



# **Dunkeld Consolidated School**

*Newsletter*

Issue 3, Monday 2 June 2025

# KEY DATES

## Terms 2 and 3

E&OE

### JUNE 2025

- Thursday 5 Hamilton Eisteddfod at the Hamilton PAC – Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 students.
- Friday 6 **PUPIL FREE DAY – students do not attend school (Assessment and Report Writing day for staff).**
- Monday 9 **KING'S BIRTHDAY Public Holiday.**
- Tuesday 10 MARC Library.
- Thursday 12 Music classes with Tara Stephens.  
Visit by Leading Senior Constable Keleigh Flavel, Youth Resource Officer, Hamilton Police.
- Friday 13 SAKG Kitchen class – Year 3/4 students.  
School Assembly commencing at 2.50pm in the hall.
- Tuesday 17 MARC Library.
- Wednesday 18 Smile Squad Dental Team follow-up fluoride treatment.
- Thursday 19 Smile Squad Dental Team follow-up fluoride treatment.  
Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 20 SAKG Kitchen class – Year 5/6 students.
- Tuesday 24 School Council Meeting commencing at 7.30pm.
- Thursday 26 Music classes with Tara Stephens.  
Secondary School Transition Program - Baimbridge College Year 5 Transition Day.
- Friday 27 SAKG Kitchen class – Year 5/6 students.  
School Assembly commencing at 2.50pm in the hall.

### JULY 2025

- Tuesday 1 MARC Library.
- Thursday 3 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 4 SAKG Kitchen class – Year 5/6 students.  
**LAST DAY OF TERM 2 – EARLY DISMISSAL AT 2.30pm – school buses will run one hour earlier in the afternoon.**

#### JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

- Monday 21 **FIRST DAY OF TERM 3.**
- Thursday 24 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Tuesday 29 School Council Meeting commencing at 7.30pm.
- Thursday 31 Music classes with Tara Stephens.

### AUGUST 2025

- Friday 1 School Assembly commencing at 2.50pm in the hall.
- Thursday 7 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- *National Science Week 2025 – Saturday 9 to Sunday 17 August.*
- Thursday 14 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 15 School Assembly commencing at 2.50pm in the hall.
- Book Week 2025 - "Book An Adventure!" theme – from Saturday 16 to Saturday 25 August 2025.
- Wednesday 20 Netball Victoria's Primary School Championships at Pedrina Park, Hamilton.
- Thursday 21 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Monday 25 **PUPIL FREE DAY – students do not attend school (Curriculum Day for staff).**
- Tuesday 26 School Council Meeting commencing at 7.30pm.
- Thursday 28 Music classes with Tara Stephens.  
Dunkeld Writers' Festival – Kate Mildenhall's "To Stir With Love".
- Friday 29 Dunkeld Writers' Festival – Kate Mildenhall's "To Stir With Love".  
School Assembly commencing at 2.50pm in the hall.

### SEPTEMBER 2025

- Thursday 4 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Tuesday 9 Junior Hoop Time (Year 3/4) basketball competition at HILAC.
- Wednesday 10 AGL Mindful Day conducted by Mindfull Aus personnel.
- Thursday 11 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 12 Senior Hoop Time (Year 5/6) basketball competition at HILAC.  
School Assembly commencing at 2.50pm in the hall.
- Thursday 18 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 19 **LAST DAY OF TERM 3 – EARLY DISMISSAL AT 2.30pm – school buses will run one hour earlier in the afternoon.**

#### SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



# FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

## MR SMALLMAN



Dunkeld  
CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL No. 6215

*'Optima Semper'*



It has been lovely to see another busy term and as we reach the halfway point it's a pleasure to update families on all that has been happening in the school since our last newsletter.

Staff have continued their commitment to professional learning, particularly in the areas of School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) and Literacy through our engagement with the Literacy Learning Community. Mrs McShane has continued professional development in Koorie Education that focused on equipping school leaders with the skills and knowledge to effectively support Koorie students and communities. This involves developing their capacity to engage in culturally safe and inclusive practices, and to advocate for the needs of Koorie learners.

The curriculum this term has been rich and engaging, with students participating in a range of broader learning experiences. We recently acknowledged Reconciliation Week, providing students with important opportunities to deepen their understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture. We also celebrated Education Week, recognising the value of education in our community through a range of classroom and whole-school activities.

We were pleased to host Mitchell Gorden for a week-long work experience placement. Mitchell worked closely with Mrs Jackie Mibus across H&PE, Art, Year 3/4, and Prep classes. His enthusiasm and willingness to engage with students and staff were greatly appreciated.

Both district and regional Cross Country events have taken place. Several of our students participated in the district event, with special congratulations to Grace Macgugan, who progressed to the regional level. It is always wonderful to see our students representing the school with pride and determination.

