



# **Dunkeld Consolidated School**

*Newsletter*

Issue 2, Friday 29 May, 2026

# Key Dates

## Term 3, 2026

### E&OE

#### MAY 2026

- Friday 29 May Reconciliation Week.

#### 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.
- Thursday 11 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Wednesday 17 **PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE DAY for staff (Pupil Free Day).**
- 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.**

#### JULY 2026

- Monday 13 **FIRST DAY OF TERM 3.**
- Friday 17 School Assembly commencing at 2.40pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.
- Monday 20 Year 5/6 Melbourne Camp.
- Tuesday 21 Year 5/6 Melbourne Camp.
- Wednesday 22 Year 5/6 Melbourne Camp.
- Thursday 23 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Tuesday 28 School Council Meeting commencing at 7.30pm in Wurgarri Meeting Room.
- Thursday 30 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 31 School Assembly commencing at 2.40pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.

#### AUGUST 2026

- Wednesday 5 WSW Literacy Learning Community Conference.
- Thursday 6 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Thursday 13 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 14 School Assembly commencing at 2.40pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.
- Wednesday 19 Netball Victoria's Primary School Championships at Pedrina Park, Hamilton.
- Thursday 20 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Tuesday 25 School Council Meeting commencing at 7.30pm in Wurgarri Meeting Room.
- Thursday 27 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 28 School Assembly commencing at 2.40pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.
- Monday 31 Respectful Relationships PD.

#### SEPTEMBER 2026

- Tuesday 1 Respectful Relationships PD.  
Junior Hoop Time (Year 3/4) basketball competition at HILAC.
- Thursday 3 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 4 Senior Hoop Time (Year 5/6) basketball competition at HILAC.
- Thursday 10 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 11 School Assembly commencing at 2.40pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.
- Thursday 17 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 18 **LAST DAY OF TERM 3 – 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 another busy and rewarding period at school, with students continuing to engage in a wide range of learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. Parent Teacher Conferences were recently held, providing families with the opportunity to meet with teachers to celebrate student achievements, discuss learning progress and set goals for the remainder of the year. Thank you to all families for taking the time to attend and support these important conversations. Strong partnerships between home and school play a vital role in helping every child thrive.

Students have also been actively involved in a number of sporting opportunities throughout the term. It has been fantastic to see students representing the school at divisional athletics and cross-country events, demonstrating determination, resilience and great school spirit. These experiences continue to build confidence, teamwork and pride in our school community.

Our Student Voice Leaders have also done an outstanding job this term, particularly through their organisation of the "Do It For Dolly" fundraising event on 8 May. The event helped raise awareness about the importance of kindness, inclusion and positive mental health, while also giving students the opportunity to lead meaningful initiatives within the school. Thank you to Mrs Phillips for her ongoing work supporting student voice and leadership across

the school, including the coordination of our regular assemblies.

The school continues to benefit from the support provided through the Small Schools Support Program. Regan Carlson continues to work closely with the school twice each term, supporting important compliance processes, Occupational Health and Safety requirements and the management of maintenance and asset systems. This assistance helps ensure the school remains safe, organised and well maintained for all students and staff.

There has also been exciting progress regarding school facilities. A number of improvement projects continue to move forward across the school, with further detail provided in the Facilities Committee Report to School Council. In addition, we were thrilled to learn that the school has been successful in its application to the Capital Works Fund, with approximately \$500,000 allocated in the Victorian State Budget to upgrade the school's toilet facilities. This is wonderful news for our school community and will lead to significant improvements to student and staff amenities in the future.

During the reporting period, members of the Australian Education Union participated in industrial action. While it has been reported that an in-principle agreement has been reached between the union and the Department of Education, schools are still awaiting further formal advice from the Department. At this stage, I have been informed by AEU members that written comments may not be included on student reports as part of ongoing industrial action. I will continue to keep families informed as further information becomes available.

# PREP NEWS



## Maths

Prep students have been busy exploring lots of exciting learning this month! In Maths, we investigated teen numbers before moving into Additive Thinking, building our understanding of addition and subtraction.

## Sounds Write

Our Sounds-Write phonics program introduced many new letter sounds, we're now working on Unit 6 focusing on j, w & z. We are growing into such confident readers and writers.



## Literacy

In Literacy, we enjoyed Australian Nursery Rhymes and the books of Pamela Allen, developing our skills in rhyming, comprehension, retelling and sharing personal opinions about stories

## Inquiry

Our Now and Then Inquiry unit sparked wonderful conversations about how family life has changed over time, including interviews, treasured family items and a visit to the Dunkeld Museum.

