



# **Dunkeld Consolidated School**

*Newsletter*

Issue 6, Monday 1 September 2025

# KEY DATES

## Terms 3 and 4

E&OE

### SEPTEMBER 2025

- Monday 1 Year 6 BioCATS Excursion to GMHBA Stadium, Geelong.
  - Tuesday 2 AFL Virtual Clinic for Prep to Year 2 students.
  - Wednesday 3 AFL Virtual Clinic for Year 3 to 6 students.
  - Thursday 4 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
  - Friday 5 Year 3/4 SAKG Kitchen class commencing at 11.30am.  
Parent Club Meeting in Wurgarri Room commencing at 1.30pm.
  - 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 Year 1/2 SAKG Kitchen class commencing at 11.30am.  
Senior Hoop Time (Year 5/6) Basketball Competition at HILAC.  
School Assembly commencing at 2.50pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.
  - Tuesday 16 MARC Library.
  - Thursday 18 Music classes with Tara Stephens.
  - Friday 19 Footy/Sports Colours Day – students are encouraged to wear casual dress with their favourite team colours.  
Free 'sausage sizzle' lunch at 12.30pm provided by the Dunkeld & District Lions Club.  
Official opening of the Meeam Sports Court.
- 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 20 September to Sunday 5 October.

### OCTOBER 2025

- Monday 6 Year 5/6 Cave Hill Creek Camp.
- Tuesday 7 Year 5/6 Cave Hill Creek Camp.
- Wednesday 8 Year 5/6 Cave Hill Creek Camp.
- Friday 10 Greater Western Region Track and Field Finals at Llanberris Athletics Track, Ballarat.
- Tuesday 14 MARC Library Readers Cup Challenge.
- Wednesday 15 Kinder to Prep Transition Program.
- Friday 17 School Assembly commencing at 2.50pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.
- Friday 31 School Assembly commencing at 2.50pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.

### NOVEMBER 2025

- Monday 3 **PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE DAY** for staff (student-free day – students do not attend school today).
- Tuesday 4 **MELBOURNE CUP Public Holiday.**
- Thursday 6 Whole School Concert at Sterling Place Dunkeld Community Centre – 6.30pm to 8.00pm.
- Monday 10 Year 2/3/4 Warra Gnan Coastal Camp, Warrnambool.
- Tuesday 11 Year 2/3/4 Warra Gnan Coastal Camp, Warrnambool.
- Wednesday 12 Kinder to Prep Transition Program.
- Friday 14 School Assembly commencing at 2.50pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.
- Wednesday 26 Kinder to Prep Transition Program.
- Thursday 27 Dramas Theatre performance – Peter Pan (*to be confirmed*).
- Friday 28 Big Blokes Breakfast.  
School Assembly commencing at 2.50pm in Mud-Dadjug Hall.

### DECEMBER 2025

- Tuesday 9 State-wide Orientation Day.  
Kinder to Prep Transition Program - Kindergarten students to attend school all day.  
Dunkeld Consolidated School students step up to their new 2026-year level for the day.  
Orientation Day for Year 6 students going into Year 7 in 2026.  
Parent information session at 2.40pm in the school hall as part of the Kinder to Prep Transition Program.
- Wednesday 10 Year 6 Graduation.
- Friday 12 Final School Assembly for 2025 in Mud-Dadjug Hall.
- Friday 19 **CURRICULUM DAY** for staff (student-free day).  
**LAST DAY OF TERM 4 2025.**

DECEMBER / JANUARY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS – Saturday 20 December 2025 to Tuesday 27 January 2026.

# FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

## MR SMALLMAN



It has been a busy and exciting few weeks at Dunkeld Consolidated School, filled with learning, celebrations, and some fantastic new upgrades to our grounds. We're so proud of how our students, staff, and families continue to work together to make our school such a positive and engaging place.

Our teachers have also been busy with their own learning. On 25 August, staff visited Koroit Primary School to see their approaches to literacy, numeracy, and inquiry-based learning, as well as their use of the VTLM 2.0. It was a great opportunity to gather ideas to bring back to our classrooms. Earlier in the month, Mrs Gilbert and Mrs Phillips attended a Leading Literacy Community professional learning day, where they explored new assessment practices, and they've already begun sharing these insights with the rest of the staff.

A real highlight this term has been the Special Person cooking sessions. Inspired by Kate Mildenhall's book *To Stir with Love*, every class had the chance to cook alongside a special guest. These sessions were about more than food - they gave students the chance to celebrate relationships, share learning, and enjoy some precious moments together. We are especially thrilled that Kate Mildenhall herself will be visiting us this Friday for a special reading to help launch the Dunkeld Writers Festival.

