

12 Dec 2025 Vol 21

## Principals Report

### 2026 Classes

A considerable amount of work has been going on to set up our class structure for 2026. The school leadership team and staff more broadly have been working how to balance the complex needs of our students and where possible keep classes sizes small. On **Tuesday** students will find out their 2026 teachers and on **Wednesday** reports will be available on compass. Staff have carefully placed each student and considered their academic, learning support and social needs to develop the correct balance. I am confident we have an excellent balance of experienced staff throughout the school.

Additionally, we have employed a further four Educational Support staff to commence at the beginning of 2026. This will ensure that teachers will have the best help possible in their grades. If student enrolments stay strong and dependant on Disability Funding we are hoping to expand this support further in 2026. The Educational Support allocation to grades will be announced next year.

### Year Level Classes:

FNH: Caitlyn Haynes  
FNM: Rosie McCullock  
12H: Michael Hwang  
12Y: Kristina Yanuli  
12S: Amy Sellitti  
23B: Maria Bovalino  
34P: Sharon Parsons  
34O: Hannah O'Shaughnessy / Daniela DiStefano  
56H: Christopher Hinsley  
56D: Antonella DeAngelis

### Specialist Classes:

Italian: Cathy Palmas  
Physical Education: Jamee-Leigh Colley  
Art/Music: Alice Rooney  
Health Education: Kathy Angelopoulos

### Support Staff:

Literacy and Numeracy Intervention: Daniela DiStefano  
English as an Additional Language: Julie Spencer  
Speech Therapy: Kate Cullen  
Student Wellbeing Officer: Svetlana Raab  
Disability Inclusion Support: Louise Arbanas

### Acknowledging Julie Spencer

Recently Julie Spencer has decided to relinquish her Leading Teacher position at the school. Julie has done an incredible job over the last decade leading the Literacy program at Preston North East. With such a diverse community which comes from all corners of the globe this is no easy task. Julie has done a wonderful job developing our Literacy Instructional model, resourcing classrooms and the Library for all our students to access. I have very much valued her leadership and work with parents building strong connections with our EAL families in particular. What has been even more impressive has been our incredible student results over the years. **Continued over page...**



## Forward Diary

**17 Dec** Last canteen day  
**19 Dec** Last Day Term 4



**Last Day Term 4**

**Friday 19th Dec**

**Early Pickup**

**1.00 pm**





Thankyou Julie – you have left a wonderful legacy in the Literacy program at our school. Julie is not lost to us however and will continue in her role as EAL teacher next year. I would like to congratulate Sharon Parsons who has been selected to take over leading Literacy in the school as a Learning specialist from next year.

### Monday's Assembly

We will be having a final school assembly for the year on Monday morning. We will be recognising our Year 6 award winners in front of the whole school. We will also be acknowledging some departing staff: **Kathy Jones, Collette Dane and Sophia Tozer**. Please come along and celebrate from just after 9am.

### How to support your child under 16 with the new social media age restrictions

From 10 December 2025, the Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024 will require social media platforms to:

- prevent children and young people under 16 from having a social media account
- deactivate or freeze existing accounts held by people under 16.

Delaying access to social media protects the health and wellbeing of young people and gives them extra time to build real world connections and digital literacy skills.

The responsibility will be on the social media platforms, not parents, carers, children or schools, to implement these new restrictions.

Most popular social media platforms will be age restricted. These include Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, X (formerly Twitter), Reddit and YouTube.

Messaging services and online games, as well as apps and platforms that support health and education, can still be used.

### How to help under 16s prepare for the change

Parents and carers play an important role in supporting their children to be safe online.

To help get under 16s ready for the social media minimum age requirements, you can go to the eSafety website to learn more about the social media age restrictions and find tips on how to talk about social media age restrictions with young people.

### What the change means for our school

At our school, all age-restricted social media platforms are blocked for student use on the school network.

**Principal—John-Mark Gook**



### PLEASE UPDATE STUDENT ABSENCES

All unexplained student absences need to be updated and explained **by next Monday** for the Department of Education. Please go into each of your Child/rens absences on Compass and add an absence note, medical / parent choice school approved etc. Thank You.



