



Dunkeld Consolidated School

Newsletter

Issue 8 - Friday 28 November 2025

KEY DATES

Term 4 2025 and Term 1 2026

E&OE

NOVEMBER 2025

- Friday 28 Big Blokes Breakfast on the timber deck from 7.30am to 8.50am.
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) in Mud-Dadjug Hall commencing at 11.00am – school and community members are welcome to attend.
- Thursday 4 Year 6 Royal Mail Hotel Kitchen Garden Tour and Fine Dining Experience.
- 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 meal for students, parents and official guests commencing at 6.30pm in the Wurgarri Room.
Graduation Ceremony in Mud-Dadjug Hall from 7.30pm – extended family and friends are invited to the ceremony.
- Thursday 11 Year 5/6 students cooking in the kitchen (morning tea catering for Court Opening).
- Friday 12 **LAST SCHOOL LUNCH ORDERS FOR 2025.**
Final School Assembly for 2025 commencing at 9.00am on Meeam Court (2026 School Captains and Student Leaders will be announced).
Meeam Court Official Opening at 10.45am, followed by light refreshments in the Wurgarri Room for sponsors, supporters and parents.
Fun activities commencing at 11.30am on Kapping Oval – Sack Race, Gumboot Toss, Dunny Destroyer and Egg and Spoon Race.
Bring your own picnic lunch to share with your family at 1.30pm.
Foodbank Food Fight on Koorae Oval commencing at 2.30pm – students to wear casual clothes and are encouraged to wear a white shirt.
- Thursday 18 Students Reports live on Compass.
- 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.

JANUARY 2026

- Monday 26 **AUSTRALIA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY.**
Australia Day Ceremony at the Dunkeld Cenotaph commencing at 8.00am (School Captains' first official duties).
- Tuesday 27 **PUPIL FREE DAY (first day of Term 1 for staff).**
- Wednesday 28 **Student Assessment Day for students** (families will be advised of assessment times).
- Thursday 29 **ALL students commence Term 1 2026. First Whole School Day for all students.**

FEBRUARY 2026

- Monday 2 School Swimming Program.
- Tuesday 3 School Swimming Program.
- Wednesday 4 *Prep students do not attend school.*
School Swimming Program.
- Thursday 5 School Swimming Program.
- Friday 6 School Swimming Program.
- Monday 9 School Swimming Program.
- Tuesday 10 School Swimming Program.
- Wednesday 11 *Prep students do not attend school.*
School Swimming Program.
- Thursday 12 School Swimming Program.
- Friday 13 House Swimming Sports at the Dunkeld Swimming Pool.
- Wednesday 18 *Prep students do not attend school.*
- Wednesday 25 *Prep students do not attend school.*
- Friday 27 Division Swimming Championships at Aquazone, Warrnambool.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

MR SMALLMAN



It has been a busy and rewarding few weeks at Dunkeld Consolidated School, filled with learning, connection, and important steps toward 2026. Our future Prep students recently enjoyed their transition session, exploring early literacy and numeracy tasks, building friendships, and practising the routines that will help them begin next year with confidence. Their growing sense of belonging and excitement was wonderful to see.

Our Year 2/3/4 students also headed off to Warrnambool for a fantastic two-day camp led by Naomie Phillips and Jackie McShane. They explored local attractions, engaged in hands-on learning, and demonstrated impressive independence and teamwork. While the campers were away, our Year 1 students participated in a tailored learning program with Anne Gilbert, deepening their literacy and numeracy skills through rich and engaging activities.

The Food Fight Fundraiser was launched with great enthusiasm, giving students the opportunity to support the community while developing leadership, empathy, and teamwork and we are all looking forward to the Food Fight which will take place on Friday 12 December along with our final assembly, the opening of the Meeam Court and the announcement of the 2026 Student Leaders.

