Invermay Primary School

187 Swinglers Rd, Invermay Vic 3352
Phone: 5332 6396
http://www.invermayps.vic.edu.au/
Email: invermay.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Banking: BSB: 063502
Account number: 10137566

We are in Wadawurrung Country

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

Edition 26-3 **Friday 6th March 2026**

Commitment Cooperation Respect Responsibility Honesty & Excellence

2026 School Dates

****Weekly Assembly**
3:10pm each Friday
inside or outside (weather dependent)

IPS BREAKY CLUB
Open from 8:00-8:45am each Monday, Thursday & Friday morning. Cereal, toast, juice, milo & fruit provided.

No booking required, simply escort your child in to our school gym and check them in with our friendly Breaky Club host Deb.

MARC Van Fridays
Mobile School Library
Each IPS student is able to borrow one book weekly

Friday 6th March
2026 Tennis lessons begin

Monday 9th March
Labour Day Public Holiday

Thursday 12th March
9am Parents & Friends meet

Wed 11th - Mon 23rd March
NAPLAN National Assessment Program in Literacy & Numeracy
Reading, Writing & Maths Assessment for Gr 3 & 5 students across Australia

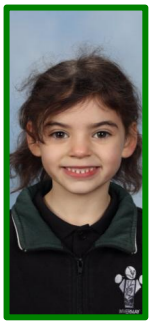
Wednesday 1st April
School Council
7pm in IPS staffroom

Thursday 2nd April
Final day of Term 1
2:30pm dismissal

STUDENTS EXCELLING: *Congratulations to the following recipients of my Principal's Medallion over the last fortnight:*

**Milla Lourey - For leading the way with kindness in her class. Milla has accrued the most green TBird points so far this year for our school value of RESPECT. Way to go Milla!

**Audrey McCumber - For filling up the social & emotional bucket of others in her classroom and in our schoolyard. Audrey knows how to make kids and grown ups alike smile! Thankyou Audrey - your friends and teachers greatly appreciate having you as a TBird.



Principal's Report: Last Thursday & Friday I attended the Victorian Principals Association state council meeting. We met with the Deputy Secretary of Education - Prof David Howes - to provide school level feedback on a number of initiatives that the department have rolled out, or are planning to roll out this year, including changes to government school funding formulas; AI in schools; and PROTECT 2.0, a strategy developed in collaboration by educators and Child Protection, to support Victorian school staff to identify and respond to cases of child abuse, neglect and domestic violence.

Back at IPS this week, I had a great time hosting leaders from the Education Department through our classrooms. Senior Education Improvement Leader Anne gawith loved getting involved in literacy groups with our Preps and chatting with staff and students across all classrooms. It's always lovely to show off our fantastic classrooms and learning spaces when they are in full swing.

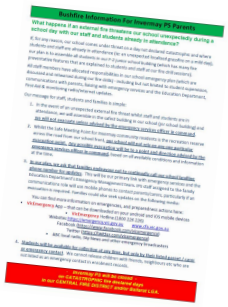
Next week, we look forward to welcoming Gr 5-6 teacher Mr B back to work.. Thank you to casual relief teacher Em Hofman for backfilling whilst Mr B has been on family leave in recent weeks.

NAPLAN 2026: NAPLAN assessments for Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 students across Australia will also begin next week. NAPLAN testing assesses student knowledge and skills in Numeracy, Writing, Reading and Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation). Most tests will be completed by most children in the first three days, however testing remains open for a second week across the country to accommodate children who may have been absent for an earlier test. NAPLAN results provide insight for students, parents, teachers and principals into strengths & gaps in student learning. Results are distributed to schools and families nationwide later in the school year.

Gr 3&5 families - please contact our NAPLAN coordinator Paul Borchers should you have any questions.

IPS Athletics Carnival - Thursday 23rd April, 2026: One of the biggest and best days on our school calendar is our annual IPS Athletics Carnival. Pop the date in your diaries. Parents and extended family all welcome to come along and spectate at Ballarat Regional Athletics Centre - 201 Barkly St, Golden Point. A full page flier with all details on our Aths Day will be sent home in school bags and also on XUNO closer to the date.

