

The Crier

Cobram Anglican Grammar School Newsletter

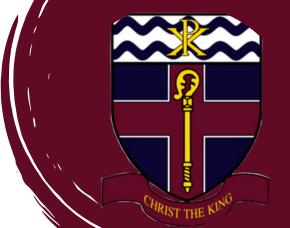
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### IN THIS EDITION...

2
3
4
5-6
7-12
13-14
15–18
19
20









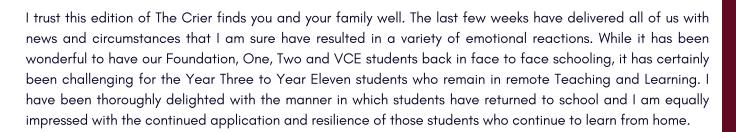
# The Crier

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

with Mr Keith Willett

Friday September 17 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,



The uncertainty of these COVID times makes it very difficult for any of us to plan our lives with any surety. Whilst I anticipate new guidelines from the Victorian Government in relation to arrangements for schools in Term 4, I have to report that there is nothing concrete, at this point in time. Families can be assured that as soon as new arrangements are determined, all across the school community will be informed.

Despite the ongoing interruptions to a normal school life there continues to be much happening behind the scenes. Book Week, the recent Senior School Virtual Assembly, the wonderful collaboration from our Live4Life Crew, our Year 12 'Surprise' and Mrs Smith's amazing 'Perfect Score' Grok results are all worthy of note and celebration. You can read about these events and achievements across this newsletter.

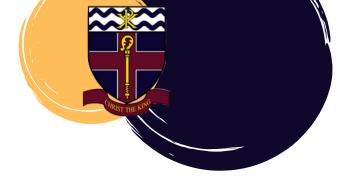
Finally, we do also want to wish Miss Hannah Forrest all the very best as she departs on Maternity Leave this week. We wish her and Michael all the very best with their upcoming little arrival in October.

As we move into the end of Term 3 holidays I wish all a safe and healthy break.

Regards,

Mr Keith Willett PRINCIPAL









#### CAGS P & F

The Cobram AGS Parents and Friends have continued to meet regularly across the period of remote Teaching and Learning. They have been conducting these meetings via ZOOM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday October 5 at 7.30pm. Any parent who would like to find out about the role of the P and F or would, indeed like to be a member, is welcome to attend the next meeting. If this is you, please contact Mrs Jordan Flanagan at school who will send you a ZOOM invite to the next meeting.

#### PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parents are informed that the Semester Two, Parent/ Teacher interviews will now take place in Week 1 of Term 4.

They will be conducted over Wednesday October 6 and Thursday October 7, 4.00pm to 7.00pm with 10 minutes given to each interview. The interviews will be conducted via Teams.

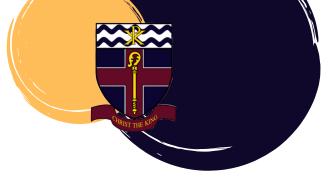
Parents are encouraged to book a meeting time with their child's teachers to discuss their progress.

#### **SCHOOL PHOTOS**

School Photos have been rescheduled to Thursday 14th October, pending Covid restrictions. Confirmation and order forms will be sent out closer to the time as soon as we know that these will be able to take place.

## PUPIL FREE DAY

Families are reminded that Day 1 of Term 4 is a pupil free day. This means that there will be no face to face or remote Teaching and Learning on this day. On-site supervision will not be available. We look forward to resuming school on Tuesday October 5.



The Crier

ANGLICAN IDENTITY With Ms Shea Doyle

Every year, Christians around the world, use the month of September to celebrate God's beautiful earth, and renew their shared commitment to preserving and restoring that beauty. This time of the year is called the Season of Creation. This year, the theme for the season is "A home for all? Renewing the Oikos of God". Oikos is the Greek word for "home," or "household". The earth is a home for all, an environment built to support and sustain us so we can live and flourish together.