Students have been completing their DIBELS literacy assessments to help us better understand their phonemic awareness, fluency, and decoding skills. This data will guide targeted teaching and support differentiated learning as we plan for 2026. Staff have also been collaborating on key elements of the Victorian Teaching and Learning Model, including reporting processes and the development of classroom resources to ensure consistent, high-quality learning experiences for all students.

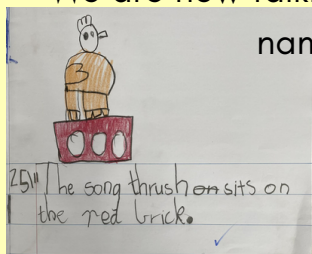
Operationally, staff have been engaging in early planning for the 2026 Annual Implementation Plan, with strong themes emerging in literacy growth, student wellbeing and engagement, and the consolidation of VTLM practice.

As we near the end of the school year, I want to extend my sincere thanks to every member of school community for your time, commitment, and ongoing support. Your thoughtful contributions, willingness to work collaboratively, and genuine care for our students, staff, and families profoundly shape the direction of our school. The trust you place in our staff and the respectful way you approach each decision make a meaningful difference. Thank you for your dedication to Dunkeld Consolidated School. It is a privilege to work alongside you.

PREP NEWS

SOUNDS-WRITE

We have learnt the whole Initial Code from Sounds-Write with an emphasis on **letter sounds** because that is what we need to be able to read and write. We are now talking more about letter names too.

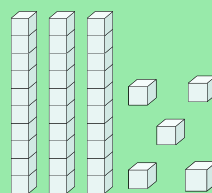
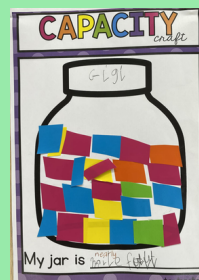


Georgina's decodable sentence writing.



MATHS

We explored the concept of **capacity** and compared containers to find out which ones had a larger or smaller capacity. We used the language of full, half full and empty.



We have been making, reading and writing 2-digit numbers using tens and ones.

Did you know that $35 = 3$ tens and 5 ones?

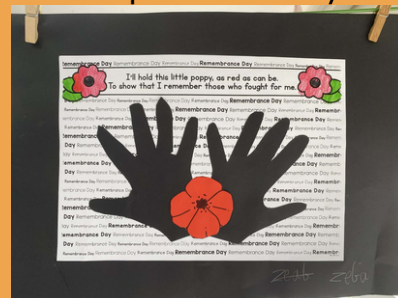
ENGLISH

We read a lovely book called 'The Concrete Garden' by Bob Graham. The Preps discovered that you can create a wonderful 'garden' using chalk drawings. The people stuck in their high-rise apartment homes (during the pandemic) were amazed by the children's creativity!

We are now reading 'Somebody's Land: Welcome to Our Country' by Adam Goodes and Ellie Laing. It introduces the Preps to First Nations history.

INQUIRY

We focused on **Remembrance Day**. We learnt that many soldiers died fighting in wars to keep our country safe.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- Dec 3 - An **extended day** at school for all Prep/Year 1 students.
- Dec 9 - **State-wide Transition Day** - our students all step-up into their 2026 classes for the day.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
from the Preps
and Mrs Gilbert



YEAR 1/2

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING!

Since our last newsletter, our Year 1 and 2 students have performed in our whole school concert, the Year 2 students have been on camp and this morning we enjoyed a yummy breakfast with our big blokes all while completing assessments and learning! Whoa! I'm tired! Well done kids on a super term!

INQUIRY - AUSTRALIA

We have nearly wrapped up our inquiry learning about this great land, Australia! We have loved reading the book "Are we there yet?" and following the family's adventures throughout Australia. One interesting fact we have found out is that Uluru changes colour, depending on what time of day it is. This caused by the sun and where it is in the sky. We are now reading about the Daintree Rainforest in the book "Where the forest meets the sea".

