



Dunkeld Consolidated School

Newsletter

Issue 3, Friday 17 July, 2026

Key Dates

Term 3, 2026

E&OE

JULY 2026

- Monday 13 **FIRST DAY OF TERM 3.**
- Tuesday 14 MARC Library.
- 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.
- Monday 27 100 Days of School (Prep and Year 1/2 students).
- Tuesday 28 MARC Library.
School Council Meeting commencing at 7.30pm in Wurgarri Meeting Room.
- Thursday 30 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
Primary School Nurse Program – Prep Health Assessments.
- Friday 31 Hockey 7's competition at Pedrina Park, Hamilton.
School Assembly commencing at 2.40pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.

AUGUST 2026

- Tuesday 4 MARC Library.
- Wednesday 5 WSW Literacy Learning Community Conference in Warrnambool.
- Thursday 6 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Thursday 13 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 14 School-wide Positive Behaviour Support Program PD.
School Assembly commencing at 2.40pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.
- Tuesday 18 MARC Library.
- Wednesday 19 Netball Victoria's Primary School Championships at Pedrina Park, Hamilton.
- Thursday 20 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Tuesday 25 *Book Week - "Symphony of Stories" – from Saturday 22 to Friday 28 August 2026.*
MARC Library.
School Council Meeting commencing at 7.30pm in Wurgarri Meeting Room.
- Wednesday 26 Book Week – Illustration Workshops with local author/illustrator, Emma Stuart.
- Thursday 27 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 28 Book Week - Dunkeld Writers Festival Launch.
School Assembly commencing at 2.40pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.
- Monday 31 Respectful Relationships PD.

SEPTEMBER 2026

- Tuesday 1 MARC Library.
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.
- Tuesday 8 MARC Library.
School-wide Positive Behaviour Support Program - Tiered Fidelity Inventory.
- Thursday 10 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 11 School Assembly commencing at 2.40pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.
- Tuesday 15 MARC Library.
- Thursday 17 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 18 **LAST DAY OF TERM 3 – EARLY DISMISAL AT 2.30pm – school buses will run one hour earlier in the afternoon.**

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

MR SMALLMAN



There has been plenty happening around Dunkeld Consolidated School over recent weeks, with exciting progress continuing across our facilities, classrooms and school community.

Our Accessible Buildings Program project is now well underway and will continue over the coming months. These important improvements will enhance accessibility across the school and provide even better learning environments for our students, staff and visitors. Work has also commenced on relocating our Kitchen Garden, with orders now placed and construction underway. We are looking forward to watching this wonderful learning space take shape and provide students with even more opportunities for hands-on learning and outdoor experiences.

Behind the scenes, significant work has also been taking place to prepare the school's confirmed budget. The Finance sub-committee has carefully considered how best to allocate resources so that our budget supports the school's strategic priorities and continues to provide high-quality learning opportunities and ongoing improvements for our students.

Our Policies have been reviewed and will shortly be available on the school website. This significant body of work ensures all of our policies are current and fully compliant with Department of Education requirements.

Teachers were incredibly busy preparing Semester 1 reports while participating in moderation sessions to ensure student achievement has been assessed consistently and accurately across all year levels. Although written comments are not included in the semester's reports due to the current statewide industrial action, staff have worked diligently to ensure every report provides an accurate reflection of each student's learning and progress.

Congratulations to all of our Year 3 to Year 6 students who recently represented Dunkeld Consolidated School at the Hamilton Eisteddfod. They performed with confidence, enthusiasm and pride, and were outstanding ambassadors for our school throughout the event. A sincere thank you also goes to Tara Stephens and Mrs Mac (Heather Macgugan) for the many hours they dedicated to preparing and supporting our students to achieve such an exceptional standard of performance.

Staff participated in a Curriculum Day focused on strengthening classroom practice and student wellbeing. Working alongside an external coach, teachers further developed their understanding of Positive Classroom Management Strategies as part of our School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) framework. This professional learning continues to strengthen consistency across classrooms and supports the positive, safe and engaging learning environments that our students experience every day.

As we move through another busy term, I would like to sincerely thank our staff, students, School Council members and families for their ongoing support and commitment to our school. The strong partnerships we share continue to make Dunkeld Consolidated School a wonderful place to learn, grow and thrive.

