



# **Dunkeld Consolidated School**

*Newsletter*

Issue 1, Thursday 2 April 2026

# Key Dates

## Term 2, 2026

### E&OE

#### APRIL 2026

- Monday 20 **FIRST DAY OF TERM 2.**
- Tuesday 21 School Lunch Orders commence for Term 2 (Tuesdays and Thursdays).  
MARC Library.
- Thursday 23 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 24 House Cross Country events commencing at 12.00 noon on Kapping Oval.
- Saturday 25 Dunkeld RSL Sub-Branch Dawn Service commences at 6.30am at the Dunkeld Cenotaph in the Memorial Park – all welcome to attend.
- Monday 27 Parent-Teacher conferences.
- Tuesday 28 MARC Library.  
Parent-Teacher conferences.  
School Council Meeting commencing at 7.30pm in Wurgarri Meeting Room.
- Wednesday 29 Puberty Education sessions for Year 5 and Year 6 students (conducted by WDHS staff).  
Parent-Teacher conferences.
- Thursday 30 Caulfield Grammar School Music students visit and performance (school will provide a light lunch for Caulfield Grammar School staff and students).  
Music classes with Tara Stephens.  
Parent-Teacher conferences.

#### MAY 2026

- Friday 1 Warrnambool/Portland/Hamilton Division Athletics at Brauerander Park, Warrnambool.  
School Assembly commencing at 2.40pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.
- Monday 4 Year 6 GRIP Leadership Conference at Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre, Mount Gambier.  
**Book Club Orders are due in today.**  
Parent-Teacher conferences.
- Tuesday 5 SGSSA District Cross Country in Tarrington.  
MARC Library.
- Wednesday 6 Parent-Teacher conferences.
- Thursday 7 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Tuesday 12 Year 6 Transition Day at Baimbridge College (*to be confirmed*).
- Wednesday 13 **ANNUAL SCHOOL PHOTOS** – students to wear full winter school uniform.
- Thursday 14 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 15 Warrnambool/Portland/Hamilton Division Cross Country in Warrnambool.
- Tuesday 19 MARC Library.
- Thursday 21 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 22 School Assembly commencing at 2.40pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.
- Tuesday 26 MARC Library.  
Greater Western Region Cross Country Championships in Warrnambool (*to be confirmed*).  
School Council Meeting commencing at 7.30pm in Wurgarri Meeting Room.
- Wednesday 27 Greater Western Region Cross Country Championships in Warrnambool (*to be confirmed*).  
National Simultaneous Storytime – *Luna Roo: The Kangaroo Baller*
- Thursday 28 Music classes with Tara Stephens.

#### JUNE 2026

- Tuesday 2 MARC Library.
- Thursday 4 Hamilton Eisteddfod (multi-instrumental section) – Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 students.
- Friday 5 School Assembly commencing at 2.40pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.
- Monday 8 **KING'S BIRTHDAY Public Holiday.**
- Tuesday 9 **PUPIL FREE DAY** – School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) for staff.
- Wednesday 10 Year 3 to 6 Excursion to Peshurst Volcanoes Discovery Centre (*to be confirmed*).
- Thursday 11 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Thursday 18 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 19 School Assembly commencing at 2.40pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.
- Tuesday 23 MARC Library.  
School Council Meeting commencing at 7.30pm in Wurgarri Meeting Room.  
Year 5 Transition Day at Baimbridge College (*to be confirmed*).
- Thursday 25 Music performance, Assembly and Dunkie's Birthday (*to be confirmed*).
- Friday 26 **LAST DAY OF TERM 2 – EARLY DISMISSAL AT 2.30pm – school buses will run one hour earlier in the afternoon.**

# FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

## MR SMALLMAN



It has been a fantastic start to the school year, with students settling in well and making the most of every opportunity on offer. There has already been plenty to celebrate across the school, with students demonstrating a strong commitment to their learning and to one another.

Our School Captains began the year by proudly representing the school at the Australia Day ceremony, where they took part in the flag raising. It was a great moment for them to step into their leadership roles and represent both our school and the wider community with pride.

In the classroom, all students have completed commencement testing, giving teachers a clear understanding of where each learner is starting from. This ensures that teaching is well targeted and that every student is supported to grow throughout the year. Students in Grades 3 and 5 also approached NAPLAN with a positive attitude. Despite some technical challenges experienced across the state, our students showed great resilience and flexibility, and we are very proud of the way they handled the experience.

