, not just those with Preppies.

On Monday 30th January we kicked off our school year with a bang, with our fourteen new Preps being warmly welcomed by their teacher Jan Westlake, whilst our Gr 3-6 students enjoyed a brilliant free surf camp at Queenscliff, compliments of a government grant successfully applied for by our teaching staff late last year. This was a saving of \$360 + GST per student, which I'm sure was a welcome relief for all families with campers. Our kids loved every minute of boogie boarding, mountain biking, campfires, canoeing, rockpooling and hiking ... as did I. Thank you to teachers Paul & Chrissie for organising the perfect camp and also to our Gr 3-6 kids for being a joy to camp with.

My door is always open should you have a question, query or fabulous improvement initiative for our school council to consider. If you'd prefer to book an appointment time, please email me on justin.marshman@education.vic.gov.au or call our office on 5332 6396.

For communication with teachers, informal chats are always welcome and accessible at afternoon dismissal time. If you'd prefer to book an appointment time with a teacher for a longer discussion, please message your teacher through XUNO, or email them on:

- janice.westlake@education.vic.gov.au
- rebecca.garlick@education.vic.gov.au
- christine.mcshane@education.vic.gov.au
- paul.borchers@education.vic.gov.au

Our first school council approved Pupil Free Day for 2023 is this Friday 10th February. Our staff will be offsite undertaking Mental Health In Schools training with other regional schools.

Have a fabulous start to 2023 all - Justin & team

FIRE DRILL - Friday 16th February

Throughout the school year we will conduct fire and emergency drills in line with our Emergency Management Plan. Next Friday 17th Feb we will walk our children through a Bushfire Emergency Drill. Please find on pages 3-5 of today's newsletter our Bushfire Plan and strategies for families to follow should our school day ever be threatened by bushfire.

PARENTS CLUB MEET - Friday 17th February - 2pm in the Multi Purpose Room

We have a super friendly and active Parents & Friends committee who enjoy getting together socially, as well as to meet and brainstorm school fundraising, school improvement projects and school celebrations. A focus of their work this year will be the 150th anniversary of our school.

We invite all interested Mums, Dads & Carers to catch up for the first time this year to set a P&F meeting calendar for 2023 and brainstorm fundraising opportunities, social events and celebrations for our students and wider Invermay community throughout the year.

Our P&F already have a number of ideas and activities booked in for this year - some with a focus on *fun* ... others with a focus on *fun*draising! More help is always appreciated, so please feel free to join us if you can for an informal chat in our IPS Multi Purpose Room staffroom from 2pm. Tea & coffee will be provided. Call in and meet some lovely, like minded people if you have the chance and please feel free to bring along any new or interesting social or fundraising opportunities you may have to share for consideration in 2023-24. All welcome!

SCHOOL COUNCIL - Wednesday 8th March

This year we have parent vacancies for our school council. If you would like to nominate or seek further info regarding School Council for the 2023-24 school years and how you can be involved, please speak with Mr M in the office. Parent reps on school council hold a 2 year position. We meet on Wednesday evenings, usually 6-8 times per year and for 2 hrs per meeting 7-9pm.

Our first 2023 meeting of Invermay PS Council and AGM will be held on Wednesday 8th March, in Mr B's Gr 5/6 classroom from 7pm. All continuing and new councillors to attend.

A big thank you to our school council reps from last year - Paul Borchers, Jess Harrison, Emma Rickard, Dallas Warren, James Waghorne, Jan Westlake, Bobby Norris, Tarlea Bykersma & Steve Coyle.

LUNCH ORDERS: delivered Mondays & Fridays to Invermay PS - order online

Lunch orders can be purchased for delivery Mondays and Fridays at IPS through www.quickcliq.com.au

If you are considering trying a lunch order, download the QuickCliq app and follow the first time instructions to get set up and place an order.

Orders must be placed before 8:15am on the day of delivery, but can be placed days, weeks or even months in advance if necessary. Parents receive an email confirmation once an order has been successfully placed, which summarises lunch order delivery date; student name & classroom; as well as items ordered.

Paul & Sally Doyle, owners of 3on3 Professional Catering, are our hot lunch order providers. Paul and Sally are both trained chefs, who have been providing hot lunches to Ballarat primary & secondary schools for more than ten years. Online orders are delivered at lunchtime to our classrooms by Paul & Sally. Each order comes in a brown paper carry bag with an order sticker detailing student name; classroom; order contents; & any special dietary needs as requested by parents. Some delicious menu choices are available, including Gluten Free options.