The Mother's Day Afternoon Tea was an overwhelming success, with a wonderful turnout from families and community members. Special thanks to Miss Nicky Lowe for her exceptional work in organising the event, including preparing food with the students. Since my time at the school, this has been the most well-attended event, and the atmosphere on the day was truly heartwarming.

Students in Years 4 to 6 will soon be completing the Attitudes to School Survey, providing valuable insights into their perspectives on learning, wellbeing, and school environment.

We have completed our Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) mid-year monitoring, and I am delighted to report that the school is on track to meet several of our goals. This reflects the hard work of our staff and the strong focus on strategic improvement across the school.

# DUNKELD CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL END-OF-SEMESTER REPORTING UPDATE - PARENT NEWSLETTER

 **TERM 2, 2025**



## **Understanding the E to A Scale on Student Reports**

At Dunkeld Consolidated School, this year we will use a five-point E to A scale to report your child's achievement against the Victorian Curriculum. These judgements reflect how your child is progressing relative to the expected level for their year.

What the grades mean:

- A – Well Above the Expected Level
- Demonstrates deep understanding and application beyond year-level expectations.
- B – Above the Expected Level
- Performing strongly with consistent skills above the expected standard.
- C – At the Expected Level
- On track and meeting curriculum standards—this is a strong and expected result.
- D – Below the Expected Level
- Progressing towards the standard; needs more time or support to consolidate learning.
- E – Well Below the Expected Level
- Requires significant support to develop essential knowledge and skills.

These judgements are based on achievement—not on effort, attitude, or behaviour, which are reported separately.

Regardless of whether your child receives an A, B, C, D or E:

- Celebrate areas of growth and success.
- Talk positively about challenges—every student learns at their own pace.
- Reach out to your child's teacher if you'd like to discuss the report further

## **Changes in 2025: Mathematics & Victorian Curriculum 2.0**

Starting this year, Mathematics is being reported under the Victorian Curriculum Version 2.0.

What's different?

- Teachers now make a single overall judgement for Mathematics.
- This replaces previous separate grades for strands like Number, Measurement, etc.
- The single grade gives a clearer picture of your child's overall progress in Maths.

## **Reports will be Available on Compass AT THE END OF TERM**

Student reports will now be distributed digitally via Compass. This allows faster and more convenient access to your child's progress and is a fantastic environmentally friendly way for us to communicate reports with families.

If you would prefer a printed copy, please contact the office.

 **Need assistance with Compass or your child's report?**

Please contact the school office on or drop in during school hours.



# **WE'RE GETTING A NEW SPORTS COURT!**



Due to the overwhelming support of our Dunkeld community, the Dunkeld Consolidated Sports Court project is set to begin in late June 2025.

Our stage one fundraising campaign has now raised over \$80,000 allowing the school to construct a 30.5m x 15.5m synthetic surface with netball and basketball line marking. Combined netball and basketball towers will be installed at either end.

A gratitude of thanks to Bendigo Bank Dunkeld and District Community Bank, Dunkeld Pastoral Company and the Myers Family, Peaks and Trails, Dunkeld Racing Club and the Dunkeld Rodeo Committee for their generous donations which have allowed our ambitious project to come to life so quickly.

Our Sports Court Sheep Drive contributed an amazing \$26,500 towards the project! Thank you to those who contributed livestock, Simon and Goldie Armytage for use of their sheeyards, Ararat Meat Exports and Elders Hamilton for their assistance in the drive, an amazing result.

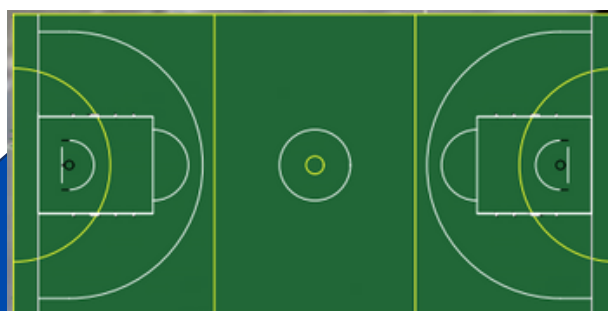
Finally, thanks to those community members who donated funds directly to stage one through the Australian Sports Foundation (ASF) page, by donating used batteries or through a variety of other avenues.

However, our fundraising efforts don't stop there! Stage two fundraising of the project involves covering the costs to resurface the current undercover play space and complete some landscaping. Over the next twelve months we'll be looking to raise another \$45,000 to complete this entire play space makeover.

The tax-deductible donation page will remain open through the Australian Sports Foundation (scan QR code above to donate); car/truck/tractor/boat batteries can continue to be dropped at Kelly's AGnVET Dunkeld, and a range of other fundraising activities will continue.