**Please return ALL  
Library books**

**Overdue notices  
have been issued**

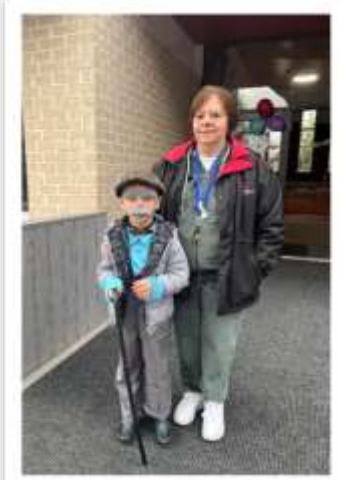
## Assistant Principal spot

Farewell KJ!

We are getting ready to say goodbye to one of our longest-serving and most-loved staff members, Kathy Jones. 'KJ', as she is affectionately known, has worked tirelessly at PNE for over 28 years in a range of positions including after-school care as well as first aid and classroom learning support. Ex-students and their families regularly drop in to say hello to Kathy.



Thank you, KJ, for your dedication and care for the students and staff at PNE. We wish you a happy and healthy retirement. Come back and visit us!



With Christmas just around the corner, we'd like to let our school families know that **the final day for lunch orders this year will be Wednesday the 17th of December**. The canteen will also be **closed on the 18th and 19th of December** for stocktake and end-of-year cleaning.

As we wrap up another wonderful term, we wish our entire school community a joyful holiday season filled with fun, rest, and plenty of festive cheer.

Thank you for your support throughout the year. We hope you enjoy a safe, happy break and return refreshed for an exciting new year ahead!

**Julie Hammond—Canteen Manager**

### From the students:

*She's really nice. She takes care of us if we're hurt. Once I slipped and hurt my knee and she gave me an icepack and a zooper dooper! They were both really cold. **Avery***

*Kathy jones loves ice packs. She always gives out ice packs and she says, "Bring it back later". Do ice packs fix everything? **Myara***

*She has a whole entire fridge dedicated to ice packs! **Emma***

*I went to swimming lessons with my class but I forgot my undies. Kathy Jones gave me new undies! **Anonymous***

**Annie Neville—Assistant Principal**



# Kathy Jones

Off the record

## Questions from the JSC

### How long have you worked here?

28 and a half years! I started work in the classroom helping kids, then I worked in before and after-school care. I took on First aid.

### How long have you known about the magic of your precious icepacks?

For a very long time. I knew about ice packs but I never ever had one until I started working at PNE. I still have my very first icepack, its vintage.

### What are your hobbies?

My hobbies are shopping, gardening, collecting dolls and orchids, birds and Bluebell, my chihuahua.

### Do you really have a big collection of dolls?

Yes, very big. I have about 80 dolls. Some of them are older than me.

### Why are there dolls on the bed in first aid room?

They're actually stuffed toys because the preppies that come in like to play with them when they're upset.

### Have you seen anyone from our school become a teacher?

Yes, Caitlyn! I worked in her class when she was in Prep.

### How old are your icepacks? Do they melt?

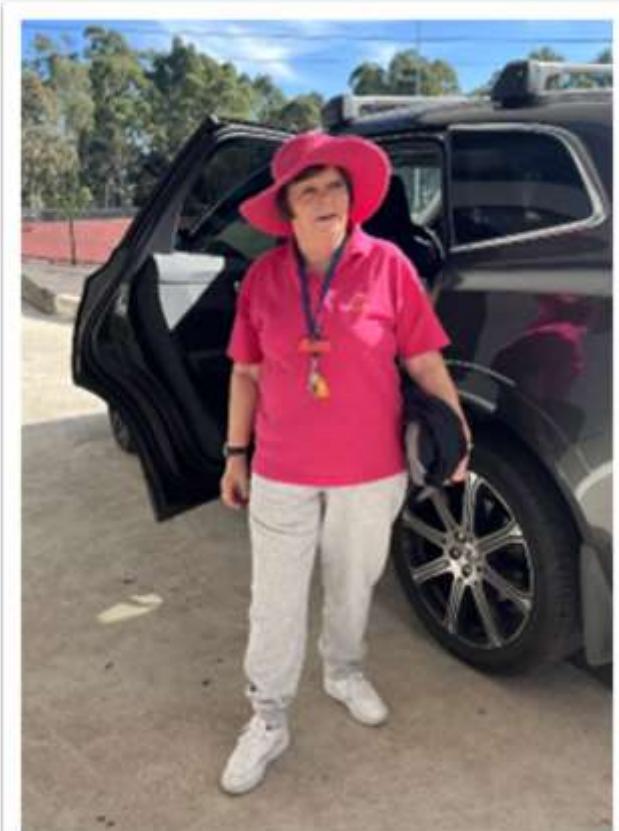
Probably about 28 years.