Student wellbeing continues to be a strong focus, with the introduction of the Big Life program supporting social and emotional learning across the school. Students are already engaging well with the program and developing important skills that support both their learning and relationships. Alongside this, our work with an Inclusion Outreach Coach will

help ensure that all students feel supported, included and able to succeed.

There have been many highlights beyond the classroom as well. Our swimming program was a great success, with students showing enthusiasm and improvement in the water. A special congratulations to Robert Blackwell and Nellie Wickens, who progressed through to the regional competition in Horsham—an outstanding achievement.

House Athletics Day was another highlight, with students showing great spirit, encouragement and determination throughout the day. The competition was incredibly close, with Sturgeon winning the overall trophy by just one point. It was wonderful to see so many students getting involved and supporting one another.

Students have also continued to enjoy the MARC program, making the most of borrowing opportunities and engaging in lessons with Shelley Waters. It's always great to see students excited about reading and exploring new books.

We have also welcomed several new and returning staff members to our school community this term, and it has been great to see the positive connections already forming between staff and students.

Around the school, a number of improvements are taking place to support our students. New entry doors have been installed, and fencing has been added to the central deck to improve safety. Work has also begun on the relocation of the Kitchen Garden, which will provide exciting learning opportunities for students in the future. Looking ahead, the Accessible Buildings Project will begin over the school holidays, further enhancing our facilities and ensuring they meet the needs of all learners.

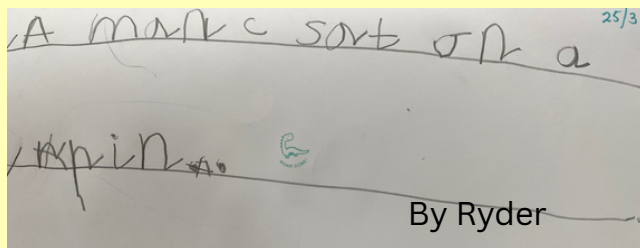
It has been a wonderful start to the year, and we look forward to seeing our students continue to grow, achieve and support one another throughout the term ahead.

# PREP NEWS

## SOUNDS-WRITE

We have completed Units 1 - 3 of the Sounds-Write phonics program. We have learnt the following letter sounds of the intital code: a i m s t n o p b c g h. We can say the sounds to read and write CVC words like nap, man, top and bat. We can write sentences too.

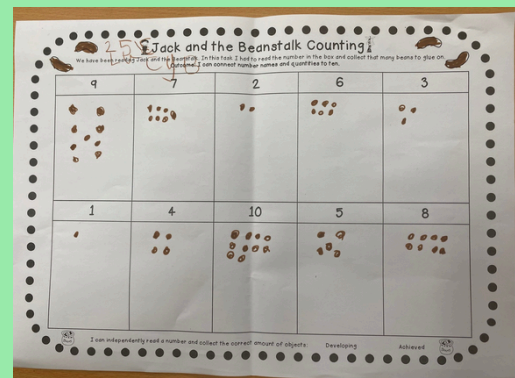
**We are superstar learners!**



## MATHS

In Maths this term, we have explored mathematical concepts around the topics of 'Pattern', 'Length' and 'Knowing Numbers'. We've had a particular focus on recognising a collection of objects up to 10 without counting them by ones. This is called 'subitising'.

Lucy B arranged her beans into subitising patterns to represent the given numbers.



## TERM 1

Welcome to our first newsletter for the year. Term 1 has been a very busy one full of sporting events and terrific learning in the classroom. We have 14 Preps this year and they have all settled into school life beautifully.

### Prep staff:

Anne Gilbert (M-W teacher)  
Rachel Huf (Th-F teacher)  
Victoria Faulkner (Education Support)

## ENGLISH

We've ended Term 1 with a focus on the fairy tale of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and a modern retelling titled 'Beanstalk Jack'. The Preps have explored the characters (and their feelings), setting, sequence of events and story comprehension.



# YEAR 1/2

## TERM 1

WOW! This term has flown by!  
We have been busy in the Year 1/2 class learning new skills, cementing our knowledge and establishing routines and expectations.

