

### Education Maintenance Allowance

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; **and**
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 **or** be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner **or** be a foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (28 January 2009 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (13 July 2009).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by **28 February 2009** for the first instalment and **7 August 2009** for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of **\$221** for primary students and **\$443** for secondary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school. Schools receive the school portion electronically twice a year and parents/guardians receive their portion via two cheques. Students turning 16 years in 2009 will be paid on a pro rata basis and not on the 70/30% basis.

### Payment Amounts

Instalment	Portion	Primary school*	Secondary school*
<b>One</b>	<b>Parent</b>	<b>\$ 77.35</b>	<b>\$ 155.05</b>
	<b>School</b>	<b>\$ 77.35</b>	<b>\$ 155.05</b>
<b>Two</b>	<b>Parent</b>	<b>\$ 33.15</b>	<b>\$ 66.45</b>
	<b>School</b>	<b>\$ 33.15</b>	<b>\$ 66.45</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 221.00</b>	<b>\$ 443.00</b>

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2009 through this school, will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents, who transfer children to another school after 28 February 2009 and prior to or on 7 August 2009, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.

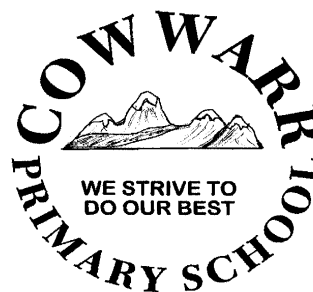
Application forms are available from the school office.

### Student Banking

A reminder that school banking will continue. Bank books can be dropped at the office any time. New account forms are also available at the office.

### Conveyance Allowance

Families who are eligible for Conveyance Allowance are requested to apply by no later than Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2009. Families that have previously received conveyance allowance do not need to reapply; their application carries over from year to year. Children living more than 4.8 km by the shortest practicable route from the nearest school must be aged 5 years old by the 30<sup>th</sup> April. Also students may be eligible for a limited transport subsidy to attend the next nearest government school but the student must be eligible for a conveyance allowance to the nearest school.



# Cowwarr Primary School

No. 1967

Church Street  
Cowwarr. 3857

Telephone: (03) 5148 9271

Facsimile: (03) 5148 9422

Email: [cowwarr.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:cowwarr.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Principal: Helen Hellenen

## Cowwarr Communicator

[www.cowwarrps.vic.edu.au](http://www.cowwarrps.vic.edu.au)

February 12th 2009

Issue 2

### Calendar

Wednesdays for February- No Preps required at school  
Swimming- Tuesday and Thursday February  
School Community BBQ- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February  
School Council- Monday 23<sup>th</sup> February  
Rural school Swimming Sports- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February  
Wellington Zone Swimming Sports- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March  
Arts Council Performance- 'Leaping Loonies' - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March  
Parent Club AGM Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March  
Grade 6 'Leaders Day' - Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March  
Term 1 holidays- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

### What a 'horrendous' weekend!

No other words can possibly describe it!

To all our families in the community and beyond, our thoughts are with you. If our school can assist in any way please telephone or just 'pop in'. The kettle is always 'hot' and there is always someone to 'chat' to. Thank you for the donations for the Gippsland Fire Relief Fund. (Some of the children gave part of their birthday money.) We raised \$539.55. Our community spirit is alive and well. Thank you. Below is a list of telephone numbers for assistance and support should you know of anyone who needs them.

### Counselling support for parents in need.

The Gippsland Crisis Line is a trauma support service for members of the community; it is a 24 hour service. All calls are treated as confidential. **1800 629 572** free call.

**Below is the sanctioned group to manage donations – of all items of clothing/furniture and \$'s taken from the State Government Website Information for people wanting to help.**

You can donate to **The Bushfire Appeal Fund** by calling 1800 811 700 or go to their website at: [www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au)

*This is a local alternative*

### **The Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund**

Donations can also be made at any branch of the:

**National Australia Bank**

BSB: 083 932

Account Number 04829 9080

**or via post to:**

Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund

PO Box 508

Traralgon Vic 3844

Australia

### **Cleaning the School after the weekend**

Thank you for the offers of assistance to help clean the school on Monday after my telephone calls. Gordon and Lynne Beinke came over with their carpet cleaning machine and worked tirelessly with me cleaning the playground, the windows and parts of the school walls. He was not paid to do this and did this on a voluntary basis. (He is also going into hospital for an operation on Monday. We wish him well.) Our thanks also to Malcolm Stewart for coming with his pressure washer and cleaning the paths and the outdoor classroom.