We also enjoyed special events including Cross Country, a Caulfield Grammar music performance, Do It For Dolly Day, National Simultaneous Storytime and creating our own mini museum. It's been a busy, hands-on month full of learning, curiosity and fun in Prep!

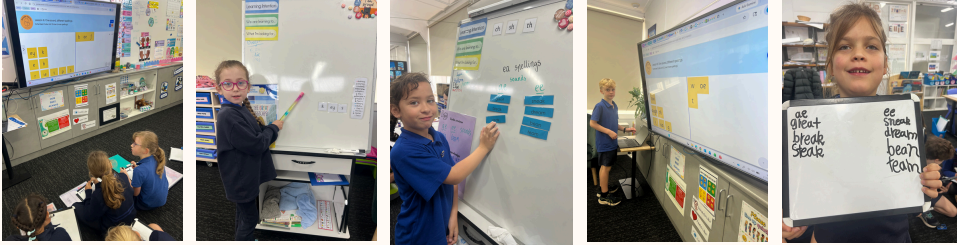
**Big smiles, big learning, big Prep energy!**



# YEAR 1/2

## SOUNDS WRITE

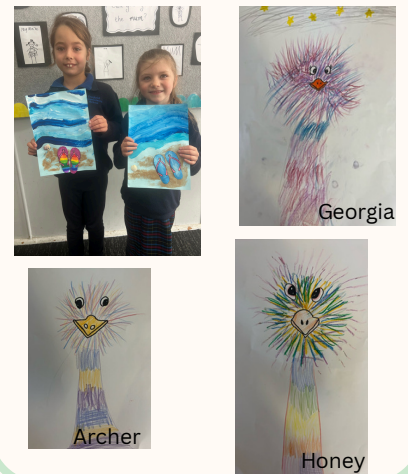
We have continued to work hard in Sounds Write sessions to practice our reading and writing skills.



## ART

This term we have had fun making pieces of art based on our English texts. Here are some students with their beach creations that we made after reading the book 'Two Mates'.

Do you like our emus?  
Aren't we clever!



## ENGLISH

This term we have been reading some amazing texts in our English sessions including 'The Boy Who Tried to Shrink His Name', 'Two Mates', 'Edward the Emu' and 'Can You Teach a Fish to Climb a Tree?'.

We have been looking at the setting, characters, how pictures enhance a story, making connections and so much more.

**My favourite book has been...because...**

**Molly** - Can You Teach a Fish to Climb a Tree? because it was really interesting.

**Lola** - Can You Teach a Fish to Climb a Tree? because it had funny parts and true facts.

**Joey** - Edward the Emu because we created drawings of Edward.

## NUMERACY



We have been focusing on addition and subtraction strategies the last few weeks. We have used tens frames and number lines to teach us various strategies such as doubling, near doubles, bridging to ten and more. We are so clever and have enjoyed playing games to help us develop our skills.

## DUNKELD MUSEUM VISIT

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May our class went on an excursion to the Dunkeld Museum. We enjoyed learning more about 'the past'.

**Thank you** to the museum for having us and to Michaela, Peter and Joyce for taking us on a tour and sharing so much interesting information with us.

**Our memories and thoughts...**

**Connie** - I liked going to the Dunkeld Museum because I got to have my photo taken in the Bakery Cart.

**Edie** - My favourite part at the Dunkeld Museum was seeing the school display because they didn't have what we have now.

**Hudson** - My favourite part at the Dunkeld Museum was the character Stimi and learning about how the old phones worked. (Miss Olive Stimson)



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# YEAR 3/4 CLASSROOM NEWS

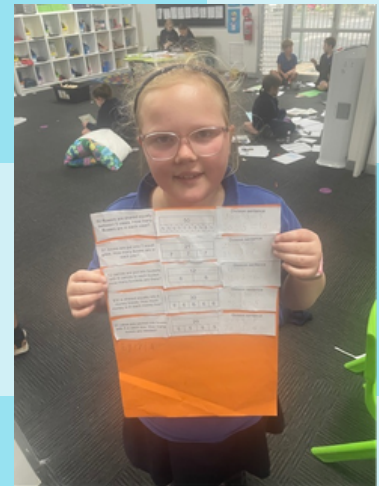
The Year 3/4 students have been flat out this term! We have been busy writing information reports on Australian explorers while also learning about the impact of their arrival on the Traditional Owners of the land, the Indigenous people of Australia.

Every student has shown great enthusiasm and curiosity throughout this topic, and it has been wonderful to see the effort they have put into their research and writing. Thank you to all the families who have supported their child with research and learning at home — your help is greatly appreciated. Below are a few photos capturing the students' fantastic efforts and learning throughout this unit!

