

WELCOME TO THE MOUNT MACEDON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 32 Tuesday 21st October 2025

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FOS Events

Trivia Night
October 24th

Important Term Dates

Term 4

October

24th PUPIL FREE DAY

27th SEA Parent Info Session @ 7.30pm online

29th Yr 5/6 Boys Man Cave Incursion

31st World Teachers Day

Junior School Council's - Mental Health Awareness Day

District Orienteering

November

3rd – PUPIL FREE DAY

4th – Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday

5th - Christmas Foodbank donations begins

5th 7th & 14th SEA Program

11th SkowKo Japanese Incursion

Remembrance Day

17th – 19th Year 4, 5 & 6 Cottage by the Sea Camp

24th Aaron Moar Guitar Concert

18th & 25th 2026 Foundation Orientation Session

December

2nd 2026 Foundation Orientation Session

5th PUPIL FREE DAY

9th Statewide Orientation Session

12th Kids Rule The School

15th Year 6 Graduation

17th Picnic at Hanging Rock

18th End of Year Assembly & Morning Tea

19th LAST DAY OF TERM finish @ 1.30

Principal's Report

Hello everyone,

Parent's Trivia Night – This Friday!: It is not too late to book tickets for our upcoming FOS Parent's Night this Friday night! You can book as a table or purchase individual tickets and make your own teams up on the night! There is also the option of signing up for a lift home (this can be done at the point of purchasing a ticket). It is sure to be a fun night! Information is included below along with a link to purchase tickets.

Pupil Free Day - Friday 24th October: This coming Friday is a pupil free day. All staff will be planning our PYP Inquiry units for 2026. We do this as a whole staff as it gives us the opportunity to make sure that our Units of Inquiry flow and develop from Foundation all the way up to Grade 5/6. We also utilise eth expertise and creativity of all staff when collaboratively planning these units. We will also be updating the school library borrowing software which will allow students and staff to borrow resources remotely and explore how libraries work.

Digi-Tech Excursion: It was so exciting to go with Mr Garcia and a few of the classes to Stanley Park on Monday to participate in the *Great Bird Count*. Students got to get out and enjoy the beautiful natural surroundings of Stanley Park and take note of something that we quite often miss, birdsong. Students used their keen eyes to find and identify birds and then record that data on their iPads. Thank you Mr Garcia for organising such a great experience for the students (and myself!).

4/5/6 Camp: Information has gone home today via Compass regarding our upcoming Grade 4/5/6 camp to Queenscliff. Students will be departing school on Monday the 17th of November for Queenscliff where they will spend three days exploring the gorgeous seaside town and all it has to offer. Students will be visiting the Maritime Museum, Fort Queenscliff and the Marine Discovery Centre while down there. Please jump onto Compass and review the information and provide payment and consent for this excursion.

Sex Education Australia (SEA): In the coming weeks, our grade 3-6 students will be participating in three sessions delivered by Sex Education Australia. The purpose of these sessions is to give students the opportunity to gain age-appropriate information about puberty, personal safety, anatomy and reproduction in a safe and supportive way. All sessions are delivered with respect to the wide-ranging values and beliefs of families and focus on accuracy and are based on the importance of having young people receive this information in a safe and trusting setting. This is a no-cost incursion but we do require your consent for your child to participate, this can be provided via Compass.

Sex Education Australia Information Session:

SEA are holding an MMPS Parent Information Session next Monday, the 27th of October at 7:30pm via the link below. This session will run through what is delivered in the classroom sessions and how it is delivered. It also gives parents the chance to ask questions and seek reassurance about how the program runs.

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82170947144?pwd=MrgvuMljaYHha3YQqAabNnhaW4hTn.1>

Meeting ID: 821 7094 7144 – Passcode: 047814

It'll be a busy few weeks, with activities, incursions and events so please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns at any stage.

Many thanks, Joe.

Link to Trivia Night Tickets: <https://compasstix.com/e/ndovs5btvu>

Answer to last week's riddle: His son

Riddle: What starts with a 'P', ends with an 'E', and has thousands of letters?

Swimming

On the 2nd week of term 4, the school had school swimming. Every day that week we headed down to the Gisborne Pool and had a 40 minute lesson. The grade $\frac{4}{5}$'s, and the $\frac{3}{4}$'s went first to the pool and then followed by the $\frac{2}{3}$'s, and the year 1's. The grade $\frac{5}{6}$'s went last and went with their prep buddies. Sadly, we didn't have the inflatable, but we had boogie boards, flippers and more. Each student was put in a suitable class for their skills. After every lesson we would all get changed and hop back on the bus. The school lunch time and recess schedules changed due to different times of swimming lessons. Some classes had lunch time 30 minutes after recess. Overall, it was so fun and we all enjoyed it so much. We also learnt good technique and skills. Thank you to all the teachers and Mrs Stone for organising it all.

Written by Pearl Daniel and Will (sports captains).

Toastie day

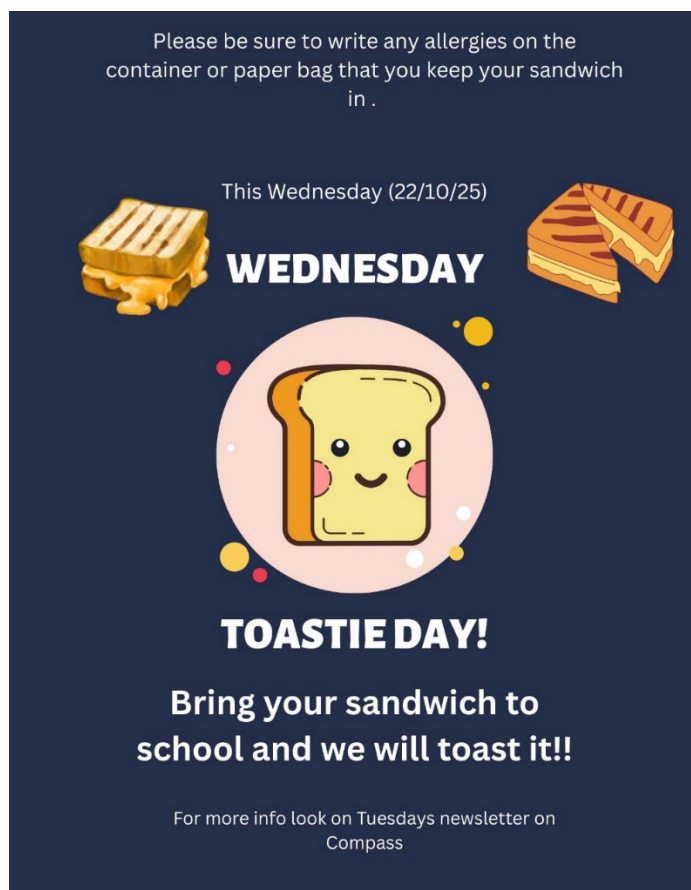
We will be having another toastie day, this week on the 22/10/25 on Wednesday.

It will be a lot like last toastie day, but with more year six helpers and more toastie machines. Please bring your homemade sandwich in a container or brown paper bag. Write any allergies on the container and we will make sure to put it in our allergy toastie machine. Hot tip: if you want your toastie to be extra crispy and delicious lather the inside and outside with butter or margarine. How it will work: bring your sandwich to school and the school with the help of the year sixes will toast your sandwich with the donated toastie machines. It will be a cold day, and we highly recommend it!

We will also be doing it for FREE!!

Pupil free

On the 24th of October we are having a pupil free day so the teachers will organise the library.





Grade 3/4 Classroom

≡ UPDATE ≡



MATHS

In Maths, we have been revising our number facts and looking at all things measurement, in particular length, mass and capacity. We have been estimating, measuring and comparing objects using different instruments.



Reading

We have just completed reading a class novel *Esio Trot* By Roald Dahl. We have been exploring characters, summarising the main ideas and making predictions of the text.



Writing

In writing, we have been focusing on writing and setting out formal letters to a range of audiences, including persuasive letters to Mr Flynn.

Reminders

- Toastie day tomorrow - bring a sandwich!
- Pupil Free Day Friday 24th October



Grade 2/3 have just started their new Inquiry unit, 'Where we are in place and time'.

Our focus for this unit is on The First Fleet: Exploring Australia's Early Settlement

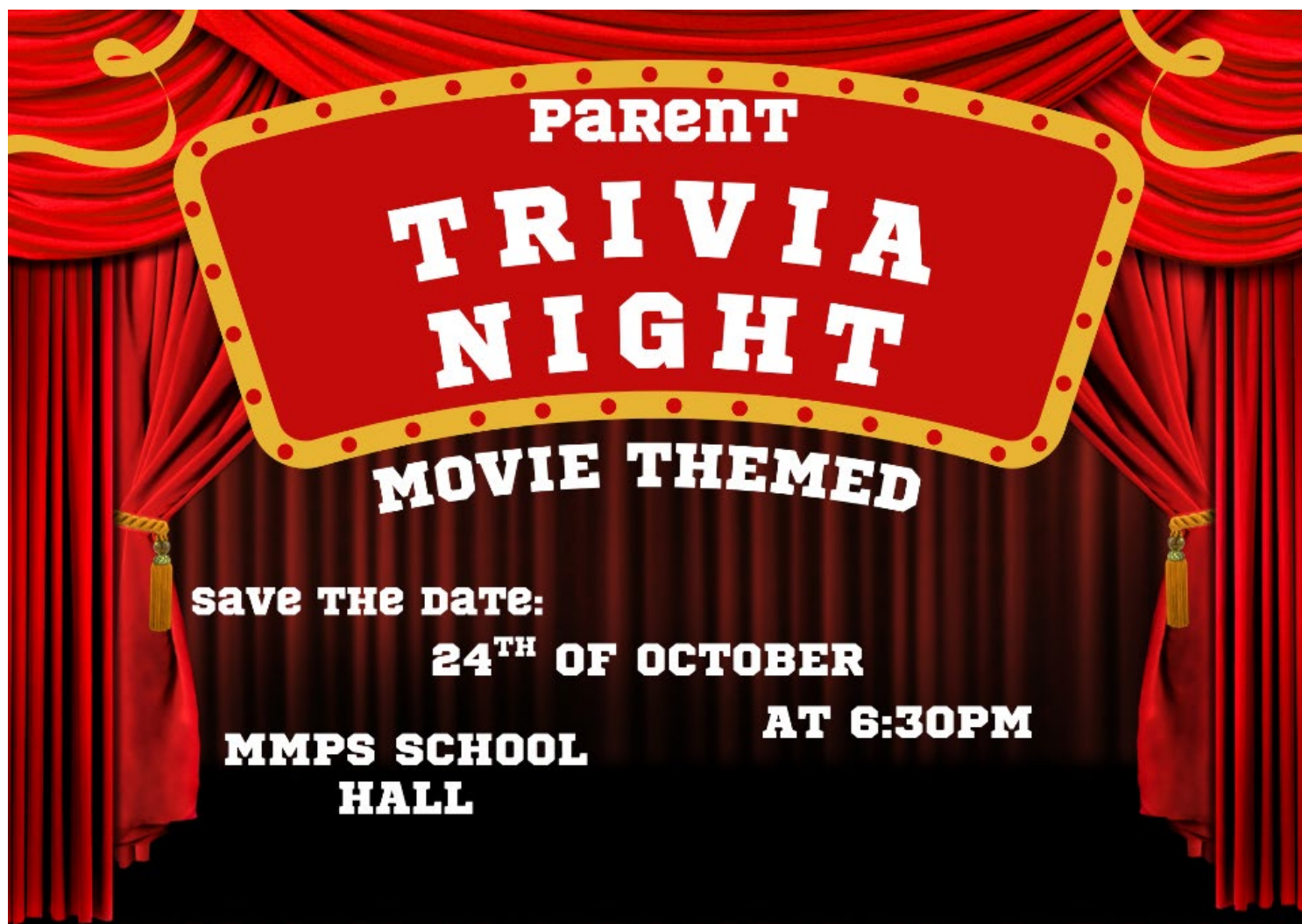
Central Idea: The journey and arrival of the First Fleet shaped the beginnings of Australia's settlement.

Lines of Inquiry:

1. The reasons for the First Fleet's voyage
2. Life aboard the ships during the journey
3. The impact of the First Fleet's arrival on people and the environment

We are all looking forward to exploring this topic, particularly as children as young as 7 years old were also some of the convicts sentenced to transportation to New South Wales.





Tickets on sale now!

Tickets are sold individually, and you will be asked to select a seat on a particular table. It would be great if you organise with friends which table you would like to all sit on and then purchase them at the link below.

BYO Food and snacks

Drinks at bar prices

Link to Tickets: <https://compasstix.com/e/ndovs5btvu>

October is *Youth Mental Health Month*, and to celebrate, the Junior School Council (JSC) has been busy planning some fun and meaningful activities for everyone to enjoy! On **Thursday, October 31st**, we'll be running **five awesome activity stations** around the school. Each one is designed to help us learn about the importance of looking after our mental health — while having a great time together!

All students will get the chance to join in, move around the stations, and take part in activities that help us feel calm, connected, and happy. We can't wait to share this special day with everyone and remind our school community that caring for our minds is just as important as caring for our bodies.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

OCTOBER 31ST

FOR WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY WE WILL BE DOING LOTS OF FUN ACTIVITIES THAT YEAR 5 AND 6S WILL BE RUNNING WITH ALL THE YOUNGER CLASSES

– 10 STATION ACTIVITIES

STATION 1 – ACTS OF KINDNESS  COMPLIMENTS

STATION 2 – SKIPPING 

STATION 3 – STAR JUMP CHALLENGE 

STATION 4 – MINDFUL BREATHING ZONE 

STATION 5 – PLAYGROUND RUN-THROUGH – OBSTACLE COURSE 

STATION 6 – HEARTBEAT DANCE STATION 

STATION 7 – SECRET WHISPERS 

STATION 8 – NATURE MANDELLA 

STATION 9 – BALANCE CHALLENGE 

STATION 10 – POSITIVE SELF-TALK 



YEARS
3-6

Living and growing program Mount Macedon Primary School, 2025

SEA's health and human development programs offer students an opportunity to gain age-appropriate information about puberty, personal safety, anatomy and reproduction. Our focus is on young people getting accurate information that will help keep them safe and healthy physically, socially and emotionally. We are inclusive and respectful of the wide-ranging values and beliefs that families have and know that all children need this information. **If children don't have this information explained to them by a trusted person then they are left at risk.**

Our sessions are interactive, fun and we use a variety of resources in the classroom including worksheets, discussions, videos and games. **For composite groups, we run a two-year program so that while the same concepts are reinforced, it is a different program with different activities and materials, to revise and build knowledge.** Our programs are based on the Victorian Curriculum and our teachers are qualified and specially trained.

Parent information evening – Years 3-6

Please join us for the parent and carer information evening via Zoom.

7.30pm Monday 27 October 2025

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82170947144?
pwd=MrgrvuMljaYHhHa3Y0QgAabNnhaW4hTn.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82170947144?pwd=MrgrvuMljaYHhHa3Y0QgAabNnhaW4hTn.1)

Meeting ID: 821 7094 7144 – Passcode: 047814

We've designed these special one-hour information evenings for parents and caregivers who want to feel more confident to have important conversations with their young people about growing up, change and reproduction.

This online event also gives parents and carers the opportunity to hear about the classroom program **before it begins** – learn what exactly will be covered and how, and what won't be talked about – and to ask any questions.

Find outlines and dates for the Living and growing classroom programs for Years 3-6 over the page.

'A thing I liked about health ed is that nothing is awkward or weird and we get great answers back to all our questions.'

'I have enjoyed these classes I've learnt so many new things. I thought it might be embarrassing but it's really interesting and important.'

'I like SEA because they speak so calmly about the topic, explain how things work very well and the games are fun.'

YEARS
3-6

Living and growing program

Mount Macedon Primary School, 2025

Year 3-6 classroom program: Wednesday 5 November, Fridays 7, 14 November 2025

Year 3

3 x 60-minute sessions over 3-week program

- learn the proper names for simple reproductive and private parts
- talk about concepts of public and private, and learn about body safety, including body signals, identifying trusted adults and consent
- discussion about families
- talk about emotions and how to manage them
- growing up and change including an introduction to puberty

Year 4

3 x 60-minute sessions over 3-week program

- learn and revise the proper names for private and reproductive parts
- concepts of public and private, body safety, body signals, identifying trusted adults and consent
- discussion about families and what it means to be in a family
- simple explanation of conception, pregnancy and birth
- discuss growing and changing and highlight some of the changes of puberty

Year 5/6 (P2 program)

3 x 90-minute sessions over 3-week program

Week 1

- revise the names and functions of reproductive body parts
- reinforce body safety messages and the concept of body autonomy and consent
- conception, pregnancy and birth explained
- revise the physical changes of puberty and how to manage them

Week 2

- discuss periods and wet dreams and how to manage them
- discuss the social and emotional changes of puberty and practical tips on how to manage them
- discuss the range of feelings that individuals have about puberty; how to be supportive, kind and empathetic to peers

Week 3

- answer student questions from question box
- explore friendships and family relationships and discuss how to manage conflict
- discuss responsible, respectful and safe use of technology and social media
- identify trusted adults who students can talk to for support and where they can go for more information

Today all our students took part in the **Aussie Bird Count**. In true Mount Macedon fashion, the weather decided not to make things easy for us—but our students braved the cold (“No Mr Garcia, I don’t need a jumper, I’m *fine!*”) and headed down to Stanley Park to record their observations.