### **School Community BBQ**

*Please keep **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February** free for our School Community BBQ. It would be great to see as many of our families attend. Sausages, onions and coleslaw supplied. Families are asked to bring a plate to share! Looking forward to seeing you there. (see the attached flyer)*

### **School Captains for 2009**

We are delighted to announce that the 2009 Cowwarr Primary School Captains are Bonnie Coleman and Riley Johnston. The staff were delighted with the speeches made by all the children who nominated for the position. We look forward to strong student leadership with the Leadership Team. The Grade 6 jumpers will be presented at the Family BBQ on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February so that all family members can attend.

### **School Council**

The first School Council for the year will take place on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 7pm where the budget for the year will be passed and Council meetings will be set. School Council members please let Barb Tomholt know if you are unable to attend this meeting. Thank you.

### **Uniforms**

We have uniforms for purchase. This year we also have school bags with the school logo and name. **All children must have a school hat.**

Please check your child's school hat and uniform and place an order. Prices are as follows-

Polo shirts: \$17.00

Polar Fleece Vests: \$23.00

School Bags: \$28.55

Reader Bags: \$6.85

Windcheaters: \$27.50

Hats: \$10.00

Please see Barb at the office to place an order.

### **Swimming**

Swimming takes place **every** Tuesday and Thursday from 1-2pm for the month of February until the Rural Schools Swimming Sports, which are to take place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February at the Sale Swimming Pool ('Aqua Energy') beginning at 11.00am. More information next week). Parents are asked to transport their children to the pool. As it is a normal school day all children are required to attend. A note will be required if a child/ren are absent.

Parents who will be taking their children from the pool after swimming each Tuesday and Thursday) are asked to inform their child's teacher. Thank you.

### **Preps**

Prep children are not required at school on Wednesdays for the month of February. (They will not be required for the Rural School Sports. This gives these children a chance to have a rest mid-week.

### **Active After School Program**

This program began on Tuesday and will continue every Tuesday and Thursday until Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March.

### **'Go (Grow) For Your Life'**

Despite the heat our vegetable garden and fruit trees are 'thriving'. The funding for Morris Holmes has ceased. (Morris is actually about to have a major heart operation so we wish him well.) It is now up to us to continue the good work already begun by Morris and Ruth O'Brien. Ruth has offered to attend a 'Go For Your Life' in-service with gardener, Jane Edmonson on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March so that we may continue our project. If anyone else would like to attend let me know and I will send an email. Chris Ballard is working with the children on a 'Healthy Foods' project in class. So the garden should be ready for our Tuckshop next term. (The vegetable plants were supplied free by 'Woolenook Native Nursery' - 682 Stratford Road, Maffra, telephone: 51471897).

### **School Newsletter**

If you would like a copy of the newsletter emailed to you could you please let Barb at the office know via email at [cowwarr.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:cowwarr.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au). The newsletter is also put on our website each week at [www.cowwarrps.vic.edu.au](http://www.cowwarrps.vic.edu.au)

We welcome to our school Meg and Jaimee Donnelly together with their mother Sue. We are delighted that they have chosen Cowwarr Primary School for their primary school education. The rain is a welcome relief! Enjoy it and your weekend!

(Mrs) Helen Hellenen

### **Internet and Electronic Communication Forms/Personal Privacy/Publicity Permission**

#### **Forms**

Attached to the newsletter are the above named forms to be completed by parents and returned to school. Your immediate attention to this would be appreciated. Thank you.

#### **School Fees**

The following school fees can now be paid at the office:

Books \$56.00 – \$58.20 depending on what grade. (The children already have these books which the school ordered for them).

Excursions \$120.00 per year or \$30.00 per term for all grades. (This covers all excursions for the year including entrance to swimming, gymnastics and winter sport.