BREAKY CLUB

Our TBIRDS BREAKY CLUB is open from 8:00-8:45am each Monday, Thursday & Friday - all you can eat and drink for \$5! No booking required, simply escort your child in to our school gym and check them in with our friendly Breaky Club host Deb.



The image shows a screenshot of the QuickCliq app interface. At the top, there is a logo for QuickCliq and a prompt to go to www.QuickCliq.com.au to sign up and add a child and credit. Below this, under the heading "TO PLACE AN ORDER:", there are four steps: "Select a student", "Select date", "Add items", and "Confirm Order". Each step has a corresponding icon (person, calendar, list, and checkmark) and a green button. At the bottom, there is a message: "You will be sent a confirmation email with your order details." and a thank you note: "Thank you for supporting your school and keeping your canteen costs down". The footer text reads "Helping Kids and Schools Australia Wide".

Mobile Area Resource Centre (MARC) Van Visits

In 2023 we welcome the MARC Van to our school on Wednesdays during Semester 1 and Fridays during Semester 2.

The Mobile Area Resource Centre (MARC Van) is a mobile library which visits six district schools in our local area. There are thirty-five MARC Vans like this one around Victoria, each with its very own qualified MARC teacher & librarian. Ours is based at Skipton, with teacher-librarian Mrs Gayle Munson our new MARC Teacher.

MARC Vans have been operating since the 1970's. There are around 35 MARC Vans in Victoria. MARC Vans are a part of the Department of Education and were introduced to service Rural Schools with less than 100 students to provide the opportunity to borrow books from a Library Service.

The MARC van is filled with picture story books, fictional novels, and non-fiction books for students and teachers to borrow. MARC lessons allow students to share books, discuss different aspects of the books, think critically and explore issues in greater details with an activity that is appropriate.

Teacher - librarian Gayle and her MARC Van will visit our Prep and Gr 1-2 classrooms fortnightly, then our Gr 3-4 and Gr 5-6 classrooms on the alternate fortnight. We welcome Gayle to our team.



Gayle Munson - MARC Van Teacher



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to the following T-Birds who have been recognised for exemplifying our school values of **Commitment**, **Cooperation**, **Respect**, **Responsibility**, **Honesty** & **Excellence**.

Week 2

Congratulations
Jaylee, Jaxon, Keirynn,
Raeleigh, Tully, Josh & Alyshia.



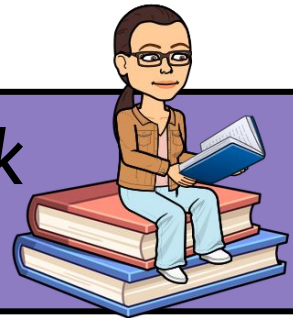
Classroom News 2023

In 2023, classroom teachers will be keeping you up to date with the latest teaching and learning using Google Sites. These sites will provide happy snaps and classroom updates, uploaded by teachers and students. Click the links to visit each classroom!



Foundation - Jan Westlake

Mrs Westlake > [Click Here](#)



Grade 1/2 - Bec Garlick

Mrs Garlicks > [Click Here](#)



Grade 3/4 - Chrissy McShane

Mrs McShane > [Click Here](#)

Grade 5/6 - Paul Borchers



Mr Borchers > [Click Here](#)

Camp Wyuna Queenscliff 2023



Bushfire Information for Parents – Code Red Schools

Following the tragedy of the Black Saturday fires across Victoria in 2009, the Victorian Education Department, along with the DSE, conducted a stringent analysis of bushfire risk to all kinders, childcare centres and schools.

Invermay Primary School is one of more than 100 facilities that have been identified on a Victorian Bushfire Risk Register.

*** A comprehensive list can be viewed at: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/emergencies/bushfires/register.htm>

What does this mean for students, parents and staff of Invermay PS?

- Schools, kindergartens and child care facilities at the highest risk of fire danger are placed on the DEECD's Bushfire At-Risk Register. Inclusion on this register is a trigger for the school, kindergarten or child care facility to pre-emptively close on days declared Code Red in their Bureau of Meteorology region.
- Schools, kindergartens and licensed child care centres that have been identified as being at high fire risk and on the Department's Bushfire At-Risk Register **will close on days declared Code Red.**
- The decision to close will not be made by school Principals or school based staff. The decision to pre-emptively close schools and children's services is made by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development based on warnings issued by the Bureau of Meteorology and in consultation with fire and emergency services.
- Where possible, up to 3-days notice of a planned closure will be provided to parents to enable child care arrangements to be made. Parents and carers should, however, expect that in some instances fewer than 3-days notice may be provided.
- Once the final decision to close is confirmed (no later than 12 noon the day prior) this decision will not change – regardless of any changes in the weather forecast. This will help limit confusion and help your family plan for how your children will be cared for when their school, kindergarten or child care centre is closed.
- Closure advice will be provided to you directly by your school, kindergarten or child care centre. A note and phone call should be expected wherever possible.
- When a school or children's service is advised to close on a Code Red day, no staff will attend school on that day or remain on site. All out-of-school care programs (including vacation, before and after school programs) will close.

