



Principals Report

4 Sep 2026 Vol 15

Book Week

Book Week is a wonderful celebration of creativity and Literacy every year. Once again the students, staff and families of PNE took things to another level at our annual Book Week assembly. We had the usual favourites of Minecraft, Harry Potter and Frozen with a few modern favourites such as Derek the Goldfish lighting up the stage! Reading is a hugely important skill and habit to develop. I was looking on the "Australia reads" website during book week and saw these encouraging statistics about the importance of reading:



- Reading fiction for just five minutes can reduce stress by nearly 20%.
- 43% of readers said reading helps them get a better night's sleep.
- Those who read 30 mins a week are 18% more likely to report an increase in self-esteem and greater life satisfaction.
- Adults who read almost every day had a substantially lower risk of being diagnosed with depression.
- Comfort is one of the top emotions associated with reading by Australians.

So thankyou to all those who attended the Book week assembly and contributed to their child's costume and encourage reading to and with their children each day. A special thankyou to the teachers who participated and organised the event, especially Sharon Parsons and Daniela Di Stefano.

Student attitude to school survey

Our school is an incredibly rich cultural community. We have students and families from all over the globe and are a true reflection of modern Australia. I for one take great pride in the diversity and inclusiveness that this school offers our families. It was with tremendous pride this week that we received the latest student attitude to school survey data back for this year. This data reflects the ideas and view points of our students in years 4-6.

In a community so culturally rich as ours there is always a danger that racism, exclusion and division can emerge as an issue. Our students tell us nothing could be further from the truth!

While no level of racism is tolerable our students reported less racism than the state average and significantly less than students in schools with similar demographics. This is no accident. Our staff work tirelessly at addressing these issues and using education to create positive change.

John-Mark Gook— Principal (continued over)

Forward Diary

7 Sep Divisional Aths

8 Sep Hoop time 5/6

9 Sep 5/6 Chess

16 Sep 5/6 Chess

20 Oct Yarning Conference

21 Oct Cricket Clinic

26 Oct F-2 Swimming

26—29 Oct 4—6 Camp

28 Oct Cricket Clinic

2 Nov Curriculum Day



2027 Enrolments

Enrolments for 2027 have opened. If you have a child who is starting school next year please speak to the office about an enrolment form or a school tour if required.

Principals Report continued...

Further, students reported significantly less bullying than the rest of Victoria (13%), Darebin (11%) and similar school (8%). Whilst there is always more work to be done, these results are outstanding and reflect the safe inclusive environment of PNE.

A nod to our parents as well! 100% of students in years 4-6 (yes every single one!) said their parents highly value attending school and gaining an education. Hopefully that is a great affirmation of the work our parents are doing at home to foster learning and academic success amongst our students.

2026 Parent/Guardian Survey

Our school is conducting the annual Parent / Carer 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 / Carer Opinion Survey will be open online from Monday 17 August to Friday 18 September 2026. All families are invited to participate in the survey.

The survey will be conducted online, only takes 20 minutes to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones.

The survey is now open - please check compass for details.

John-Mark Gook — Principal



Enrolments are now open for

PREP 2027

**Forms are now available
from the office**

Nova

In Terms 2 and 3, students in Years 23B, 34O, 34P, and 56D and 56H worked with children's author Nova Weetman to write a memoir. Nova works fantastically with our students. She's enthusiastic, generous and encouraging. Consequently, students have written some wonderful stories about something that is meaningful or memorable to them. We are very proud of their writing, their diverse experiences and perspectives and their shared love of family. Students' writing displays terrific skill, honesty, great insight and sometimes humour or sadness. They're beautiful!

We are very happy to let you know that we are publishing these stories in a book. The professionally printed book will include one story for each student and will be launched early in Term 4 – students are still deciding on the title and designing the front cover!

We will hold a whole school celebration that families will be invited to (more on those details closer to the date). The book will be available for families to purchase. This will help cover the cost of printing. We encourage everyone who has a student participating to purchase at least one copy. It is a wonderful opportunity to encourage and celebrate students' writing and storytelling. The book will remain a wonderful souvenir and keepsake of their students' time in primary school. Families with students who participated in the writing program received an email on Compass this week. There is a payment link to this email.