## Maths, Maths and More Maths!

We have just completed an intense unit on multiplication, and the students have worked incredibly hard throughout the learning process. It has been wonderful watching students develop and practise new strategies to help them recall their multiplication facts with increasing confidence and accuracy.

A major focus of our learning has been applying multiplication skills to everyday situations and real-world problems. The students have shown fantastic growth in their understanding and are becoming much more confident mathematicians each day. We are very proud of the persistence and effort they have shown during this unit!



# Year 5/6 Class News

Term 2  
2026

## What we have been up to so far this term...

It has been full steam ahead in the Year 5/6 classroom so far this term! Students have experienced secondary school life while taking part in transition days and been showcasing their sporting talents on the athletics and cross country tracks. In English, we have begun reading the historical fiction novel "War Horse" which is tying in perfectly with our Inquiry Unit "Shaping a Nation".

We have been working hard in Maths, revisiting decimals, algebraic thinking, measurement and integers.

This week is Reconciliation Week and for homework we are investigating indigenous foods and recipes and researching bush tucker. Thank you to Robin Wickens for sending in indigenous spices and foods from the Royal Mail Hotel Kitchen Garden for us to smell and investigate.

## Upcoming Events

June 4<sup>th</sup> Hamilton Eisteddfod

June 8<sup>th</sup> Kings Birthday Holiday

June 9<sup>th</sup> Pupil Free Day

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ruby for reaching regional level of Cross Country and to Jude, for competing in the State Titles in Sydney for BMX.

## Thank You!

Thank you to our special ladies for spending time with us in our classroom before Mother's Day. We loved creating continuous line portraits with you and, most of all, seeing your smiling faces!

## ANZAC Day Dawn Service Jars



# MARC BUDDIES SESSION

The Year 5/6 students chose a picture story book to discuss and read with their Year Prep Buddy. They then completed an activity based around the main character from the book. Always an experience that is enjoyed and looked forward to by everyone!



# Cheese Toasty Fridays

For the next few weeks, the Year 6 Student Voice leaders will be selling cheese toasties, fruit boxes and fruit for lunch every Friday to fundraise money to upgrade our memory garden.

To order these toasties please go on to Compass and click the 'Canteen' button. Orders before Thursday please.

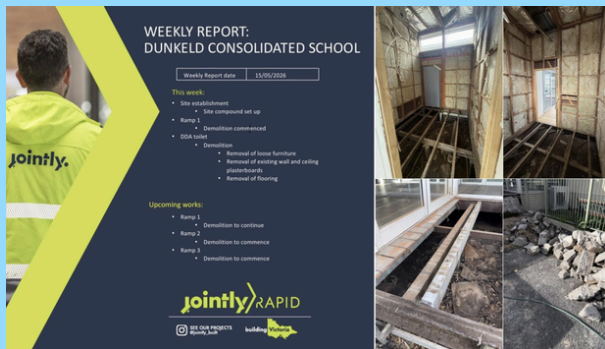
**CHEESE TOASTIES \$2.50**

**Fruit boxes \$2.00**

**Fruit \$1.50-apple, banana**

# FROM OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

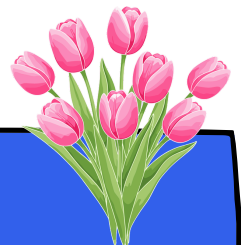
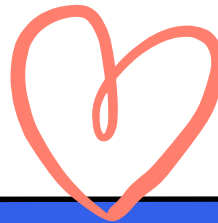
## VSBA - ASB PROGRAM WORKS



## DO IT FOR DOLLY DAY



## NATIONAL WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY



## SPECIAL LADIES AFTERNOON





# HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION – SPORTS NEWS

## CROSS COUNTRY

We kicked off Term 2 with our school Cross Country event which was a fantastic display of our school values, with students demonstrating resilience, respect and achievement throughout the day. It was wonderful to see students encouraging one another, showing determination to do their best and celebrating each other's efforts and successes.

20 students progressed to the SGSSA Cross Country Championships which were held at Tarrington on Wednesday 6th May.

Congratulations to the following students who progressed through to the Division Cross Country event held at Reid Oval in Warrnambool on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May - Xavier Macgugan, Tom Harris, George Phillips, Jed Russell, Tom Roache, Harry Prentice, Van Russell, Sailor Grimmer, Michaela Roache, Nellie Wickens, Layla Macgugan, Annabel Wilson, Ruby Mibus and Sybil Patterson.

Congratulations to Ruby Mibus who competed back at Warrnambool in the SSV Greater Western Regional Cross Country event on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May. Ruby came 40<sup>th</sup> from a field of about 60 11-year-old girls.

Thank you to our volunteers and staff members for making each event possible!

