



Principals Report

5 Sep 2025 Vol 15

Compass

Several years ago, our school made the decision (based on parent feedback) to move to the Compass portal in order to improve the speed and accessibility of school communication. Currently, parents are able to use the portal to book interviews, update student absences, give permission and pay for excursions.

At this time of year, we have many school excursions and events which we use Compass for. We have however, recently seen an increase in parents not responding to this in a timely manner. This has caused great difficulty for staff trying to plan excursions and other events. We need to ensure that we have the right number of staff on an excursion for those who attend and enough back at school for those who are unable to attend. The online permission responses dictate how we organise these events.

If parents can please ensure they respond to notifications on Compass as soon as possible this will help with the smooth running of these events. Further, if you are having trouble, please reach out to our friendly office staff who are very happy to help.

NAPLAN results

I will be presenting our 2025 school NAPLAN results to school council on Monday evening. This year our results were very pleasing with most of our AIP targets achieved and exceeded:

Year 5 - Reading Strong and Exceeding from 61% (average 2023-2024) to 63%

Achieved 65%

Year 3 - Reading Strong and Exceeding from 56% (average 2023-2024) to 58%

Achieved 57%

Year 3 – Writing from 6% exceeding (average 2023-2024) to 8%

Achieved 20%

Year 5 – Writing from 10% exceeding (average 2023-2024) to 11%

Achieved 8%

Year 3 – Numeracy Strong and Exceeding from 46% to 50%

Achieved 54%

Year 5 – Numeracy Strong and Exceeding from 48% to 52%

Achieved 38%

NAPLAN is not and will never be the “be all and end all” of what school provide or a genuine indicator of what our school provides students and families, but these results are nonetheless an encouraging indicator of the great work happening in our classes and the excellent work of our teaching staff, students and families.

Continued over page...



Forward Diary

8 Sep Division Athletics

9 Sep 5/6 Jet

10 Sep 5/6 Hooptime

11 Sep 5/6 Chess

12 Sep 5/6 Sea Program

16 Sep 5/6 Jet

17 Sep 5/6 Old Treasury Building excursion

18 Sep 5/6 Chess

19 Sep 5/6 Sea Program

End of Term 3

Friday 19th Sep

2.30pm Finish



Reminder..... Hat's are required for Term 4 (limited quantity available from the office)



Continued from front page...

Parent/Guardian Survey

WE WANT OUR PARENTS / CAREGIVERS / GUARDIANS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!

Our school is conducting the annual Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey offered by the Department of Education and is seeking your feedback. The survey is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour, and student engagement. The survey is optional, but we encourage and appreciate your participation. Our school will use the survey results to assist in identifying areas for improvement and professional development needs in the school, to target school planning and improvement strategies.

The Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey will be open online from **Monday 18 August to Friday 19 September 2025.**

All families are invited to participate in the survey.

The online survey will be available in English and 10 other languages including Arabic, Greek, Hakha Chin, Hindi, Japanese, Punjabi, Simplified Chinese, Somali, Turkish, and Vietnamese. Resources are also available in additional languages to assist parents / caregivers / guardians who speak a language other than English at home. Please reach out to your child's teacher, or the school directly for survey guides in your language.

The link and login details have been sent via compass – if you did not receive them please contact the school administration.

Principal—John-Mark Gook



Breakfast Club

In the BER from 8.30am every day
except Wednesdays

Come along
It's yum and it's free!



Chewy Muesli squares

At just 10c give them go

The Canteen has been fortunate to have been donated 4 bags of Premium Muesli from Breakfast Club. With a few other ingredients this Muesli has been turned into chewy Muesli Squares. For a limited time only Chocolate Chip Muesli Squares can be purchased from the Canteen for 10 cents each. Ingredients - rolled oats; dried fruit; sunflower kernels; buckwheat kernels; unsweetened coconut and coconut oil; cinnamon; sea salt; honey; brown sugar; pure vanilla extract and milk chocolate chips. These chocolate chip muesli squares are delicious so please give them a try.



Assistant Principal spot

There have been lots of exciting things happening around the school in the past fortnight. Here is a snapshot:



The CALM Youth program held their final sports session on Wednesday afternoon and many parents attended to watch the students graduate.



Our youngest students have been learning to play board games at lunchtime 'Games Club' with Louise and Ms Parsons.



Collette and the students in Years 3-6 have started work on the wonderful mural which will brighten up the library wall at the front of the school.