Three years ago, we published two similar books of students' writing that was developed with Nova. Those books have been celebrated and read far and wide. Students, most of whom have left the school, loved receiving their copies and some report that they value their copies still. Those books from three years ago are still being read by our current students in class and at home. The books have been read by politicians. Darebin council purchased many copies and distributed them to local families.

The new book, we are sure will be just as good, if not better than the last. If families with younger students would like to purchase a book, please contact Julie Spencer or the office before the end of term and we can order one for you.

Thank you Jullie Spencer



Assistant Principal spot

The Book Week parade is one of our favourite annual events at PNE, and this year's parade didn't disappoint. Thank you to Sharon and Dani for all their hard work to promote this important week of learning. And thanks to all the parents and carers for getting into the spirit of Book Week!



Thank you to Bianca, Susie, Cass, Marion and Glenis for organising the Special Persons Day stall this week. The students love these opportunities to shop for special gifts for their families.



Col is a retired paramedic who volunteers at PNE weekly. Last week he showed the Year 5s photos from his recent trip to Broome, where he learned about local indigenous culture. The Year 5s are learning about Aboriginal history and cultures in preparation for attending the *Darebin Yarning Conference* in October.

Welcome to Sandra, who is doing her final Art Therapy placement in our school on Wednesdays and Thursdays.



Annie Neville—Assistant Principal

Certificates

Mary-Rose FNH for practising blending sounds together and reading words independently.

Halima FNM for showing improvement in her sounding out of words when reading and spelling.

Bushra 1/2H for her excellent learning towards her goal in Maths and Writing.

Skye 1/2S for working so hard on her phonics and writing.

Ibrahim 2/3B for working consistently in all class activities.

Reem 3/4O for being confident in sharing your ideas and opinions and always being willing to speak up and have your say.

Tahlia 3/4O for working hard, always trying your best and listening attentively. You are a wonderful classmate who consistently shows care, kindness and respect towards others.

Mako 5/6H for trying her best in maths to complete her goal

Ali 5/6D for interesting and insightful contributions to our class discussions.



Book Week

What a fantastic Book Week we had! Our school was filled with colour, creativity and plenty of book characters as students proudly dressed up to celebrate their favourite books. The effort and imagination shown in the costumes was amazing. We saw a wonderful variety of characters.

Book Week is a wonderful reminder of the joy that books can bring. Seeing our students so excited to share their characters and stories showed their love of reading, creativity and imagination.

A huge thank you to all our families for the time, effort and creativity that went into organising costumes. We know that some costumes took a lot of planning and preparation, and we truly appreciate your support in making Book Week such a memorable celebration for our students.

Well done to everyone who got involved. You all looked fantastic!



Book Week



Book Week



The staff at PNE loving book week





This week, The Grade 5/6 students visited the Melbourne Museum to learn about how our Earth has changed through the Dynamic Earth Exhibit but we also attended a workshop on Habitats and the Human Impact.

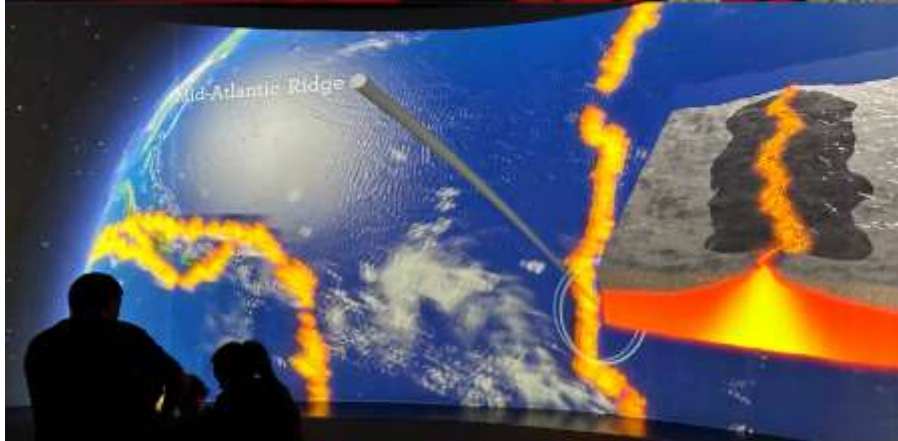
This leads us to our next part of our Inquiry learning and how animals and humans adapt to Geological and Climatic disasters. Both natural and man-made.

