We are in Wadawurrung Country

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

Commitment Cooperation Respect Responsibility Honesty & Excellence

DATES TO REMEMBER

2026 School Dates

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

**Prep Rest Days
Each Wednesday throughout the month of February
Friday 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th Feb.

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

Friday 13th February
Notes will go home for optional Gr 1-6 Tennis, Guitar, Ukulele & Golf Coaching lessons this year

Friday 13th February
Jnr School Council
$2 Icy Pole Stall

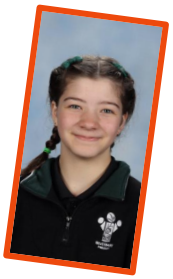
Sunday 15th February
We host the Bunnings BBQ
Helpers required
8:30-12:30pm or 12:30-4:30pm
Contact Justin in our office if you can assist please

Monday 16th February
Smile Squad Dental Van

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

Friday 6th February 2026 **Edition 26-1**

Principal's Report



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

**Eden Van Ravenstein - for being on time and ready to learn in class each morning.

Keep leading the way for others to follow Eden!

Welcome Back

Happy New Year and welcome to 2026 at Invermay PS everybody, the home of '*happy kids & high achievers*' since 1873. It's been lovely to meet and chat with so many of you in recent days for the first time. It's also been a joy to spend some time in our classrooms engaging, learning, laughing and sharing a little show & tell with our T-Bird students. Our staff have planned some amazing experiences and opportunities for our kids this semester and this year. Enjoy kids!

For communication with teachers, informal chats are often 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:

- georgia.welch@education.vic.gov.au
- steven.watts@education.vic.gov.au
- rebecca.garlick@education.vic.gov.au
- allira.allen@education.vic.gov.au
- claire.woodfield@education .vic.gov.au
- christine.mcshane@education.vic.gov.au
- paul.borchers@education.vic.gov.au

Some exciting news this week, as our congratulations go to Gr 5-6 teacher Paul Borchers and partner Kate, who have welcomed the safe arrival of a beautiful baby girl into their family - *Winnie Sloane Borchers*. Congratulations Paul & Kate! Mr B will enjoy getting to know his little girl whilst on Family Leave over the next few weeks. Our Gr 5-6 class will be taught in his absence by experienced teacher, Emelie Hofman.

Our Junior School Council (JSC) are back in 2026 and will start the year off by selling icy poles each Friday lunch time during Term 1 @ $2 per icy pole, with all funds going directly to JSC fundraising.

Book Club for Kids

Scholastic Book Club has proudly partnered with Australian schools and families for over 50 years.
Their Issue 1 catalogue will go home to students this week and orders are due back 13th of Feb (Friday week 3).
Orders can be made online, or cash orders come to Mrs Mac in a clearly labelled envelope.
Why order from Scholastic Book Club Issue 1?

✨ Encourages reading at home and supports literacy in the classroom
✨ Families can receive up to 3 FREE books when they order from Issue 1
✨ Many families also have a $5 discount code from Issue 8 to use now
✨ Orders earn our school Scholastic Rewards to support classroom libraries at IPS.

Any questions about Book Club, please chat to our Gr 4 teacher Chrissy McShane.

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 2

Congratulations:

Owen, Eden, Scarlett, Michael, Addilyn, Matilda,

Audrey and Connor

Invermay Student Wellbeing Team

The Invermay Student Wellbeing team comprises of Justin Marshman (Principal), Christine McShane (Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader), Rebecca Garlick (LOOKOUT and Disability Inclusion Leader), and Leigh Yates (Chaplain). The aim of the wellbeing team is to proactively prevent mental health concerns; provide social, emotional or academic support to students at risk; as well as establish care pathways for students at risk of mental health concerns. The team meets regularly to discuss and action any wellbeing concerns within the school.