BUSHFIRE DRILL - held Wednesday 4th March



Throughout the school year we will conduct fire and emergency drills in line with our Emergency Management Plan.

Last Wednesday we held a bushfire drill and safety chat with all staff and students present.

IPS families at home are encouraged to ask your children what points they took from our chat.

Please find on today's newsletter our IPS Bushfire Plan & Info For Parents, including strategies for families to follow should our school day ever be threatened by bushfire.

PARENTS CLUB - next meeting Thursday 12th March

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. Stay tuned for upcoming meeting dates.

We invite all interested Mums, Dads & Carers to catch up socially at P&F meetings to 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 *fundraising*! More help is always appreciated, so please feel free to 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 2026. All welcome!

STUDENT LUNCH ORDERS: delivered direct to Invermay PS Monday - Friday ..... order online

Lunch orders can be purchased for delivery Monday - Friday 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. Fresh SUSHI is now available for delivery to school on a Tuesday & Thursday, but must be ordered 24 hours before as it made to order from a specialist sushi supplier.

All other 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!

No booking required, simply escort your child in to our school gym and check them in with our friendly Breaky Club host Deb.

Gr 1-6 TENNIS COACHING

We have eleven Gr 1-6 students taking up the opportunity of tennis lessons with Tennis Australia certified coach, Jo Beattie. Jo returns for her sixth year as our TBirds tennis pro! These are optional classes at cost to parents, though highly subsidised by our school. Please return forms to Mr M in the office if keen to join. Have fun, be committed and enjoy the challenge of learning a skill for life kids.

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.***

Term 1 Week 5

Congratulations:

Ollie, Teddy, Finley, James, Charlotte, Zaviah, Addi & Audrey

Term 1 Week 6

Congratulations:

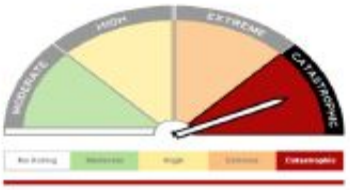
Frankie, Xavier, Addison, Hue, Luke, Milla, Journy, Austin & Vanessa. Absent: Leo W

Bushfire Information for Invermay PS Parents

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



Schools, kindergartens and child care facilities at the highest risk of fire danger are placed on the Department of Education'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 ***CATASTROPHIC*** in their Local Government Area or Bureau of Meteorology region.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS & STAFF OF INVERMAY PS?

Closure of our school on a bushfire *CATASTROPHIC* rated day:

1. Closure of our school facility due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed by the Department of Education on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of that school day.

2. **In the event of a planned closure day, our Invermay PS Bushfire Emergency Plan is to offer schooling at the safer residential location of:**

   Macarthur St Primary School in Ballarat - 401 Macarthur St, Ballarat

   (5km south of our school)

   - **where our teachers and students are able to safely share facilities for the day -**

3. 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 will be made by the Department of Education, based on warnings issued by the Bureau of Meteorology and consultation with fire & emergency services.

4. Any information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by both a note home with student and direct phone call to families wherever possible.

5. **Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, even if the weather forecast changes.** This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child whilst their school, kindergarten or childcare centre is closed. It is also important to be aware that:
   - No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
   - Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.
   - School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

- Invermay PS will be closed -
on CATASTROPHIC fire declared days
in our CENTRAL FIRE DISTRICT and/or Ballarat LGA.

Bushfire Information For Invermay PS Parents

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

If, for any reason, our school comes under threat on a day not declared Catastrophic and where students and staff are already in attendance (ie: an unexpected localised grassfire on a mild day), our plan is to assemble all students in our F-2 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 **we 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:

You can find more information on emergencies, and preparedness actions here:

- VicEmergency App – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)

Websites https://emergency.vic.gov.au www.cfa.vic.gov.au
Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency)
Twitter (https://twitter.com/vicemergency)

- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

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.

- Invermay PS will be closed -
on CATASTROPHIC fire declared days
in our CENTRAL FIRE DISTRICT and/or Ballarat LGA.

MHiPS
Mental Health in Primary Schools

NAPLAN - National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy, is an important part of the Australian education system, providing a snapshot of students' skills in reading, writing, language conventions, and numeracy. For our students in Years 3 and 5 this can feel like a big milestone – and it's completely normal if it brings a mix of excitement, nerves, or even some anxiety.