### What other countries have you been to?

Vietnam. I went with the school to visit our sister-school in Hanoi. And lots of country-Victoria.

### What job will you do next?

No job! It's time for a rest.



# Certificates

Term 4

FNS - James

FNH - Aiden

1/2G - Teufatu

1/2H - Yuhe

1/2B - Lula

3/4O - Hamza

3/4O - Zara

3/4P - Greta

3/4P - Anna

5/6D - Sofia

5/6H - Jaela

For showing the school values throughout all of term 4

Excellence, Respect, Resilience & Persistence



# Prep Prom



# Prep Prom



# 3/4 Area

The 3/4 students have finished the year working very hard on their persuasive writing. Students have chosen a topic about environmental sustainability, persuading people to act and change their ways to protect our planet.

## •\*• Introduction •\*•

Paper and cardboard should be reused and recycled. It is a must to recycle paper and cardboard, here is why. You see we need clean and healthy air, and how do we clean air? We get clean air by trees. If we use paper and cardboard we must, **MUST!** Use both sides because if we keep chopping trees our population of trees drops. It saves energy if we don't chop trees.



**Kristen 3/40**



## Introduction!

Paper and cardboard should be reused and recycled because there's too much rubbish in landfill, it means cutting down more trees and not saving energy. If we recycle we can make our world as squeaky, sparkly clean as a glass window!



To begin with if you reuse or recycle paper it will reduce landfill. 27% of landfill is paper and cardboard.

Can you believe that?

It's like letting books rot away.

Recycling saves one tonne of trees per year.

**Julia 3/40**



**Maverick 3/4P**



## Argument 1

To begin with, if we refuse to do Emu Bob the litter in the ocean will increase over the weeks causing the innocent marine wildlife to choke on it. Around 100,000 animals die each year due to humans littering those poor animals don't deserve that! How would you feel if you those sea animals? It is so unfair, so cruel. Shockingly 100% of sea turtles examined in 2018 had plastic in their guts.

