

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 20th, 2025



Growth.
Respect.
Inclusiveness.
Fun.

AUGUST

Wednesday 20th

Final Swimming session F-2

Thursday 21st

Final Swimming session

Grades 3-6

SEPTEMBER

Monday 1st

School Review

Smile Squad begins dental service for students.

Tuesday 2nd

School Review

Friday 5th

School Review

Father's Day Stall

Tuesday 16th

School Council meeting 6pm

Friday 19th

End of Term 2:20pm finish

OCTOBER

Monday 6th

Start of Term 4

Friday 24th

2026 Prep Transition Program begins 9am-11am

WE WANT OUR PARENTS / CAREGIVERS / GUARDIANS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!

Our school is conducting the annual Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey offered by the Department of Education and is seeking your feedback. The survey is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour, and student engagement. The survey is optional, but we encourage and appreciate your participation.

Our school will use the survey results to assist in identifying areas for improvement and professional development needs in the school, to target school planning and improvement strategies.

The survey will be conducted online, only takes 20 minutes to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones.

The Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey will be open online from Monday 18 August to Friday 19 September 2025.

School Review

Nicholson PS is scheduled for its formal School Review this year. Every four years, all schools participate in this process to reflect on achievements, identify areas for growth, and shape the next 4-year Strategic Plan. This plan sets the priorities and direction for our school.

As part of the review, an accredited School Reviewer will also check that Nicholson PS meets the Curriculum and Student Learning Minimum Standard — ensuring we continue to provide a high-quality education for every student.

The reviewer will meet and speak with all stakeholders, including parents, during the fieldwork phase. The details of the parent communication and meeting will be shared once the agenda is finalised.

Kind regards

Sue Clague

We acknowledge the Gunai-Kurnai people the traditional owners for the land our school is built on. We pay our respects to the elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



RECURRING EVENTS:

Breakfast Club:

Monday to Friday 8:30 – 9:00am

Lunch Orders:

Orders and payment into school by Thursday morning. Friday is lunch order day.

The Smile Squad Reminder

The Smile Squad team from BRHS are coming to our school. Smile Squad is the Victorian Government free school dental program. This means ALL students can get a free dental check-up, preventive services, and treatment at school.

How to access free dental care

Consent is required before the service can be provided. Sign up to Smile! Squad at: <https://bit.ly/smilesquadvic> OR use the below QR code:



Please complete and submit the consent form by close of business **Thursday 28th August 2025**. Only students who have a returned consent form will be able to access the service.

School Crossing Inspection

Council have been asked to conduct a school crossing inspection on behalf of the "Department of Transport" Victoria. This inspection will be completed at a random date during term 3 or 4 at morning drop off and afternoon pickup. During these inspections, Council officers will be required to take photos and measurements of existing school crossings and road infrastructure. There will be no facial recognition in any of these photos as all faces will be blurred out.

Happy Birthday!

Macie, Mrs. Merante, Mason, Bevan & Maddie



Reading Awards



Respectful Relationships, Consent and Sexuality Education

At Nicholson Primary School, we know that learning about respectful relationships, consent and sexuality is part of a normal developmental journey for every child. In fact, teaching consent is a requirement in all Victorian government schools. These topics are taught as part of our broader focus on social and emotional learning, which is supported by our whole-school approach to wellbeing and learning.

Our program includes age-appropriate lessons **on** bodies, growth and development, reproduction, respectful relationships and gender. Teachers carefully select resources and activities that are suitable for the age and needs of their students.

Over the coming months, students will explore these concepts to help build their knowledge, confidence and wellbeing. Some children may come home with questions or want to continue conversations from class. We value your support in helping them make sense of their learning.

If you would like to see what is covered at your child's year level, or have any questions, please contact us at school.

Classroom News

Foundation/One

It was fantastic to see everyone dressed up for our book week parade on Monday. Everyone put in a lot of effort, and it showed. Well Done!

In maths we have started learning about subtraction. We are learning that subtraction means take away. We start with a lot and end with a few. Some students are learning how to write a story to support a subtraction equation.

In phonics we have started learning set 4 phonemes and graphemes. We have learnt sh, ch, th, qu and ng digraphs. We are also learning about syllables. We know that syllables are the beats in words. We can identify syllables by the vowel sounds in words. We are learning how to use vowels and syllables to read and write words by breaking words down into parts.

In writing we are exploring fairy tales. We have been exploring why pictures are important. We are also working on sentence building. Who is doing what? Some students are learning to use adjectives to describe nouns to make our sentence more interesting.

