



Thursday, August 27th 2026 | Volume 14

MacKillop News

St. Joseph's Primary School, Numurkah



Drumming Up African Culture - Pg 9

Principal's Message

Ruth Hartnett-Carr

As we move through this busy season of the term, our school community continues to be filled with energy, learning and many opportunities to live out our faith. At the same time, we are aware that many students, staff and families are battling the coughs and colds that often accompany this time of year. We thank everyone for their care and consideration of others as we work together to keep our community healthy and well.

Over the coming fortnight, we have the delightful privilege of meeting our incoming Foundation students and their families for 2027 enrolment interviews. This is always one of the highlights of the year. It is a joy to witness the excitement, curiosity and hopes that these young children bring as they begin their connection with St Joseph's. These encounters remind us of the special

responsibility we share as educators and families in nurturing each child's God-given gifts and helping them flourish.

This evening, a number of our senior students will participate in the Winter Sleepout, an experience that invites them to step beyond their own circumstances and reflect on the challenges faced by those experiencing homelessness. In the spirit of the Gospel, where Jesus calls us to see and respond to the needs of others with compassion, these opportunities help our students develop empathy and a deeper understanding of social justice.

The Josephite charism calls us to "never see a need without doing something about it." Through experiences such as the Winter Sleepout, our students are encouraged to become people of action, guided by kindness, courage and a commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of others. These moments

St. Joseph's Primary School

16 Tocumwal Rd, Numurkah, Victoria, 3636

Ph: (03) 5862 1804

Email: admin@sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au | Website: www.sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au



help to shape not only their understanding of the world but also the values and social conscience they will carry into the future.

As we continue through this busy and rewarding term, may we be inspired by the example of St Mary MacKillop and St Joseph, embracing each opportunity to welcome, serve and care for one another with open hearts.

"Be a gift of love and compassion for one another"

St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop



Ruth Hartnett-Carr

Office News

If any family would like to commence having their fees directly debited fortnightly or monthly this can be done at any time!

Next Fortnightly Debits: 28th August & 11th September

Monthly Debits: 18th of each month.

If you have unexpected circumstances for the fortnight or month and need to stop a Direct Debit please note they are processed two days before the due date and so you will need to contact us prior to that, to put a stop on them.

If you are paying your fees in full, yearly fees are now due.

EFTPOS and **CENTREPAY** are now a payment option.

Please enquire at the office.

If you have any queries or concerns about your payment commitments, please do not hesitate to come in and speak to Ruth. If you are wanting to amend your payment options please do so ASAP.

The Term Planner can be viewed from the school website under news & events \ newsletters

If you have any queries, please call the office on 5862 1804

Dates to Remember

Monday August 31: Book Week begins

Wednesday September 2: Grade 5 Transition Day @ SMOTA Nathalia

Thursday September 3: Book Week Parade 9:00am

Friday September 4: P&F Fathers Day Breakfast 8:00am

Friday September 4: Junior Athletics Carnival 9:00am

Wednesday September 9: School Council AGM

Friday September 11: Senior Athletics Carnival 9:00am

Sunday September 13: Confirmation and First Eucharist

Friday September 18: Footy Colours Day

Friday September 18: Last Day of Term 3

Library

Next week is Bookweek celebration week at school.

From Monday afternoon till Friday afternoon we will be conducting our annual Bookfair. Once again, this will be held in the library and will be open before and after school each day and all day Thursday. Our school library receives 20% of book sales. These funds are used to purchase books that will enhance our school library collection.

Thursday 3rd September will be our book character dress up day. A parade of characters will take place in the quadrangle starting between 9.00am - 9.15am.

Everyone is welcome to attend both our parade and our Bookfair.

Bookclub orders for issue #6 are due in by tomorrow, Friday 28th August.



Seek Peace and Pursue it!



Triple A Social Skills

Saint Mary MacKillop said,

"Never See a Need Without Doing Something About It!"

At St Joseph's, we Need to:

Have a positive **Attitude**, be **Aware** in all situations and take **Action**, especially when it matters

Our next fortnight's Triple A Social Skill is:

Patience

Our focus within the three areas are as follows

Attitude: Be patient when dealing with challenging situations

Awareness: The needs of others

Action: Wait patiently for others and not be reactive

Attitude * Awareness * Action

Weeks 7 & 8

PARISH MASS TIMES

NUMURKAH:

Sunday 10:30am

Wednesday 9:15am

Friday 9:15am, followed by Reconciliation

NATHALIA:

Sunday 9:00am

Tuesday 9:15am followed by Reconciliation

Thursday 12:30pm

STRATHMERTON:

1st, 3rd, & 5th Saturdays at 6.00pm





Foundation School News

It has been another busy and exciting term for our Preps, filled with wonderful learning opportunities, celebrations, incursions and upcoming excursions. We are very proud of the enthusiasm and growth the children continue to show each week.

Literacy

Our Foundation students continue to make fantastic progress in Literacy. The children have been working hard to develop their knowledge of sounds and tricky words and are becoming increasingly confident readers and writers. During our Literacy sessions, students participate in reading, writing and spelling activities and are continuing to build their independence when applying their skills.

Please remember to pack your child's reader each day, as we complete daily reading and regularly add new sounds and tricky words to their key rings. We now also have access to the InitialLit decodable reader eLibrary. See note sent home in reader folders for more information.

Numeracy

In Numeracy, the children have been exploring measurement, with a particular focus on length, height and capacity. Through a range of hands-on activities, students have been comparing, measuring, pouring, building and discussing their observations using mathematical language.

Our next area of learning will focus on sharing and grouping. This will introduce students to the foundations of early division through practical, engaging and age-appropriate activities.

Religion

In Religion, our Foundation students have been exploring Let's Celebrate Creation and have focused on the beautiful season of Spring and recognising the many signs of new life and growth around us.

As part of this learning, the children are also preparing to lead our Assembly Prayer in Week 8. They have been practising together and are very excited to share their prayers and reflections with the school community and their families. We look forward to seeing them shine!

Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)

In HASS, our Foundation students have been learning about features of familiar places and developing their understanding of the world around them. The children have explored their special places, places within their local community, and the difference between places they know and can imagine.

Students have also been discussing why people visit different places and identifying the important features we might find in places around us. Through conversations, drawings and learning activities, the children are beginning to understand what makes places special and how people connect with and use different places in their community.

Book Week

Congratulations to all our Preps for their fantastic participation in Community Reading Day! It was wonderful to see the children dressed as their favourite characters and celebrating their love of books and reading. Students and teachers had a fantastic time walking through the community and listening to a variety of stories throughout the day. Thank you to everyone who helped make the celebration such an enjoyable experience for our students. Our whole school Book Week will be week 8 and we cannot wait to celebrate that together.

F-2 Athletics

Our students have been busy practising and preparing for the upcoming F-2 Athletics Day. During their sessions, they have been developing their fitness and stamina while learning and practising a range of athletics events.

The F-2 Athletics Day will take place week 8 Friday at 9:00am, on the school oval after the Father's Day





Foundation School

Breakfast. We are looking forward to a fun and active morning!

Incursions and Excursion

Finally, we had our Fizzics incursion today which was an amazing day. Thanks to Mrs Cox for organising that for us. We also have our excursion to 'Room On The Broom' in week 10 at Riverlinks in Shepparton. It has been a very busy term but still has many more exciting times to come.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Prep Team





Junior School News

Our Junior students have been busy over the past few weeks, working hard and enjoying many different learning activities. Below is a snapshot of what they have been learning.

Literacy

In InitialLit, students have been learning about contractions and suffixes to support their reading and spelling development. We have also been revisiting different text types, with both Grade 1 and Grade 2 students now focusing on information reports. Grade 1 students have been writing reports about clouds, while Grade 2 students have been researching and writing reports about wolves, learning how to organise facts and present information clearly for their readers.

Numeracy

Grade 1 students have been learning about sharing and grouping, developing their understanding of early multiplication and division concepts through hands-on activities.