The Season of Creation reminds us of our role as stewards of the environment and encourages all people to reflect on the ways we can nurture and restore our home. Aboriginal Christian Leader and Common Grace CEO Brooke Prentis from the Wakka Wakka peoples reminds us "loving our neighbour means loving our people neighbour, our tree neighbour, plant neighbour, animal neighbour, bird neighbour, fish neighbour, land neighbour, water neighbour, sky neighbour." At the heart of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's culture is their understanding of these interdependent relationships and the need to care for country. This is echoed in the following Bible passage from Job 12;

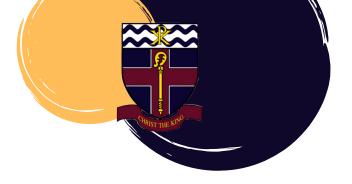
"But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you."

During this Season of Creation, I would like to encourage all members of the Cobram AGS community to consider the ways they could contribute to the restoration of our home. We can take some inspiration from our Year 7 cohort who recently participated in a brainstorm of ideas relating to things they could do to look after the environment. Here are some of their suggestions.

- Unplug charges and things when not needed
- Plant a tree
- Make a herb garden
- Recycle
- Walk more often or ride a bike
- Don't throw plastic in the ocean
- Turn of lights when not using them
- Buy things with less plastic packaging
- Shop locally/ organically
- Keep your garden chemical free
- Reduce your waste
- Find ways to donate
- Use reusable bags









#### **2021 BOOK WEEK FESTIVITIES**

Thanks to everyone who made Book Week so great, even though we couldn't all be together the effort put in by all was fantastic!

A big thanks to the local Cobram Police who also allowed our 'Outdoor Parade' out the front of the school for those who were onsite!

#### BEST COSTUME JUNIOR SCHOOL (\$25 SCHOLASTIC BOOK VOUCHER):

Angus Stirling (Foundation L), Harlin Robbins (5/6R) & Emily Collins (3/4W)

#### BEST COSTUME SENIOR SCHOOL (\$25 MENTHAS VOUCHER):

Jett Robbins (Year 9), Leah Willis (Year Seven) & Oscar Rothe (Year Nine)

#### **BEST STAFF COSTUME:**

Mary Swoffer (Where is the Green Sheep), Jacinta Robbins (Thing 1 & 2) & Narelle Schreenan (Cinderella)















## The Crier 2021 BOOK WEEK FESTIVITIES





















## The Crier

JUNIOR SCHOOL

UPDATE With Mrs Mary Swoffer

Welcome to our end of Term Three Junior School report,



We have so many things to be grateful for, to celebrate and to stand and applaud and be proud of. Whilst this term has certainly thrown our students, families and teachers a few curve balls we have seen first hand resilience, adaptability and the overwhelming sense of community when all key players in the lives of a student work together with the student at the centre. Reaching out when things are tough, when your child is struggling, doesn't understand the work or you as a family need some additional support is vital during these times.

It's also critical that we pause and celebrate those important milestones and achievements like the birth of a new family member, acknowledging birthdays during remote learning and attempting to sing as a class online! Finding fun and engaging ways to enthuse students in learning and indeed life in lockdown. To our teachers and families thank you to adapting to the ever changing circumstances we find ourselves in, working together and often taking on roles that are new, overwhelming and difficult. Our students, your child/children are always at the centre of all we do here at Cobram AGS and it is heartwarming and uplifting to witness the incredible work being done by our teachers and families and the strength and resilience evident in each and every student.

It was lovely to share this week with our Foundation - Year Two students on-site the videos of our Year Twelve students reading three books by local author, Jo Nathan. The students all enjoyed listening to the stories, many recognising their buddies as the readers and then completing a colouring in which the author will then judge and the winners will receive a signed copy of the book to take home.

For all our Junior School students it has also been wonderful to watch and listen to the words of encouragement and perseverance from our senior school students which you may have seen posted on dojo and social media. Their words of positivity and resilience is a credit to each and every one of them. They more than any of us have and continue to face the most trying and difficult circumstances in competing there final years at school. Taking 7 lockdowns in there stride, and still taking time out to lift the spirits of our younger students is a credit to each and every student and on behalf of all involved in and around our junior school we thank you and wish you all the very best in the weeks to come as you face your final exams.

With our days warming up, our river full and flowing I wish all in our Cobram AGS community a safe, happy and fun school holidays. Rest, be kind to yourselves and I look forward to seeing everyone in Term Four.