By the time it came to our Foundation students, the rain had set in a bit too much, so we carried out our count closer to home—right in our own schoolyard. Ironically, we spotted *even more* bird species there (including a **brace** of ducks—yes, I did have to look up that collective noun).

The activity tied beautifully into our **Digital Technologies curriculum**, giving students hands-on experience with **data collection, recording, and analysis**. They learned how real-world information—like bird sightings—can be gathered, organised, and interpreted to help scientists monitor biodiversity.

A big thanks to Catherine and Mr Flynn for joining us in the cold, and a special mention to Jasper, who looked every bit the professional **ornithologist*** with his binoculars in hand.

Mr. Garcia

**(Yes, I looked up that word too)*



As we head into the warmer months, please note the following important reminders!

- All medication must be **supplied by parents** – we do not have a school supply of Panadol, hayfever medication or other treatments.
- A **Medical Authority Form** must be completed for any medication to be administered which can be found on our website [here](#).
- Medication must be in its **original packaging**, clearly labelled, and handed in at the office.
- Medications listed on the completed form are stored in the First Aid room.
- All medication given at school are **documented on Compass** – parents receive a notification at the time it is administered.
- Please check your child's **Ventolin/Epipens** are in date and supply a spacer for asthma puffers.

OUTSIDE PLAY

- Hats are required in **Term 1 and Term 4**.
- Sunscreen is available in classrooms, but if your child has allergies, please provide their own clearly labelled sunscreen for them to apply.
- Staff do not apply sunscreen to children unless assistance is requested.

Thank you for helping us keep all students safe, healthy, and ready for learning.

SAT NOV 1ST TYLDEN HALL
TYLDENVANIA
ALWAYS SPOOKY NEVER SCARY
4PM - 11PM
ALL AGES
SPOOKY TUNES ALL NIGHT
LIVE BANDS
THEE CHACHACHAS
BACK FROM SPINN TO DO IT AGAIN!
FINE ELECTRIC FEELS
FOOD TRUCK
JUGO
GANDY CANTEN
LICENCED BAR
\$12/\$6
ADULTS SCHOOL FEE FREE FOR UNDER 18'S
TICKETS HERE
UNDER 18'S MUST BE SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT AT ALL TIMES NO BYO STRICT 'NO JERKS' POLICY



Ready to try something new?
Join Scouts
Macedon Woodend Scout Group is looking for young people to join their Group!
Every week, nearly half a million young people dive into exciting adventures, make lifelong friendships, and explore the great outdoors with Scouting!
Try Scouts today and enjoy **3 weeks FREE** to see why the fun never stops. Whether it's camping, hiking, or tackling STEM challenges, there's always something thrilling happening.
Don't miss out, unlock your adventure today!
For more information or to join email, gl.macedonwoodend@scoutsvictoria.com.au

JOIN US
AT GISBORNE LIBRARY
FOR A
HALLOWEEN MOVIE
THURSDAY 30 OCT. AT 3:45 PM
A SPOOKY MOVIE SUITABLE FOR KIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES
TRICK OR TREAT BAG FOR FIRST 20 KIDS BOOKINGS NOT REQUIRED

Come and Try Orienteering at the home of the Ashes!
Wednesday November 5th 6pm Salesian College Sunbury.
Awaken your sense of adventure this year: try orienteering!
It's the versatile and exciting adventure sport where your aim is to reach all the checkpoints on a special map as quickly as you can.
We'll explain how the maps work, what you are looking for and what you need to do.
All equipment is loaned on the night, just wear comfortable clothes and shoes to walk / jog in.
This event is part of the Twilight school workshops aimed at learning new skills, connecting with others and most of all having fun!
Registrations are accepted through:
<https://events.humanitix.com/twilight-school-single-sessions>
Cost: \$10 + booking fee

5TH NOV 2025 6pm - 7:30pm
COME & TRY ORIENTEERING
AWAKEN YOUR SENSE OF ADVENTURE
Tickets on sale now!
Twilight School brings our community together for inspiring evening workshops, run by community members and local businesses at Salesian College Sunbury.
Learn new skills, connect with others, and have fun this November!
Tickets on sale now!



Share your views to help make our school safer

The Department of Education is inviting parents and carers to take part in an [online survey](#).

The survey seeks views on how the department can best protect school communities from harmful behaviour by parents and carers, and other adults:

- on school grounds and other places school activities happen
- online including social media.

Harmful behaviours can include abusive, aggressive and disruptive behaviours, including on social media platforms such as Facebook and WhatsApp.