**Miheli 3/4P**



PHOTO  
BOOTH

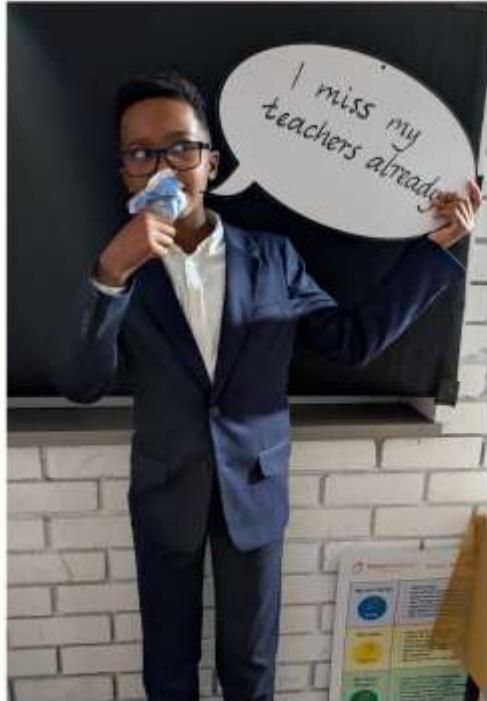


# Celebrating OUR GRADE SIXES

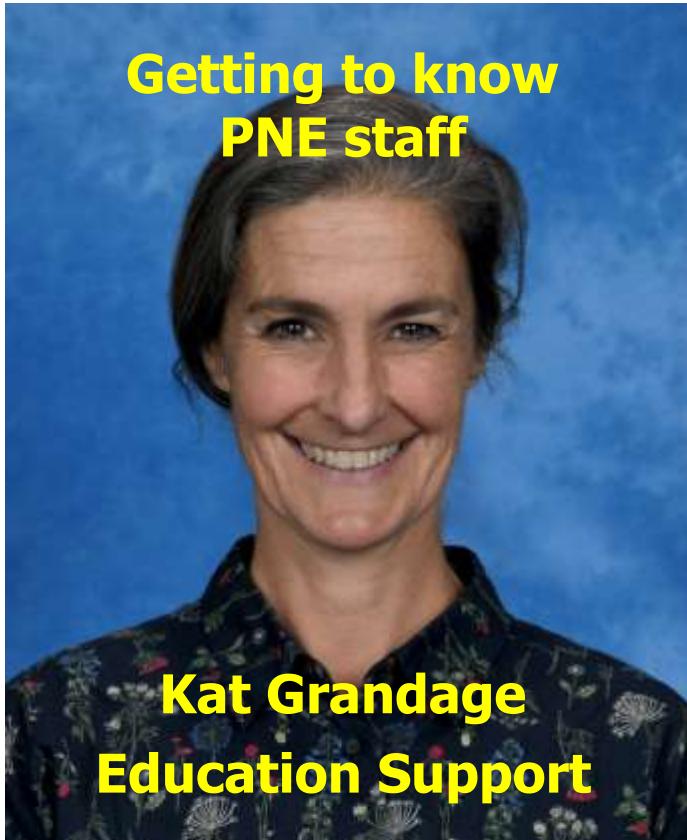
CLASS OF  
2025



# Gr6 Grad



## Getting to know PNE staff



**Kat Grandage  
Education Support**

**Where did you grow up and go to school?**

I grew up in Kalorama and went to Mt Dandenong PS. My walk home from school was through forests and fern gullies, and sometimes we caught yabbies from the creek.

**What was your favourite subject in school?**

Everything! Especially reading and writing.

**What is something that people would be surprised to learn about you?**

I lived in Shanghai for two years, and Rome for one.

**What is your favourite food?**

Fish and chips. And my favourite foods to cook are bread and ice cream.

**What is your least favourite chore and why?**

Vacuuming – it's really annoying.

**If Mr Gook told you to have the day off, what would you do?**

Invite my closest friends over for dinner, and spend the day planning a menu and cooking. Or I might just spend all day reading.



**Last Day Term 4  
Friday 19th December  
Early Pickup  
1.00 pm**



**Reminder: Hats are mandatory for outside play in Term 4 and 1**

**We do have hats available for sale in the office for \$20**

# Grade 4/5/6 Writing Extension Program

Some of our students have had the opportunity to work with Nova Weetman, a leading Australian author. This is what Nova had to say:

*It's been a productive year in our writing groups, and the students have written brilliant and diverse stories. We've worked on genre, world building and finishing narratives without them becoming epic novels. I look forward to seeing what they come up with next.*

*And now you can have a read of sections from some of their work.*

*Nova*

## **Eman 5/6D**

Oh goodness, have I insulted her? It hasn't even been seconds since we started talking! The sound of faint rustling bounced around my mind, was it the dream lady?

"Get up child!" Her voice rings out. "I have lots to tell you and not enough time to do so!" She speaks in a hurried voice. "From now on, stay where you can be seen, make sure you listen to Alina, she has good intentions, and whatever you do—" Her voice cuts out.

"NO! Please, come back! Don't leave me here!" I shout "Please..." The noise dwindles out as the feeling of her warm presence extinguishes, replaced by the cold realisation that I'm standing in a field. Alone.

## **Mannie 5/6O**

Here I am once again standing over a 40-foot drop into traffic with a bottle in my left hand and regret in my other. Should I jump or should I not? There's no point in living at this point, nobody would care if I died, and I don't think anyone would notice anyway.

I'm still thinking about what that Taka girl said in 4th grade, "Nobody cares about you." I believed her. I still do because people run away from me like birds flying away when you get too close. Sometimes I wake up screaming because I had a nightmare about Taka showing up in my 4th grade classroom, dragging me by my hair to a highway and putting me in the middle of the road, and all the cars stopping. Then the people get out of their cars and yell all my insecurities about myself, but who cares? My life's about to end anyway so no more panic attacks.

"YUKI, WAIT!"

"Brad?"

"Why are you here at night?"

"Just about to jump."

"Why?"

"I don't know, it just feels better."

"Yuki..."

"Yeah?"

"You know I'm always here if you need to talk."

"Yeah, but there's nothing to talk about."

"I mean... like what's going on in your head."

"Oh..."

"I'm always here, darling."

