

Dunkeld Consolidated School

Newsletter

Issue 7 – Friday 31 October 2025



KEY DATES

Term 4

E&OE



OCTOBER 2025

Friday 31 School Assembly commencing at 9.10am in Mud-Dadjug Hall.

Whole School Concert practice (at school) after lunch.

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	SSV State Athletics Track and Field Championships at Lakeside Stadium, Albert Park.
		Whole School Concert at Sterling Place Dunkeld Community Centre commencing at 6.30pm. Gold coin entry and lucky door prize.
		Catering supplies for the GPT100 Endurance Event due at school today.
•	Saturday 8	School Fundraiser – Catering for GPT100 Endurance Event.
•	Sunday 9	School Fundraiser – Catering for GPT100 Endurance Event.
•	Monday 10	Year 2/3/4 Warra Gnan Coastal Camp, Warrnambool.
•	Tuesday 11	Year 2/3/4 Warra Gnan Coastal Camp, Warrnambool.
		Dunkeld RSL Sub-Branch Remembrance Day Service at the Dunkeld Cenotaph at 10.5am. Year 5/6 students and staff will attend the service.
•	Wednesday 12	Kinder to Prep Transition Program.
		School Fundraiser - Dunkeld Races - Logistics Assistance at Dunkeld Racecourse.
•	Friday 14	School Assembly commencing at 9.10am in Mud-Dadjug Hall.
		School Fundraiser - Dunkeld Races - cleaning tables and chairs and Dunkeld Racecourse.
•	Saturday 15	School Fundraiser - Dunkeld Races - Race Day staffing (tickets and children's play area).
•	Sunday 16	School Fundraiser – Dunkeld Races – Racecourse Clean-up (in conjunction with Grampians Cricket Club).
•	Wednesday 19	Year 6 My Business Rules Market Day (stalls).
•	Tuesday 25	School Council Meeting commencing at 7.30pm in Wurgarri Room.
•	Wednesday 26	Kinder to Prep Transition Program.
	Thursday 27	Dramus Theatre performance – Peter Pan (to be confirmed).
	Friday 28	Big Blokes Breakfast.
		School Assembly commencing at 9.10am in Mud-Dadjug Hall.

		DECEMBER 2025
	Wednesday 3	Prep/Year 1 Extended Day.
		Year 6 My Business Rules Market Day (stalls).
•	Friday 5	State Hoop Time Championships at State Basketball Centre, Wantirna South.
•	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 Mud-Dadjug 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 commencing at 9.10am.
	Tiluay 12	Meeam Court Official Opening.
		Foodbank Food Fight and fun activities – students to wear casual clothes and are encouraged to wear a white shirt.
•	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





Welcome to Term 4! I hope all our families enjoyed a restful and enjoyable holiday break and are ready for another busy and rewarding term ahead. The end of Term 3 was an especially challenging time for our school and community, and I want to sincerely thank everyone for their kindness, patience, and support during that period. I would also like to extend my thanks to Mrs Phillips for her leadership as Acting Principal during the first two weeks of this term while I was on long service leave.

This term has started with great energy and purpose. Staff have completed Part 1 of the Cultural Understanding and Sensitivity Training, which has helped strengthen our shared commitment to respectful and inclusive learning environments. Teachers continue to collaborate closely through our Professional Learning Communities, focusing on improving teaching practice and supporting all students to reach their full potential.

It's also an exciting time as we prepare for 2026. Enrolments currently sit at 83 students, including 17 new Preps!

Term 4 began with the always-popular Grade 5/6 Camp, where our senior students showed fantastic teamwork, leadership, and independence. They also had the unique opportunity to work with Lea MacArthur to produce a radio advertisement for the Three Peaks Festival, which was recorded by ACE Radio — a wonderful example of applying classroom learning to a real-world project.

The Readers Cup on 14 October was another highlight, showcasing our students' enthusiasm for reading and collaboration, while the first Kindergarten transition visit with Mrs Gilbert gave our 2026 Preps a warm and exciting start to their school journey.

We are very pleased to have re-established the Parents Club, led by Mrs Phillips, which is already enhancing family involvement and bringing new energy to school life.

Student wellbeing and connection remain at the heart of everything we do. Term 3 and early Term 4 have included activities such as the AGL Mindful Day, Hoop Time, and the Grade 5 visit to the Dunkeld Kindergarten — all wonderful opportunities for students to develop leadership, empathy, and teamwork.