Thank you to the entire Dunkeld community for their generosity and school spirit thus far.

**Dunkeld Consolidated School Council**



# PREP NEWS

## SOUNDS-WRITE

We have been working in Unit 6 of the Sounds-Write program - j w z are our new focus sounds.

We can read books independently by using our known letters! We say the sounds and blend them to read the words. Eg. jam, wet, zip.

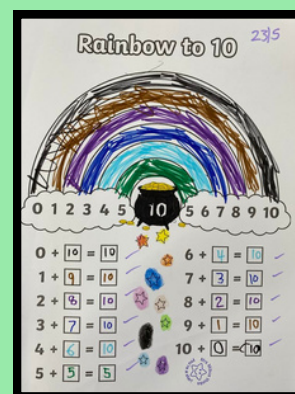
## INQUIRY

This term the Preps have been exploring their Fantastic Families. We made family trees and also investigated where our families originated from. We came from 13 different countries from around the world!

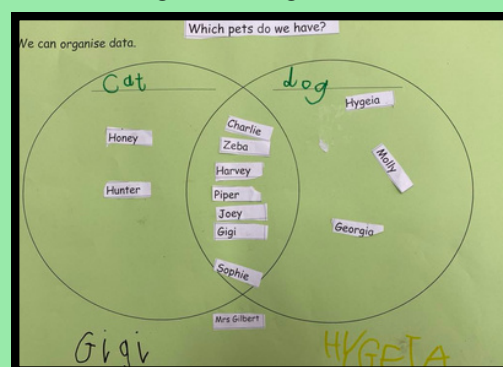


## MATHS

We have been learning the friends of 10 by adding 2 smaller numbers together to get 10. We even learnt the old 'switcherooney' trick.



We have been collecting and organising data.



## RECONCILIATION WEEK

This week we discussed the meaning of reconciliation. We talked about the theme 'Bridging Now to Next' and made these hands with their bridging thumbs.





# YEAR ONE AND TWO HAPPENINGS



## THIS WEEK

Despite the change from beautiful sunny skies to chilly, frosty mornings, everyone has been arriving with bright smiles each morning! We have become very good at getting ourselves organised for the day and even better at packing up at the end of each day while grooving away to the clean up song! Some students have even been lucky enough to be special Duty Students for the day and complete special jobs for staff.



## ENGLISH

- During our English hour, students have been immersed in Indigenous Stories about native Australian animals.
- We have been learning that Indigenous Australians share their culture through stories and songs and have existed for over 60,000 years!



## SOUNDS WRITE

We are becoming Sounds Write superstars! Each morning we are ready to review and investigate our code for the week by saying the sounds and reading or writing the words on our fancy whiteboards. We can even split words into syllables and read and spell the sounds of these very large and tricky words!

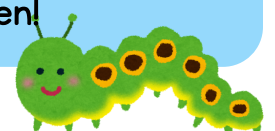


## COOKING



## COOKING

For the past two weeks, we have been cooking up a storm in the kitchen with Chef Robin and our Friends! We whipped up some delicious carrot cake cupcakes with cream cheese frosting and discovered all the different ways to cook an egg! Chef Robin helped us make a yummy frittata using eggs, bacon and cheese. A big thank you to Chef Robin and our Friends for helping us in the kitchen!





# Year 3/4 Update

## LEARNING, LAPTOPS, LAUGHTER & LABRADORS!

### ENGLISH

We have completed our classroom text "Yirra and her Deadly Dog Demon", and we have decided it was "Ok" but not the best book we have read. We have worked hard on sentence structure and writing detailed paragraphs. We also learnt about life in a mission, as Yirra was an indigenous girl growing up in a mission community.

### MATHS

Adding and subtracting, using a range of different strategies has been our focus for the last few weeks. We are getting really good at it.



### LAPTOPS

**We have some exciting news in Year 3/4!**

A few weeks ago, Mr Smallman came in and explained that each Year 3/4 student will be receiving their very own school laptop! Did you hear the screams of excitement all over Dunkeld?

The laptops are part of our rollout program, where the students are assigned a laptop that they will continue to use until they leave school in Year 6. We are excited to announce that Year 3 students will receive their own allocated laptop each year.

The students have embraced them so far. We have signed a student friendly contract to ensure we care for them in the right way and have begun by creating slide shows using Powerpoint.



### LABRADORS

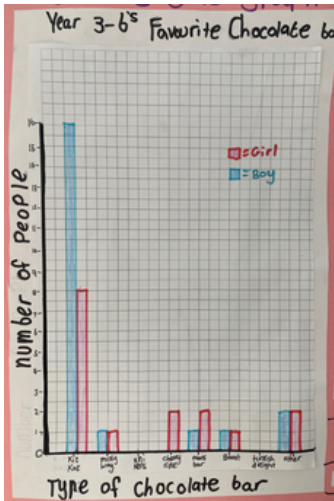
We also had a visit from Sam's Labrador puppies. Cuteness Overload!



