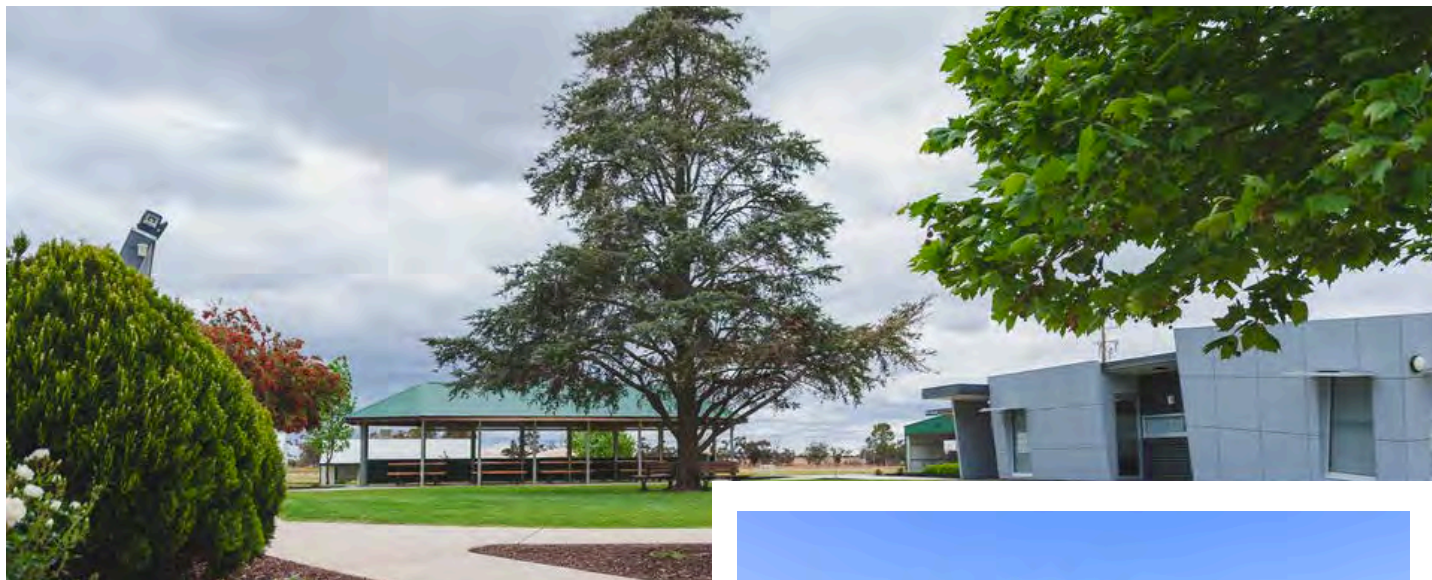




# NEWSLETTER

Swan Hill Christian School



## ENROLMENTS OPEN

We are currently conducting tours for 2025 Foundation students, as well as holding our next Come and Try Day on Thursday 23 May at 9am.

We encourage you to invite your friends and family to check out Swan Hill Christian School! Families can [enquire here](#) or contact our office for more information.



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

## WHATS NEW

See our new video on social media

Check out what our students have been up to recently

Please assist us in knowing how to support your child's mental health and wellbeing by completing a Parent Survey

Information on the Winter Sports and Fun Day event on 7 June

# FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

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## SHCS Video

Did you see the latest video on social media promoting our school? It really shows the joy of our students and the great learning that happens here at SHCS. Be sure to share or comment so the word spreads far and wide about how awesome our school is!

## Mother's Day

This Mother's Day, I would like to acknowledge all the women who play a significant role in our lives.

Whether you're a mum, a carer, or a best friend, thank you for the love and care you give to those in your life. I hope you have a lovely day on Sunday.



## FOUNDATION COME AND TRY DAY!

On Thursday 23 May at 9am, we are holding our next Come and Try Day for potential 2025 Foundation students.

Families are very welcome to come, have a tour, and check out the wonderful learning opportunities we have at SHCS for their child.