Enjoy some photos of the students exploring the Museum and having fun learning.



MELBOURNE MUSEUM

**GRADE
5/6**



MELBOURNE MUSEUM

GRADE
5/6

Athletics Day



Zara - 4th 200m

Abdikadir- 4th 200m

Fazia - 2nd 200m,
3rd shot put

Anna - 4th discus

Safiyyah - 2nd 200m

Rui - 3rd 100m

Emma Ty - 4th 1500m



Getting to know us

Sharon Parsons



3/4 Teacher

What things makes you proud as a teacher? When I see kids achieve something that was tricky for them. We get to celebrate together

What advice would you have for a 8 year old Sharon (pictured)? I would tell myself not to be so shy, to take risks and believe in myself.

Do the kids drive you a bit crazy sometimes? Is the sky blue?



What do you enjoy most about PNE?

Probably the humour and the positivity. It really feels like a second family for me.

If you could be a superhero for a day, who would it be and why?

Xena the Warrior Princess. Why? Because she is cool, fierce and stands up for the defenceless and she breaks gender expectations.

What is something interesting about you that we may not know? Was once was an accredited cheerleading instructor



8yr old Sharon

Productive Patch

Yes, that's right. We are no longer called the kitchen garden. Students have voted on a new name and it is PNE's Productive Patch. Next week, at assembly, we will reveal the new logo, designed by Aseel and Kaliyah. It's wonderful.

Meanwhile, the garden is showing all the signs of spring: plants are growing quickly. Amira, Skye, Axel and I photographed some of the beautiful plants this week and we share them with you below.

Amira is one of the most enthusiastic and talented gardeners at our school. She attends gardening club every Monday and this week her class, 12s, came to The Productive Patch for the first time. Students were very busy, dodging the rain showers, harvesting, planting, shifting soil and of course, making spring onions pancakes, cooking mustard greens and slicing carrots. Delicious!

We have been busy propagating vegetables for spring and summer. Consequently, we have some extra cucumber and zucchini seedlings. If you would like some plants, please come and see Julie on Monday or Tuesday.





Children arriving late

If your child arrives after the bell at 9am they need to come into the front office to have the roll updated.

Office Staff will mark them in Compass as late, then you will not receive an absence



Homemade Fruit Roll-Ups.

These are colourful, delicious and made with real fruit and you can be creative with the choice of fruit used. A great way to use up fruit before they spoil!!

Ingredients:

3 cups of fresh fruit (try strawberries and raspberries or choose your own favourite fruit!)

2 tablespoons honey

1 teaspoon lemon juice

1 teaspoon vanilla

You'll also need:

Food processor or blender

Small saucepan

Baking tray covered with baking paper

Knife and chopping board

An ADULT to help with the cutting and hot parts

Steps:

Choose your fruit, wash the fruit and remove any stems or unwanted pieces. Place prepared fruit into a blender/ food processor and blend until smooth.

Pour the blended fruit into a small saucepan. Add the honey, lemon juice and vanilla. Then ask an adult to help heat the blended fruit mixture over medium heat for about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.

With the help of an adult pour the fruit mixture onto your prepared tray. Using the back of a spoon or spatula spread the fruit mixture into a thin, even layer. Ask your adult helper to place the tray into an oven that has been heated to 75 degrees Celsius and bake for around 4 hours or until the is no longer sticky to touch. Once finished let it cool completely before cutting into strips. ENJOY!

Juliee Hammond
Canteen Manager

Premiers' Reading Challenge

We are excited to be taking part in this year's
Victoria Premiers' Reading Challenge!

The challenge encourages students to develop a love of reading by exploring a wide range of books throughout the year. The challenge ends in September.

Students are encouraged to read regularly at home and be read to. Books that students read and experience at school also count.

Teachers will provide students with login details to record the books they complete. It will also be wonderful if parents can assist with the online recording of any books students have read at home

Reading can include novels, picture books, information texts and books shared with family members. Teachers will also help students with online recording at school.

We look forward to celebrating our students' reading achievements and fostering a lifelong love of books!



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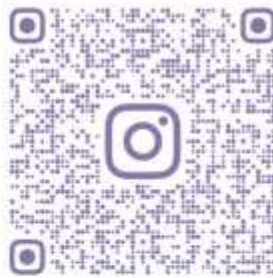
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