We are also delighted to welcome back Jemma Casey, who has joined the Grade 3/4 class for her pre-service teaching placement with Mrs Jackie McShane. It's wonderful to have Jemma back as part of our school team. Our Grade 5/6 students also recently competed in the Netball Championships at Pedrina Park with Mrs Mibus. They gave their all, showed fantastic teamwork, and represented Dunkeld with pride.

On 20 August, we held a fire drill - and it was a big success! Students moved quickly and calmly, and even our visitors on site, including ICT staff, contractors, and parent helpers, joined in. It was a strong reminder that our safety processes are working well and that our students are confident in these important routines.

We're really excited that Mrs Phillips is leading the re-establishment of our Parents Club, with a first meeting planned for this Friday. The Parents Club has always played such a valuable role in school life, and we're looking forward to seeing it thrive again. Also, keep an eye out for the launch of our Brick Fundraising initiative this week—a wonderful way to leave a lasting contribution to the school.

Our grounds are looking better every week. The Meeam Court Project is now complete, and students had their very first games on the brand-new surfaces today - what a milestone for our school! Meanwhile, the Wurgarri Room is taking shape, though flooring, windows, and blinds are still to be finished. Andrew Sing has also been hard at work with fresh paint in our central hallways, and the sickbay will be getting new carpet later this term and into the holidays.

It's been such a positive term so far, with so much to celebrate - new learning, new spaces, and plenty of community spirit. Thank you to all of our staff, students, and families for the energy and support you bring to Dunkeld Consolidated School each day.





# Sports Colours Day



FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2025

WE WARMLY WELCOME OUR COMMUNITY TO THE GRAND  
OPENING OF OUR NEW SPORTS COURT, MEEAM.

LET'S CELEBRATE!



## BBQ LUNCH

Join us at 12:30pm for a  
BBQ to celebrate the opening  
of our new sports court,  
'Meeam'  
(meaning wombat).  
Then partake in some fun  
games and activities.

Thank you  
to our amazing parents,  
supporters and sponsors - without  
your support and contribution this  
wouldn't be possible.

Wear your  
favourite  
sports  
colours

From 9:30am - 12:15pm students  
will participate in fun sports  
activities with some local  
RAMS and EWES  
from the Glenthompson/Dunkeld  
Football Netball Club.

Thank you

Thank you to the  
Dunkeld Lions Club  
for supplying and  
cooking the delicious  
BBQ lunch.





# PREP NEWS

## SOUNDS-WRITE

We have been working in Unit 10 of the Sounds-Write phonics program. We are reading and writing words with 5 sounds! Like this: twist, print and frogs.

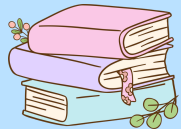
## ENGLISH

We've been reading books written by Julia Donaldson. We read 'Zog' and now we're reading 'The Gruffalo'.



## MATHS

We have been learning about groups which is a foundational skill for multiplication. We can identify **equal** groups and work out how many there are altogether. E.g. 2 groups of 4 is 8.



## BOOK WEEK

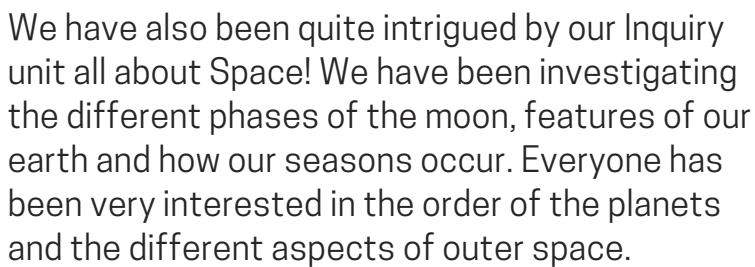
We had a fantastic day on August 27<sup>th</sup> by coming to school dressed as our favourite book characters. We had a parade in the hall and then completed some special activities with different teachers. It was such a fun day!






## SO FAR IN YEAR 1/2....

We have been reading the Roald Dahl classic “The Fantastic Mr. Fox” and writing information reports all about foxes. We have found out that they are quite clever and interesting animals.



- day  
9<sup>th</sup>
- 



# YEAR 3 & 4 NEWS

## WELCOME TO MISS JEMMA

We warmly welcome back Miss Jemma to DCS, a passionate student teacher who will be working with us for the next four weeks. Earlier this year, she spent time with the Year 1 and 2 classes alongside Mrs. Phillips, and those students were excited to see her return. They are a little sad that she will be in our classroom this term instead of theirs! However, we are excited to have Miss Jemma with us and look forward to the great learning experiences ahead.