## FREESTYLE DANCE MINISTRY

Last Friday, 'Jumping Justin' helped our kids (and staff) get their dance moves happening on the dance floor! Students had a great time trying new dance steps and testing their fitness. Big thanks to Justin for sharing his skills with us.



## CROSS COUNTRY

On a sunny Tuesday, our students made their way to Riverside Park to compete in the Small Schools Cross Country event. Students encouraged each other, and they all made an effort in their events.

Congratulations to those students who will compete in the Divisional event on 14 May!



## PARENT SURVEY

In our last newsletter Benay explained her new role of mental health & wellbeing leader and included an anonymous survey that would be supportive of this. We would appreciate you taking a couple of minutes to complete this, if you haven't already. The link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TCRPR2X>





## NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME

Join us for National Simultaneous Storytime on **Wednesday May 22 at 12pm** when we will read the book *Bowerbird Blues* by Aura Parker. Parents and younger siblings of our school students are very welcome to join us.



## FOUNDATION AND YEAR 1

The F/1 class are being immersed into what happens when materials are mixed together, so that they become more curious to learn. We did two experiments: making play dough and then a play dough volcano eruption.

## 2024 AEDC

Along with most schools around the country, our school will be participating in the sixth Australian Early Development Census - the #AEDC2024.

Every school with children in their first year of full-time school has a vital role to play in helping our nation collect the information it needs to support our children and their families: [www.aedc.gov.au/schools/school-stories](http://www.aedc.gov.au/schools/school-stories)

Please contact the office if you have questions.

## ATTACHMENTS

- AEDC Information flyer
- SH Library Young Writers Competition
- F-2 Fun Day letter (paper copy with your child)
- Y 3-6 Winter Sport Letter





# UPCOMING EVENTS

## PCF NEWS

We would like to thank all those that were able to come to our special Mother's Day Breakfast this morning. It was great to see so many happy families gathered together to celebrate the wonderful mum's and female figure's that we have within our school community.

We also want to express our thanks for your support with the Mother's Day Stall. Each child was able to select a thoughtful gift for their mother or special person, with love and care. We hope these gifts bring you joy and serve as a reminder of the love and appreciation your children have for you.

Once again, thank you for being a part of our Mother's Day celebration and we wish you all a lovely Mother's Day this weekend.

Lauren Dodgshun and Helen Tilbrook  
PCF Co-Presidents

- 15 May - School Assembly @ 2:30pm ALL WELCOME

- 15 May - Prayer in the Community Room @ 3:30pm

- 16 May - Association AGM in Assembly Area @ 7:00pm

- 22 May - National Simultaneous Story Time @12noon

- 22 May- Prayer in the Community Room @ 3:30pm

- 23 May - Come & Try Day 9:00-10:00am

Parents/Carers can find the full calendar on uEducateUs.



## The 2024 Australian Early Development Census

# Every school counts

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) is a national census that builds a picture of how children have developed by the time they start their first year of full-time school.

Every school has a vital role to play in helping our nation collect the information it needs to better understand and respond to the needs of children and their families.

Since 2009, communities, schools and governments across Australia have used AEDC results to help provide services, resources and supports that give our kids the best start in life.

From May 2024, teachers will complete the census for children in their first year of full-time school.

AEDC results for individual children are not reported and individual children cannot be identified.

With the support of parents/carers and schools, we can build a more complete picture of early childhood development in Australia. If parents/carers consent to the collection of their child's information they do not need to do anything. Parents/carers only need to contact the school if they do not consent to the collection of their child's information.

To find out more about the AEDC and how schools, communities and governments are using the data to help children and families, visit [www.aedc.gov.au](http://www.aedc.gov.au).



# YOUNG WRITERS AWARD

SWAN HILL REGIONAL LIBRARY



The Young Writers Award Writing Competition is an exciting opportunity for Prep to Year 10 and multi-class school children across the Swan Hill district.

The competition is devised to inspire pupils to write a narrative piece of no more than 500 words for primary students and 800 words for secondary students. Typed entries are to be submitted on a single A4 piece of paper. Simple illustrations are allowed.