Grade 2 students have been investigating 2D and 3D shapes, identifying their features and exploring where they can be found in the world around us.

Science

In Science, students have begun exploring Push and Pull forces, investigating how forces can affect the movement of objects through hands-on activities and practical learning experiences.

Religion

In Religion, students have been learning about Caring for God's Creation. Through stories, discussions and activities, they have reflected on ways they can show stewardship by caring for the environment and those around them.



RRRR

Students have been exploring gender norms and stereotypes as part of our Respectful Relationships learning. These important discussions are helping students understand fairness, inclusion and respect as we prepare to move into our next unit on Positive Gender Relations.

Upcoming Events for Juniors

Week 8

Book Week Parade – Thursday

Junior Athletics Day and Father's Day Celebrations – Friday

Week 10

P-2 Room on the Broom Excursion at Riverlinks – Tuesday

Footy Colours Day – Friday

We look forward to a busy and exciting end to Term 3, with plenty of learning opportunities and special events still to come!

The Junior Team





Middle School News

It has been another busy and exciting few weeks in the Middle School, with students continuing to embrace opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.

Book Week Celebrations

Week 8 brings one of the most anticipated events on the school calendar, Book Week. Throughout the week, students will celebrate the joy of reading and explore the wonderful world of books through a range of classroom activities.

A highlight of the week will be the Book Week Parade on Thursday, where students are invited to dress up as their favourite book character. We always enjoy seeing the creativity and enthusiasm that students bring to this special event.

Middle School students might like to draw inspiration from some of the novels we have explored throughout the year, including **Storm Boy**, **The Wild Robot**, **Wongutha Tales**, **Kensuke's Kingdom**, and **Uncle Xbox**. Whether students choose a favourite character from one of our class novels or another beloved book, we look forward to seeing the imagination and effort that goes into each costume.

Book Week is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate reading, storytelling and the many ways that books can inspire, challenge and entertain us.

Father's Day Breakfast

On Friday of Week 8, we warmly invite fathers and father figures to join us for our annual Father's Day Breakfast. Guests will enjoy a bacon and egg breakfast and a coffee before spending some time in classrooms to see the learning taking place and celebrate the achievements of their children. We look forward to welcoming families for what is always a wonderful community event.

Senior Athletics Carnival

The Senior Athletics Carnival will take place on Friday of Week 9. Students have been busy practising their events during PE sessions with Mr. Merkel, developing their skills and preparing for a fun day of competition.

As always, the focus of the carnival is not simply on winning, but on participation, effort and having a go. We encourage all students to challenge themselves, support their peers and enjoy the experience.

Confirmation and First Eucharist

A number of our students will celebrate an important milestone in their faith journey on Saturday 13 September, when they receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist. This is a significant occasion for our students and their families, and we wish them every blessing as they prepare for this special celebration.

Footy Colours Day

We will conclude the term with one of the most colourful and energetic days on our calendar, Footy Colours Day, on Friday 18 September. Students are invited to wear the colours or uniform of their favourite sporting team and join in the fun.

A highlight of the day will be coming together as a school to proudly sing team theme songs alongside fellow supporters. It is always a fantastic way to finish the term, and as many students know, it is certainly one of Mr Pruden's favourite days of the year!

We look forward to sharing more updates about the fantastic learning taking place across the Middle School in the coming weeks.

The Middle Team





Lions Public Speaking

Congratulations to Lainey Alexander and Emma Reade, who proudly represented our school in the Lions Club Junior Public Speaking competition.

After successfully progressing through the club stage, both students advanced to the regional final held in Rochester last Sunday.

Public speaking takes courage, confidence and preparation, and both girls demonstrated these qualities exceptionally well as they delivered speeches to an audience that included not only their families, but also students and community members from across the region.

We are incredibly proud of the way Lainey and Emma represented our school. A special congratulations goes to Emma, who was crowned the Regional Champion, while Lainey finished a very close second. Both students should be commended for their outstanding efforts and for the respectful, confident manner in which they represented our school community.