Grade 1/2

How exciting today to see lots of book characters in our parade. Our class are doing an author study on Fridays with Ms Buckwell. Already they have looked at Mem Fox books are now working with Alison Lester books. Alison lives in Foster, South Gippsland and has a gallery with her work in Fish Creek. The children are also busy completing their own works. We are developing the ability to work independently and develop our various writing pieces in our afternoon sessions. These short sessions offer us the opportunity to practise what has been learnt in our morning literacy and phoneme sessions. This week we are looking more intensely at the **book**, **bull** phoneme box. We each have a pack of word cards that we use for both reading and spelling. After completing our post-test for subtraction we are moving towards time, looking at days of the week, months and seasons. Eventually moving towards time telling. Beginning with o'clock and half past and moving towards 1/4 to and 1/4 past.

It's fabulous to see the progress the children have made during their swimming lessons. They are continuing to enjoy the specialist subject areas.

Grade 3/4

In literacy we have had a great time reading the play versions of The Three Little Pigs, The Three Billy Goats Gruff and The Gingerbread Man. We enjoyed changing our voices for different characters and reading with expression. We also liked swapping characters. We did eventually choose a part or two each and performed our story in front of our grade. It was much harder than when we were practicing! We noticed that these versions of the story were slightly different to the familiar ones we know. In maths we applied our knowledge of partitioning arrays to a zoo problem. We had to choose an animal and decide how much space it would need in its enclosure. We drew these in our grid books. Instead of counting each square we used our knowledge of times tables to work out how many there were. If one of the numbers was larger than our known facts (like 4x16) we would partition the larger number to make it easier. So, 16 would become 10 and 6.

Grade 5/ 6

In literacy our focus morpheme is "ly" which turns adjectives into adverbs. In writing we are sentence building to create paragraphs, taking care to place commas in the correct position and explaining our choice to demonstrate understanding. In reading we continue our focus in identifying the deeper message of a folk tale as well as writing summaries of what we have read in our class novel, "His Name Was Walter". In maths we continue our focus on using effective multiplication strategies as well as applying this to area in measurement. We are also beginning to see the relationship between multiplication, division and fractions.

Book Week Parade



District Athletics

Last week we had ten Nicholson students head to District Athletics to represent our cluster. It was a great day with many achieving personal bests in their events.

Five students qualified for Division Athletics, which is a huge achievement!

They will be representing our school and cluster in the following events:

Jessie Burton in shot put and relay.

Flynn Duncan in relay

Noah Roderick in 800m

Charlie Smith in relay

Edie Hardy in long jump and relay.

Congratulations to all the students who competed at District, and good luck to those heading off to Division!



Respectful Relationships, Consent and Sexuality Education Parent FAQ

Why is this taught in primary school?

Learning about respectful relationships, consent and sexuality is part of helping children grow into confident, healthy and respectful people. These topics are taught in a way that is appropriate for their age and stage of development. Early learning focuses on friendships, respect, personal boundaries and understanding how bodies change and grow.

Is this part of the Victorian Curriculum?

Yes. Consent education is mandatory in all Victorian government schools. These topics sit within the broader framework of the Health and Physical Education curriculum and are supported by our school's focus on student wellbeing and social-emotional learning.

What topics are covered?

Our program may include:

- Respectful friendships and kindness
- Understanding personal space and body boundaries
- Naming body parts correctly
- How our bodies grow and change
- Gender, identity and respect for differences
- Reproduction and families
- Consent – saying 'yes' and 'no' confidently, and respecting others' choices

How do teachers make sure it's age-appropriate?

Teachers use their professional judgement to choose resources and activities that are suitable for the age and needs of their students. Younger students focus on friendships, feelings and personal boundaries, while older students gradually explore more about body changes, reproduction and respectful relationships.

How can I support my child at home?

You can support your child by:

- Being open and approachable—encourage your child to ask questions
- Answering honestly, using simple and age-appropriate language
- If unsure, saying: 'That's a good question—let's find out together'
- Reinforcing values of respect, kindness and consent in everyday situations

What if I have questions or concerns?

We want you to feel confident about what your child is learning. Please contact us if you would like to view the curriculum content or discuss any aspect of the program.

SCHOOL CONTACTS:

Phone: 03 5156 8220

Mobile: 0447 123 744

Fax: 03 5156 8759

uEducateUs

Do you have the uEducateUs app yet? This free app allows our school community, teachers, and parents, to stay in touch. You will find all the newsletters in the app, as well as handy forms. You can even let the school know if your child is absent. It's free from both the Google Play Store and the App Store.