YEAR 2/3/4 CAMP

Our Year 2 students had the most amazing time camping down at Warrnambool with the Year 3/4's. This was their first official camp and they were all absolute superstars! Huge thank you to Mrs. McShane, Barty and Tony for all their work while we were away!



REMINDERS

2/12 - Year Prep/1 Extended Day
12/12 - Last school assembly
Food Fight Day



YEAR 3 & 4 CAMP HIGHLIGHTS



NEWS FROM MRS MCSHANE

Mrs Phillips and I were incredibly proud of our Year 2/3/4 students during our camp in Warrnambool.

Their enthusiasm, teamwork, and positive attitudes made the experience unforgettable. In this newsletter, some of our students will be sharing sections of their recount writing so you can enjoy their highlights and hear all about our wonderful adventure.

LAKE PERTOBE BY HANNAH

I got off the bus at Lake Pertobe and I had a picnic with Isabella and Charlotte. I felt so happy and I couldn't wait to play on the play ground. My class ran to the zipline, then to the maze. I was running all over the place with happiness!

BIKE RIDING BY MARLI

Everyone swapped over activities. We all got our helmets, bikes and bibbs. We got to warm up around the drive way. We went across the road pushing our bikes. then we got to get on our bikes and we road away!

FISHING BY TOM H

After bike riding we did some fishing. I grabbed a partner it was Jaylon. We caught one fish. I caught it. It was a salmon fish. I had to chuck it back in though. I said bye to the little fishy. I loved it. We also went on the playground. There we also played tag. I was never it.



MINI GOLF BY HARRY

After a delightful and filling spaghetti bolognese for dinner we headed to minigolf. I got 3 holes in one and Sam got a score of 15 on one hole! Unfortunately, it started raining. It started raining. My Dad ran and we sprinted after him all the way back to camp. It was late so we went to bed.

FLAGSTAFF HILL BY

The next day we went to Flagstaff Hill. I was looking forward to it. they were telling us about old ship wrecks around Warrnambool, he also told us about very valuable artifacts. It was so fun. I loved it!

TENPIN BOWLING BY REDMOND

We walked to Ten Pin Bowling. I scored a strike on my first try! That was fun. But at the end I came third. that was annoying, but I still enjoyed it, it was fun. Then we headed to an oval and ate sandwiches, but since I didn't make one Abigail gave me one of hers. I was so grateful and definitely learnt my lesson. then we drove back home.

GRADE FIVE + SIX

LITERACY

This term, our class finished reading *The Crossover*, a powerful book written in verse about two brothers who share a passion for basketball. The story had a tragic ending, which sparked a lot of thoughtful discussion, but throughout the book, there were many valuable messages about family, teamwork, and resilience that resonated with the students.

In writing, students are working hard on their end-of-year tasks. This includes completing autobiographies and finishing off any unfinished work from earlier in the year. It's been wonderful to see their creativity and dedication shine as they reflect on their own experiences and stories.

MATHS

In Maths, our students are diving deep into fractions and percentages. They have been converting fractions to compare them, calculating percentages, and challenging themselves to beat each other in our fast-paced warm-up game, 4 Cards. It's been fantastic to see their enthusiasm and competitive spirit driving their learning!

Grade 6 students have also been sharpening their practical money skills during MBR. Working on giving and receiving money is an important real-life skill, and students are applying their knowledge confidently in these activities.



MY BUSINESS RULES NEWS

DUNKELD CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

This term, our students experienced the excitement of their first My Business Rules (MBR) stall day, and what a fantastic success it was! The students worked hard over the weeks to plan, create, and prepare their products, and their efforts truly paid off on the day.

The atmosphere was buzzing with energy as students set up their stalls, promoted their products, and practiced their customer service skills. Many students were over the moon with how well their businesses performed, and a few even sold out of their products in record time! It was incredible to see their pride and excitement as they saw their ideas come to life and customers respond so positively.

Beyond the sales, stall day was an invaluable learning experience. Students applied skills in money handling, teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. They learned first-hand about the challenges and rewards of running a business, and the importance of preparation, organisation, and customer engagement.