# GRADE FIVE + SIX

# MATHS

In class, we've been exploring graphing by surveying classmates about their favourite chocolate bars and the weather. Students enjoyed collecting data and turning it into colourful graphs! We've also been building our math skills by learning and applying different addition and subtraction strategies to solve problems in fun, practical ways.



# REMINDERS

Please bring your diary to school each day.

Please bring your Homework  
Books back each Friday!

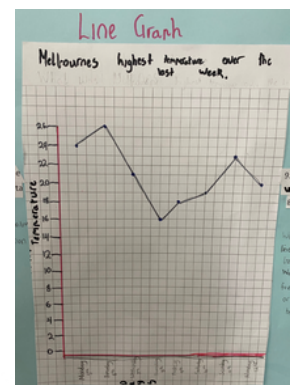
Please bring back your  
Hamilton Eisteddfod forms.

# LITERACY & INQUIRY

During Literacy and Inquiry, we finished reading *Black Cockatoo*, a powerful story with Indigenous themes. We explored the meaning of different Indigenous words from the book and discussed their significance. Students have been working on writing a character analysis of the main character, Mia, reflecting on her growth and journey.

## OUTSIDE THE CLASS ROOM

Our grade 5/6's have continued doing really well in Cross Country earning them the right to compete in the different stages of Cross Country. This week we celebrated Reconciliation Week by learning about Indigenous cultures and histories. It's been a meaningful and active week! We're now looking forward to performing in the Hamilton Eisteddfod this week and sharing our creativity on stage. Thank you, Tara, for all the support and effort that you have put into preparing our class.



# FOOTY & NETBALL TIPPING

## LEADERS AFTER ROUND

1<sup>st</sup> - Audrey - 45

2<sup>nd</sup> - Jed - 43

3<sup>rd</sup> - Jackson - 42



# FROM OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

## DO IT FOR DOLLY DAY



## CROSS COUNTRY



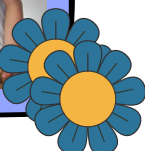
## RECONCILIATION WALK



## WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY



## MOTHER'S DAY AFTERNOON TEA





# 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

## GEM CHAT



As we walk to the car or home, pay attention to:

4 things you can **see**, 3 things you can **hear**,  
2 things you can **touch**, 1 thing you can **smell**.

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

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### We're working with The Resilience Project

We're proud to be implementing TRP's evidence-based whole school wellbeing program. Students will engage in weekly lessons to understand and strengthen their practice of **Gratitude**, **Empathy**, **Mindfulness** and **Emotional Literacy**.

#### Gratitude



Gratitude involves recognising and expressing appreciation for the people, places and things in our lives. Practising gratitude allows us to pay attention to what we have, increasing feelings of happiness and leading to a more positive outlook on life.

#### Empathy



Empathy involves understanding others' feelings and perspectives and is practised through kindness, compassion and curiosity. Developing empathy fosters deeper connections, increases our likelihood of acting kindly, and helps us experience positive emotions.

#### Mindfulness



The practice of mindfulness is about an awareness of life as we are living it.

It allows us to be responsive to our experiences rather than being reactive, and to live with greater balance, presence and connection.

#### Emotional Literacy



Emotional Literacy involves learning to identify and label our emotions, as well as developing emotional regulation skills. When we can accurately name our feelings and emotions, it reduces the impact of uncomfortable emotions and enhances the effect of positive ones.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RESILIENCE PROJECT, HEAD TO:

@theresilienceproject... The Resilience Project The Resilience Project theresilienceproject.com



Wellbeing for School Communities

## 2025 Youth Mental Health Roadshow

Featuring Dr. Michael Carr-Gregg



Monday 28 July, 2025

Parent & Carer Information Evening

7 pm - 8 pm

The Kantor Family Music and Performing Arts Centre at The Hamilton & Alexandra College  
1 Chaucer St, Hamilton

Suitable for: Parents, grandparents and caregivers supporting school aged young people.

FREE EVENT  
Registration is essential.



Join Dr Michael Carr-Gregg, one of Australia's leading child and adolescent psychologists, for a presentation on youth mental health. His invaluable insights will equip parents and caregivers with practical strategies to support youth wellbeing build resilience, and navigate the challenges young people face today.

Topics will include:

- Nurturing growth and development
- The stages of adolescence
- Understanding key milestones
- Tips for effective communication
- Tips for thriving in school
- Strategies to help with anxiety
- Building resilience
- Trauma and recovery