Graeme and Col, retired paramedics and volunteers from EdConnect, have been helping with building projects around the school.



Some generous students from Mrs De Angelis' class spent several lunchtimes making cards and gifts to sell at the Special Person's Day stall.

Thank you to Cassie, Bianca, Manesa, Suzie and Marian for organising the stall for our school!

Annie Neville—Assistant Principal



Certificates

Week 6

FNS - Andrew has been a helpful and amazing addition to our class.

FNH - Jeffery for completing your work on time. Your reading and writing has improved greatly!

1/2H - Zac for his excellent home reader summaries and respectful sharing of his strategies in maths. Well done, Zac!

1/2B - Markeera for making great improvements with her reading. Markeera is a very responsible worker who takes care with her written work. Well done!

1/2G - Pia for great problem solving in Maths. Great job, Pia!

3/4P - Reem for showing respect, kindness and patience to everyone around you. We are lucky to have you in our class!

3/4P - Apollo for teaching the 3/4 students about stop motion. You are quite the expert!

3/4O - Jinan for showing all our school values and doing excellent work!

3/4O - Manha for always working hard in our class and producing quality work! Well done!

5/6D - Abdullahi for working well to complete challenging Maths problems and explaining his thinking.

5/6H - Amun for displaying confidence and excellence when reading "A leaf called Greaf" in front of the class. Excellent work!



Storytime

With Dani

A big thank you to the wonderful children and parents who joined our Storytime sessions this term. Together, we enjoyed lots of funny, heart-warming stories and had fun getting creative with some hands-on activities.

After reading *The Potato People* by Pamela Allen, we made our very own potato people - our new creations were a big hit and everyone was excited to take them home!

Don't forget, Storytime with Dani will return again in Term 4 - every Monday afternoon from 2:45pm - 3:15pm in the school library. We'd love to see even more children and parents join us in Term 4.



Foundation

This Term, the foundation students have become little scientists. We have been exploring different types of science. We learnt how to inflate a balloon using vinegar and bicarb soda. We made Oobleck with the 5/6 students. We have also made bubbles that you can hold! We have had so much fun being scientists this term!

How to inflate a balloon



How to make bubbles



3/4 AREA

The 3/4s enjoyed an exciting incursion last week. We learnt many new skills about animation and stop motion. Students used special modelling clay to build characters they had designed and then used the Stop Motion app to create a scene. One of the most important things to remember is to keep the camera still!



Carlton Respect Program

Carlton Respect Program

Last Friday people from the Carlton Football Club came to visit the 3/4 students. There were two players and the coach of both women's teams! We learnt about comfortable and uncomfortable emotions as well as stereotypes and bullying.

What are stereotypes?

Sometimes people think if you are a boy you will play with cars and soccer, or if you are a girl they might think you like playing with dolls and dancing. We tried to guess which player likes what and we got it all wrong! Everyone can have different likes and dislikes. So never predict someone's likes and dislikes based on their gender.

We made a tower of sticks with blue tack in a group of 5. Students used teamwork to make their towers. By Greta and Ali from 34P.



Getting to know

PNE staff (Interviewers: Jinan & Aayah)



What do you like most about yourself? I like to help and I am very patient, friendly person. Staying calm under pressure. Working hard even when motivation is low.

What makes you happy? When I am working with kids and helping them to improve their reading and writing. Spending time with my family outside playing soccer.

What is something you are really good at?

I am good at mathematics. I used to work as a maths teacher, and I am also skilled in cooking, especially Iraqi food.

What is one word you would use to describe yourself? Resilient

Where did you live when you were little? And what was it like? I am from Iraq, from a small town full of spacious houses with large gardens. These houses are filled with many kinds of dates trees (Alnakheel). We used to play in the streets with nothing more than a ball or a rope the simple joys that defined our time.



Parent Tips... Excursions

If your child has an upcoming excursion, you will see an alert on your home screen.

- Click on this to go to the Events page.
- Click on the excursion – Add your contact details, consent and pay via CSEF, SSB balance or Credit Card.

Your child is now attending the excursion. Please try to do this before the day of the excursion so teachers have final numbers.



Calling all new preps!!!

Enrolments are now well underway for 2026

Enrolment forms are available from the office

2026 PREP TRANSITION

We are excited to invite you and your child to join our 5 Prep Transition Sessions. These sessions are designed to help children become familiar with their new learning environment, meet teachers and classmates, and build confidence for a smooth and happy start to school.