Take care, Mrs Swoffer





## JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS SHINING STAR AWARDS



**Foundation L** Our Shining Stars received their awards for staying motivated during Remote Learning, putting a smile on our faces during Homeroom meetings and some completed tasks over and above what was expected. Congratulations and well done to you all.

1/2R PE Well done to Merola and Kayla who have been awarded Shining Stars from Mr Barnes for their great attitude and participation in Physical Education classes this Term.









**1/2C** - Congratulations Mia-for continuing to be a diligent student during remote learning. Thanks for reading Harry Potter to me!

Ben- for working well during onsite learning. Ben you adjected to remote learning well. Well done!

Kyle- Kylee you completed the work when you were at home and at school. Thanks for working so hard!

Oliver- Congratulations for always being on the 9.00am Meet and reading so fluently to me over Teams.



**Foundation R** Mylah, Spencer and Charlotte were awarded the Shining Star Awards for their remarkable efforts during Remote Teaching & Learning.

Billy and Esther were awarded the Shining Star Awards for their excellent persistence during Remote Teaching & Learning.

Harry was awarded the Shining Star Award for his tremendous effort during Remote Teaching & Learning when onsite and for his growing ability to 'Bounce Back' when faced with difficult situations.



1/2R A big congratulations to Lachlan, Ariana, Levi and Gemma who have been awarded Miss Rooney's Shining Stars for the end of Term Three for their excellent application and effort during Remote Learning.









## The Crier

## Week 9 | Term Three | 2021

#### **SHINING STAR AWARDS**



**3/4K** Mrs Kennedy has awarded Nikola, Seb, Bella, Kasey, Luke, Zoe as Remote Learning Champions! For actively participating in class discussions and giving tasks their best efforts while learning from home.





**3/4W** Miss Willmott's Shining Stars for the end of Term Three are Cassian & Gabrielle for their endeavour and application throughout Remote learning! Well Done!



**5/6R** Congratulations to Casey – For submitting her work to the best of her ability. She always works hard and constantly finds ways to improve her skills and knowledge in all areas of her learning.

Isabel - For submitting her work to the best of her ability. She has worked extremely hard to complete her work to a high standard and improve her skills and knowledge in all subject areas.

Isabella - For always submitting her work to the best of her ability. She works hard to extend and challenge herself in all areas of her learning.







**5/6W** It was very hard to choose Shining Stars this week as the perseverance and resilience of the students has been outstanding saidMrs WIlliams – she is very proud and grateful for 5/6W.

But a big Congratulations to Josh, Ellie and Jas, thank you for working extra hard to achieve Shining Star status.





## The Crier

Week 9 | Term Three | 2021

#### **SHINING STAR AWARDS**

















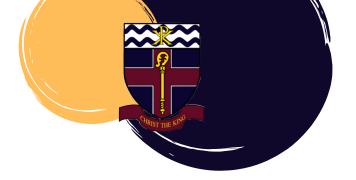
**5/6L** Congratulations to Mrs Lawrence's Shining Stars who are Alexia, Harry, Judah, Kirrily, Lilly, Owen, Peyton, Tamika and Tayla for consistently working hard at home and at school during lockdown.

#### **READING NIGHTS CHALLENGE**

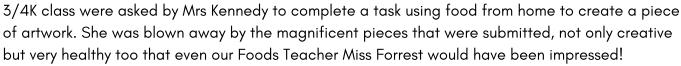
What a wonderful start to our last week of Term Three with each of these very clever Foundation students have completed 50, 100 or 150+ nights of home reading this year.

Congratulations to each of you, keep up your reading every night and Mrs Swoffer is looking forward to seeing you again soon to choose another picture story book to take home.





3/4K FOOD ART





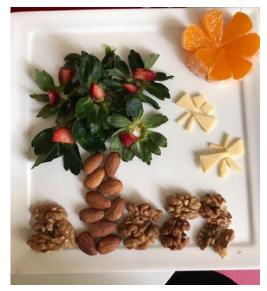




















#### **GROWING WITH GROK!**

Students in Year Three and Four at Cobram AGS recently participated in the NCSS Challenge computer programming competition. Head of Junior School Mrs Mary Swoffer teaches Grok to this cohort throughout the school year and twice a year their skills are tested in a National competition. The challenge supports the skills the students learn in the classroom and then extends there thinking further in a challenge environment where they apply their learning to create a program.