Results from our recent student, staff, and parent surveys highlight the strength of our school culture: 96% of students report feeling safe at school and 88% feel connected; staff reported 85–86% positive responses for collaboration and leadership; and parents shared 94% satisfaction with communication and 86% positive responses for wellbeing. These results reflect the positive, caring, and inclusive environment we strive to maintain at Dunkeld Consolidated.

Since the last newsletter the calendar has been full of memorable events including the Book Week Parade, the launch of the Dunkeld Writers' Festival, the Year 6 BioCATS excursion to Geelong, Virtual AFL Clinics, Hoop Time, the AGL Mindful Day, the Grade 5 Kinder Visit, and our Sports Colours Day with a BBQ hosted by the Dunkeld Lions Club. Each of these experiences has contributed to student learning, wellbeing, and school pride.

As we move through Term 4, I want to thank our families for their continued support and involvement in school life. It's the strong partnership between home, school, and community that allows our students to thrive.



SOUNDS-WRITE

Did you know we can read and write these words: brush, lunch, theft, snack, strong, when, squelch and have?
Did you figure out the Sounds-Write code we've been focusing on? (/sh/, /ch/, /th/, /ck/, /ng/, /wh/, /q/, /u/ and /ve/) Most of this new code has two letters making one sound.

We are so clever!



ENGLISH

We started Term 4 reading and exploring a book titled 'My Two Blankets' by Irena Kobald and now we are reading 'Market Day' by Carrie Gallasch. Both these texts work with our Inquiry theme of 'My Place, Our Place' which explores the big concept - We all have important places.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Thursday Nov 6 Our whole school performance of 'Alice in Dunkeld' at Sterling Place. (6.30pm)
- Wednesday Dec 3 An extended day at school for all Prep/Year 1 students.

MATHS

We have been learning about numbers up to and beyond **30**. We can read, write and model them with ten frames. Then we explored the concept of **Sharing** by making sure we had fair shares. "One for you, one for me" is our strategy. Sometimes there was a leftover!

This week we are recognising coins and notes in our latest unit on **Money**. We made some shops in our class and took turns shopping and being the shopkeepers. \$\$\$\$\$









YEAR ONE & TWO NEWS

MRS PHILLIPS

WELCOME TO TERM 4!

It is very hard to believe that we have arrived at the final term of 2025! It is so lovely to see all our Year I and 2 children settle back into school life so well and be so adaptable to the changes in the classroom for the first two weeks back. A huge thank you to Miss McLeod for stepping in while I was filling in for Mr. Smallman.

This term our Inquiry focus is "Where are we going?' with the Year 1/2 cohort taking a closer look at knowing and understanding that Dunkeld is one place that forms part of a larger world, and that locations are unique to their people and cultures.

Lots of revision and assessment will also take place this term in readiness for our end of year reports. Most of all, lots of fun and special events too to celebrate the most fabulous year together!

CONCERT WEEK

Just a reminder that NEXT THURSDAY 6th NOVEMBER is our whole school performance "Alice in Dunkeld".
Tara has asked the the following items be worn by the Year 1/2 children -

- Girls blue/black leggings (school leggings are fine!)
- Boys blue school tracksuit/school pants.

All other items will be supplied. If you are having trouble locating costume items, please let me know.

WHAT'S COMING UP!

Term 4 is very busy so here are some important events and dates to pop on your calendars -

- "Alice in Dunkeld" Performance –
 Thursday 6th November
- Year 2/3/4 Warrnambool Camp 10th 11th November
- Year Prep/I Extended Day at School - 3rd December

YEAR 3 & 4 NEWS











TERM 4 - ACTION PACKED

We've had a fantastic first four weeks back at school and we are so proud of how much the students have already achieved! The Year 3/4s are working wonderfully as a team.

HOOPTIME

We would like to congratulate all our Hoop Time superstars!

BRING ON CAMP 2025!

We're now eagerly looking forward to attending our camp on the 10th of November in Warrnambool.

MATHS

In Maths, we learnt to use Microsoft Excel on our Chromebooks to collect data, record it in spreadsheets, and create colourful, well-labelled graphs. We also completed a Measurement Unit, where we have weighed, measured, and recorded a variety of objects. Finishing our unit with Area and Perimeter of regular shapes, using length by width, working with decimals!

ENGLISH

In Reading, we began our new class text,
The One and Only Ivan. We have explored a
range of interesting vocabulary while
writing impressive complex sentences with
a partner that earnt us extra playtime for
our efforts! We have watched the movie
trailer and can't wait to see the film once
we finish the book.