I look away and blush at the way he just called me darling. I feel panic rising in my chest as my cheeks flush red. He reaches for my hand and squeezes it. Then he leans close and kisses my face. It feels warm and full of love, something I haven't felt in a long time, but it feels good. I don't notice my body shaking until he scoops me up in his arms looking at my face in pure delight, and places me in the passenger seat.

"You get to be my passenger princess, my love."

I give a warm smile and blush. I feel a tear forming in the corner of my eye as he starts the car and reaches out for my hand. I don't notice the makeup on his hand until he pulls out a pink bag with gold floral designs. I peek and see a small teddy with a fur stomach that says, "I love you" and another little pink and white hedgehog.

Then he says the eight words, "I like you will you be my girlfriend?"

I shout yes.

## Ivy 5/6D

"Come with me, Otto and Sceptre," said Xavier, the father of them both.

"We're not coming with you, no matter what you say!" shrieked Sceptre, the elder sibling of Otto. She was also the seventh of ten children of Xavier and Lorelei.

"Now," spoke Xavier in a tone that tried and failed to sound caring. "You may not want to come with me, but you will, especially if you want to keep that little brother of yours there."

Sceptres' expression turned from furious to terrified.

Xavier then turned to Otto, "You would want to come with me too, if you knew what is in store for Sceptre. Otto leaned forward and breathed into Sceptres' ear. "Don't go."

"Oh, we've found the culprit, the one who controls it all," drawled Xavier.

"I think that's you," Sceptre shot back.

Xavier barked a dry laugh. "This is turning into quite the scene, isn't it? I don't know why you think I'll hurt you. Just let your brother come and you can tag along, Sceptre. No one will have to get hurt."

Neither of the siblings moved. Otto and Sceptre looked at each other. They didn't have a choice.

"Fine." muttered Sceptre.

"Oh, and one more thing." said Xavier. "Your brother will have to go." With that, he pulled out two sabres from his belt and slashed them across Otto's face. Otto fell to the ground, blood gushing from his face. He smiled weakly at Sceptre. She wasn't sure what to feel; rage, devastation, surprise, she just felt this all at once. Countless emotions rushing in.

"You said you wouldn't hurt him!" She roared at Xavier. "Well," Xavier replied, "I guess I lied." Sceptre leapt at Xavier, trying to hurt any part of him she could. He easily stopped her, grabbing her neck. "You, you're a monster. I hate you." she spat.

"Fine. I don't care." Xavier then thrusted the sabres, the same weapons he used on Otto, into Sceptre's jaw. There was a sound of crunching bones and splatters of blood. Sceptre's eyes rolled into the back of her head and all the life within her vanished. Xavier pulled out the sabres and then walked briskly away, as if he hadn't just tried to murder two of his own children. He was oblivious to the fact that two eyes had watched him. Two eyes who belonged to someone who was closer to Sceptre than anybody else. It was Otto. He was injured and his life was fading away. There was one thing he wanted, apart from bringing his sister back. Yes, it was time for revenge.

## **Greta 3/4P - The Midnight Cats**

### Chapter 1 - The Midnight Cats

Everyone in the world is too scared to fight aliens. Except three cats that hunt at midnight.

### Chapter 2 - The Hunt for Bob

Tip, tap, tip, tap. "Guys, do you hear that?" whispered Liam.

"Yeah, we need to sneak up on him," said Lavender.

Luna, Liam and Lavender slowly trotted across the fence of the apartment. "Shhh," said Luna desperately, trying not to breathe.

"I can't help it," snapped Lavender.

They saw one of the five aliens floating nearby.

"And bam! One gone and four to go!"

"That was quite easy," said Liam happily.

### Chapter 3 - Hazel and Polly

At the cat's base, Liam was staring out the window while Luna and Lavender were sleeping. Suddenly their siren went off.

"Guys! The siren!" said Liam.

"Wha-what?" said Luna sleepily.

"The aliens! They're coming!"

Liam, Luna and Lavender rushed outside to catch the evil monsters.

"Wait... do you hear that?

SLICE! POW!

"Well, that wasn't too hard!"

### Chapter 4 - Elliano and Alliana

Now, time for the two hardest aliens. Elliano and Alliana who have special powers that makes them invisible and not make any noise. But there is one disadvantage.

The alarm... BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! \*Gasp\*

"Where are they! Where are they!?" said Lavender excitedly.

"Uhhhh...west from the furniture shop," replied Liam.

"Alright! West from the furniture shop!" said Luna confidently.