Programming (also known as coding) is how sites like Facebook and apps like Instagram are made. Knowing how to program is like having a computing super power. It's a skill that not only teaches our students how to work with computers, but also teaches them how to think about solving problems with systems.

The NCSS Challenge for our Year Three / Four students explored blockly coding. Mrs Melonie Smith, Head of Mathematics at Cobram AGS has then captured this interest and used the students own designs to create models using the schools 3D printers.

Our Upper Primary students are then introduced to coding in Python 3.6, which is extended into the secondary school area. Python coding is a scripting language used for many different purposes such as web applications and scientific research. Companies like Google, Facebook and Reddit all use Python in their infrastructure and web services.

This year our Year three four students excelled in NCSS Challenge with a staggering 70% of students in Year Three achieving a Distinction or higher and in Year Four 80% of the student body received a Distinction or higher. Well done to all of this cohort, keep up the great work!





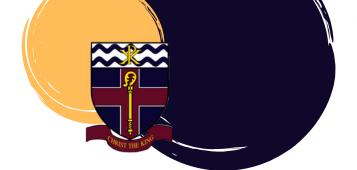
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Good afternoon everyone,

Hopefully this newsletter finds you all fit, healthy and safe! During these difficult times, the sporting scene as been plagued with the destructive results of Coronavirus lockdowns, seeing the abrupt end to most winter sports, cancellation of SSV sports and trials, and an overall disruption to our participation in sporting activity!!! Even though this was the case, many of our students were on the cusp of some great achievements, which is incredible considering the outside influences. Please find these achievements of the following students:

- ·Charlotte Woosnam (Year 7) went within a whisker of making the SSV Victorian 12 and Under Girls Basketball squad, making it to the final selection phase!!! An unbelievable effort considering the small numbers required to play this sport and having to go through 3 tiers before reaching this level.
- ·Murphy Stephens (Year 6) making it to the final selection phase for the SSV Victorian 12 and Under Boys Cricket squad. Unfortunately this was hindered by the coronavirus lockdowns but still a remarkable effort making this far!
- ·Taylah O'Dwyer (Year 6) making it to the final selection phase of the SSV Victorian 12 and Under Girls Netball squad. Unfortunately this was also interrupted by coronavirus lockdowns and protocol but Taylah has been able to still engage through Zoom training sessions.
- ·The Year 7, Intermediate and Senior Girls Badminton teams. As you are probably aware, the Year 7 Girls won the Hume Region final and were headed to the State championships but unfortunately these have been curtailed by the coronavirus lockdowns. The Intermediate and Senior Girls teams' involvement in the Regional finals were postponed once before the current lockdown destroyed their opportunity of participation in these. Both sides were in healthy states to give this a fantastic effort so what might have been???
- ·A number of our students are still pinning their hopes on involvement in SSV Golf trials. Kohen Haddrell (Year 4) has impressed at club level where he has been plying his craft at Senior Adult representative tournaments. Kohen and his dad, Matt, played in the Golf on the Murray Champions of the Murray tournament in Moama during the term, finishing in 4th spot. He also finished runner-up in the Cobram Barooga Golf Club's Junior Championship behind another of our golfing super-stars, Casey Chandler (Year 6) so well done to both these students.
- ·Sam Trembath and Jeremy Packer (Year 7) both impressed at trial matches for the Greater Western Sydney Giants Academy program in Wagga. This game was a pre-cursor for greater opportunities, mainly the State Championships against all of the Giants and Sydney Swans academy groups in a week long carnival in Albury during the upcoming holidays, where both boys made heavy endorsement for their selection, but again curtailed and postponed due to COVID.



## SPORTS UPDATE Continued...

·Tennille (Year 4) and Zahlia (Year 7) Kautai were able to squeeze in one trial for State selection and were on the verge of heading to Queensland for National Touch Football trials/tournaments before the current lockdown has diminished their chances of attending. Fingers crossed, an opportunity may still present!

Lucy Adkins (Year 7) and Grace Stillard (Year 12) both represented the Murray Netball League in the North East State Championship carnival in Albury, where their respective sides came runners-up in their Division 1 standings and thus rewarding them with an opportunity at the State Championships. As like most, this was cancelled due to COVID.

