

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

February 25th, 2026



Growth.
Respect.
Inclusiveness.
Fun.

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 10th

Cluster Cross Country @ Bruthen Football Oval

Wednesday 11th

NAPLAN Assessment
Grades 3 & 5

Wednesday 12th

NAPLAN Assessment
Grades 3 & 5

Thursday 13th

NAPLAN Assessment
Grades 3 & 5

Tuesday 17th

School Potos

Monday 23rd

School Council AGM
5.30pm

APRIL

Friday 2nd

End of term. 2.20pm finish
Out of Uniform Day

Monday 20th

Term 2 begins

New Staff

We are very pleased to welcome two new Education Support staff members to our school community — Zoe and Donna.

Zoe and Donna will be working in the Junior classrooms to support student learning, wellbeing and engagement. Their skills and experience will be a wonderful asset to our students and staff. Please join us in making them feel welcome as they settle into our school community.

Cluster Cross Country

The upcoming Cluster Cross Country event will be held at Bruthen Football Oval. As this venue requires bus transport, there will be a small cost involved to cover transportation expenses. Permission notes and payment will be released via uEducateUs shortly.

Parent Payments

Thank you to all our families who have made voluntary contributions so far this year. These contributions are essential in helping us provide quality teaching programs and the resources needed to support our students' learning.

Your support makes a real difference, allowing us to maintain a well-resourced and supportive environment where every child can thrive.

If you have not yet made your contribution, we encourage you to do so at your earliest convenience. Payment options include BPAY, cash, Centrepay, or a payment plan. Please contact the office if you would like further information or assistance.

Grade 5/6 Camp

Next week our grade 5/6 students head off to beautiful Queenscliff to participate in a 5-day camp at Cottage by the Sea. We are very fortunate to be invited to join this amazing program which is all fully funded through generous donations from community groups and at no cost to families.

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

CONGRATULATIONS

What a fantastic achievement for Holly and Milla!
Recently, Holly and Milla proudly represented the Mitchell River Cluster at the District Swimming Carnival. Both girls enjoyed an outstanding day in the pool, placing first and second across a number of events.
Most impressively, they each secured first place in the highly technical and graceful Butterfly stroke — a wonderful accomplishment that reflects their dedication, skill and determination.
As a result of their strong performances, Holly and Milla have qualified to represent our area at the upcoming Division Swimming Carnival next week. We are incredibly proud of you both and wish you every success at Division. Well done, girls!



STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Following an extensive selection process, we are delighted to announce our 2026 Student Leadership Team.
The process included written applications, and formal interviews lead by a panel consisting of 2 staff members and current school captains. Each applicant demonstrated courage, integrity and a genuine commitment to contributing positively to our school community. The standard was exceptionally high, making the final decisions both exciting and challenging.
Congratulations Levii, Beau, Jessie and Edie on their appointment to the Student Leadership Team. Each of these students has shown leadership potential, a strong sense of responsibility and a desire to lead by example. We look forward to working with our new leaders as they represent our students, uphold our school values and help shape a positive and inclusive year ahead. Congratulations to you all on this wonderful achievement.



Happy Birthday!

Milla, Zoe, Ava & Carter



Classroom News

Foundation

Congratulations and well done to our Foundation students! They have settled into our school, routines and expectations well. From next week, our Foundation students will be at school all week! This week will be their last rest week!

In maths we are learning about numbers to 10, focusing on flexible numbers and different ways to make/represent numbers to 10. We have also been working on subitising irregular collections to 10.

We are well underway with learning our letters and sounds now. We are learning how to decode through segmenting and blending (break up words into sounds, then blend them back together). We are practising our decoding through decodable book that students are practising every day. Well done to students and families who are reading/practising every night!

In writing we are practising forming letters. We are also using props/objects to tell stories.