## ATHLETICS

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 9 students headed to Brauerander Park Athletics Track in Warrnambool to compete in the SSV Divisional Athletics Carnival. The following students are to be congratulated on being selected to represent our school and SGSSA at this level.

9/10 yo girls  
Athena Manolas - hurdles

9/10 yo boys  
Tom Roache - 100m, 200m, hurdles, relay  
Harry Prentice - relay

11 yo girls  
Ruby Mibus - 100m, 800m, hurdles, relay  
Sybil Patterson - 1500m, discus, relay

11 yo boys  
George Phillips - 800m  
Bobby Blackwell - discus

12/13 yo girls  
Michaela Roache - 1500m, hurdles, long jump, relay

12/13 yo boys  
Xavier Macgugan - 200m, 800m, hurdles, relay

Congratulations to the following students who will now complete in Ballarat at the Regional event in October:

Xavier, Tom and Ruby



Tom came 1<sup>st</sup> in 200m and hurdles, Ruby 2<sup>nd</sup> in hurdles at the SSV Divisional Event



# Health and Physical Education

Mrs. Gordon

## Foundation to Year 2

This term in PE, our Foundation to Year 2 students have been enjoying a variety of rotational activities with an overall soccer focus. We have been very lucky to spend lots of time outdoors, developing motor skills, teamwork and confidence through activities including yoga, soccer dribbling and goal kicking, scarf throwing and tracking, catch and throw, using the giant spinner and dance. Indoors, students have also been learning about the healthy food pyramid and healthy lifestyle choices.

Congratulations to our PE Stars of the Week so far this term – Lucy B, Hugo, George, Archer, Maya and Zeba! Keep up the great work, everyone!



## Year 3 to 6

This term in PE, our Year 3–6 students have been working well in large teams and with partners to develop their soccer skills. Students have enjoyed a range of fun games and activities including Pumpkin Smash, Dribble Minefield and Soccer Shot Relays, showing great enthusiasm and energy throughout each session.

During health lessons, students researched the Healthy Food Pyramid and explored different sources of food. Over the next few weeks, students will begin developing their netball skills through a variety of games and activities.

Congratulations to Tom H, Egergia, Sam B, Athena, Abigail and Jude on receiving PE Star of the Week certificates. Keep up the fantastic work!



# 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 - Aylah Pratt, Tom Harris and George Phillips

## THE RESILIENCE PROJECT.

# GEM Chats Empathy

### CREATING WELLBEING HABITS & CONNECTION

GEM Chats help families practice The Resilience Project's principles, offering a simple wellbeing check-in while **building stronger connections through daily conversations.**

### HOW TO USE GEM CHATS

Make GEM Chats a part of your dinner routine to reflect, check in, and practice empathy.

Try these prompts:

- ★ Thank each family member for something they've **done or said** today.
- ★ Give each family member a **compliment**.
- ★ Share a time when someone has done **something kind for you** this week. Describe how it made you feel.
- ★ Think about someone special in your life. **What makes them special**, and how will you let them know this week?
- ★ Who made you **feel cared** for this week? What actions did they take?



### Home

We're all imperfect We're all imperfect, and on The Imperfects podcast you'll hear interviews from some of the world's most interesting people who vulnerably share their own struggles and imperfections. When we're vulnerable, we can build...

The Imperfects /

# the imperfects

hosted by  
hugh van cuylenburg  
ryan shelton  
& josh van cuylenburg



# Scary Safe. Scary Dangerous

This fortnight in Big Life, students explore Karen Young's concept and language of **Scary Safe** and **Scary Dangerous**. Students can face many situations that feel scary or stressful—but not all fear means danger. We use Karen Young's common language of "scary safe" and "scary dangerous" as a thinking strategy, to help students tell the difference in the problems they face.

- **Scary Safe:** These are experiences that feel uncomfortable or frightening, but are actually safe—like giving a presentation, trying a new sport, joining a new group, or being corrected respectfully. These moments help students grow and build resilience, even if they cause big emotions at first.
- **Scary Dangerous:** These are situations that feel scary and are unsafe—like going out of school bounds, bullying, or when someone gets seriously hurt (like breaking a bone). These require adult intervention to protect the student and restore safety.

## How Parents Can Extend this Learning at Home:

**Talk with your child** about times you've felt nervous, stressed, or upset and identify whether the situation was scary safe or scary dangerous and what action you took next.

For example - feeling scared to try something new and you took a deep breath and counted to 3 so you could keep going and try a new experience.

**Reassure your child** that it's okay to feel scared sometimes and remind them who they can talk to at school or at home when things feel too big.

**Practice coping strategies together**, like breathing, using positive self-talk or ways to ask for help.

**Explore Karen Young's website** that has lots of great resources on building courage and bravery <https://www.heysigmund.com/>