CRADE FIVE + SIX

CAMP

What an incredible time we had at Cave Hill Creek Camp! Students stayed in glamping tents and took part in a range of exciting outdoor adventure activities. From canoeing on the lake to BMX bike riding, archery, the giant ladder, possum glider, and the long ropes course, there was no shortage of fun and challenge.

The camp was a fantastic opportunity for students to step outside their comfort zones, work together as a team, and build resilience – all while having plenty of laughs and creating lifelong memories.



















MATHS

This term in Maths has been all about revision and consolidation. Students have been revisiting key skills in multiplication, division, and decimals, with a strong focus on applying their knowledge to real-world problems. We've been working hard to strengthen our understanding and accuracy in these areas before moving on to our next topics – fractions and percentages. These upcoming lessons will help students connect what they already know about decimals and division to new concepts involving part-whole relationships and proportional reasoning.



MY BUSINESS RULES

DUNKELD CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

Our Grade 6 students have been busy developing their entrepreneurial skills through our My Business Rules unit. As part of this exciting project, students are working in individually to create their own mini businesses.

Each business has been challenged to design and produce a product, develop a marketing plan, and advertise to potential customers. Students have thought carefully about their target audience, pricing, promotion, and presentation just like real-world business owners!

The culmination of their hard work will be two My Business Rules Market Stalls, where students will sell their products to other students, parents, and members of the Dunkeld community.

Some businesses will also offer pre-orders, so community members can place their names down early to secure their items before the big sale days.

Below is a list of our businesses so you can start thinking about what you might like to purchase and support:



Christmas Decorations by Will



SLIME GUY EST 2025 Slime by Henry









Playdough by Olivia



by Annie



Stress Balls by George L



Bookmarks with Keychains by Matilda





Wednesday 19th November - MBR Stall Day #1 Wednesday 3rd December - MBR Stall Day #2

THIS TERM

YEAR 6 FENCE PAINTINGS

This term we have been busy making and creating. Learing about famous artists, line, colour, tone, shapes and so much more!

It's that time of year - our Year 6's are on the countdown to closing the door on their Primary School years!!!

Fence painting has become a little tradition over the last few years and students couldn't wait to get

started designing and sketching their portrait for the fence. We all can't wait to see their finished products!









REGIONAL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

On Friday 10th October seven eager students headed to Ballarat for the Regional Athletics. Unfortunatly it was a wild and windy day so the hurdles events were cancelled. Some of our students competed in the 800m and relay events and did a fantastic job. Congratulations to Grace who will run in Melbourne at the SSV State event in

November. Grace after placing 2nd based on her time from the in the year in Warrnambool.



HOOP TIME }

Congratulations to our 3/4 and 5/6 Hoop Time teams who progressed to Regionals. Students competed at HILAC against teams from across the region. Both teams displayed superb sportsmanship and incredible teamwork! CONGRATULATIONS to our 5/6 team who qualified for the state championships which

will be held in Melbourne in December.





On Thursday 30th October our 5/6 students headed to Pedrina Park to compete in the 5/6 Cricket Blast competition. It was a lovely sunny day and lots of fun!









FROM OUR FACEBOOK PACE

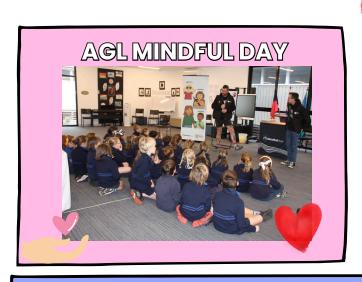
READERS CUP CHALLENGE













FOOTY/SPORTS COLOURS DAY - THANK YOU TO THE DUNKELD AND DISTRICT LIONS CLUB MEMBERS FOR THE DELICIOUS BARBEQUE LUNCHII







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



What is an activity you really enjoy?

How do you feel when you do this?

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

RESILIENCE PROJECT.

GEM Chats Emotional Literacy

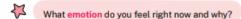
CREATING WELLBEING HABITS & CONNECTION

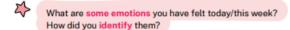
GEM Chats help families practice The Resilience Project's principles, offering a simple wellbeing check-in while building stronger connections through daily conversations.

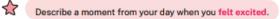
HOW TO USE GEM CHATS

Make GEM Chats a part of your dinner routine to reflect, check in, and practice emotional literacy.

Try these prompts:







What emotions have you noticed today in your friends, teachers or family members? How did you recognise these emotions?

What could you do today/tomorrow to experience a positive emotion?





DCS Parents & Friends Club

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2:30PM, WUGARRI MEETING ROOM GENERAL MEETING TO FOLLOW ALL EXISTING & INTERESTED MEMBERS INVITED