PREP NEWS

MRS GILBERT & MRS HUF



Science

In Science, the Prep students began exploring the topic of Living Things. They learnt that living things grow, change, move independently, reproduce, and need air, water, food, and shelter to survive. Students also investigated the differences between living and non-living things by identifying the characteristics that make something alive.

Visual Arts



Last term in Visual Art, the Prep students explored self-portraits with Mrs Huf. They developed their drawing skills by observing and recreating their facial features, designed imaginative hairstyles, created disguises by swapping facial features, and experimented with colour and texture. During Reconciliation Week, students also explored how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples use art to represent and map their environment, before creating self-portraits inspired by the colours of the Aboriginal flag.

Grammar/Punctuation

Prep students have been developing their sentence editing skills. They learnt that every sentence begins with a capital letter and ends with a full stop, and practised identifying and correcting these features in their writing.

the dog can run.

Literacy

Prep students enjoyed reading the story of Wandj, a dingo who was rescued after being carried away by an eagle and later found a home at a dingo sanctuary. Through the text, students participated in a range of comprehension and literacy activities before completing their own book review to reflect on their learning.



Sounds-Write



Prep students explored how two letters can work together to represent a single sound. They investigated words containing double letters, such as fell, puff and fuzz, and practised reading and spelling words with these common spelling patterns.

Maths

Prep students explored the concept of time by learning the days of the week in order and discussing when events occur throughout the day. They practised sequencing events and sorting daily activities into morning, afternoon and night.



Student Voice

Congratulations to Hugo Spicer and Paddy Crimmins who will be our Prep Student Voice leaders for Semester 2.

YEAR 1/2

newsletter

Welcome back! We trust you all had a wonderful winter break.

Student Voice
Congratulations
to Gigi Grimmer
and Dougie Clark,
our Semester 2
Student Voice
Leaders.



This week in our Optima Semper lessons we have been focusing on Respect; what it looks, sounds and feels like.

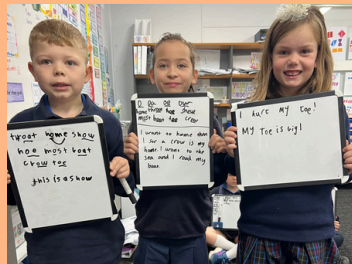
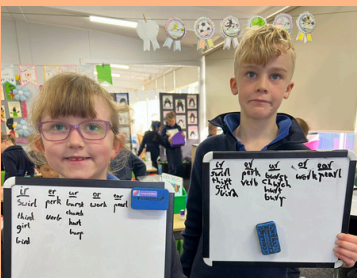
We have also been learning about giving people compliments and how it makes them and us feel.



Sounds Write

Year 1's have been busy learning the sounds /oe/ using the four spellings o, oa, ow and oe - as in most, boat, crow and toe.

In Year 2 we have been looking at the sound /d/ using the spellings d, dd, de and ed - as in sound, add, slide and bored.



Maths

We have been busy in maths learning about number lines and money. Did you know that 10 \$1 coins make \$10 and 10 \$10 notes makes \$100. We have explored this through a fun new trading game we have been playing.



Dunkie's Birthday

At the end of Term 2 we celebrated Dunkie's birthday. We created our very own black cockatoo in art.



YEAR 3/4 CLASSROOM NEWS

A Busy and Successful Term 2

Term 2 was a busy and exciting term for our Year 3 and 4 students, finishing with a very special celebration, Dunkie's Birthday Party!

Throughout the term, students have worked hard across all curriculum areas, demonstrating enthusiasm, persistence, and a commitment to learning. It has been wonderful to see the growth and achievements of every student as they challenged themselves and embraced new learning opportunities.

One of the highlights of the term was performing at the Hamilton Eisteddfod. We are thrilled to share that our students placed second in their section! Each and every student performed to the very best of their ability, and we could not have been prouder of their efforts, teamwork, and confidence on stage. The students represented our school beautifully and should be congratulated on this fantastic achievement.

A special thank you must go to Tara Stephens, whose patience, encouragement, and dedication to our students is truly exceptional. The time and effort she invests in supporting our students is greatly appreciated, and this wonderful result would not have been possible without her commitment.

Student Voice

Congratulations to Roy Andrew and Egeria Jones, our Year 3/4 Student Voice Leaders for Semester 2.