Roles and Responsibilities

Christine is our ***Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader (MHWL)*** funded through the Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHiPS) program. Dedicated to the efficacy of our whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing, and to provide care pathways for students and families with mental health concerns. Christine is also our dedicated ***Koori Champion*** to support students that identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
For all queries relating to the social and emotional wellbeing of your child or children, please contact Christine.

Bec is our dedicated ***LOOKOUT and Disability Inclusion Leader.*** *LOOKOUT* is an initiative to best support our students living in Out of Home Care (OOHC). This includes kinship care, where children live with a relative, or foster care. Bec checks in with students in OOHC; facilitates Student Support Group meetings with families and students each term; and liaises with CAFS and DHHS caseworkers on behalf of families. In her Disability Inclusion role, Bec is responsible for creating a Disability Inclusion Profile (DIP) for any students requiring extensive support within the classroom. Funding is often sought for these students.
For all queries relating to Out of Home Care, or concerns related to the academic wellbeing of your child or children, please contact Rebecca.

Leigh is our **School Chaplain**. He is onsite at IPS everyday from 9am to 3pm, to provide support for at risk students; family support; as well as Education Support in the classroom Children are internally referred to Leigh if identified through Wellbeing Team data to require extra supports, either socially or emotionally. Parent consent is always established prior to any intervention.
Families who want to access time with Leigh for their child or children need to complete the Chaplaincy Referral Form.

Question or Concerns

Direct all initial questions or concerns to
Christine McShane christine.mcshane@education.vic.gov.au
Rebecca Garlick rebecca.garlick@education.vic.gov.au
Leigh Yates leigh.yates@education.vic.gov.au

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Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships (RRRR)

This year at IPS we are including structured and explicit teaching of the Respectful Relationships program to support our school's Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). The Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships, 'RRRR' so 'Respectful Relationships' for short, is a compulsory student wellbeing program for all Victorian schools to implement.

Here at IPS our teacher Chrissy McShane will be delivering these lessons across all year levels as part of her role as Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader.

Our first topics this semester is about *Emotional Literacy*.

In these lessons, students develop the ability to be aware of, understand and use information about the emotional states of themselves and others. Learning and having emotional literacy empowers children to make decisions around their own wellbeing, and gives them to tools to notice, discuss and respond to their feelings and the feelings of others in a respectful way.

What will your child be learning?
Grade 5/6 (Wednesday): What do emotions look like? Recognising positive and negative emotions, Intense emotions.
Grade 4 (Thursday): What do emotions look like? Emotional triggers and emotions across the school day.
Grade 2/3 (Wednesday): Recognising emotions, Emotional triggers, Acts of friendship and Stories of kindness.
Grade 1 (Tuesday): What is Respect? Recognising emotions, Acts of friendship and Stories of kindness.
Prep (Tuesday): What is Respect? Recognising emotions and What causes emotions.

Feel free to connect with your child or children about what they are learning in these lessons. The continuity and connection at home is very valuable for the development of their emotional literacy. These lessons are all age appropriate and encourage positive relationships across our community.

If you have any questions about the program or what your child will be learning, please speak to Respectful Relationships Teacher Chrissy McShane.

Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHiPS)

What a joy it has been each morning to feel such positive energy and to see our children so excited about another year of learning! I would like to extend a warm introduction to new families in my role as the Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader. Throughout the year, I will contribute regular newsletter articles focused on strengthening families and supporting wellbeing, as a way of partnering with you in your very important role as parents and caregivers. Let me know if there is a particular topic or area you would like me to focus upon!

Student wellbeing and mental health are central to our commitment to holistic education. We are fortunate to be in our second year of the Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHIPS) initiative which strengthens our whole school approach to mental health promotion, early intervention and targeted support. This framework allows us to continue building a school environment where every child feels safe, supported and able to thrive.