Invermay PS is a Code Red School and will be closed on Code Red declared days in our fire district.

Schools like Invermay PS who are on the Bushfire At Risk Register may also request special consideration for closure on days forecast to be EXTREME (one level below CODE RED). The Department of Education and Vic Emergency Management will consider these on a case by case basis, with approval being given before midday the day before, so that families may be appropriately notified.

Bushfire Information For Parents – Invermay PS

What happens if an external fire threatens our school unexpectedly with staff and students in attendance?

If, for any reason, our school comes under threat on a day not declared Code Red and where students and staff are in attendance (ie: an unexpected localised grassfire on a mild day), our plan is to assemble all students in the junior school building. (which has many fire preventative features that are explained to students and staff at our fire drill sessions)

All staff members have allocated responsibilities in our school emergency plan (which are discussed and rehearsed during our fire drills) - including but not limited to student supervision, communications with parents, liaising with emergency services and the Education Department, First Aid & monitoring radio/internet updates.

Our message for staff, students and families is simple:

1. In the event of an unexpected external fire threat whilst staff and students are in attendance, we will assemble in the safest building in our school (jnr school building) and **will not evacuate unless advised by the emergency services officer in command.**
2. Whilst the Safe Meeting Point for Invermay community residents is the recreation reserve across the road from our school front, **our school will not rely on any one particular evacuation point. Any possible evacuation will be to a point and direction advised by the emergency services officer in command,** based on all available conditions and information at the time.
3. **In our plan, we ask that families endeavour not to continually call our school landline phone number for updates.** This will be our primary link with emergency services and the Education Department's Emergency Management team. IPS staff assigned to the family communications role will use mobile phones to contact parents/carers, particularly if an evacuation is required. Families could also seek updates on the following media:

Victorian Bushfire Information Line (VBIL) on freecall 1800 240 667.

Callers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech/communication impairment can call textphone/telewriter (TTY) on 1800 122 969.

CFA at www.cfa.vic.gov.au Department of Sustainability and Environment at www.dse.vic.gov.au/fires

Listen to ABC Local Radio, commercial and designated community radio stations or watch Sky News

4. **Students will be available for collection at any time, but only by their listed parent / carer or emergency contact.** We cannot release children with friends, neighbours etc who are not listed as an emergency contact in enrolment records.

BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS

In 2018 and again in 2020 and 2021, we contracted an arborist to compile a detailed report on each tree in our grounds greater than 5m in height. This report, along with bushfire preparation legislation for schools, created a number of required works to be actioned in our buildings and grounds.

We have completed \$17,000 of bushfire preparation works and arborist recommended works in recent months to ensure our grounds, buildings, students & staff are as safe as possible in the event of bushfire or ember attack.

We also include in our newsletter this week a copy of our two page IPS Bushfire Safety Plan for families. This can also be found at any time on the following IPS website link:

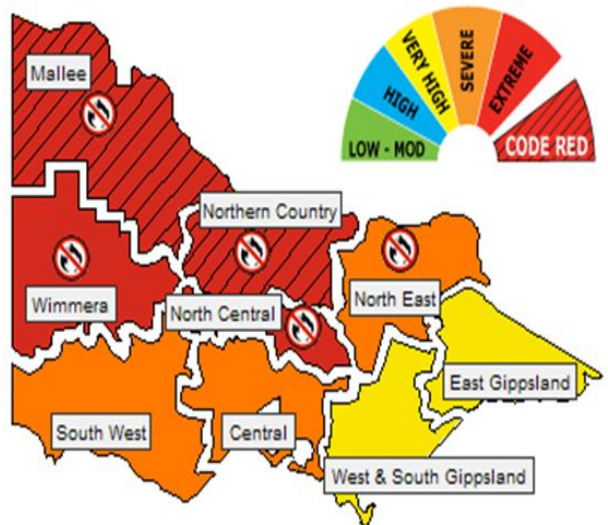
http://www.invermayps.vic.edu.au/uploads/1/2/3/2/12327842/ips_bushfire_information_for_parents.pdf

TOTAL FIRE BAN - closure in schools

Following the tragedy of the Black Saturday fires across Victoria in 2009, the Victorian Education Department, along with the DSE, conducted a stringent analysis of bushfire risk to all kinders, childcare centres and schools.