Grade 1/2

In Grade 1/2 we have already finished our class novel, the first of the Faraway Tree series of books called 'The Enchanted Forest' and have begun the second book called 'The Faraway Tree'. Students have done some terrific drawings of what they think the Faraway tree might look like and we have hung these in the reading corner. Our spelling focus has been on 'a, ea, ey, a-e, ai and ay' and we have read stories, where we have found the various grapheme choices for this phoneme and then students became phoneme detectives, finding as many examples as possible of this sound all around the classroom. We have unpacked the final Learner Qualities, with students understanding that being Self-Aware, Resourceful, Making Connections, Persisting, Using feedback and Reflecting, all contribute to learners being more successful. Our Maths has been about the concept of Length and students have explored 'Handspans'. They have traced their own hands, making sure hands were outstretched, so that a measurement from the tip of the thumb to the tip of the pinky finger could be utilised to measure various items around the classroom. We have also welcomed Donna into the classroom, as an extra support for the students in our grade.

Grade 3/4

In maths, we have been challenging our mathematical thinking by creating "All About Me in Numbers" posters. We used our maths knowledge to share information about ourselves in creative ways. For example, Ms Gamble's family is represented by a rectangle, with each corner showing a member of her immediate family. We also used tally marks, fractions, number lines, addition, subtraction and multiplication to describe different facts about ourselves. It was quite a challenge to think of personal details that we could represent mathematically!

In literacy, we have been flexing our persuasive muscles. We have learnt that it is important to brainstorm many arguments before choosing the most convincing ones. We are beginning to understand that reasons connected to health, education or money can be particularly persuasive. Although Mrs Clague really enjoyed our letter about having a shorter school day, we also learnt that when we want to create change, it is important to direct our message to people who are in a position to make the decisions we are asking for.

Grade 5/6

In literacy we have been fine tuning our literacy block by making sure our transitions between the different parts of the lesson are efficient. Students are making sure they are prepared with the learning tools they need for each aspect of literacy which include reading fluency, review, spelling, grammar and literature studies. In numeracy we are working on renaming, partitioning, making and reading larger numbers. We have also begun our work on financial literacy using the online program Banqer. Our integrated unit in Civics and Citizenship is looking at Laws and Rules. This has generated great discussion in the classroom!

Specialist Report

Physical Education

This fortnight, during sport, senior students have been enjoying learning about soccer and applying themselves to game simulations. After a series of stretches and a few warm-up games, skills such as dribbling and passing the ball have been the focus with students also showing they can take a lethal free kick!

Junior school has been learning some new warm up games as well as some interesting and fun ways to move your body, balance and apply special awareness to different situations. Obstacle courses and shark island have again been a hit with skills like over and underarm throwing with partners being explored.

Music

During music lessons, seniors have been looking into more depth at rhythm, dynamics and dynamic performance applying their new skills through various games and exercises before even developing their own rhythm and performing it as a class!

Junior students have thoroughly enjoyed getting their bodies moving and showing their understanding of beat and rhythm in different sounds and songs. This knowledge was then applied during various games and the kids absolutely loved dancing in time with a few of the tasks. Musical statues is always a hit.

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.

PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY OVERVIEW



FREE INSTRUCTION

- Schools provide students with free instruction and ensure students have free access to all items, activities and services that are used by the school to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements in Victorian Curriculum F-10, VCE and VCAL.
- Schools may invite parents to make a financial contribution to support the school.



PARENT PAYMENT REQUESTS

Schools can request contributions from parents under three categories:

Curriculum Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.

Other Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides for free to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

- Schools may also invite parents to supply or purchase educational items to use and own (e.g. textbooks, stationery, digital devices).



FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

- Schools put in place financial hardship arrangements to support families who cannot pay for items or activities so that their child doesn't miss out.
- Schools have a nominated parent payment contact person(s) that parents can have a confidential discussion with regarding financial hardship arrangements.



SCHOOL PROCESSES

- Schools must obtain school council approval for their parent payment arrangements and publish all requests and communications for each year level on their school website for transparency.

