

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

October 29th, 2025



Growth.
Respect.
Inclusiveness.
Fun.

OCTOBER

Friday 31st

2026 Foundation Transition
Program 9am-11am

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 4th

Melbourne Cup Public Holiday.

Wednesday 5th

Grade 3/4 head off to Camp
Coolamatong

Thursday 6th

Junior School excursion to
Nyerimilang Park
Grade 2 sleepover

Friday 7th

2026 Foundation Transition
Program 9-1.30pm
Grade 3/4 camp concludes

Tuesday 11th

Remembrance Day
School Council meeting 6pm
Bairnsdale Secondary College
Band visit 1.30pm

Friday 14th

2026 Foundation Transition
Program 9-1.30pm

A Wonderful Start for Our 2026 Foundation Students!

We were so excited to welcome our fifteen 2026 Foundation students to school for their very first school experience last Friday! The children spent the morning exploring their new classroom, meeting their teachers and new friends, and getting a little taste of what school life will be like. They even joined the rest of the school outside for snack time and play — lots of smiles all around!

It was a lovely morning, and everyone had such a positive first experience. We can't wait to see them back this week as they continue their transition journey.

World Teacher's Day

This Friday is World Teacher's Day. It is a day to really appreciate and thank our wonderful teachers at Nicholson whose passion and hard work make a real difference to student's lives every day!



Camps & Excursions

Next week our Grade 3/4 students head off to Camp Coolamatong for their 3-day lake camp experience where they will participate in a range of activities including canoeing, raft building, geocaching, bush cooking and a boat trip to name a few. It is a wonderful camp experience, let's hope the weather is kind!

Our junior school head off for their annual big excursion next week to Nyerimilang Park where they will engage with some activities from the "old days" and spend time exploring the magnificent homestead and surrounds.

The Grade 2 students return to school next Thursday evening for their sleepover, which is a foundational step in our school camp program. They will return to school after dinner for a movie and hopefully some sleep!

Student Safety Before and After School

The safety of our students is our top priority. We remind all families that students should be picked up inside the school grounds. Please ensure children do not walk through the car park unsupervised, as this area can be very busy during drop-off and pick-up times.

We ask parents and carers to meet their children at designated pick points within the school grounds this does include the walkway between the basketball court and the oval to help keep everyone safe. Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our school community safe.

2026

Mrs. Rogers will be taking a year of well-deserved Long Service Leave in 2026. Processes have begun to recruit a replacement.

A reminder that if your child/children are not returning for 2026 please notify the office either via email, phone or in person.

Kind regards
Sue Clague

Wednesday 19th
Smile Squad visit

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.

Changes to Digital Device Use

From 2027, the Victorian Government is introducing changes to the use of digital devices for students from Prep to Grade 6.

Under the new guidelines, schools:

- Will no longer invite families to purchase or bring their own digital devices to use at school for Prep to Grade 6
- Will follow new recommended digital device times, including minimal device time for Prep to Grade 2; and a maximum of 90 minutes per day for grades 3 to 6.

These changes are intended to support families by reducing cost-of-living pressures. They will also support students by reducing screen-time which can reduce the risk of eye strain, sedentary behaviour, and reduced peer interaction. These reforms complement Victoria's nation-leading mobile phone restrictions, ensuring an integrated approach to addressing digital distraction and the inappropriate use of technology.

What this means for our school

As you know, we already provide school-owned digital devices for student learning.

Students with disability who use a digital device as a reasonable adjustment are exempt from these changes.

These changes are intended to support families with cost-of-living pressures and reduce student screen time.

You can read more about the changes on the department's website: Digital Learning: Policy.

Happy Birthday!

Reading Awards

Phoenix & Luke



Classroom News

Foundation/One

It has been a fantastic few weeks of Term 4! We have been very busy learning about animals and people and their life cycles. It is very exciting to see that our chickens have just started hatching this week! It will be interesting to see how many eggs hatch. Don't forget to send in your egg recipes and photos to Robyn or myself 1716-Photos@schools.vic.edu.au or nps.kathleenc@gmail.com.

In Maths we have been exploring money. In the last few weeks, we have been shopping and looking at using money to add and take away.

In Writing we are working on our sentence structure, writing a sentence including who, what and where. Then we are editing our sentences, adding in an adjective to make our sentences more interesting.

In phonics we are back to exploring set 2 sounds m/d/g/o/c/k/ck/e/u/r. Some students are working on long ee/ea sounds and some students are working on dge and tch trigraph sounds.

Grade 1/2

The first few weeks of this term have flown, with lots happening. We are continuing to work within our egg theme. We're patiently waiting for our eggs to hatch and excited at the thought of seeing newly hatched chicks. Quite a few of us have already cooked at home with an egg or eggs and sent in photos and the recipe. (You have until Friday 14th November to cook with your child and send some photos and the recipe to me at 1716-Photos@schools.vic.edu.au to be included in our Junior School Egg Cookbook).

In preparation for our excursion to Nyerimilang Heritage Park on Thursday 6th November, we are planning to investigate how farm and household chores along with household articles have changed over time. We will also learn a common child's game from the 1900's.

We continue to work with the phoneme boxes on the THRASS chart and have moved to the 'long e' box. We have learnt that 'ey' and 'y' are more likely to represent the 'long e' at the end of a word.

We have spent some time working with multiplication, repeated addition and division and are presently working to understand the relationship between the three. We are working with both concrete materials and pictorial representations.

We begin our second 'Catching on Early' lesson this week about how we change and the things we learn as we get older. Next week, in lesson three, we name the body parts (including the genital areas). This is often a source of lots of giggles in the initial stages but is an important part of learning to understand that these body parts have formal names just as the other parts of our bodies do. This is a mandatory program in Public Victorian Education. Any questions or concerns please see me.