Student Interview: Lainey Alexander

Following her outstanding performance at the Lions Club Regional Public Speaking Final in Rochester, we caught up with Lainey Alexander to hear about her experience:

Q: Hi Lainey! Can you tell us where you went last Sunday and what you were doing there?

Lainey: I went to Rochester and did public speaking.

Q: How many students were competing, and where were they from?

Lainey: There were about four other people, and they were from different areas around the region.

Q: How were you feeling on the day? Were you nervous?

Lainey: Very nervous!

Q: Who came along to support you?

Lainey: Sophie, April, my Nan, my Dad, my Mum, my sister and my brother.

Q: Before you competed in Rochester, you had already won another competition. Can you tell us about that?

Lainey: I won the Lions Club public speaking competition at the McKillop Centre, which got me through to the regional final.

Q: What was your speech about?

Lainey: My speech was about Monkey Mia and where I would go if I could travel anywhere in Australia.

Q: Why did you choose Monkey Mia?

Lainey: Because of the dolphins and turtles.

Q: How did you go in the regional final?

Lainey: I came second.

Q: That's a fantastic achievement! How do you think your speech went compared to the club final?

Lainey: I think I did a lot better at the club final, but I was still happy with how I went.

Q: You also got to watch Emma Reade compete. What did you think of her speech?

Lainey: She was really good.

Well done girls!





Senior School News

It is hard to believe that we are already in Week 7 of Term 3. Students have already enjoyed a variety of extracurricular opportunities, including the Lightning Premiership, and have been working diligently on our Senior Production, "When I grow up". We are also looking forward to the St Vincent de Paul Winter Sleepout this Thursday and the Year 5 Transition Day at St Mary's of the Angels, Nathalia, on Wednesday, 2 September.

Literacy

We recently concluded our novel study of the outstanding book 'Once' by Morris Gleitzman and celebrated our learning by watching 'The Book Thief', which explores similar themes of courage, resilience, and the impact of war.

We are now turning our attention to 'Can You See Me?' by Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott. This novel follows Tally, an eleven year old girl with autism, as she navigates friendships, family relationships, and the challenges of starting secondary school. Through Tally's perspective, students will develop their understanding of empathy, inclusion, and celebrating individual differences.

Numeracy

Students have been working hard to develop their understanding of carrying and borrowing when calculating with decimals. For the remainder of the term, our focus will shift to measurement and time, where students will explore units of measurement, problem solving strategies and real world applications of these important concepts.

Religion

We have commenced our new unit of learning, "Living Our Mission." Through this unit, students will develop their understanding of the Catholic Mission and explore ways they can actively support and serve others within our local community and the wider world.



Science

Students are exploring Space Travel, learning about stars, galaxies, planets, and the challenges of living and working in space. They will investigate how astronauts stay safe through space suit and spacecraft design, examine technologies developed through space exploration, and discover how people have used the night sky for navigation throughout history.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the term. We look forward to the many exciting learning experiences and opportunities that still lie ahead.

Kind regards,
The Senior Team



Canteen

A reminder that the canteen is open **Wednesday, Thursday & Fridays only.**

If you are unable to attend on your day, can you please arrange a swap with someone else or, as last resort, let Crystal or Sherrin know in advance, so that they are aware that they have no helper that day. If you are unable to commit to a permanent day each month but are available to help out when you see a volunteer required, please contact the canteen or the office.

August

28th Gayle Morgan

September

2nd **Volunteer**

3rd **Volunteer**

4th **Volunteer**

9th **Volunteer**

10th **Volunteer**

11th Gayle Morgan

16th **Volunteer**

17th **Volunteer**

18th **Volunteer**

Drumming Up African Culture

Carol Lawless

The whole school were treated to a fantastic morning of African drumming and stories. Our visiting artist, Sam Derchie, originally from Ghana, introduced the students to a world and culture very different from the one they enjoy here in Australia.

