

Dunkeld Consolidated School

Newsletter

Issue 5, Friday 6 November, 2026

Key Dates
Term 4, 2026
E&OE

NOVEMBER 2026

• Friday 6	Year 6 My Business Rules (MBR) Market Day Stalls in Mud-Dadjug Hall at 11.15am. Zooper Dooper Friday – bring $1.00 if you wish to purchase a Zooper Dooper at lunchtime. Jump Rope for Heart finishes.
• Tuesday 10	MARC Library.
• Wednesday 11	Year 5/6 students and staff will attend the Dunkeld RSL Sub-Branch Remembrance Day service at the Cenotaph, Dunkeld Memorial Park – commencing at 10.50am sharp. School Council Fundraiser – Dunkeld Races (logistics assistance).
• Thursday 12	Music classes with Tara Stephens.
• Friday 13	Baimbridge College Small Schools Year 6 Transition Morning. School Council Fundraiser – Dunkeld Races (cleaning and setting up tables and chairs). Zooper Dooper Friday – bring $1.00 if you wish to purchase a Zooper Dooper at lunchtime. School Assembly commencing at 2.40pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.
• Saturday 14	School Council Fundraiser – Dunkeld Races (ticket box staffing and children's play area supervision).
• Sunday 15	School Council Fundraiser – Dunkeld Races (racecourse clean-up in conjunction with Grampians Cricket Club).
• Monday 16	Year 5/6 BioCATS Excursion to Deakin Cats Community Centre, GMHBA Stadium, Geelong.
• Tuesday 17	MARC Library.
• Tuesday 24	MARC Library.
• Wednesday 18	Kinder to Prep Transition Program – Kinder students will visit the school from 9.00am to 11.45am.
• Thursday 19	Music classes with Tara Stephens.
• Friday 20	Year 6 My Business Rules (MBR) Market Day Stalls in Mud-Dadjug Hall at 11.15am. Zooper Dooper Friday – bring $1.00 if you wish to purchase a Zooper Dooper at lunchtime. Jump Rope for Heart finishes.
• Tuesday 24	School Council Meeting commencing at 7.30pm in Wurgarri Meeting Room (last meeting for 2026).
• Thursday 26	Music classes with Tara Stephens.
• Friday 27	Zooper Dooper Friday – bring $1.00 if you wish to purchase a Zooper Dooper at lunchtime. School Assembly commencing at 2.40pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.

DECEMBER 2026

• Tuesday 1	MARC Library. 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 11.45am.
• Thursday 3	Music classes with Tara Stephens.
• Friday 4	Zooper Dooper Friday – bring $1.00 if you wish to purchase a Zooper Dooper at lunchtime.
• Tuesday 8	**LAST MARC LIBRARY VISIT FOR 2026.** 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	Music classes with Tara Stephens. Year 6 Graduation. **LAST DAY FOR SCHOOL LUNCH ORDERS FOR 2026.**
• Friday 11	Final Assembly for 2026 at 9.00am in the undercover sports area. Open Morning for school and community members – celebrating 170 years of education for the Dunkeld Consolidated School. Zooper Dooper Friday – bring $1.00 if you wish to purchase a Zooper Dooper at lunchtime. Jump Rope for Heart celebrations - School-wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS).
• **Thursday 17**	**PUPIL FREE DAY – Professional Practice Day for staff (students do not attend school).**
• **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

Dunkeld
CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL No. 6215
'Optima Semper'



As we move through Term 4, there is certainly plenty happening around Dunkeld Consolidated School! It has been wonderful to see the continued energy, commitment and generosity of our staff, students, families and broader community as we work together to make our school an even better place to learn and grow.

Our focus on strengthening teaching and learning continues, with staff working collaboratively to improve explicit instruction, classroom routines and the individual support we provide to every student. We are continuing to implement the Victorian Teaching and Learning Model 2.0, alongside our work through Professional Collaborative Meetings, to strengthen consistency and improve learning outcomes across all classrooms.

Student wellbeing also remains a priority. Through The Resilience Project and our School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support work, we are continuing to build a culture where students feel safe, connected and supported to demonstrate our school values of Respect, Resilience and Achievement.