LITERACY

This term, we finished our class novel *Matilda* by Roald Dahl and celebrated by watching the movie at the end of the term. The students thoroughly enjoyed following Matilda's journey and discussing what makes her such an extraordinary character.

Throughout our reading sessions, we focused on reading with expression and fluency to engage and entertain our listeners. Students developed confidence in using their voices to bring characters and events to life, making reading an enjoyable experience for both themselves and their audience.

In writing, students learned how to structure a narrative, including creating engaging beginnings, developing interesting events, and writing satisfying endings. A particular focus was placed on using quotation marks correctly when writing dialogue. It was wonderful to see the growth in students' writing skills, and by the end of the term they were confidently incorporating dialogue into their narratives.

2ND PLACE



MATHEMATICS

This term, students explored Measurement and discovered how these skills are used in many professions and everyday life. We enjoyed learning about area, perimeter, litres, and millilitres through hands-on activities. Next term, we will investigate chance and data, developing skills in collecting, interpreting, and representing information.

Gearing Up for a Great Term 3, Together!

Year 5/6

CLASSROOM

NEWS

MRS PHILLIPS &
MRS PRENTICE

What a Term 2!!

Term 2 recap ...

What a mammoth Term 2 we've had! It has been packed with learning, sport, music—and, of course, plenty of delicious cheese toasties! We certainly kept ourselves busy. I am incredibly proud of the way everyone approached each day with enthusiasm, always striving to do their best. It has been wonderful to see the kindness, teamwork and encouragement students have shown one another throughout the term. Thank you all for making our classroom such a positive and supportive place to learn. I hope everyone enjoyed a well-deserved break, and I can't wait to see what Term 3 brings!

English

This term, we finished reading our class novel, War Horse. Although many of us worried about Joey's fate at the end of each chapter, we were delighted to discover a heartwarming ending that surprised us all. Inspired by the novel, students wrote imaginative narratives based on the theme The Journey to the Unknown. Like Joey, the main character, each story was written from the perspective of an animal, allowing students to explore creativity, emotion and descriptive language. The result was a collection of highly engaging, entertaining and imaginative stories, which students proudly published during the final week of term.

Maths

Over the past term, we have explored and revisited key mathematical concepts including measurement, decimals, integers and algebraic thinking. Students have strengthened their understanding by revisiting prior learning, applying a range of problem-solving strategies and using their mathematical knowledge to solve increasingly complex tasks and real-world problems.

Next term, we will place a strong focus on building instant recall of multiplication tables and other number facts. Developing fluency in these essential skills will enable students to work more efficiently and confidently when tackling challenging mathematical investigations and problem-solving tasks.

Year 5/6 Student Voice Reps

Congratulations and a huge thank you to Jude and Athena for representing our class as enthusiastic, thoughtful and mature Student Voice representatives throughout Semester 1. Your commitment to listening to others, sharing ideas and being positive role models has been greatly appreciated.

Congratulations also to Tilly Alderman and Ruby Mibus, who will be stepping into the role of Student Voice representatives for Semester 2. We know you will build on the wonderful work of Jude and Athena and represent our class with confidence, responsibility and enthusiasm. We can't wait to see the fantastic contributions you'll make!

Upcoming Events

- 20 – 22 July Year 5/6 Melbourne Camp
- 31 July – Hockey 7's, Hamilton
- 19 Aug – Year 5/6 Netball, Pedrina Park, Hamilton

Year 5/6 Camp

Excitement levels are super high for next week's Melbourne Camp! Don't forget to check packing list etc before we head off next Monday! Huge thank you to Mick Alderman, Woody Blackwell and Mrs McShane for giving up their time to come and join us!

STEAM

Term 2

Natural Disasters

Mrs Wilson



During STEAM lessons this term, students from Prep to Grade 6 explored the fascinating world of natural disasters. We investigated earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes, volcanoes and many other natural events, learning about what causes them and where they occur around the world. Students also discovered the creative and innovative ways people stay safe, including early warning systems, building design and emergency planning.

Using technology, students designed storm shelters, created artworks using a variety of resources, and built models with LEGO and recyclable materials. These hands-on experiences encouraged creativity, problem-solving and collaboration while deepening students' understanding of the power of nature and how communities respond to it.