·Harry Paterson (Year 9) as been invited to trial for the Northern Rivers Cricket Academy squads. Harry is also part of the Southern Riverina Cricket Academy squad as well so it is great to see his commitment to his sport paying dividends.

As you can see, we have had a number of our students continue to impress even though hampered by what has occurred and effected their involvement in sport. We still have irons in the fire for Term 4, with Divisional (Primary), Regional and State Athletics, Divisional Summer sports for our Year 7/8 students and, hopefully, summer sport commencing for all but these will all be governed and directed by what State protocols are put into place in minimizing the effect of COVID 19.

Fingers and toes crossed!!! Let's hope we can get back into representing our school and clubs once again!!! Take care over the holidays, stay safe and God Bless!!!

Sincerely,

Jon O'Dwyer Head of Sport



# Obram & B S



UPDATE

It's hard to believe we are already at the end of another term and holidays are upon us. This term once again saw our families, students and staff dig in for another round of remote learning and I'd like to offer a big thank you to everyone for your resilience and dedication! It is worth pointing out that whilst there are many success stories littered throughout our remote learning experiences, there are also many tales of anxiety, stress and feelings of being overwhelmed. These students and families should know that you are not alone and it is not your fault. These feelings are a symptom of the experience and replicated across the state, indeed the country, and are not indicative of a personal shortcoming, they are an entirely human response to very challenging situation. The accumulation of time spent at home away from teachers and peers is undoubtedly baring its teeth and we very much look forward to being on campus as a whole community as soon as circumstances allow.

Our final year students are on the home stretch and they face an intense couple of months full of exam revision and completion. Unfortunately there will be no holidays for this cohort of students as our teaching staff have filled the two weeks with exam preparation and practice exams in order to give them the best opportunity for success when they sit their actual exams beginning with English on the 27th of October. Prior to the English exam all Unit 3 & 4 students are required to sit the GAT on Tuesday the 5th of October (the first day of Term 4). Students are required to wear their school uniform and return to the campus on this day. Health and wellbeing is a very important aspect of successful exam preparation and I implore families to ensure that every student has a strict routine over the term break that includes adequate, exercise, recreation, SLEEP and of course study. Routine will be the key to effectively using this time, getting up at the same time everyday is crucial.

Our VCE subject selection has been finalised and our elective programs for years 7 & 8 as well as 9 & 10 will be put to the students in the first weeks of Term 4. We are excited to finalise these classes and can already see a positive link between our pathway's program and VCE subject selection after only 12 months. Those students who are considering VET pathways should endeavour to make contact with Mrs Drew to discuss options early next term.

Covid willing we will be running some transition days to welcome new students to the school and to allow our current cohort the opportunity to experience the secondary school setting. We will provide more information around these dates as it comes to hand.

Finally I would like to wish everyone a well earned break and I hope you enjoy some quality time with family and friends without the pressure of home schooling.

Ash Kennedy Head of Senior School



## SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS Continued...

#### **GROK - PERFECT SCORES**

Following on from the Growing with Grok article earlier in this edition of The Crier, in the secondary school setting the Grok learning platform is incorporated into the mathematics curriculum. Students start to stretch their competencies out as their interest grows. Some students continue with the blockly platform while others step up to python language, and we try to cater for a range of abilities.

In 2021 we had Three students enrol in the study of Computer Science at VCE, one in "Data Analytics", two in "Software Development" and one of those also studied the university level "Algorithmics" course. At Year Eleven, students create their own web pages to communicate science practical results. They all use these new found skills programming their TInspire Graphing calculators with confidence. Some even find that "the process of breaking down a formula in order to write the programs means that their overall mathematical understanding improves" says Cobram AGS Head of Mathematics, Mrs Melonie Smith.

It is the growth of this subject in the school that has led to these subject choices being possible. In the National Computer Science Course offered in the secondary school, we had many students participate with some noteworthy results. In the Python Language Beginners course we had two High Distinctions, one Distinction and three credits awarded in year nine alone. In the Intermediate course we had two perfect scores awarded and for the first time since starting the computer science program and watching it grow, this year we had one student obtain a perfect score in the advanced level. Even if students do not go on to compete in these competition or even if they do not want to pursue a career in computer science, the skills they develop by participating each year and striving for personal improvement are priceless.