There has been plenty happening across our facilities and grounds. Our kitchen and STEAM space have been reorganised to provide greater flexibility for learning and community use, while our general office refurbishment is progressing, with new paint, carpet and improvements to the working environment.
I am particularly pleased to share that we have secured an additional $30,000 in Bushfire Preparedness funding. This will support further improvements to our school buildings and grounds, complementing the ongoing tree management, vegetation clearance and other preparedness works taking place ahead of the summer season.

Planning is progressing for the Neil Scott Buddy Sanctuary, made possible through the generosity of Christine Scott. Our 2027 Grade 6 students have already contributed ideas for the space, including garden beds, seating and landscaping. It will be a wonderful addition to our school and a lasting tribute to Neil's memory, providing a space that celebrates friendship, connection and belonging.

We are also looking ahead to 2027, with planning underway for staffing, class structures and learning programs to ensure we continue providing a rich and engaging educational experience for all students.

Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute their time, ideas, generosity and enthusiasm to our school. Whether through volunteering, supporting school activities, attending events or simply encouraging your children each day, your contribution makes a difference.

It is our strong sense of community that makes Dunkeld Consolidated School such a special place to learn, work and belong.

PREP NEWS

MRS GILBERT & MRS HUF



Science

Our Science investigations have focused on the question, 'What are things made of?' We have been exploring different materials and their properties, considering whether objects are hard, soft, smooth, rough, heavy or light. Show and Tell has provided some wonderful opportunities to investigate the materials that everyday objects are made from.



Speaking & Listening

Show and Tell has continued to provide opportunities for our Preps to develop their confidence when speaking in front of others. We have shared holiday adventures, discussed favourite objects and their materials, and entertained one another with funny stories and jokes.



Classroom Community

We welcomed Archie and his family to our Prep classroom this term, bringing our class to 16 learners! We have also enjoyed welcoming our incoming Kinder students for their first transition visit, with our Preps proudly stepping into their buddy roles and helping our younger visitors feel at home.





Literacy

Our mentor texts have taken us on some wonderful adventures! We enjoyed Your Holiday Was the Best by Maggie Hutchings, sharing stories about memorable holidays and exploring the characters. We then discovered Kookoo Kookaburra by Gregg Dreise, learning about kindness, friendship and the importance of listening to others. We also explored Eric Carle's Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?, using its repetitive sentence structure as inspiration to write our own texts.

Sounds-Write

Our Preps have continued to build their phonics knowledge through Unit 11 of the Sounds-Write program. They have revised and explored a range of sounds, including /sh/, /ch/, /th/, /ck/, /ng/, /wh/, /q/, /u/, /ve/ and /tch/. We have also been practising listening for sounds in words and matching them to the correct letters.

Maths

We explored fractions, learning what it means to find one half and how halves can be represented. We then moved into an extended unit on Counting and Place Value, developing our understanding of numbers, counting and how numbers are made up.



so proud of You

We are so proud of the progress our Prep learners have made throughout the year. Their growing confidence, enthusiasm and willingness to have a go have been wonderful to see!

Year 1/2

NEWSLETTER

TOGETHER WE CAN ACHIEVE GREAT THINGS

TERM 4, WEEK 5

ENGLISH

CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

We have loved reading our class text the past few weeks.

What we know about Charlie (after the first chapter)...

- Charlie's family is poor. - Harvey
- Charlie loves chocolate. - Lola
- Charlie's last name is Bucket. - Gigi
- Charlie lives with his parents and four grandparents in a small house. He sleeps on the floor with his parents. - Connie
- Charlie is cold at night because there is a draft that comes in from under the door. Hygeia
- Every birthday he gets a Willy Wonka chocolate bar from his family and he has 1 nibble everyday so that it lasts. - Joey
- Hi family eats potatoesa and cabbage soup and bread. - Sophie
- His four grandparents all sleep on the one bed as they have no room. - Hunter

CRAZY HAIR DAY



CAMP HIGHLIGHTS

Dougie - My favourite thing was the garden games and giant swing.
Ellie - I liked the giant swing because we got to go as high as we wanted.
Edie - I liked the giant swing and rock climbing.
Maya - It was fun when people were knocking on cabin doors and we chased everyone.
Jeori-Li - I liked the garden games, the lego challenge and the giant swing.
Archer - My favourite was the garden games.
Lola - I liked seeing my dad on camp.
Connie - I loved it all!