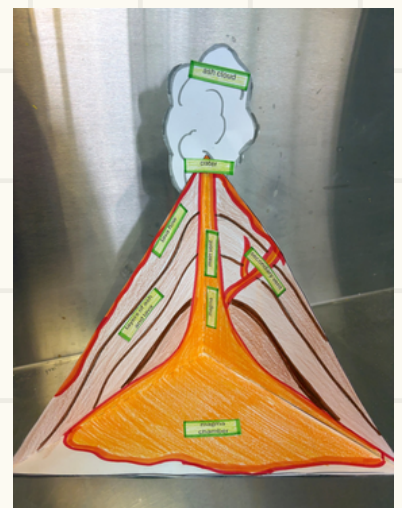


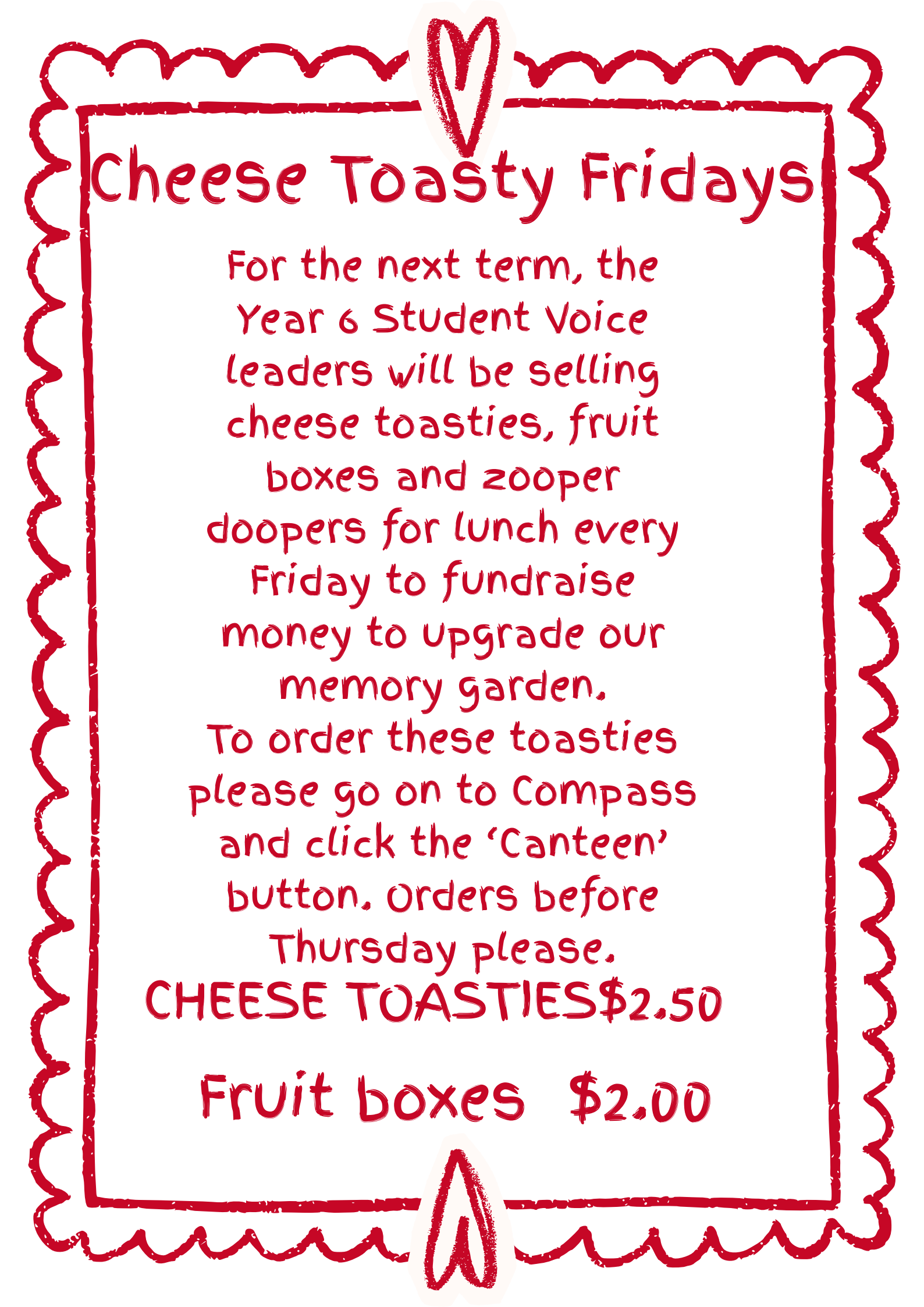
PREP -
Thunderstorm Art

5/6 - 3D Volcano
Models



In Term 3 our
STEAM
theme will
focus on
'FORCES AND
MOTION'





Cheese Toasty Fridays

For the next term, the Year 6 Student Voice leaders will be selling cheese toasties, fruit boxes and zooper doopers 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



FROM OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

VSBA - ASB PROGRAM WORKS



HAMILTON EISTEDDFOD



CHEESE TOASTIE FRIDAYS



DUNKIE'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



Health and Physical Education

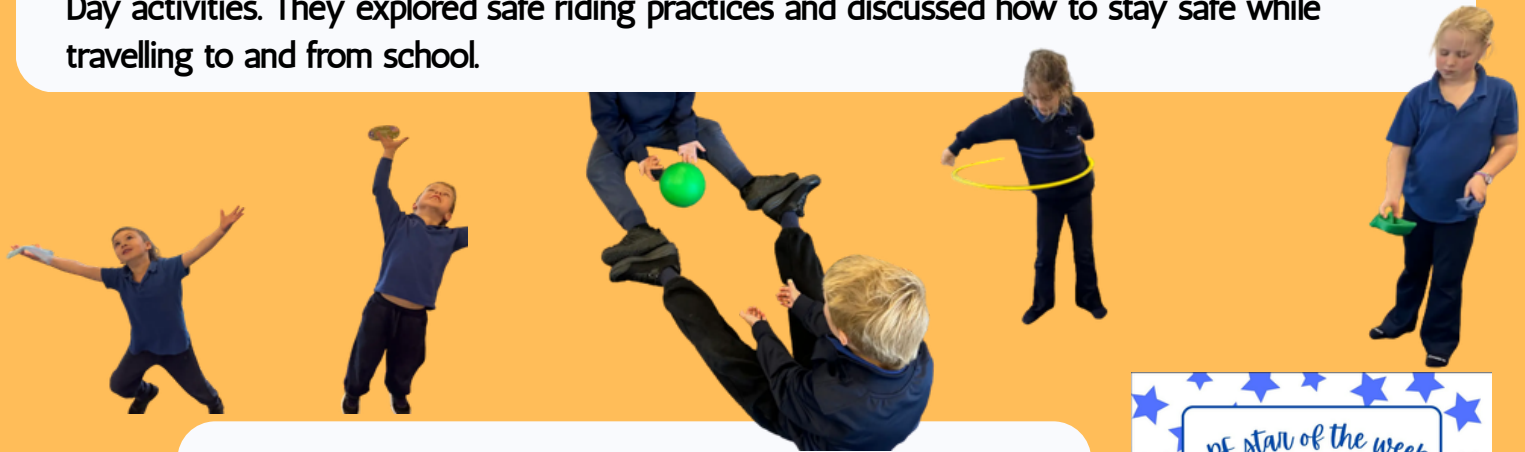
Mrs. Gordon

Foundation to Year 2

Our junior students have enthusiastically embraced yoga this term, using storybooks to guide them through a range of fun and engaging poses and movements. These sessions have encouraged mindfulness, balance, and coordination in an enjoyable way.

During outdoor PE lessons, students have been developing their fundamental movement skills, including catching, throwing, rolling, and dribbling. The Year 1 / 2 students particularly enjoyed participating in modified netball drills with a partner, building their teamwork and ball-handling skills.

In Health, students learned about the importance of bike safety as part of our Walk to School Day activities. They explored safe riding practices and discussed how to stay safe while travelling to and from school.



Year 3 to 6

The Grade 3–6 students finished the term with great enthusiasm, showcasing the soccer skills they had developed throughout the term in a series of fun and competitive matches. They then transitioned into developing their Netball skills through a range of drills before applying these skills in Number Netball and modified game play.

During a few rainy day indoor sessions, students explored the importance of making balanced and healthy food choices. They thoroughly enjoyed designing their own superhero vegetables while learning about the benefits of eating a variety of nutritious foods. Our Year 5/6 students also investigated healthy food choices, food sources, and common allergens, before creating health promotion activities to encourage positive eating habits.



Term 2 'PE Star of the Week'

Prep: Jordan, George, Lucy B,
Hugo and Ayla

Grade 1 / 2: Gigi, Georgina,
Maya, Archer, Zeba and Molly

Grade 3 / 4: Tom H, Sam B,
Redmond, Sophie, Egeria and
Annabel W

Grade 5 / 6: Jude, Abigail,
Athena, Nellie, Sybil and
Lochie

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 -
Nellie Wickens, Michaela Roache,
Ruby Mibus, Sailor Grimmer, Athena Manolas, Charlie Austin,
Harvey Matthews, Molly Macleod



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.



Scan this QR code to access practical strategies to help build healthy habits as a family.



theresilienceproject.com.au



[@theresilienceproject_](https://www.instagram.com/theresilienceproject_)



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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

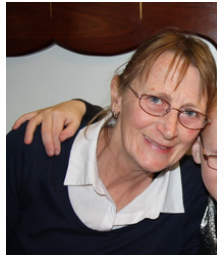
If you haven't already, scan the QR code to explore the family HUB and engage with many helpful family resources.

Congratulations and Farewell



Dear past and present students and parents of the Dunkeld Consolidated School,

I, Helen Trahar, would like to let you know I will be retiring from the Education Department as an Education Support Officer.



I started as a Teacher Aide when I was 18 at Saint Joseph's Primary School, Penshurst. My Principal was a Sister of Mercy nun, who introduced me to this unforgettable career. Over the years I have worked in many schools, Special Education schools and kindergartens. Penshurst (x 3), St Arnaud, Buckleys Swamp, Warrnambool, Hawkesdale, Hamilton (x 3), and finally, Dunkeld Consolidated School.

In 1993 I was at Penshurst Kindergarten working with a young boy. The year was coming to an end, and I was asked if I would be interested in continuing with this student in Prep the following year at Dunkeld Consolidated School? My Dunkeld years started in the following year in January 1994. The Principal then was Mr John Smith and the Prep teacher was Mrs Heather Napier; we were in the Bristol Building (where the BER building is now located).

I have said and will continue to say, I feel I learnt more from those little wise children than what I taught them. I can't emphasise the value these students played in my life. No matter the day we had and trust me, there were some very memorable ones. I can honestly say there was never a day I did not want to come to school.

My choice of employment has given me an incredible journey. I have thoroughly enjoyed all my years working with all students. I worked in all year levels amongst all students at Dunkeld.

I feel extremely blessed and would like to sincerely say how grateful and appreciative of you the parents for entrusting your precious children in my care. Every student I had the pleasure to work with, regardless if one on one or in a group, all worked so enthusiastically and never stopped trying.

If one way did not work, we would try something different. This gave them interest to have another go. Trust me we tried some diverse programs and eventually succeeded, to move onto their next challenge.

Working so closely with so many students and watching them struggle and trying their little hearts out, stole pieces of my heart. I will never forget those treasures and still keep in contact with some families and students. With the knowledge, I helped in some way to progress these students and see them develop into young adults, who are now in the work force and have their own families, is so rewarding.

These years brought me great pleasure, adventure, learning experiences, entertainment and lasting friendships to my life.

On that note I would like to acknowledge all the principals and staff I had the pleasure of working for and with during these years, there were many. Their support, leadership, laughter and entertainment had no end. Bless you and thank you all for the memories.

Unfortunately, my health played a major part in my cutting back on hours in the last term of 2024. Doctor's advice, I made the extremely challenging decision to go on Long Service Leave in 2025. I did have 30 years up my sleeve. This decision was extremely emotional, painful and life changing for me. I keep away from crowds and only attend small gatherings, masked.

When it comes to school, I can usually keep my emotions intact, as long as I'm not put in a sentimental situation where I become overwhelmed. Even composing this letter is tugging at the heart. It is not that I don't appreciate every staff, student and family I have been associated with over all these years, it's just me using what you might call self-preservation.

This is why I have chosen to take the quiet exit and say farewell in a letter. I am available to anyone that may like a catch up. Please feel free to do so.

May you all stay safe and remember to be kind to each other.

All my love and best wishes,
Helen
Email: tragothg@bigpond.com
Mobile: 0407 203 085