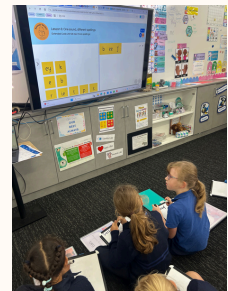
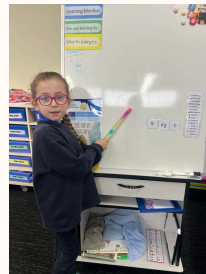
## SOUNDS WRITE

This term in Year 1 and 2, we are continuing to build our knowledge of sounds and the letters that represent them. Students are learning to recognise and use different letter-sound combinations in reading and writing. For example; did you know that the sound /ee/ can be represented in words by

<e>, <ea>, <ee>, <ie>, <ey>, <y> and <i>.

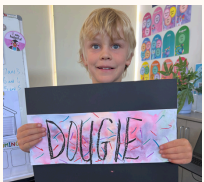
We are focusing on saying the sounds to read and write new words.

We are practising these through fun games, reading activities, and writing tasks.



## ART

This term we have had fun creating self portraits, learning about the Primary Colours and the elements of Art; shape, line and space and have painted and created many different masterpieces.



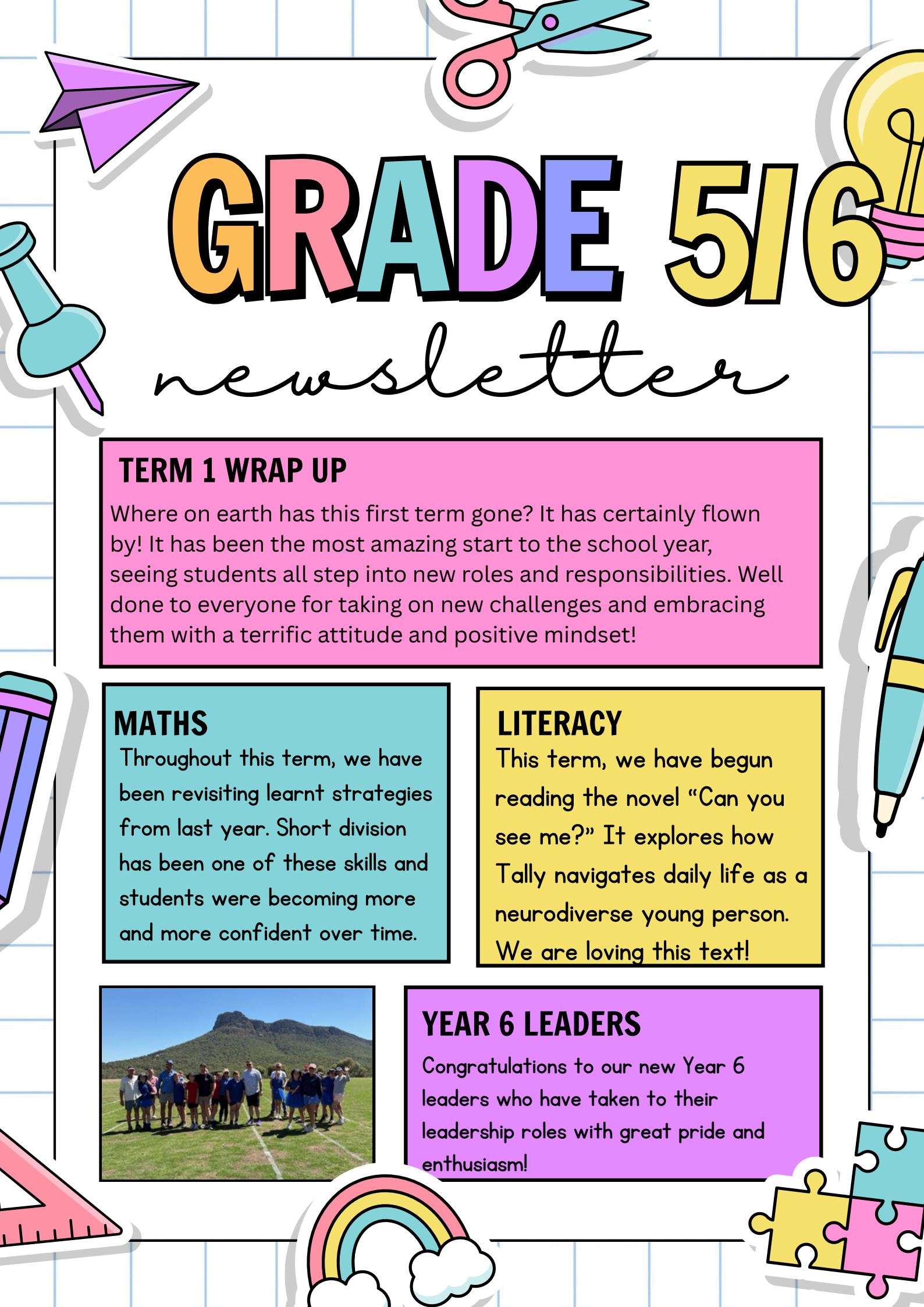
## NUMERACY

This term we have focused on the teen numbers and numbers to 100 (Year 1) and numbers to 1 000 (Year 2). We have built numbers with icypole bundles and MAB blocks - regrouped, renamed and explored numbers using tens frames and number lines.

We have also developed our knowledge around measurement and measuring objects using informal units. We have thoroughly enjoyed estimating and measuring a variety of items, including our school corridor.

We have also learnt about the Seasons, Days of the Week, Months of the Year, o'clock and half past times - and even made our own clocks!





# GRADE 5/6

## newsletter

### TERM 1 WRAP UP

Where on earth has this first term gone? It has certainly flown by! It has been the most amazing start to the school year, seeing students all step into new roles and responsibilities. Well done to everyone for taking on new challenges and embracing them with a terrific attitude and positive mindset!

### MATHS

Throughout this term, we have been revisiting learnt strategies from last year. Short division has been one of these skills and students were becoming more and more confident over time.

### LITERACY

This term, we have begun reading the novel "Can you see me?" It explores how Tally navigates daily life as a neurodiverse young person. We are loving this text!



### YEAR 6 LEADERS

Congratulations to our new Year 6 leaders who have taken to their leadership roles with great pride and enthusiasm!

# Classroom News



## This Term in Grade 3/4

This term in the Year 3/4 classroom has been action-packed!

We have been reading *Leo and Ralph*, a book about friendships and differences. The students have really enjoyed the text, making connections and engaging in thoughtful discussions around its themes.

Our Year 3 students did their best during the NAPLAN testing period and were well prepared after practising narrative and persuasive writing in class. We are very proud of their efforts.

In Mathematics, we have worked hard on place value, shape, and angles, and finished the term by exploring mental strategies for addition.

## THANK YOU

We would like to thank all our local Dunkeld grandparents and friends who visited our classroom to share their local knowledge. Their stories were engaging, and we learnt a great deal from their experiences.

We have also begun creating information reports using PowerPoint slideshows on our new Chromebooks. We love our new laptops!



# BUDDIES

Prep & Year 6

Term 1

## GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

The Prep and Year 6 students have spent this term spending time together making connections and getting to know each other better by eating lunch together, completing activities and enjoying school events!



# FROM OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

## PREPS ON THEIR READING JOURNEY



## TEAMWORK



## EASTER HAT PARADE



## SCHOOL ASSEMBLY WITH AN EASTER FLAVOUR



# STEAM

Science Technology Engineering Art Maths

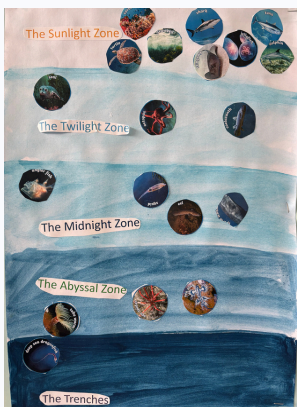
## Highlights



Digital animations of sea creatures.



Boat designing, building and testing.



Watercolour Art.



Paddleboat designing, building and testing.



## Term 1 Theme - Ocean Life

Our students have been exploring creativity and innovation in STEAM this term while diving into an "Ocean Life" theme.

They began by painting vibrant jellyfish and learning about ocean layers, illustrating the unique creatures in each zone.

They then created sea creatures from playdough and turned them into engaging digital animations.

Students also designed and built boats, experimenting to make them float and move independently using paddle mechanisms or wind power.