Happy 8th Birthday Edie!

How special to be able to celebrate a birthday on camp!



WHAT WE'RE LEARNING

Reading

Making predications and connections. Understanding characters feelings.

Writing

We have been developing our Grammar and Punctuation skills and linking our writing to our class text.

Math

Time - seconds, minutes, days, weeks, months, seasons, years o´clock and half past times.

Art

We have been using sharpies to outline, oil pastels and water colour paints.

YEAR 3 & 4 NEWSLETTER



CAMP OUTSIDE INN 2026

WHAT WE'RE LEARNING

Reading

Our class novel, The Sugar Cane Kids and the Red-Bottom Boat, is getting exciting! We've explored characters, made predictions and discovered Far North Queensland's fascinating setting. What will happen next?

Writing

We had lots of fun writing our Halloween spooky stories! We carefully planned our characters, settings, problems and solutions before bringing our ideas to life. Some stories were so spooky and suspenseful!

Maths

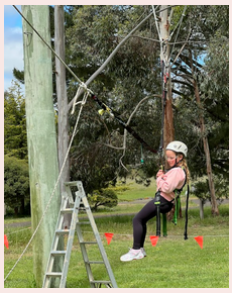
We have been working hard in Mathematics, developing our understanding of fractions and decimals. Congratulations to all students for their fantastic efforts and growing confidence during our daily maths fluency sessions. Well done, team!

CLEVER COOL CAMPERS!

Giant Swing Action

The giant swing challenged students and staff alike! It was wonderful to see everyone demonstrate courage, self-belief and resilience, whether simply sitting in the harness, reaching halfway or bravely swinging from the very top!





Team Work

Camps provide fantastic opportunities for students to work together in a different environment. Our DCS students truly thrive, encouraging one another, offering support and celebrating each other's achievements.Watching friendships grow and teamwork shine makes camp such a special experience!

NOTE FROM: MRS MCSHANE

Dear families.

The year is flying by! Please continue supporting your child at home with times tables and listening to them read regularly. Together, we can finish the year strong. Thank you, everyone!

The GIANT Rock Climbing Wall



Crate Stack



Lego Challenge



Old fashion Games



Thank You



Year 5/6
CLASSROOM NEWS

TERM 4 – WEEK 5

A NOTE FROM THE CLASSROOM

Wow! We have definitely hit the ground running since returning from holidays! Term 4 is always a busy and exciting term - sports days, transition days, leadership prep, MBR and, for our Year 6 group, graduation! So much to look forward to!

COMING UP

NOV 6 — **MBR MARKET DAY**
11:15am in the Hall

NOV 11 — **REMEMBRANCE DAY**
Year 5/6 students will attend Dunkeld RSL Ceremony

NOV 16 — **BIOCATS EXCURSION**
Year 5/6 students will take part in BioCats excursion to GMHBA stadium, Geelong

NOV 20 — **MBR MARKET DAY**
11:15am in the Hall

WHAT WE'RE LEARNING

READING
This term we are reading the novel 'Wonder'. With the key theme based around kindness, students will investigate character perspectives to compare and contrast.

MATH
We have just finished off our topic on angles and have moved into reviewing our knowledge around fractions, decimals & percentages.

INQUIRY
Students are exploring ennterprise education through creating and selling products from their MBR projecs and Year 5 students have been busy developing their own resturants business.

WRITING
Year 5 students have chosen a person to base their biography writing on and Year 6 students are busy drafting their autobiographies for their class magazine before beginning their graduation speeches.

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Reader's Cup** - our team did an amzing job competing against other small schools in our area, narrowly coming third with on point 5 of a mark splitting the top three teams.
- M**BR business pitches** - Year 6 students were so impressive pitching their business plans to gain their loan money to go towards costs for their product production.

MBR MARKET DAY

Don't forget to join us in the school hall on November 6th and 20th for our 2026 MBR Market Days!! See what our very clever and imaginative entrepreneurs have on offer this year!



HEALTH AND PE

It has been a busy and exciting term in PE! Students have been developing their skills in cricket and basketball, while some have also been getting involved in Jump Rope for Heart, smashing an amazing **$1,800 in donations so far!** What a fantastic effort!

Well done to our 3/4 and 5/6 teams for their efforts at Hoop Time! A huge thank you to Ben P for coaching our 3/4 team, Mrs Mibus for organising the event, and all the parents who volunteered their time to help with scoring on the day.

Thank you also to Mrs Prentice for taking our 5/6 students to Cricket Blast. It looked like a fantastic day! A big shout-out to our coaches, Mick and Alex for their support and coaching throughout the day.

Congratulations to Tom R who went to Lakeside Stadium at Albert Park and competed in the state championships in the hurdles and 200m! Well done Tom, we are very proud of your achievements!

Finally, congratulations to all the students who have received a **Dunkie PE Award** this term. Keep up the fantastic effort, sportsmanship and enthusiasm!











STEAM - TERM 4
--- Africa ---



Theme - AFRICA

As the clear winner of our recent school vote, this popular topic will see our students exploring Africa's diverse wildlife, geography, iconic landmarks, rich history of its people, vibrant traditions, and much more.



Heiroglyphic scrolls using our initials

Activities:

We are already halfway through the term, and our students have packed in an incredible amount of learning! So far, we have explored Africa's unique geography, incredible wildlife, and ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. We've also journeyed to legendary landmarks like the Pyramids, Victoria Falls, and the Congo.

Next up, the hands-on engineering begins—students will start designing and constructing 3D models of these famous African landmarks!



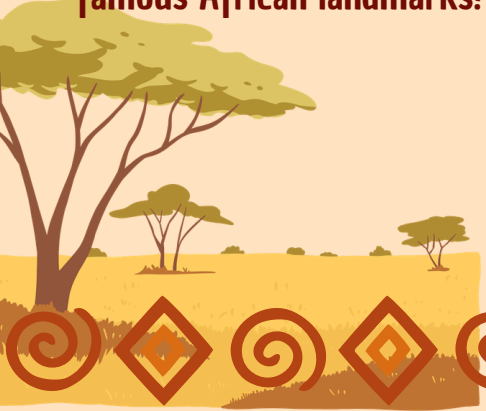
Building challenge of the Pyramids using duplo or wooden blocks.



We crafted traditional African huts



Grade 3-6 Sunset Safari Art



FROM OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

CRICKET BLAST (YEAR 5/6)








HOOP TIME – JUNIOR AND SENIOR REGIONAL FINALS




YEAR 6 MY BUSINESS RULES MARKET DAY STALLS





CRAZY HAIR DAY (IN AID OF LEUKAEMIA FOUNDATION AND CYSTIC FIBROSIS AUSTRALIA)














WORKING BEE - THANK YOU!

Thank You!

Wow! What a huge success our school working bee was on Sunday! A massive thank you to all our school families that came and braved the wintry conditions while also giving up their Sunday morning to help spruce up our beautiful school grounds. It was just so wonderful looking around and seeing our school community come together! I must also mention our super amazing Year 6 Student Voice Leaders and their team of Student Voice class reps who have been actively fundrasing for our sandpit and memory garden spaces to be upgraded! An incredible achievement and one they should be exceptionally proud of!

We are also very grateful to the generous businesses and our fabulous School Council Facilities team and members who also played a invaluable part in bringing these spaces to life! Huge thanks to Ararat Concrete for the sand, Grampians Sandstone, David Fry and Neil Roll for the rocks and gravel, Dunkeld Race Club for the mulch, Dunkeld Sawmill for the timber, Sarah and Mick Alderman for sourcing plants and the use of machinary. As mentioned above, so many of our other wonderful families offered their time in the lead up to or afterwards also and we very much appreciate everything they have done. Projects like this don't happen without a commited and dedicated school community!

We have a little more finishing off to do on the memory garden space so hopefully this will be all done very soon!

Naomie & the Year 6 Student Voice Leaders







WORKING BEE - THANK YOU!