## MATHS

We've wrapped up a 4-week unit on multiplication and division! Students explored different strategies and applied their skills to real-world problems. Next, we're diving into fractions and decimals—connecting new concepts to what we've already learned. We're excited to keep the momentum going. Thanks for your continued support!

## ENGLISH

As Charlotte's Web comes to an end, we've discussed why this classic has lasted so long. Everyone agrees it's been very entertaining and meaningful. We're all bracing ourselves for the conclusion while reflecting on the story's timeless charm and the important lessons it teaches.



## BOOK WEEK

Thank you to all the families who helped with the amazing costumes! The students looked fantastic, and the excitement throughout the day was wonderful. I've heard lots of positive feedback, and it sounds like the day was a great success. We appreciate your support in making it so special!



# GRADE FIVE + SIX

## MATHS

We have just finished a fantastic unit on multiplication and division in which students explored a range of strategies to solve problems efficiently. Throughout the unit, we focused on building confidence with times tables, understanding the connection between multiplication and division, and applying different methods such as arrays, repeated addition, partitioning, and short division. Students enjoyed practicing these skills through problem-solving activities and games that encouraged both accuracy and speed. With a solid foundation now established, we are excited to begin our new unit on measurement and angles, where students will explore length, area, perimeter, and geometric reasoning.



## BOOK WEEK / KITCHEN

This week we celebrated Book Week, exploring a range of wonderful books and authors. Students shared their favourite stories, discovered new ones, and enjoyed activities that encouraged a love of reading. As part of the celebrations, students also dressed up as their favourite characters and joined in reading challenges. It was fantastic to see the excitement and enthusiasm for books all around our classroom! We also returned to the kitchen, making chicken pies and chocolate brownies to finish the week on a sweet note.

## LITERACY

Our class is still continuing The Grandest Bookshop in the World. We are really enjoying the story and discussing the characters and challenges they face. Alongside this, we are working on writing our own historical narratives with magical elements. Students are learning how to combine real settings and events with imaginative twists to create engaging stories.



# ART

Our art room has been buzzing with creativity thanks to Hannah Black who generously volunteered her time and expertise to run clay workshops. Students from Years 3-6 got their hands dirty and brought their imaginations to life, creating small monsters and birds.

The workshops focused on developing artistic skills such as sculpting, shaping, and texture work—while also encouraging patience, problem-solving, and teamwork. Each student created a unique piece and they are proud of their creations. We have painted our clay works and can't wait for them to return in the coming weeks after being 'fired'.



# H&PE

## 5/6 NETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 10 eager students participated in the Netball Championships at Pedrina Park, Hamilton.

Students displayed outstanding sportsmanship and thoroughly enjoyed the day.



## HOOP TIME

Week 8 sees our students head to HILAC for the Junior and Senior Hoop Time events.

Junior-Year 3/4 Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Sept  
Senior-Year 5/6 Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept

## MEEAM SPORTS COURT

After weeks of watching the workmen, the fences are down and students are enjoying their time on our new sports court.



## SKIPPING

Skipping has been our focus recently in H&PE.

Students have practiced skipping individually, in pairs and groups and have improved their skills and stamina.





# TO STIR WITH LOVE COOKING SESSIONS

This term students welcomed a special friend to join them in a cooking session. Together they made 'Grandma's Every Cake'. As part of the Dunkeld Writer's Festival, Kate Mildenhall, the author of 'To Stir With Love' will visit our school on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August to read her story with us.





# FROM OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

## APRON CRAFT ACTIVITIES



## NETBALL



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY



## MEEAM SPORTS COURT



## BOOK WEEK PARADE



# 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**.

**Are you interested in joining DCS Parents & Friends?**

JOIN US FOR AN INFORMATION SESSION

FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER  
1:30PM, WUGARRI MEETING ROOM  
LIGHT LUNCH PROVIDED  
RSVP 1/9/25

[CLICK HERE FOR INFORMATION](#)

## THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT.

### GEM Chats Mindfulness

#### 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 mindfulness.

Try these prompts:

- ★ What **mindfulness** tools did you use today?
- ★ Take a moment to look out the window or around the room.
  - » 3 things you can see.
  - » 2 things you can hear.
  - » 1 thing you can feel.
  - » Notice how you feel after stopping for a moment.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RESILIENCE PROJECT, HEAD TO:

[@theresilienceproject](#) [f The Resilience Project](#) [in The Resilience Project](#) [theresilienceproject.co](#)

**CAVENDISH  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

PRESENTS

**SHREK**  
The MUSICAL JR

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

**FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**  
**BOOK YOUR TICKETS HERE NOW!**

**12PM &  
6PM**

BOOK NOW!





# 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?



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RESILIENCE PROJECT, HEAD TO: