



Dunkeld Consolidated School

Newsletter

Issue 4, Friday 28 August, 2026

Key Dates

Terms 3 and 4, 2026

E&OE

AUGUST 2026

- Monday 31 Respectful Relationships in Schools PD.

SEPTEMBER 2026

- Tuesday 1 MARC Library.
Respectful Relationships in Schools PD.
Junior (Year 3/4) Hoop Time basketball competition at HILAC.
- Thursday 3 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 4 Senior (Year 5/6) Hoop Time basketball competition at HILAC.
- Tuesday 8 MARC Library.
School-wide Positive Behaviour Support Program - Tiered Fidelity Inventory PD.
- Thursday 10 R U OK? Day.
Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 11 Cheese Toastie Friday (Student Voice fundraiser).
School Assembly commencing at 2.40pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.
- Monday 14 Footy/Sports Colours Day – students are encouraged to wear casual dress with their favourite team colours. **FREE 'Sausage Sizzle' lunch provided by the Dunkeld & District Lions Club members.**
- Tuesday 15 MARC Library.
- 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.**

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS – Saturday 19 September to Sunday 4 October 2026.

OCTOBER 2026

- Monday 5 **FIRST DAY OF TERM 4, 2026.**
- Thursday 8 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 9 Greater Western Region Track and Field Finals at Llanberris Athletics Track, Ballarat.
- Thursday 15 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 16 School Assembly commencing at 2.40pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.
- Monday 19 Jump Rope for Heart commences.
- Tuesday 20 MARC Library Readers Cup Challenge at Branhholme Wallacedale Community School.
- Wednesday 21 Kinder to Prep Transition Program – Year 5 Buddies will visit the Dunkeld Kindergarten.
- Thursday 22 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Tuesday 27 School Council Meeting commencing at 7.30pm in the Wurgarri Meeting Room.
- Thursday 29 Year 2/3/4 Outside Inn Wannon Camp.
Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 30 Year 2/3/4 Outside Inn Wannon Camp.
School Assembly commencing at 2.40pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.

NOVEMBER 2026

- Monday 2 **PUPIL FREE DAY - Student Report Writing Day (students do not attend school).**
- Tuesday 3 **MELBOURNE CUP PUBLIC HOLIDAY.**
- Wednesday 4 Kinder to Prep Transition Program – Kinder students will visit the school from 9.00am to 11.15am.
- Thursday 5 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 6 Year 6 My Business Rules (MBR) Market Day Stalls.
Jump Rope for Heart finishes.
- Thursday 12 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 13 School Assembly commencing at 2.40pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.
- Monday 16 Year 5/6 BioCATS Excursion.
- Wednesday 18 Kinder to Prep Transition Program – Kinder students will visit the school from 9.00am to 11.15am.
- Thursday 19 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 20 Year 6 My Business Rules (MBR) Market Day Stalls.
- Tuesday 24 School Council Meeting commencing at 7.30pm in Wurgarri Meeting Room.
- Thursday 26 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
- Friday 27 School Assembly commencing at 2.40pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.

DECEMBER 2026

- Tuesday 1 Myers Family Dunkeld Scholarship interviews for Year 6 students.
- Wednesday 2 Kinder to Prep Transition Program – Kinder students will visit school from 9.00am to 11.15am.
- Tuesday 8 Statewide Orientation Day.
Kinder to Prep Transition Program - Kindergarten students to attend school all day.
Dunkeld Consolidated School students "step up" to their new 2027-year level for the day.
Orientation Day for Year 6 students going into Year 7 in 2027.
Parent information session at 2.40pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall as part of the Kinder to Prep Transition Program.
- Thursday 10 Year 6 Graduation.
- Friday 11 Final Assembly for 2026 at 9.00am in Mud-Dadjug Hall.
- Friday 18 **PUPIL FREE DAY - Curriculum Day for staff (students do not attend school).**
LAST DAY OF TERM 4, 2026.

DECEMBER / JANUARY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS – Saturday 19 December 2026 to Wednesday 27 January 2027.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

MR SMALLMAN



It has been another busy and very positive few weeks at Dunkeld Consolidated School, and I wanted to take the opportunity to share some of the wonderful things happening across our school.

It has been particularly pleasing to see the growth our students are making in their learning. Our teachers have been reviewing student assessment data and moderating student work, and we have seen many students achieve exceptional growth in reading, spelling and mathematics. These results are a wonderful reflection of the hard work of our students and teachers and the continued focus we place on using assessment data to support and strengthen student learning.

We also recently participated in a Glenelg Principal Network initiative to review our Attitudes to School Survey data for students in Grades 4–6. I am delighted to share that our school performed exceptionally well, with strong results across all areas. This is a fantastic reflection of the positive relationships, sense of belonging and engagement our students experience at school. A special thank you to the teachers who work with our senior students each day for the important role they play in supporting these outcomes.

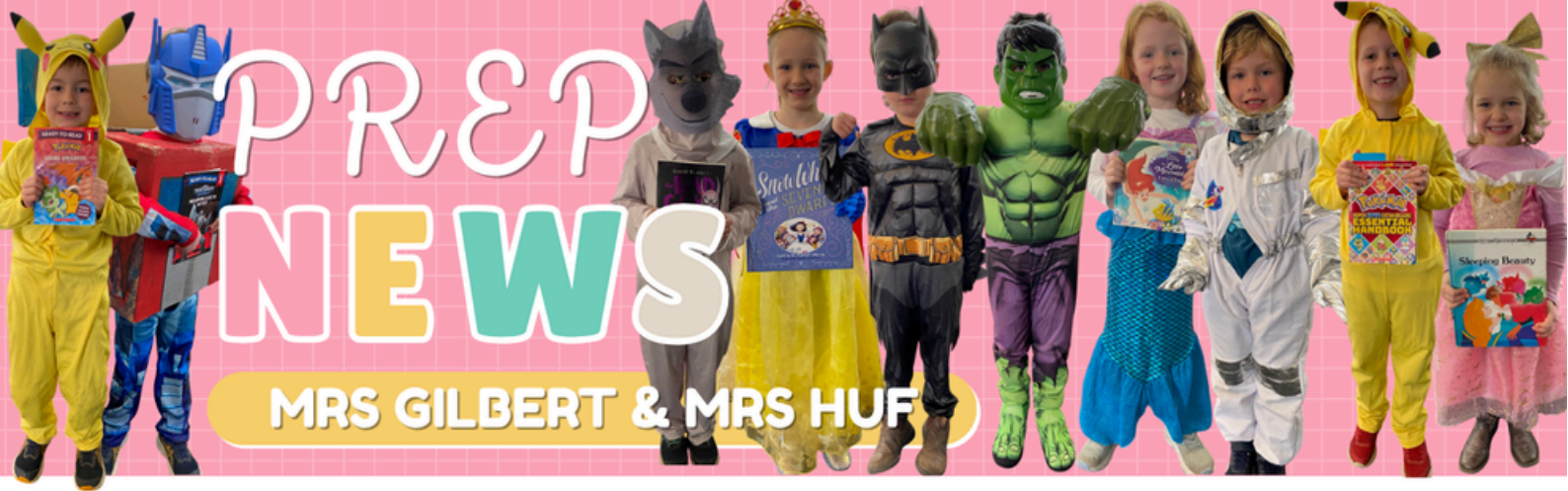
Our senior students have also continued to demonstrate wonderful leadership through the Toasties Fundraiser. The fundraiser is continuing this term, with students taking responsibility for organising and leading the initiative.

Funds raised are being used to refurbish our Memory Garden, which will be a wonderful addition to our school grounds and a project that our students can be proud of.

Our Grade 5 students have also been working with me to begin creating a new Buddy Space for our 2027 Preps and Grade 6 students. This will provide a dedicated space for our youngest students and their Grade 6 buddies to spend time together and develop those important relationships throughout the year. The Buddy Space is being made possible through a very generous donation from Mrs Christine Scott, in honour of her late husband, Mr Neil Scott. Neil was a much-loved school bus driver and a valued member of our local community. We are incredibly grateful for Christine's generosity and look forward to creating a space that provides a lasting legacy in Neil's memory. There have also been plenty of opportunities for students to get involved in activities beyond the classroom. Our students participated in Hockey 7s on Friday 31 July, while our Grade 5 and 6 students represented the school at the Interschool Netball Tournament at Pedrina Park on 19 August. It is always wonderful to see our students getting involved, supporting one another and representing Dunkeld Consolidated School with such enthusiasm and pride. Last Friday also saw our Grade 1 Sleepover and Prep Extended Day take place. There was plenty of excitement as students enjoyed dinner at school and, for our Grade 1 students, the very special experience of sleeping over at school.

As always, I would like to thank our wonderful staff for their continued care, commitment and dedication to our students. I would also like to thank our families and broader community for the ongoing support you provide to our school.

There is so much to be proud of at Dunkeld Consolidated School. Whether it is through learning, sport, leadership, friendship or simply having a go, our students continue to demonstrate our motto, Optima Semper – Always Our Best. It is a privilege to see them grow, learn and thrive each day.



Science

Our Preps had a wonderful time getting stuck into National Science Week! They joined students from Prep-Year 4 for three hands-on activities, investigating, experimenting and discovering lots of new things together.



Book Week

Our Preps had a wonderful time celebrating Book Week! They loved dressing up as their favourite book characters and sharing their costumes and favourite stories with their friends. There were plenty of smiles, excitement and some very creative costumes!



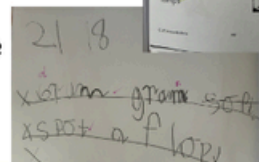
Visual Arts & Dance



Our Preps have loved moving, dancing and creating this term! They enjoyed dances such as the Heel & Toe Polka, Strip the Willow, Chicken Dance and Do the Honey Bee. They also created some lovely chicken, bee and 'Mixed Up Animal' artworks inspired by their learning.

Sounds-Write

Our Preps continued to work hard as sound detectives! They tackled tricky four- and five-sound words, practising stretching, blending and segmenting sounds to read and write independently. It has been wonderful to see their confidence growing!



Literacy



Our Preps were fascinated by If the World Were 100 Animals, learning how animals could be sorted and classified. They then enjoyed Farmer Duck and Banjo and Ruby Red, with our farm-themed stories linking beautifully to our 'Fun on the Farm' Inquiry.

Prep Extended Day

Our Preps had a fantastic Extended Day! They met some scaly friends during a Wannan Creek Wildlife presentation, enjoyed dinner together, went on a torch-lit night walk and finished the evening in their PJs with a movie. What a fun-filled day! A big thank you to Mrs Mibus and Mrs Huf for making it so special.



Maths

Our Preps explored equal groups, fair shares and skip counting by 2s during our Multiplicative Thinking unit. They also investigated the number 100 and practised telling the time to the hour. Currently we are collecting, sorting and comparing data using YES or NO questions.



Year 1/2 Newsletter



This week we welcomed Miss Kelly back to DCS for her second teaching placement at our school. We have loved having Miss Kelly in our class and look forward to sharing our learning with her for the next 2 weeks.

YEAR ONE SLEEPOVER

On Friday 14th August the Prep and Year One students had an extended day at school and the Year Ones slept the night!

WOW - what a fun adventure we all had. The girls were first asleep and the boys were last awake.

A highlight was going for a night walk with our torches.



WANNON WILDLIFE VISIT

The Prep - Year 2 students enjoyed a visit from Nick from Wannon Wildlife. This tied in with our unit on living and non-living and what do living things need to survive?



FANTASTIC MR FOX

Over the last two weeks we have been reading the Roald Dahl story 'Fantastic Mr Fox'. We have thoroughly enjoyed sharing this book together in class and have been learning lots of new vocabulary.

We even created our own fox art pieces.

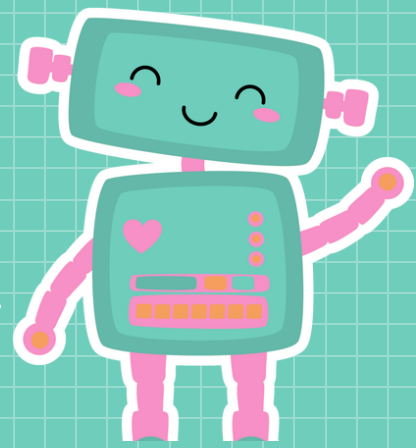


EMMA STUART WATERCOLOUR WORKSHOP

On Tuesday 25th August our class enjoyed a watercolour workshop with local author and illustrator Emma Stuart.