Tuesday
11th of November
9:15-10:30
+
Parent Information
Session

Tuesday
18th of
November
9:15-10:30

Tuesday
25th of
November
9:15-10:30


Tuesday
2nd of
December
9:15-10:30

Tuesday
9th of December
9:15-10:30
+
Parent Information
Session


Please bring a water bottle and a hat.
Please arrive at the office to sign in.

Darebin Basketball Association
Home of the Darebin Giants (domestic) & Darebin Phoenix (Representative, Big V)

LIMITED SPOTS



SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMPS



BEGINNER, DOMESTIC & REP LEVEL CAMPS
NARRANDJERI STADIUM, THORBURY
LEARN MORE AT DAREBINBASKETBALL.COM.AU/CAMPS

TONS OF FUN & SKILL-DEVELOPMENT FOR PLAYERS OF ALL LEVELS!

WITH HIGH-LEVEL COACHES WHO ALWAYS BRING THE FUN!

Have a question? email Luke at programs@darebinbasketball.com.au

darebinbasketball.com.au
[@darebinbasketball](https://www.instagram.com/darebinbasketball)



Kindergarten Enrolment for 2026

Blake St Kindergarten is currently taking 3 year old and 4 year old funded kindergarten enrolments for 2026.

Families are encouraged to register their child with Darebin City Council via the online portal: <https://darebin.hubworks.com.au/>



Eligibility: A child must be 4 years old / 3 years old on or before 30 April in the year that they are to attend the program.

2026 kindergarten fee - **Free kindergarten** (Victorian government fully funded).

We will be offering 15 hours per week for our 3 year old and 4 year old programs over 3 days (3 x 5 hours session).

2026 Timetable (subject to change)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4 Year Old Program	-	-	9:00am - 2:00pm	9:00am - 2:00pm	9:00am - 2:00pm
3 Year Old Program*	-	-	9:00am - 2:00pm	9:00am - 2:00pm	9:00am - 2:00pm

For more information contact the Darebin Kindergarten and Child Care Registration Team on 03 9470 8625

Contact the kindergarten for a kinder tour on 03 9478 8637 (Wed - Fri)
329 Blake St, East Preston, 3073
blakestreetkindergarten.vic.gov.au



Supporting our Local Community

EAST PRESTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
FREE SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

MARINE LIFE
The ocean...to you!!
This live aquarium provides a unique opportunity to learn about Victoria's coastal habitats. View and touch live marine animals in a safe & ethical environment.
For ages 5-12 years.
Where: 7 Newton Street, Reservoir
When: Tuesday 23 September 2:00-3:00pm or 3:30-4:30pm

EPCC CRAFTAFTERNOON
Get creative and maybe even a little bit messy! Let your imagination run wild during our craft session where there's so much fun to be had!
For ages 6-12 years.
Where: 7 Newton Street, Reservoir
When: Thursday 25 September 11am-12:30pm

NATIVE ANIMALS
Encounter Australia's unique Animals. Mammals, Birds, Marsupials, Amphibians and Reptiles!
For ages 5-12 years.
Where: 7 Newton Street, Reservoir
When: Tuesday 30 September 2:00-3:00pm or 3:30-4:30pm

Bookings are essential for each activity.

To focus support in the local community, bookings are available to residents of East Preston and East Reservoir. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Registration: epcc.eventbrite.com
or 8470 8107 or epcc@darebin.vic.gov.au



EAST PRESTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
FREE SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

POTTING SUCCULENTS
Take a sensory walk through our community garden and learn to pot some succulents. You can take them home too!
For ages 8-13 years.
Where: 7 Newton Street, Reservoir
When: Wednesday 1 October 10am-11:30am

EPCC CRAFTAFTERNOON
Get creative and maybe even a little bit messy! Let your imagination run wild during our craft session where there's so much fun to be had!
For ages 6-12 years.
Where: 7 Newton Street, Reservoir
When: Thursday 2 October 11am-12:30pm

DRUMMING WORKSHOP
Journey to West Africa to learn the art of African drumming with expert Kofi Shabba. Drums provided.
For ages 6-12 years
Where: 7 Newton Street, Reservoir
When: Friday 3 October 2:30-3:30pm

Bookings are essential for each activity.

To focus support in the local community, bookings are available to residents of East Preston and East Reservoir. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Registration: epcc.eventbrite.com
or 8470 8107 or epcc@darebin.vic.gov.au