WELLBEING

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

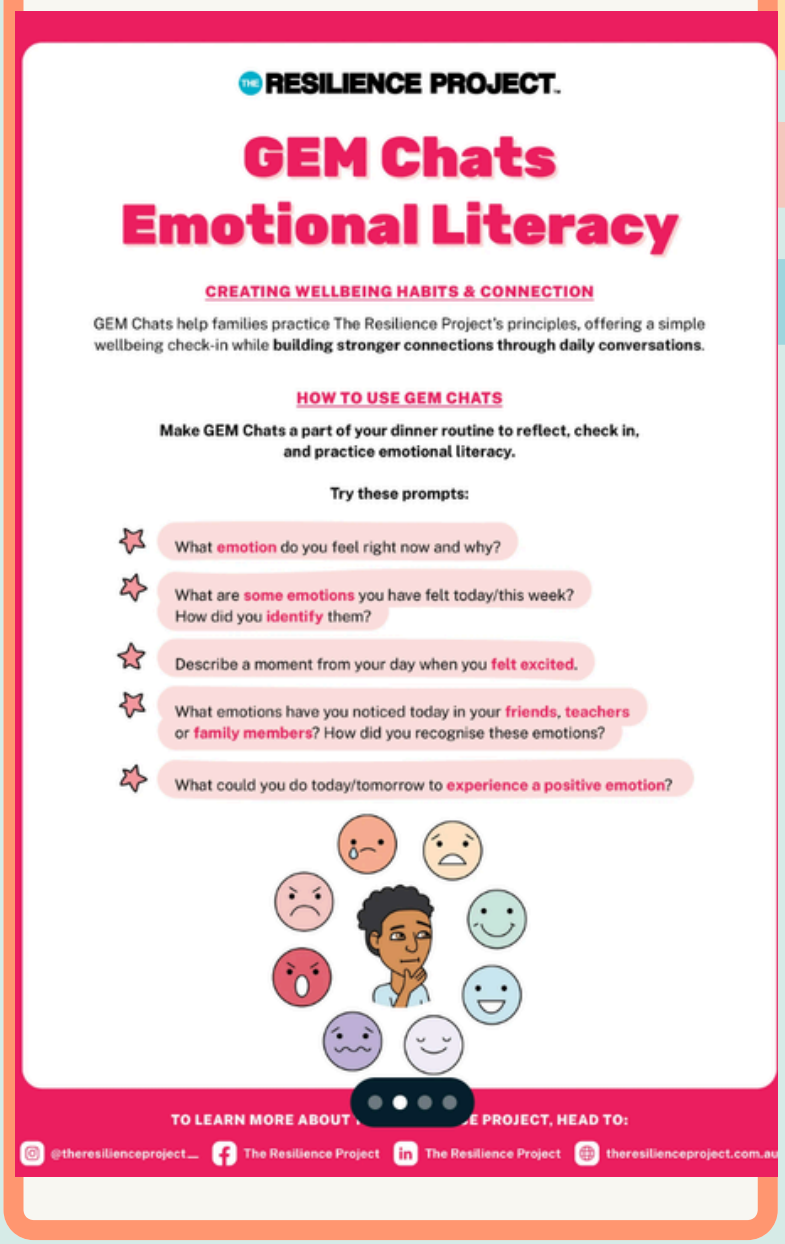
THE ROLE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING LEADER



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



Congratulations to all our GEM award winners for the month of October!







Big Life Footsteps

Neuroplasticity

This fortnight in Big Life students are learning about neuroplasticity- the science behind how we grow and learn. When one brain cell (neuron) sends a message to another, it builds a tiny connection. The more we practise a skill, like reading, writing, or riding a bike, the stronger and faster these connections become. It's a bit like walking the same path through long grass: at first it's tricky, but the more we walk it, the clearer and easier it gets.

You can support this conversation & learning at home by:



- Explore simple facts and functions about our "amazing" brain.
- Celebrate and remind your child that mistakes help the brain grow.
- Celebrate progress Reflect on how practice has made tricky things easier
- Add yet to "I can't do this" to build confidence and a growth mindset.