**This year's theme is 'Flood'.** A writing prompt is printed overleaf if needed.

Schools are invited to submit up to five entries for each category listed below, based on a set criteria. Multi-class entries are unlimited.

Categories include: **Grade Prep, Grade 1/2, Grade 3/4, Grade 5/6, Year 7/8, Year 9/10, Year 11/12 and Multi-class (those students who receive PSD funding).**

Prizes will be awarded to shortlisted entries and the winner in each of the seven categories.

Winners will be announced at a presentation to be held at the library during Children's Week (week three of term four), on Wednesday, 23 October 2024 at 7pm.

Shortlisted entries will be on display at Swan Hill library during November 2024.

**Entries must include students name, grade and school and be delivered to Swan Hill Regional Library no later than Friday, 23 August 2024.**

For more information, please contact Kellie at [kcarlo@swanhill.vic.gov.au](mailto:kcarlo@swanhill.vic.gov.au) or phone the library on 5036 2480.

# Flood

Around us the rivers are rising,  
wet-fisted they break sodden banks,  
huddling the sheep in their paddocks,  
drowning the grass round their shanks.

*Excerpt from Fields in Flood by Alys Jackson.*



You are to write a narrative – a made up story up to 500 words (primary) 800 words (secondary)

## Thinking about your story

- Who are the characters in my story?
- Where and when does the story take place?
- What is the problem or conflict in the story?
- Use an interesting way to start and finish the story.

## Thinking about your reader

- Make your writing interesting and write clearly.
- Select your words carefully (use WOW words and interesting vocabulary).
- Write your sentences correctly (word order).
- Ensure you check punctuation and spelling.





# YOUNG WRITERS AWARD: Writing criteria

<p><b>IDEAS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The idea is clear and coherent.</li> <li>• The text is well developed, which includes a paragraph/s.</li> <li>• The writer offers believable, accurate details that create pictures in the reader's mind from the beginning of the piece to the end.</li> <li>• Pictures (if present) enhance the key ideas. <i>(For secondary students only)</i> <i>Thoughtful exploration of complex ideas with interesting perspectives is evident.</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>ORGANISATION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The title is thoughtful and effective.</li> <li>• There is a clear beginning, middle and end.</li> <li>• The writer grabs the reader's attention from the start and leads into the writing piece naturally.</li> <li>• Important ideas are highlighted within the text.</li> <li>• The text slows down and speeds up to highlight ideas and shows the writer's skill at pacing.</li> <li>• Clear transitions connect one sentence to the next.</li> </ul>	<p><b>VOICE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The writer is mindful of the piece's audience and connects purposefully with the reader.</li> <li>• The tone is identifiable eg. bittersweet, compassionate, frustrated, terrified and so on.</li> <li>• The writer creates a truly individual piece of writing.</li> <li>• The writing is expressive and compelling.</li> </ul>
<p><b>WORD CHOICE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The writer uses everyday words and phrases with a fresh and original spin.</li> <li>• The writer paints a clear picture in the reader's mind.</li> <li>• Figurative language works reasonably well, such as alliteration, similes and metaphors.</li> <li>• Colourful words/WOW words are used correctly and with creativity to capture the reader's imagination and to enhance meaning. <i>(For secondary students only)</i> <i>Some difficult and challenging words are effectively and accurately used.</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>SENTENCE FLUENCY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective use of varied sentence beginnings.</li> <li>• The piece is easy to read - capturing a smooth and rhythmic flow.</li> <li>• The writer thinks about how the sentences sound. Crafting well built sentences.</li> <li>• Varying Sentence types - simple, compound, complex.</li> <li>• Different kinds of sentences (statements, commands, questions, and exclamations) are present.</li> </ul>	<p><b>CONVENTIONS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High use words are spelt correctly and others are easy to read and phonetically correct.</li> <li>• The writer applies basic capitalisation rules with consistency.</li> <li>• Punctuation marks are used effectively to guide the reader.</li> <li>• The writer uses more advanced punctuation (dashes, ellipses, quotation marks).</li> <li>• Standard English grammar is used correctly.</li> <li>• Consistent use of tense and person.</li> </ul>