We look forward to our skipping afternoon on Wednesday of this week.

Grade 3/4

This term, we have been working on stories inspired by the prompt "*buried treasure*." We had lots of fun brainstorming where the treasure might be hidden, who might have put it there, what the treasure could be, and what our characters might do once they found it. We also explored how "treasure" might look different depending on who (or what!) our characters were — for example, a monkey might be thrilled to discover a chest full of bananas!

After planning our stories, we discussed what makes writing truly great. We agreed that while a story needs to be interesting, it's also important to make it easy to read — which means neat handwriting and careful punctuation! We have now written our drafts, edited our work, and are practicing our typing skills as we publish our final versions.

In maths, we have turned our attention to fractions. We revisited the idea that fractions represent equal parts of a whole (just because Ms Gamble is taller and older doesn't mean she gets a bigger slice of cake or pizza — though she's completely fine with that logic!). We have practised showing fractions in different ways, using both shapes and collections of objects (for example, $\frac{1}{2}$ of 8 teddies is 4). We have also begun recognising some common equivalent fractions and are becoming more confident in spotting fractions that are the same as $\frac{1}{2}$, such as $\frac{2}{4}$ and $\frac{4}{8}$.

Grade 5/6

In our grade we have been fine tuning our summarising after reading by using templates to scaffold the key events in the story. Then we are combining these ideas into a paragraph, ensuring grammatical sense is achieved. In writing we are focusing on complex sentences by identifying dependent and independent clauses and using this information to place the comma in the correct position within a sentence. In maths, we are locating fractions on a number line, counting by fractions and finding equivalence.

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.



The Get Active Kids Voucher Program is now open!

The Get Active Kids Voucher Program is now open! Get in quick as applications will close 13 November or earlier if the budget allocation is fully exhausted.

If your family or child has a Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, you may be eligible for up to \$200 to put towards the cost of your child's participation in sport and active recreation activities.

Important Dates:

Round 9 open to apply for a voucher or reimbursement: 10:00 am Wednesday, 15 October 2025 and will close 13 November or earlier if the budget allocation is fully exhausted.

Reimbursement expenditure dates: from 1 July 2025 to submission of application

Vouchers expiry date: Wednesday, 31 December 2025.

The *Get Active Kids Voucher Program* helps eligible families get their kids involved in organised sport and active recreation activities by providing financial support for the cost of membership and registration fees. Eligible children may be able to receive up to \$200 each.

Special consideration also applies for children residing in care services, as well as temporary or provisional visa holders, undocumented migrants, or international students.

To find out if you are eligible, how to apply, what costs are covered and more, visit

www.getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers

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A poster for 'SU Coola Yr 4-6 Camp'. It features a QR code in the top left corner. The background is a collage of four circular images: a girl jumping in the air, a group of children playing on a grassy field, a boy playing a guitar, and a group of children in a body of water. The text 'SU' is in green, and 'Coola Yr 4-6 Camp' is in blue. Below the title, it says 'The perfect place to make new friends, have fun, and learn about Jesus!'. The dates '11th - 15th January, 2026' and the location 'Camp Coolamatong Farm Camp' are listed. At the bottom, there is a URL: <https://brushfire.com/sua/coolamatong/604264/details>.



SU
Coola Yr 4-6
Camp

The perfect place to make new friends, have fun, and learn about Jesus!

11th - 15th
January, 2026 | Camp Coolamatong
Farm Camp

<https://brushfire.com/sua/coolamatong/604264/details>



A poster for the 'River Rhapsody Gala'. The background is dark blue with gold confetti and streamers. The text 'PRESENTING' is in small gold letters. Below it, 'RIVER RHAPSODY' is in large gold letters, followed by 'TAMBO COMMUNITY' in smaller gold letters. The word 'GALA' is in very large gold letters. Below that, '- 2025 -' is in large gold letters. The text 'SUPPORTING TAMBO UPPER P.S' is in smaller gold letters. The date 'NOVEMBER 22ND' is in large gold letters. The time '7:00PM - 11:00PM' and the location 'CENTRAL HOTEL LAKES ENTRANCE' are listed. The attire 'Attire: Formal Wear' and cost 'Cost: \$50 p/p' are listed. There are also smaller details: 'Welcome drink on arrival', 'Light supper provided', and 'Please note: this is an 18+ event'. At the bottom, there is a URL: [HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DFVJG](https://www.trybooking.com/DFVJG) and a QR code.

PRESENTING
RIVER RHAPSODY
TAMBO COMMUNITY

GALA
- 2025 -
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NOVEMBER 22ND
7:00PM - 11:00PM | CENTRAL HOTEL
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Attire: Formal Wear Cost: \$50 p/p
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MENTORS NEEDED

Help Learner Drivers Get Behind the Wheel

- We are looking for Volunteers with driving experience to help young Learner Driver's gain on the road experience through our TAC L2P program.
- All it takes is one hour a week!
- L2P is a program which provides access to Mentor drivers for young Learner Drivers who are facing significant barriers to gaining on road experience.
- Such barriers might include no access to a vehicle or a supervising driver.
- Insured vehicles are provided by the program as well supervisor driver training.

Our next TAC L2P Volunteer Mentor Training will be held on

Friday 7th November 2025

9.30am – 4.30pm (Lunch provided)

at

APM Building – 68A Macleod Street Bairnsdale

For more information or to register your interest for this role

Please contact Cheryl Siely on 0419605533 or email

sielyc@missionaustralia.com.au

or Kerri Sanders on 0498764636 or email

sandersk@missionaustralia.com.au

