

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

February 11th, 2026

Growth.
Respect.
Inclusiveness.
Fun.

FEBRUARY

No school for Foundation Students on Wednesdays for the whole of February.

Monday 16th

Parent/Teacher Chats 3:30-6pm

Wednesday 18th

Parent/Teacher Chats 3:30-6pm

Thursday 19th

District Swimming

MARCH

Monday 2nd

Grade 5/6 depart for Cottage by the Sea camp

Friday 6th

Grade 5/6 return from camp

Monday 9th

Labour Day public holiday

Tuesday 11th

NAPLAN Assessment Grades 3 & 5

Wednesday 12th

NAPLAN Assessment Grades 3 & 5

Thursday 13th

NAPLAN Assessment Grades 3 & 5

Setting the Climate for Learning

As we begin the new school year, a substantial focus is on creating calm, safe and purposeful learning environments where every student can succeed.

Across the school, we use Positive Classroom Management Strategies (PCMS)—eight evidence-informed practices that are taught consistently in every classroom. This whole-school approach ensures clear, shared expectations and supports student learning and wellbeing.

PCMS is based on the understanding that behavior can be taught. Through explicit teaching, positive reinforcement and supportive environments, students learn appropriate ways to meet their needs and engage positively in learning.

During the first weeks of school, teachers will explicitly teach routines and expectations in the same way across the school, supporting a settled and positive start to the year for all students.

For your information, a copy of our whole school's expectations is included later in the newsletter.

Call for School Council Nominations 2026

We will commence the election process next week by calling for nominations from Monday 16th of February. The closing date for nominations is Monday 23rd of February. Nomination forms will be available from the school office. Serving on School Council is a valuable way to support and contribute to the ongoing success of the school now and into the future. Please feel free to come and speak with me directly if you have any questions about the role of a School Council member. If more nominations are received than there are vacancies on Council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks following the close of nominations.

Parent/Teacher Chats

Home-school partnerships are extremely important to us at Nicholson. Research shows that the stronger the partnership between home and school, the more engaged and successful students will be with their learning.

While there are ongoing opportunities for parents to meet informally with teachers, there are also opportunities to meet in a more formal setting twice in the year.

Our first formal meeting is Monday 16th and Wednesday 18th February. This is an opportunity to catch up with classroom teachers and discuss how your child has settled into the school year, expectations of the year and any questions you may have around your child's learning. Bookings need to be made via the uEducateUs App released this afternoon. If you have any issues online, please contact the office

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 or Nicholson General Store by Thursday morning. Friday is lunch order day

CSEF – (Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund)

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. The annual CSEF amount per student is \$400.00 per year for primary school students.

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form. If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred your child has started or changed schools this year, changed family circumstances: such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year. Check with the school office if you are unsure.

Conveyancing Allowance

A conveyance (transport) allowance is available for families to assist in transporting their children to the nearest appropriate school. The main eligibility criteria are families must reside 4.8km or more by the shortest direct route from the closest government school. If any families believe they might be eligible for this assistance, please call into the office to collect an application form. If you received the Conveyancing Allowance in 2025 and your circumstances have not changed, then you do not need to complete another form.

Happy Birthday!

Nova, Brooklyn & Texas



Classroom News

Foundation

What a fantastic start to 2026! Welcome to all our new families and welcome back to our existing families! Thank you to all families who have been remembering to bring their child's Red Reader Bag and diary every day! Well done to everyone who has been practising reading every day, these routines are important to setting your child up for reading success.

The start of the year is always a busy time for Foundation students. We are all learning school rules, expectations and routines, which takes up a lot of our time.

In phonics we have learnt our first 3 sounds Ss, Aa and Tt. We have started learning how to form these letters and how we can put different sounds together to make words. Some of the real and nonsense words we are learning are, 'at, as, sat, tat, tas, sas.'

In maths we have been learning numbers to 10, finding different ways to make, model and write numbers.

Grade 1/2

We have had a very positive start to the school year in Grade 1/2. It has been lovely getting to know all the students and families. In class we have been practising routines and expectations that allow us all to achieve our best and learning about our individual learner qualities that enable us to be successful. We have spent time enjoying 'special interest' picture story and non-fiction books and have been taking these each night to establish a regular reading routine at home. Today students are bringing their first take home reader, and a note is included that explains the reasoning behind the different books that students may be bringing and how it supports their reading journey. We have started our class novel 'The Enchanted Wood' by Enid Blyton and are enjoying the adventures of Beth, Joe and Frannie and the folk of the Faraway tree.

In maths, we have started to explore the concept of Place Value and the value of the digits in 2 digit and 3-digit numbers.

Grade 3/4

We have been settling in well to the new school year in the 3/4 room. During our *Week of Inspirational Maths*, we explored how our brains grow and change when we learn. Some of the tasks were quite challenging, but they helped us understand an important message: we can learn anything with practice, persistence and a positive mindset.