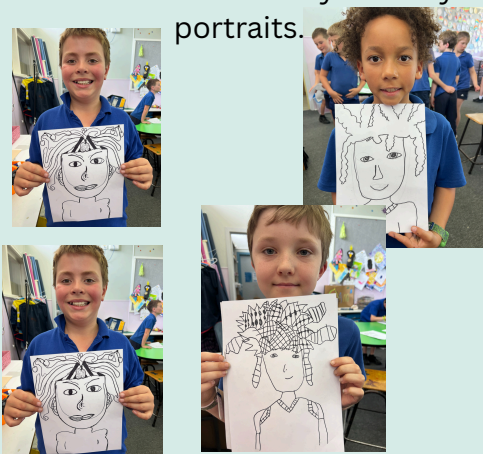
The success of this first stall day is a testament to the creativity, dedication, and entrepreneurial spirit of our students. We are eagerly looking forward to the second MBR stall day happening next Wednesday, the 3rd, and the students couldn't be more excited for another opportunity to sell their products, put their skills into action, and see their businesses thrive once again!



ART

WACKY HAIR STYLES

Focusing on shape and line, students created Wacky Hair Style portraits.



YEAR 6 FENCE PAINTINGS



In between the showery days we have managed to find some sunshine to continue working on the Year 6 fence paintings. They are almost complete, students are just adding the final touches.

SEA TURTLES

The art elements of line, shape and colour were our focus for this sea turtle activity.



H&PE

Our focus in H&PE over the last few weeks has been fitness, hand-eye coordination, gross motor skills and teamwork.



FROM OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

RSL REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE



MY BUSINESS RULES



SCHOOL ASSEMBLY



WHOLE SCHOOL CONCERT - ALICE IN DUNKELD



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



Who did you share your **smile** with today?

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT.

GEM Chats Empathy

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 empathy.

Try these prompts:

- ★ Thank each family member for something they've **done or said** today.
- ★ Give each family member a **compliment**.
- ★ Share a time when someone has done **something kind for you** this week. Describe how it made you feel.
- ★ Think about someone special in your life. **What makes them special**, and how will you let them know this week?
- ★ Who made you **feel cared** for this week? What actions did they take?



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RESILIENCE PROJECT, HEAD TO:

@theresilienceproject... f The Resilience Project in The Resilience Project thesilienceproject.com

HOLIDAY LISTENING

the
imperfects

You
can
ALWAYS
choose
to be
Kind





Dunkeld Consolidated School

Friday 12th December, 2025



LET'S CELEBRATE!

Final School Assembly

OUR DAY WILL BEGIN WITH
OUR FINAL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY FOR 2025.
THIS WILL BE HELD ON MEEAM COURT
STARTING AT 9:00AM.
OUR 2026 SCHOOL CAPTAINS AND
STUDENT LEADERS WILL BE
ANNOUNCED.

Meeam Court Official Opening

WE WARMLY WELCOME OUR COMMUNITY
TO THE GRAND OPENING OF OUR NEW
SPORTS COURT, MEEAM.
COMMENCING AT 10:45AM



Thank you

Sponsors, supporters
and parents please
join us at 11:00am for
light refreshments in
the Wurgarri Room

*normal recess for
students (BYO food)

School Activities

From 11:30am - Activities
commence on Kapping Oval:
Sack Race, Gumboot Toss,
Egg and Spoon Race, Dunny
Destroyer.



Food Fight on Koorae Oval

1:30pm BYO Picnic lunch to
share with your family

2:30pm Food Fight on Koorae Oval

3:10pm Hose down and dry off

3:25pm Dismissal



*Dunkeld Consolidated School
invites sponsors, supporters and
parents to the*

MEEAM COURT OFFICIAL OPENING

Friday 12 December 2025 at 10.45am

Light refreshments will be served in the
Wurgarri Room at 11.00am