Year 3/4 NEWSLETTER



Daily Check In

Team 3/4 have been working hard this term. We begin each day with a Morning Circle, focusing on our weekly value and completing a positive primer. This helps us start the day in a bright, positive way and prepares us for learning. It has helped us settle quickly, build positive relationships, and create a happy classroom environment. We love it!



Book Week Fun



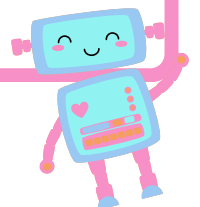
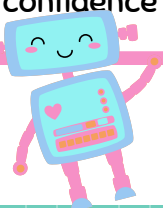
Learning Focus

English

In Reading, we have been enjoying *The Wild Robot* and following the exciting adventures of Roz. The action-packed narrative has captured our interest and encouraged thoughtful discussions about technology, friendship, and survival. In Writing, we are exploring persuasive texts and debating whether robots should replace humans in certain jobs. Students are learning how to structure a persuasive argument by developing strong introductions, supporting their opinions with evidence, and writing effective conclusions. We have also been focusing on using powerful and persuasive language to influence our readers and make our arguments more convincing and engaging.

Mathematics

In Mathematics, we have been learning to read analogue and digital clocks to the nearest minute and solve elapsed time problems. Students have been developing their understanding of how time passes and applying this knowledge to real-life situations. We have also been exploring directions and can confidently identify north, south, east, and west. Using these directional skills, we enjoyed creating and interpreting maps of different areas and locations. Through a range of hands-on activities, students have strengthened their spatial awareness and mapping skills while building confidence in using directions to navigate and describe places.





YEAR 5/6 TERM 3 NEWS



MELBOURNE CAMP

Since our last newsletter, the Year 5/6 students travelled to Melbourne to experience city life. Not only did we brave the public transport system within the city, we also travelled from Dunkeld via Vline. The students took in the sights and stories of the MCG, were amazed by the size of the State Library, tackled the skills needed for ice skating and shopped their hearts out at the Queen Victoria Market. Huge thank you to Woody Blackwell, Mick Alderman and Mrs McShane for spending time supporting and guiding our students while on camp!

"ONCE" BOOK STUDY

This term for English we are exploring the text "Once" by Morris Gleizman. This is a historical fiction text set deep in Nazi dominated Poland in World War 2. Students have connected with the main characters Felix, Zelda and Barney and explored key themes throughout this text. They are also becoming vocab masters, pulling apart punchy vocab through defining and renaming. We are nearly at the end of the text and students are following Felix's movements on a story map they created at the beginning of the book.

ART

This term students have been exploring the art form of cubism and famous artists that have used and refined this over time. We created Cubism inspired Picasso portraits and adapted this technique when creating the background for our athlete silhouettes to tie in with the Commonwealth Games.

Currently, students are creating warm and cool colour trees using a number of different art techniques. We are in the early stages but are hoping to complete these before the end of term so keep your eyes out for them up on display. They will look amazing!

INQUIRY - EARTH SCIENCE

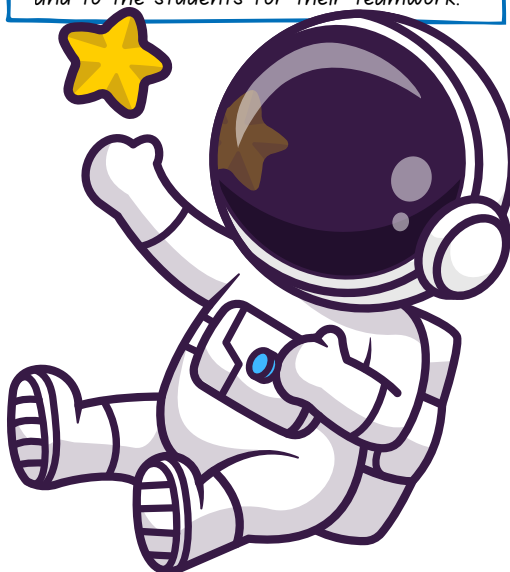
This term for Inquiry, we are exploring the topic "3rd Rock from the Sun". So far we have explored the vastness of our solar system, why the planets are positioned where they are, and explored interesting facts about each of the planets.

We have also researched interesting information about early scientists who played an important role in what we know about our solar system today and invented useful tools to observe our galaxy.

Students are loving finding out and learning more about our place in space!

SCHOOL NETBALL

Last Wednesday students competed at Pedrina Park in the School Netball Championships. Huge thanks to Rachel Blackwell and Jean Roache for coaching and to the students for their teamwork.



YEAR 5/6 MELBOURNE CAMP

The Year 5/6 students, along with Mrs Phillips, Mrs McShane, Woody Blackwell and Mick Alderman, travelled to Melbourne for three days to experience all that city life has to offer!



HEALTH AND PE

An icy start to Term 3 saw us begin with a fun and energetic dance unit in the hall. While some students were hesitant at first, it was wonderful to see everyone from Prep to Grade 6 get involved and enjoy the unit. We certainly have some great little groovers at DCS!

While we waited for calmer weather, Years 3–6 explored the Carlton Football Club's Respectful Sportsmanship Program, while our younger students focused on safety at home. Students also created catchy slogans to promote sun and water safety. We have now been able to get back outside, with our younger students developing their gross motor and skipping skills. Years 3–6 have been challenging themselves with different skipping styles, both individually and in groups. It has been fantastic to see students encouraging one another and persevering with new challenges.

We will finish the term with a focus on AFL through a range of fun activities and games.

A big well done to all our PE Stars of the Week! Your enthusiasm, effort and positive attitudes have been fantastic to see.

Miss Gordon



TERM 3 STEAM

Mrs Wilson

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO...?

This term in STEAM, students explored the theme of **Movement and Motion**, discovering how and why things move and how movement can be changed or created. Across a variety of hands-on activities, students experimented with **forces, friction, mechanisms and animation**. Some of our projects included creating puppets with moving mechanisms, making animations using Pivot, testing different surfaces to investigate friction, and creating moveable paper origami. It has been a fun and active term of designing, making, experimenting and discovering how things move!



Mixed age science experiments



Testing surfaces for friction using toy cars



Creating short animations using 'Pivot'



Origami animals that move



FROM OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

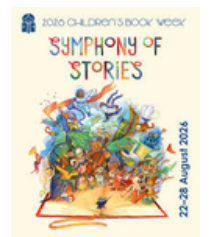
PRIMARY SCHOOL NETBALL COMPETITION



HOCKEY 7's



NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK



BOOK WEEK



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 -
Marli Mibus, Sophie Shephard,
Penelope Wickens, Tom Harris,
Charlotte Blackwell

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT.

Family Activity

MINDFUL MOVEMENT: CONNECTING BODY & MIND

As a family, discuss how often when we move, we do so mindlessly. We are more focused on where we are trying to get to or the thoughts spinning around in our heads. **When we move with mindfulness, it becomes a fantastic way to bring together movement of the body and focus of the mind.**

ACTIVITY IDEA: FAMILY WALKING MEDITATION

Set aside time to take a short walk together. As you walk, practice mindful movement by focusing on each step you take. **Remind yourselves that your body is moving, while your mind remains calm and present.**

Here are some ideas to help you focus:

- ★ Pay attention to **your breath** as you walk.
- ★ Notice how your **arms swing**, your **feet lift**, and your **knees bend**.
- ★ Focus on the sensation of your foot touching the ground: heel, ball, and toes.

After your walk, talk about how it felt. Did it help you feel more centered? Where else in your daily life could mindful movement be helpful?



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- Perspective Taking -

This Fortnight's Focus is understanding and practicing Perspective-Taking- helping students to notice how others are feeling and thinking, using storybooks and real-life scenarios. Developing this skill promotes empathy and stronger relationships at school, at home, and in the community. It also helps children manage their emotions, respond thoughtfully, and practice problem-solving, cooperation, and kindness in their everyday interactions.

Ways to Support Perspective-Taking at Home:

1. **Discuss Feelings:** Ask your child how they think someone in a story or real-life situation might be feeling and why.
2. **Role-Playing Games:** Act out scenarios where your child practices seeing things from another person's point of view.
3. **Reflect on Experiences:** After conflicts or challenges, talk about how each person involved might have felt.
4. **Encourage Listening:** Model and reinforce active listening at home—focusing on understanding before responding.
5. **Read Together:** Choose picture story books that explore characters' feelings and thoughts, and discuss motivations and perspectives.

Tip for Families: Even small conversations about "How do you think they felt?" or "What might they be thinking?" help children strengthen this skill over time.