Lavender, Luna and Liam sneakily tiptoed to the furniture shop.

"Wait, they're not here..."

Liam, Lavender and Luna were confused.

"The midnight wolves, they did this!"

### Chapter 5 - The midnight wolves

The midnight cats already knew where the midnight wolves' base was. The wolves' names were Sammy, Sylvia and Sally. The midnight cats sneaked up to the wolves' base and saw Sammy. They also saw the group planning to end the midnight cats.

"So, we'll try and get alien city to attack them!" whispered Sally.

The midnight cats knew they needed to protect their base so they could survive and so they could make every alien disappear.

## **Anna 3/4P - The Merman and the Dragon**

### The princess of Balerion

“O dear wishing star, may I ask, for a princess, with alluring, long, ruby hair, big beautiful rose eyes, a fierce but calm attitude and a large, elegant win to the Great Trident & Talon War.” Veleska, the dragon queen, prayed hopefully. After she finished, she headed back into her chambers, slowly, still hoping for the daughter she had always longed for.

### The prince of Charybdis

Once the waves calmed down, the moonlight shone on the deep blue sea, and then rose the glistening sea-star. “Oh please glowing sea-star, oh please, bless me with a son, an heir to the throne, and a warrior for the Great Trident & Talon War. Please, a son with wavy aqua hair, deep, gorgeous turquoise eyes, and a talent for music. And please be the warrior we need to win the war.” Queen Alana said.

### The dragon’s arrival

“OH, MY SCALES!” Belinda, the queen’s royal maid, gasped. “YOUR MAJESTIES, COME QUICKLY RIGHT AWAY!” She said.

“What is it, Belinda?! I am quite busy right now.” King Cadmus said.

“Yes, yes Belinda, what is the answer for this commotion?” Queen Veleska asked.

“Th-there’s an infant at the door...” Belinda quietly answered.

“A what now Belinda?!” Queen Veleska commanded.

“A baby, your majesty.” She whispered.

“Okay well take the baby inside, it’s cold out here it will catch a cold.” King Cadmus ordered.

“Alright, right away.” Belinda said as she carried the baby inside the palace.

## **Ain 3/4P**

### Epilogue

I remember walking through the jungle, enjoying the time of my life, then all of a sudden, the jungle talking to me and having tree roots come out of the ground and stabbing my parents in front of me. But having my parents still alive it gets swallowed by the entire jungle, only I knew this happened to my parents.

### Chapter 1

I was in school doing my normal maths session. “What’s 83 X 56?” my math teacher (Hecker) asked. I raised my hand, “yes Bundo?”

“4647,” I muttered.

“WRONG! IT’S 4648! So Bundo, you are staying in for lunch!” he said.

I picked up my lunch and just ran.

### Chapter 2

I was halfway home, but my legs were sore, my heart was thumping 1,000,000,000,000 times per millisecond, and I was super thirsty. I fell headfirst on my neck; I imagined the afterlife being a completely new kid. I thought I died, but instead wood pierced through my neck. I felt a sharp pain, but my thirst, my sore muscles were healed.

### Chapter 3(confusion)

## Chapter 4

Puffing for air, I burst into my house and ran to the tap to drink. It had been minutes of drinking before I stopped. Finally, I collapsed on the couch, instantly falling asleep.

"Thud, thud, THUD!" A weird sound was irritating, the sound in my ears was so annoying that I put on headphones but they...broke.

"Argh!" I shouted in frustration. I just wanted to get some sleep. After hours of lying on the couch, I finally drifted off to sleep.

## Chapter 5

"Thump, thump." The sound was back and this time, I followed it. It was coming from very, very far away. It had been hours of searching when I saw this tree.

"Wo-ARGH!" The tree grabbed me, ripping my leg and pulling me in.

## Chapter 6

Inside, I saw a castle and um, walking trees? They were talking and chatting, but mostly looked worried. I entered the castle and saw this giant tree with a crown made of leaves and flowers. I was put in a room, and I saw a paper that showed monsters called Cartalese? It said that they are released from the underworld, and only can be defeated by jungle plants. Wait, I thought to myself... then why am I here?

## Manha 3/4O - Hair

"BAHAHAHAH!!" Nova could feel the sensation of her Rapunzel, luscious hair falling off her scalp, but Nova was in the middle of her beauty sleep and couldn't thought it was a dream UNTIL she started hearing her sister's laugh which was so loud that she could hear it even while she slept.