Invermay Primary School is one of more than 100 facilities that have been identified on a Victorian Bushfire At Risk Register (BARR).

The Education Department enforce that all schools on the BARR must closed when a **CODE RED** day is declared in their fire district. (see detailed info attached to today's newsletter) Thankfully, in the last 10 years our school has never been forced to close due to Code Red conditions. We do however prepare by updating parents/carers in our newsletter and on social media throughout the year, as well as discussing what this means with students. We also conduct fire drills annually with students and staff, with our most recent being on Tuesday of this week.



Sample from CFA Vic

Invermay PS is a 'Code Red' School and will be closed on Code Red fire danger days declared in our district.

Vic Emergency Management and the Department of Education will also consider **special consideration for closure on days forecast to be EXTREME (one level below CODE RED)** on a case by case basis, with approval being given by midday the day before, so that families may be appropriately notified.

All Gr 1-6 students will next week bring home an information pack for 2023 Sport and Music Specialist coaching opportunities, with dates, costs, profiles of coaches and permission forms included.

Any notes, money, permission forms etc. throughout the year should to be returned to your homeroom teacher at the beginning of the school day in a marked envelope. Each homeroom teacher marks the roll and asks for notes/forms/payments at the beginning of each day. Our homeroom teachers then deliver to the office each morning. As we invite families to transition to our new home-school communication tool known as XUNO throughout the year - many excursion forms and payments will be able to be completed paper free.

At his time, our two preferred payment methods for activities during the school year remain:

***Cash** – in a named & clearly marked envelope. Please ask your child to present to their teacher.

If you are able to forward a receipt copy of any electronic EFT payment made to school with your child to hand to their teacher in the morning that is most helpful. Alternatively, a screen shot emailed directly to office manager Karen is also very helpful for her in processing online payments accurately at this time. Feel free to email a digital receipt from any electronic transfers you make to Business Manager - Karen Rieniets at

karen.rieniets@education.vic.gov.au



If you require support in completing, please catch Justin or Karen in our office and they will assist wherever required.

[illegible]

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

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 background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & 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 trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid 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:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

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.



DIRECT LINK:

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

School Name

School REF ID

Parent/carer details

Surname _____

First name _____

Address _____

Town/suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Contact number _____

Centrelink pensioner concession **OR** Health care card number (CRN)

- - - **OR**

☐ Foster parent under a temporary care order* **OR** ☐ Veterans affairs pensioner (Gold Card)**

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH).

**Applicants must provide a copy of the Veteran Affairs Gold card

Is this an application for special consideration (no CRN needed)? Yes ☐ No ☐

Student details

Student's surname	Student's first name	Student ID	Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	Year level

I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that

- DFFH will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- this consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DFFH and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
- If I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.
- Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the DFFH and for State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant _____ Date ____/____/____

CSEF ELIGIBILITY

Below are the criteria used to determine a student's eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 – General eligibility

To be eligible for the fund, a parent or carer of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one
 - on the first day of Term two
- a) be a holder of one or more of the eligible financially-means tested cards **OR** be a temporary foster parent, and;
- b) submit an application to the school by the due date.

For the list of eligible financially-means tested cards refer to the CSEF Policy:

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund/policy>

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with the above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

Special Consideration

A special consideration category exists for

- Families on a bridging visa, temporary protection visa, in community detention or are asylum seeker families
- Students in temporary out of home care arrangements, including statutory kinship care

For more information, see <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund/guidance/eligibility>

Eligibility Date

For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/carers concession card being validated successfully with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (30 January 2023) or term two (24 April 2023).

PAYMENT AMOUNTS

CSEF payment amount

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

- Primary school student rate: \$125 per year.
- Secondary school student rate: \$225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child's school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student's date of birth. For more information, see:

www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx

Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents/carers so please register your interest at the school.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

NOTE: ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

1. Complete the PARENT/CARER DETAILS section.

Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.

If you are claiming as a temporary Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.

If you are seeking special consideration, mark this in the form and provide a copy of the relevant documentation.

2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.
3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible. The CSEF program for 2023 closes on the 23 June 2023.