We now know that mistakes help our brains grow, struggle makes us stronger learners, and speed isn't what matters most. Believing in ourselves, showing resilience and not giving up are skills that support us in every area of learning — not just maths!

We have also loved getting creative by designing our own islands shaped like the first letter of our name. Some islands are peaceful and relaxing, while others are filled with adventure (and even a few monsters!). As we complete our artwork, we are writing detailed descriptions of all the exciting features on our islands.

Grade 5/6

We have had a wonderful start to our journey in Grade 5/6 this year and have hit the ground running. In literacy we are exploring new evidence-based practice in reviewing past content through Daily Review. This is where students are led through a series of intensive learning tasks led by the teacher which require the active participation of the students. We are happy to report how well the kids are adjusting to this new way of practising what they have already been taught, and a cheer could be heard when we got our first review down to 10 minutes! We have also been participating in explicit teaching and learning activities involving spelling, grammar and writing sentences. Our literature studies are based on our current class novel, "Kensuke's Kingdom" by Michael Morpurgo. In maths we have been developing our problem-solving skills through identifying how to be resourceful and practising a growth mindset when we are struggling. We have also identified what "Good Group Work" looks like and the role each member must play to ensure maximum learning can take place.



Specialist News

THE ART ROOM HAS BEEN BUZZING WITH CREATIVITY AS WE START THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

Students from Foundation to Year 6 are creating a whole-school **Collaborative 'Drip' Mural**, inspired by contemporary artist **Jen Stark**, exploring how **line, colour and shape** come together in one vibrant piece.

They're also experimenting with **colour theory** — Primary and Secondary colours, Warm and Cool tones, and Complementary and Analogous schemes — to design their own individual artworks for the mural.

It's been wonderful to see students collaborating, experimenting and taking pride in their work, and we're excited to share the finished mural with our school community soon!

KICKING OFF RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS FOR THE NEW YEAR!

This week, I had the pleasure of running our first **Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships (RRRR)** sessions with **all students across the school**. We explored what students can expect in these sessions and invited them to share what each word in **RRRR** means to them, and how they **put these ideas into action** at school and beyond.

We also played some fun 'Get to Know You' games, including a listening activity using our whole school '**Call and Response**' phrase. It was fantastic to see everyone pausing, focusing, and responding so enthusiastically—a great start to the year!

'SETTING THE BAR HIGH' TO START THE YEAR IN P.E

Students have made a great start to the year in Physical Education, focusing on participation, fair play, and following expectations. Senior students have been using their teamwork and communication skills in games such as *Two-Ball Soccer*, while junior students have enjoyed a variety of fun movement games like *Kangaroos and Crocodiles* and *Shark Island*. These activities support the development of movement skills, spatial awareness, and confidence in a positive and inclusive environment.

MUSIC 'HITTING ALL THE RIGHT NOTES'

During Music sessions, students have been enjoying exploring the beat through movement, body percussion, and playing basic instruments. Junior students have focused on keeping a steady beat, moving to music, and experimenting with sounds, helping to build confidence and enjoyment. Senior students have been extending their learning by developing an understanding of tempo (beats per minute), grouping notes, and counting in four. A focus on musical interests and an inclusive environment has ensured everyone felt confident and excited to join in.

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.



Nicholson Primary School Expectations



Be Respectful • Be Responsible • Be Safe

All routines	All Routines	Entering and leaving the classroom	Learning and working with others	Independent Learning Time
 Be Responsible	Give your best effort	Arrive on time and ready to learn	Have a go and share your ideas	Work independently and stay focused
	Ask for help when you need it	Move calmly and quietly through learning spaces	Bring the necessary materials to class	Complete and submit work on time
 Respect others	Listen when others are speaking	Greet others politely	Raise your hand to speak	Work quietly and respect others' working space.
	Use kind words and respectful body language	Wait your turn and move quietly	Show appreciation for others' efforts	
 Care for the environment	Keep your area and the classroom clean			
	Put rubbish in bins and recycle where possible			

At Nicholson Primary School, we work together to create a calm, safe and positive learning environment for everyone. 😊





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89.9%
of our
graduates
get jobs

**ENROL
NOW!**

**AUSTSWIM
TSW**
AUSTSWIM
Teacher of
Swimming and
Water Safety

TEACHER OF SWIMMING AND WATER SAFETY

Saturday 21 & Sunday 22, February 2026

8:30am - 5:00pm

Lakes Entrance Aquadome - VIC

LAKES ENTRANCE

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**BOOK
NOW**
Teach a skill for life

**SCAN
CODE
TO GET
STARTED**

QR CODE

Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety

being held at:

**Lakes Entrance
Aquadome**

43 Palmers Road, LAKES ENTRANCE, VIC 3909

Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 February 2026

8.30am to 5.00pm

1300 885 666  www.austswim.com.au

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