Sam told stories from the Ashanti people with their messages of 'co-operating can solve problems', 'learning is important' and 'we all have similar needs and fears'. There were many opportunities for students to participate in playing instruments. singing, dancing and drumming. Sam held the attention of the students for over an hour leaving them with a lasting impression of his African culture.



Seek Peace and Pursue it!



IMAGINE THE FUN

COST \$75 INCLUDES 8 SESSIONS A PACK OF YOUR CHOICE BLAST PASS NYCCC HAT BBQ END OF BLAST CELEBRATION

Join Woolworths Cricket Blast to receive your Blast Pass








1 x BBL MCG Match of your choice | All WBBL matches at Junction Oval | All Victorian State Cricket Matches | 10% off Stars merchandise | Exclusive partner offers | 20% off selected New Balance gear

NUMURKAH YOUTH CLUB CC- BLAST PROGRAM (AGES 4-12YRS) BOYS AND GIRLS
VENUE: NUMURKAH SHOWGROUNDS
DATES: THURSDAY 29TH OCT- 17TH DEC
TIME: 4.00PM-5.00PM
SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER!



SIGN UP TODAY! [Q Play cricket](#)

NYCCC JUNIOR CRICKET FOR SEASON 2026/27

We are looking for junior players of all ages to join our club for season 2026/27. Blasters Ages 4-8. Under 10s Under 12s Under 14s & Under 16s.

For more information please contact numurkahcricket@gmail.com. We will have more information on training nights closer to the season.

Blasters Registration



Junior Registration Under 10s, 12s, 14s & 16s







KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT 2027

NOW OPEN

3 AND 4 YEAR OLD FREE KINDER

For a tour of our facilities and learn about our programs please contact us and we can organise a time for a tour of our service

- ✓ Outdoor Activities
- ✓ Bush Kinder
- ✓ Play based Program
- ✓ Early Childhood Teachers

ENROLL NOW

0358621569
 18 McGaskill St Numurkah
numurkah.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au




JUNIOR PLAYERS WANTED!

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO PLAY CRICKET? NOW IS THE TIME!

NATHALIA ASSOCIATION CRICKET CLUB IS LOOKING FOR JUNIOR PLAYERS FOR SEASON 2026/27.

Age Groups:
UNDER 11'S (SOFT BALL)
UNDER 13'S, UNDER 15'S,
UNDER 17'S (HARD BALL)

FREE Registration and playing shirt provided!

No experience needed!

IF YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED, CONTACT LUKE: 0447 662 505 OR LUKE@FERTGRAIN.COM.AU TO HAVE A CHAT!



2026 NUMURKAH SHOW

Scavenger Hunt

STARTS

MONDAY 21ST SEPT 2026

FREE ENTRY

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

SCAN ME



SCAN ME

SCAN ME

SCAN ME



Canteen Menu Term 3 2026

CLEARLY WRITE NAME AND CLASS ON PAPER BAG ORDERS AND PLACE IN CLASSROOM TUBS

PLEASE ENSURE ALL GLUTEN FREE OR DAIRY/LACTOSE FREE ORDERS ARE CLEARLY MARKED

SANDWICHES - White or Multigrain ROLLS - White, Multigrain or Wholemeal WRAP - White

GLUTEN FREE OPTION (rolls/sandwiches/Wraps) 50c extra

Butter or DF spread	\$2.00	Chicken (real BBQ)	\$4.00
Salad (no meat)	\$5.00	Chicken & Cheese	\$4.50
Chicken & Salad	\$7.00	Vegemite	\$2.50
Ham	\$4.00	Egg	\$4.00
Ham & Cheese	\$4.50	Egg and lettuce	\$4.50
Ham & Salad	\$7.00	Cheese	\$2.50
Ham, Cheese & Tomato	\$5.00		

Please note on order if you choose to have your sandwich toasted.