First and foremost, I want to reassure everyone: NAPLAN is just one measure on one day (or a few days). It doesn't define who you are as a student, a learner, or a person. Our school community values growth, effort, and wellbeing above all else. These tests help us understand how we can better support teaching and learning, but they don't capture your creativity, kindness, resilience, or unique talents. You've achieved so much already, and NAPLAN is simply another step in your learning journey.

Tips for Parents and Carers: How You Can Help

1. Create a Supportive Environment: Talk openly about NAPLAN without adding pressure. Phrases like "We're proud of your effort, no matter what" can be reassuring. Avoid comparing to siblings or peers – every child is on their own path.

2. Encourage Balance: Help your child stick to a routine that includes downtime. Limit screen time in the evenings to improve sleep, and plan fun family activities post-tests to look forward to.

3. Reassure with Perspective: Remind them that NAPLAN results are confidential and used to guide school improvements. Many successful people didn't ace every test – it's perseverance that counts.

4. Maintain a Healthy Routine: Get plenty of sleep (aim for 9-11 hours), eat balanced meals, and stay active. A quick walk or play outside can boost their mood and focus.

As we head into this period, let's remember that our school's priority is your wellbeing. If you or your child needs a chat, my door is always open – feel free to email me at christine.mcshane@education.vic.gov.au or drop by my office adjacent to the grade 4 classroom. Together, we can make NAPLAN a positive experience for every T-Brid.

Respectful Relationships (RRRR)

For the remainder of term 1, all students will be involved in activities and lessons on Topic 2 of the Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships Curriculum. *Topic 2 is all about Personal Strengths*. Students will be building strengths through cooperative games, and learning how to use our personal strengths in different situations. We then explore differences in cultures and families during *Harmony Week* (week 8), through collaborative activities that help us understand different cultures and backgrounds. All lessons are age appropriate and facilitated by me, Mrs Mac, each week.

If you have any questions relating to the RRRR curriculum, please reach out.

Christine McShane
Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader

SCHOLASTIC Book Club

⭐Issue 2 orders are due back by March 19th (Thursday week 8)
⭐All orders can be completed online through the LOOP app, or scan the barcode on the back of the issue. Cash orders can come straight to Mrs Mac or to Karen

Why Order?

⭐Special savings and offers are available only to Book Club families
⭐Get a discount code with every order
⭐By ordering books you are supporting classroom and school reading initiatives and earning reward points for classroom library resources

🏉 Invermay Primary School Footy Tipping is here! 🏉

We are pleased to launch our first community footy tipping competition for all Invermay Primary School friends, family, staff and students.
Whether you think you can top the leader board, or you just tip based on the team mascot (that's me!), it's all just about a bit of fun and friendly competition throughout the year.
There may even be a sneaky function at the end of the season to celebrate - watch this space!

To sign up, just click the link below, or copy and paste it into your browser. You will just need to create a log in with an email address and password.

https://www.footytips.com.au/comps/Invermay_TBirds_Community_

Round 1 is this Thursday! So don't hesitate, sign up today!

MOUNT ROWAN SECONDARY COLLEGE

INFORMATION NIGHT & SCHOOL TOUR

MONDAY MARCH 16

To book in please scan the QR code or click on the link

MRSC information evening attendance

MOUNT ROWAN SECONDARY COLLEGE

CONTACT US

453 - 457 Forest Street, Wendouree
(03) 5336 7824 mount.rowan.sc@education.vic.gov.au