It's been wonderful to see students combine science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics in such imaginative, hands-on ways.

## Announcing our Term 2 Theme...

After a whole school vote, our Term 2 STEAM Theme will be...

## NATURAL DISASTERS!

We will explore Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Tsunamis, Tornadoes and Cyclones.

# HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## SPORTS – TERM 1

It has been a jam-packed term with sporting events! From swimming to tennis, athletics and everything in between!

We have had many students progress to Divisional and Regional events in swimming and tennis - a special CONGRATULATIONS and mention to Bobby and Nellie for competing in Horsham, at the SSV Regional Swimming Carnival.

A very big THANK YOU to Mrs Wilson and Miss McLeod for preparing our students for our Athletics Day during their H& PE lessons.

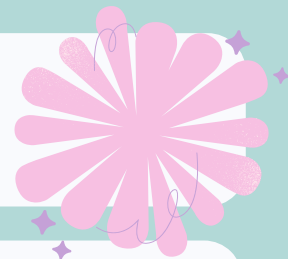
THANK YOU to all the parents and family members who helped out recently at our School Athletics Carnival; from time keeping, measuring, marshalling age groups and cheering - the day wouldn't be the same without you.

A very BIG THANK YOU to Jen McArthur for helping run the shotput and assisting at our swimming and tennis events. Your time and expertise is greatly appreciated.

Mrs Mibus



# Health and Physical Education - cont'd



**Mrs Wilson & Miss McLeod**

## Foundation to Year 2

The junior students have been developing and refining their Fundamental Motor Skills (FMS) of running, jumping, throwing, catching, bouncing and forehand striking. They have been exploring how they can move and play safely during PE lessons and work cooperatively and respectfully in pairs and small teams. On Wednesdays, our students have been developing essential physical skills through a sequence of 5 x 8-minute activity rotations. Each session includes a mix of engaging tasks—such as yoga, bowling, mini obstacle courses, and balloon challenges—aimed at improving balance, coordination, and control. This rotating format keeps lessons dynamic and gives students multiple opportunities to practise and build confidence in their movements. We have been extremely impressed with the 'have a go' attitude of our young students this term and are confident it will continue in Term 2.

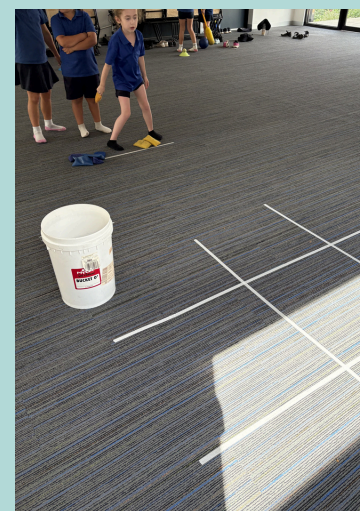


## Year 3 to 6

Our Year 3 to 6 students have brought the energy and enthusiasm to PE this term. They have participated in a variety of games and drills designed to incorporate FMS skills with strategy, teamwork and good sportsmanship. Early in the term we focused on what it means to be a good sportsperson. Our students described listening, encouraging others, helping others, playing fairly, following the rules, enjoying the game and not taking it too seriously as qualities of a good sportsperson. It has been encouraging to see these qualities grow throughout the term.

## TERM 1

- Swimming & Water Safety
- Athletics Development & Practise
- Sport4all - Blind Cricket (Years 3 - 6)
- Bat Tennis - Skills and Game Play



**We welcome back  
Miss Gordon in  
Term 2!**



# WELLBEING

NAOMIE PHILLIPS - WELLBEING LEADER  
BRAD SMALLMAN - MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING LEADER

## THE ROLE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING LEADER



If you require a directory of community services, please reach out to your Classroom Teacher or Mr Smallman



Congratulations to the following GEM award students - George Mc, Dougie, Archer, Annabel & Riley



## FAMILY HUB

When schools and families speak the same language around mental health, our young people thrive.

Our **Family Hub** is designed to keep you in the loop, inspire everyday wellbeing practices at home, and help strengthen the connection between what your child is learning in the classroom and how you support them in life.

[Click here or scan this QR code to learn more about our Family Hub.](#)



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### Home

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The Imperfects /

## the imperfects

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ryan shelton  
& josh van cuylenburg