The survey will help the department:

- better understand community attitudes around this issue
- seek input on whether stronger protections are needed for school communities.

The survey closes at 11:59 pm on Monday 10 November 2025.

At Mount Macedon Primary School, we are committed to creating a safe and supportive environment for the entire school community. We support ongoing efforts to address harmful behaviour by adult members of our school community, including online.

We encourage you to share your views by taking part in the survey.

To access the survey, refer to [Keeping school staff safe onsite](#) and online on the Engage Victoria website.

School Community Safety Order Scheme: statutory review

A report and recommendations from the statutory review of the School Community Safety Order Scheme are now available.

While the majority of parents and carers work well with schools to resolve concerns, sometimes there is harmful behaviour affecting our school staff and students. The scheme allows principals and other authorised persons in Victorian schools to make School Community Safety Orders to stop or limit parents, carers and other adults who behave in harmful, threatening or abusive ways towards people in the school community.

For more information on the review, refer to [Independent statutory review into the School Community Safety Order Scheme](#).

For more information on the scheme, refer to the [School Community Safety Orders webpage](#).

Respectful behaviours in the school community

For more information on the shared roles of parents, carers and school staff in creating a positive environment for learning, refer to the department's Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy webpage.

Prep Bag 2025 Survey

Each year, the Department of Education gives every Prep student attending a Victorian government school a bag full of goodies to celebrate this milestone in their education journey. The educational resources and information in the bags are aimed at helping Prep students and their families have a great start to the year.

The department is inviting parents and carers of current Prep students to complete a short survey about the 2025 Prep bags, by 11:59 pm on Sunday 26 October 2025.

Your feedback will help the department learn what families liked and what can be improved in 2026. You can have your say at [Prep bags 2025 evaluation survey](#).

The survey takes 5 to 10 minutes. It is voluntary. Responses are anonymous and will not be shared with third parties outside the department.

For more information about this year's Prep bags, refer to [Prep bags](#).

Scholarships to Support Students

Department of Education scholarships are available for eligible students in Grade 4 to Year 11, and for Year 12 students planning to do tertiary studies in 2026.

Student scholarships

The Department of Education administers a number of scholarships that are available to eligible students who are enrolled in Grade 4 to Year 12 in 2025.

Applicants for these scholarships will be evaluated on their:

- participation in school activities
- community involvement
- academic achievement.

Scholarships are either one-off payments or cover the duration of the student's course or annual study.

Many of these scholarships have specific eligibility criteria, so please refer to individual applications for more information. Applications open on Wednesday 1 October 2025 and close on Monday 2 February 2026. For more information and a list of available scholarships, refer to the [Student scholarships for Grade 4 to Year 12 fact sheet](#).

Wominjeka- Welcome

WURUNDJERI WOI WURRUNG CULTURAL HERITAGE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

8th March – International Women's Day

17-23rd March – Neurodiversity Celebration Week

17th – 23rd March – Harmony Week

April – Autism Acceptance Month

20th May – International Day of Happiness

MAY – Australians Biggest Morning Tea

12-17th May – Mental Health Awareness Week

17th May – IDAHOBIT

11-15th August – Bullying No Way, National Week of Action

30th August – Wear it purple day

31st August – Daffodil Day

10th September – World Suicide Prevention Day

12th September – R U OK? Day

October – Mental Health Awareness Month

10th October – World Mental Health Day

14th November – World Diabetes Day

3rd December – International Day of People with a Disability



Key Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Dates

20th March – National Close the Gap Day

26th May – National Sorry Day

27th May – Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum

27th May – 3rd June – Reconciliation Week

3rd June – Mabo Day

July 6th – 13th – NAIDOC Week

4th August – National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

9th August – International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

3rd September (First Wednesday) – Indigenous Literacy Day



Acknowledgement of Country

written by 2024 student leaders Lenny, Ava, Cienna & Henry

Wominjeka, Welcome.

At Mount Macedon Primary School, we would like to acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of the land, where our school stands. The Wurundjeri people believe Bunjil the eagle, created the people, the animals, the land and the waterways. We are grateful that they cared for this land, and we commit to continuing its care and to learn and grow here with our kir-rip, friends. We pay our respect to Elders, past and present, and acknowledge their ongoing connection to biik, Country.

Nagujin, thank you.



CLOSING THE KNOWLEDGE GAP
ABOUT FIRST NATIONS HISTORY AND
CULTURE STARTS AT SCHOOL