Students are still able to complete the competition questions at home now and, while they will not be scored, they can have a go a reading and completing as many as they can, seeking help from teachers, in order to better their understanding next year.



NCSS CHALLENGE Perfect Scores: Salma, Cadence, Liam and Cody - CONGRATULATIONS on an unbelievable achievement!

obram & G S



## SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS Continued.... YEAR 12 SURPRISE!

Homeroom for our Year 12 students looked a little different last Friday, when Mrs White and Ms Doyle dropped in to deliver some care packages to students' front doors, creating a wonderful, but timely surprise for all!

There were many happy faces, and it just goes to show that even the smallest of gestures can go a long way. Especially during these extra challenging times for our Year 12 students who are enduring their 7th time in Remote Learning whilst finishing their VCE studies across 2020/2021!

You're all doing a wonderful job, and whilst it may not feel like it the finish line is so close now!!

#toughtimesneverlast #buttoughpeopledo #CobramAGS #VCECAGS2021



# obram AGS



## SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS Continued.... LIVE4LIFE CREW

Whilst The Cobram AGS Moira Youth Live4Life Crew haven't been able to dive into any of the usual hands-on community and collaborative work they might have done outside of Lockdown, they have still been able to band together, albiet remotely behind the scenes and have put together a very special project which was shared at our recent Senior School Assembly.

Some fantastic messages of positivity were shared with their peers, friends, family and the wider school community and the final result was just fantastic!

Well done Jett, Maddi, Manar, Anthea & Savannah!

The wonderful Live4Life slideshow via this link: https://youtu.be/pJT52\_-U9Og

Our Crew have some very helpful advice as many of us continue to work and learn from home and manage through these current challenging times!

#### "No matter the weather, it does get better together...!"

Additional Student Mental Health resources & helpful tools as suggested by Anthea can be found here: https://www.live4life.org.au/films

Our Senior School Assembly can also been viewed on this link: https://youtu.be/G1Bq2Qo6klo



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## The Crier

CAREERS With Ms Jade Drew



With Term Three nearing an end the focus in the Careers space has been working with our students to make informed decisions around subject selections for our Year Ten students moving into VCE as well as ensuring that all Year Twelve students have a clear pathway to a quality destination, we define a quality destination as tertiary study, apprenticeship, traineeship, or employment with a long-term future.

The senior team along with myself have been working with our Year Twelve students to complete their applications for further training/education on VTAC/UAC to ensure timely applications are completed on time.

As we move into the second half of the year, our Year Nine students will start to embark on a new path of discovery. It is a time where students will be asked to consider their thoughts about further study, jobs, careers and subject choices. To help with the next chapter of discovery our Year Nine students and their families will soon be receiving correspondence regarding the upcoming Morrisby online profiling tool that forms part of their Career education.

Finally, just a reminder that appointments can be made with me via the online booking system **www.cagscareers.com/appointment-booking** 

#### **CONNECTING BEYOND SCHOOL**



## Attention!!! Students, Parents/Guardians

Find out more about how to connect to pathway information after school

Hear from career transition organisations like GOTAFE, CVGT and Apprenticeship Factory

Online Zoom Session

Pre-registration required)

Duration: 30 mins

Time/Date: 5:30 PM, Thu, 30th Sept 2021

Register: https://bit.ly/3941WkU or scan QR





Contact Rebecca Costa Lowe on bec.costa-lowe@gmllen.com.au or www.gmllen.com.au





## PHOTOS THAT MAKE US FEEL GOOD

Competition

**Lockdown 7.0.** It's been a tough second half of Term Three as we were thrust back into Remote Learning but everyone has been doing such an incredible job and we couldn't be more proud of each and every one of our students at Cobram, AGS no matter how this looked for you all. So we thought it would be a nice idea to share some of the good stuff and created a little online competition where students were able to submit Photos that make them feel good. Thank you to all all those who contributed. We had some wonderful submissions.

First Prize has been awarded to the Abigail Gemmill for her beautiful snapshot of she and her little sister enjoying their time at the Beach.

Congratulations Abigail, your \$25 Menthas Uniform Voucher will be ready for you to collect from the office over the school holidays or when you return in Term Four!