Ham or Chicken & Salad Bowl \$6.00

Salad options lettuce, cheese, cucumber, carrot, tomato & beetroot

Salad Only Bowl \$4.50

Fresh Fruit Cups (with or without Greek yoghurt) \$3.50

Shez's Granola Bowls with Greek Yoghurt and Mixed Berries \$4.50

Smoothies Choc banana, Mixed Berry & Banana or Tropical \$3.50

Plain Milk 200ml \$2.50

Water 500ml \$2.00

HOT FOOD OPTIONS

WEDNESDAY: Dim Sims, steamed or oven baked \$1.00 each

THURSDAY: Chicken Schnitzel Roll with coleslaw, gravy & cheese \$6.00

FRIDAY: Pizza – Ham, Cheese and Pineapple \$6.00

Ham and Cheese \$5.50

Cheese \$5.00

BBQ Chicken – Chicken, Cheese, Pineapple and BBQ sauce \$6.00

WINDOW ITEMS THAT CAN BE PURCHASED DURING RECESS

Plain Chips and Popcorn GF/NF \$0.50

Frozen Pineapple GF/DF \$0.50

True Fruit Bars GF/NF \$1.00

Home Baked Treat (type changes without notice) limit of 2. \$0.50

Homemade Icy Pole GF/NF –Tropical, Watermelon/Pineapple, Raspberry/Orange and Choc Banana \$1.00

2026

St. Joseph's School Numurkah

Calendar Dates

13 JULY - 18 SEPTEMBER

TERM

THREE



Week 1	Monday	July 13	First Day - Term Three
	Thursday	July 16	Mackillop Express (Bulletin)
Week 2	Monday	July 20	Assembly: Senior S & N
	Monday	July 20	P&F Meeting @ 7PM
Week 3	Monday	July 27	Assembly: Senior M & H
	Wednesday	July 29	Parent Student Teacher Conferences
	Thursday	July 30	Mackillop News (Full Newsletter)
	Friday	July 31	Lightning Premiership Seniors @ Yarrawonga
Week 4	Monday	August 3	Assembly: Middle AA & T
	Tuesday	August 4	101 Days of Prep!
	Wednesday	August 5	Staff Spirituality Day Pupil Free Day
	Friday	August 7	Feast Day Mass + Mary Mackillop Awards
Week 5	Saturday	August 8	St. Mary of the Cross Mackillop Feast Day
	Monday	August 10	Assembly: Middle A & P
	Wednesday	August 12	Drumming Up African Culture Incursion
	Thursday	August 13	Mackillop Express (Bulletin)
Week 6	Saturday	August 15	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
	Monday	August 17	Assembly: Junior H & M
	Monday	August 17	Dental Van Visit
	Monday	August 17	School Advisory Council @ 7PM

Week 7	Monday	August 24	Assembly: Junior C & W
	Monday	August 24	P&F Meeting @ 7PM
	Thursday	August 27	Fizzics Education Incursion
	Thursday	August 27	Prep Community Reading Day
	Thursday	August 27	Mackillop News (Full Newsletter)
	Thursday	August 27	Vinnies Winter Sleepout
Week 8	Mon-Thurs		Book Week
	Monday	August 31	Assembly: Prep K & M
	Wednesday	September 2	Grade 5 Transition Day @ St. Mary of the Angels College
	Thursday	September 3	Book Week Parade of Characters
	Friday	September 4	P&F Fathers Day Breakfast
	Friday	September 4	Junior Athletics Carnival
Week 9	Monday	September 7	Assembly: Senior S & N
	Thursday	September 10	Mackillop Express (Bulletin)
	Friday	September 11	Senior Athletics Carnival
	Sunday	September 13	Confirmation and First Eucharist
Week 10	Monday	September 14	Assembly: Year 6 Leaders
	Tuesday	September 15	Room on the Broom Excursion Foundation - Grade 2
	Friday	September 18	Footy Colours Day Last Day of Term 3

LOOKING AHEAD

Term 3

Parent Student Teacher Conferences

Wednesday, July 29th (Week 3)

Pupil Free Day

Wednesday, August 5th (Week 4)

Dental Van

Monday, August 17th (Week 6)

Confirmation and First Eucharist

Sunday, September 13 (Week 9)

Term 4

Division Athletics

Monday, October 12th (Week 2)