"AHAHAHAHAH " The loud horrid laugh that Mackenzie made finally woke Nova. Nova screeched and howled looking at all her hair on her pillow.

“AAaAaAAAAaaHH!” Howled Nova.

Mackenzie tried to act innocent, but she had a pair of scissors in her hand.

"What do you mean? I was just trying to help you with your dead ends," she said.

"HUUH?! I'm sure I don't have that many dead ends. Now I'm BALD!" Nova cried.

Claire, their younger sister, heard everything and went into Nova's room and when Nova looked at Claire, Claire was shockingly half bald. Mackenzie got a mirror from Mum's room and Claire was surprised to see herself with a head that was half bald.

The next morning the Mum of the three triplets woke up to a terrifying shock and saw one child bald and her second child half bald.

"My children, where has all your hair gone!?" she said sadly.

Claire and Nova quickly pointed their fingers to Mackenzie.

“She did it!” They both yelled.

# Supporting our Local Community



Preston North East  
PRIMARY

WE'RE THE MIGHTY  
PRESTON BULLANTS

## JOIN THE BULLANTS IN 2026!

TAKING  
EXPRESSIONS OF  
INTEREST FOR

Youth Boys: Players wanted  
U16 Boys: Players wanted  
U16 Girls: Players wanted  
U15 Boys: Team is full  
U14 Girls: Players wanted  
U14 Boys: Limited spaces  
U13 Boys: Players wanted  
U12 Mixed: Players wanted  
U11 Mixed: Players wanted  
U10 Mixed: Players wanted  
U9 Mixed: Players wanted  
U8 Mixed: Players wanted



REGISTER HERE

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Childcare and Kindergarten in Preston, 3-6  
years old

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**New Childcare, Steiner**  
**Inspired**  
**Wonder World**  
**Childcare Kindergarten**

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We provide a home like, warm +loving  
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Email [wonderworldplaycentre@gmail.com](mailto:wonderworldplaycentre@gmail.com)



# JOIN. BORROW. READ. WIN!

JOIN the challenge by scanning the QR code and choosing your library service, or by completing the details on the back of this reading log and returning it to your local library by **Monday 9 February 2026**.

**BORROW** lots of books and track every day and/or every book that you **READ**.

Log at least five days that you read and/or five book titles for your chance to **WIN**!

This reading challenge, designed by Public Libraries Victoria, encourages reading over the summer.

Open to ages **0-18**, the Big Summer Read runs annually from **1 December to 31 January**.

You can read any type of book, including audiobooks, picture books, graphic novels... They all count, as does listening to a book read by someone else, and reading the same book multiple times.



## BIG SUMMER READ



## COLOUR IN ALL THE DAYS THAT YOU READ



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age (0-18): \_\_\_\_\_  Tick to confirm parent/guardian consent to enter

Library card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Library branch name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email/phone: \_\_\_\_\_

You can find details online about national prizes, and you can ask your favourite library about local prizes too! Joining online also lets you review the books you've read. You can also enter by reading and logging at least five books, either online, or by asking your library for entry form/s.

SCAN ME:



## DECEMBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Record at least five days to enter the prize draw!



## JANUARY

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Don't forget to return your log by **9 February**!





# BIG SUMMER READ

Dear parents and carers,

Reading at home and during the holidays is a great way to relax and keep important literacy skills. I encourage you to help your children take part in the BIG Summer Read through Darebin Libraries these summer holidays! The BIG Summer Read is a free summer reading campaign for children and young people aged 0-18. It encourages children to read for pleasure and aims to address the 'summer slide'. This refers to the loss of literacy experienced over the long summer break if children are not exposed to books or reading.

The campaign is simple.

## **Join. Borrow. Read. Win!**

Monday 1 December 2025 to Saturday 31 January 2026

All you need to do is:

Pick up your reading log book at your local Darebin Libraries branch or join online.

Read at least five books or for five days over summer

Record your reading and submit your reading log to go into the

This year participants are eligible to win a nationwide prize, a statewide prize, or a local prize.

Also, don't forget we have a subscription to StoryBox at PNE. While nothing replaces you reading to your children, StoryBox is a great way for younger children to hear other adults read fantastic story books.

Please make use of it as a family.

I wish you a restful summer break.

Julie Spencer



# BIG SUMMER READ