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

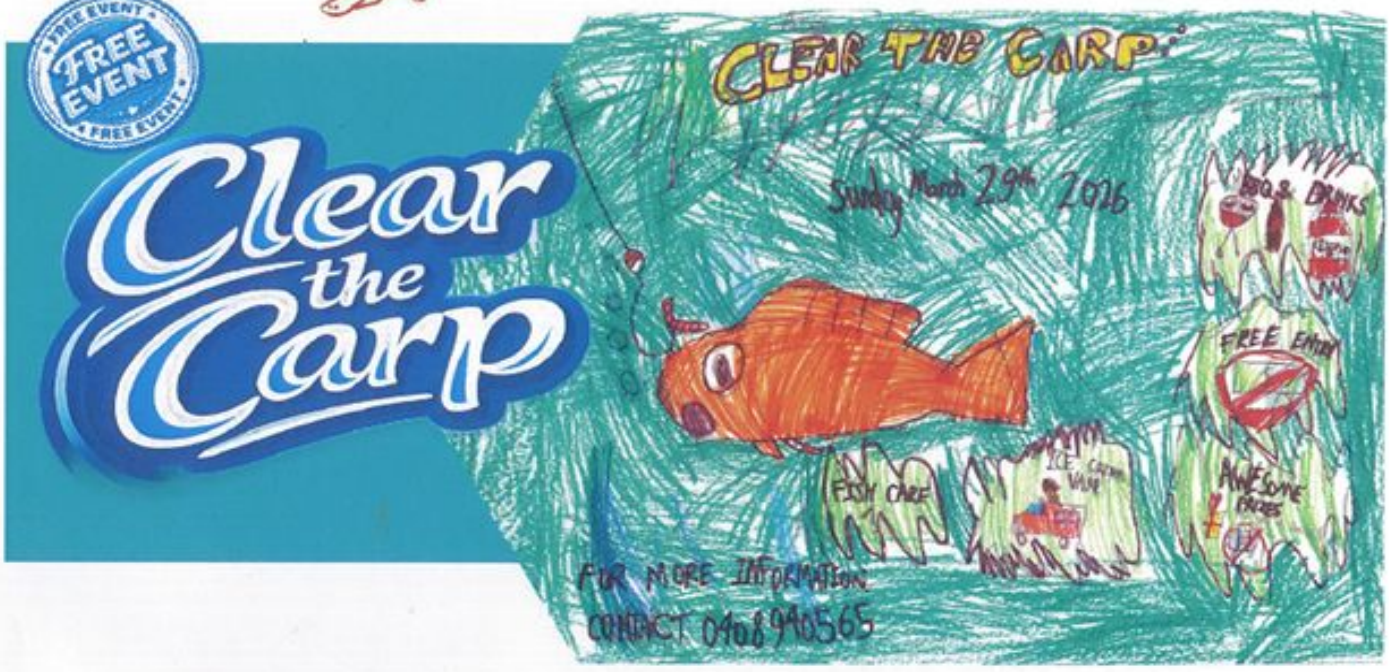
For more information about CSEF visit:
https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund

Skipton Primary School

SUPPORTED BY fishcare victoria

FREE EVENT

Clear the Carp



This is a student-led community fishing and environmental action day at Mount Emu Creek, proudly delivered by the Grade 5/6 students from Skipton Primary School. Supported by Fishcare Victoria's Catch a Carp project, the event features fishing clinics, habitat activities with OzFish and carp processing and cooking demonstrations with Keith Bell.

STEWART PARK, SKIPTON

Sunday 29th March

9.00am - 3.00pm

Habitat & Ecology

Fishing Clinics

Carp Processing & Cooking

OzFish POWERED BY FISHCARE VICTORIA

K & G FISHERIES GLOBAL

Catch Learn Protect

Your fishing licence fees at work

THE HOME OF THE

FOREST RANGERS SOCCER CLUB

FOREST RANGERS SOCCER CLUB

For almost 60 years, the Forest Rangers Soccer Club has played an essential role in the Ballarat community, offering much more than a typical sports organization. We provide children and adults alike with the chance to enhance their fitness, soccer skills, and personal development in a safe and welcoming atmosphere.

Our dedicated coaches and volunteers are committed to nurturing not only athletic talent but also the values of teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship.

Come and be apart of Ballarat's fastest growing soccer club and see how we uniquely differ from other clubs in Ballarat!

FRSC

facebook.com/frsc | instagram.com/__frsc | www.forestrangerssc.com | 1 Holly Grove, Wendouree 3355

SJC GROUP
BETTATECH Telstra Partner
WEST EXHAUST 5339 3030 OR 5338 1000
GIANT BALLARAT
JWR ACCOUNTING & ADVISORY SERVICES
buxton
B & M PAINTING
KROOZN