There are many new and exciting initiatives in the pipeline for whole school mental health and wellbeing at IPS in 2026, so watch this space! I will be working alongside our experienced wellbeing team of Leigh Yates (Chaplain), Rebecca Garlick (Disability Inclusion), and Principal Justin Marshman; as well as our newly elected Junior School Council Wellbeing Warriors, who represent student voice, to implement and promote these initiatives across our school.

Finally, I would like to make a call out to any and all parents and carers who have a skill or interest in hands-on activities, and can spare an hour or two throughout the year, to come and speak with me about being involved in some small group skill building sessions. These sessions will aim to encourage all children at IPS to learn a new skill, and have the opportunity to interact with likeminded students. Art, crafts, working with tools, gardening, cooking, sports, are just some of the skills we would be interested in. Please let me know via Xuno at Chrissy McShane, or email me on christine.mcshane@education.vic.gov.au. Alternatively come and find me in person in my office adjacent to the Grade 4 classroom.

What an exciting year we have ahead! I look forward to working together to ensure a positive, supportive and inclusive year for all members of our school community.

Christine McShane,

Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader

Walking Only Area!!!!!!!!!!

Over the past few weeks and late last year Karen in office has had lots of bumped heads and accidents of students crashing into each other running around buildings especially between buildings near snakes and ladders. We have put some red and white tape around the poles near snakes and ladders (with signs coming) to make this a walking only area to reduce the amount of injuries that we are receiving. So, if you see anyone running in this area please remind them to walk and if they are refusing to listen tell a teacher and it may then end up being a red T bird point.

Note: New return date of 30th January 2026 or preferably ASAP

Smile Squad is coming to our school

Invermay P.S families,

The Smile Squad team from Grampians Health are coming to our school soon.

Smile Squad is the Victorian Government free school dental program.

This means all students can get a free dental check-up, preventive services, and treatment at school.

How to access free dental care

Grampians Health will be sending to your school the next generation of oral health professionals and your child will be seen by a dental/oral health student working under the supervision of a qualified smile squad clinician. We need your consent before we can provide services. Consent is usually provided by a parent or guardian. To be seen on site at school you must tick YES in the box to be seen by a student.

Sign up to Smile Squad at: https://bit.ly/smilesquadvic

OR use the below QR code:

Please complete and submit the consent form by the 30th January 2026

Paper copies of the consent form are available. Please contact the school office if you would like to request one.

The electronic consent form can be translated into more than 100 languages, and the paper form is available in 13 languages.

Smile Squad dental packs

All children deserve a healthy smile, and the Smile Squad free school dental program is working hard to help make sure this happens.

Your child(ren) will soon receive a free dental pack to bring home. The dental pack contains a toothbrush, full sized toothpaste, and an oral health brochure. Please take the time to read the brochure. It's full of helpful hints and tips to help your whole family eat well, drink well and clean well – for life.

Standard strength toothpaste

Smile Squad provides standard strength fluoride toothpaste that is generally used by ages six and over, unless recommended by a dental or trained health professional.

If your child is under six, please talk to a dental or trained health professional to find out if your child might benefit from using this toothpaste. You can also choose to put the toothpaste away until they turn six or give it to someone else in your family to use.

Do I need to attend my child's appointment?

No, you do not need to attend your child's appointment. If you prefer to attend your child's appointment, you can take your child to the community dental clinic.

The Grampians Health Smile Squad look forward to seeing you soon.

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

JUNIOR FOOTBALLERS WANTED

WOADY WARRIORS 2026

JUNIORS ONLY CLUB

Under 8s, Under 10s, Under 12s & Under 14s

$99 REGISTRATION FEES

FREE WOADY WARRIORS FOOTBALL BAG WITH EVERY REGISTRATION

- **WESTERN BULLDOGS TRAINING CLINIC**
  Further details to come
- **FREE AFL TRIP IN 2026 TO SEE THE WESTERN BULLDOGS**

Woady Yaloak Football Netball Club

football@woadywarriors.com.au

Rohan 0409 970 997

NEW & RETURNING PLAYERS SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST